



City of Norfolk

Department of Utilities

LANDSCAPE PLANS REQUIRED FOR ALL SHORELINE PROTECTION PROJECTS

The City of Norfolk, Division of Water Resources is tasked with protecting 200 miles of shoreline surrounding our drinking water reservoirs. The majority of the shoreline next to City of Norfolk property is bordered by private property owners that would like to enjoy the reservoirs for recreation and visual appeal. As such, the shoreline has been altered over the years by the removal of native vegetation and ground cover which can ultimately degrade the quality of the water in the reservoirs. The City of Norfolk has undertaken an effort to reverse this trend and now requires Landscape Plans for all Shoreline Protection Permits.

For all land disturbing activities, including Shoreline Protection projects, the City of Norfolk requires that adjacent landowners restore an area at a ratio of 1:1 of altered area to native vegetation. If a Shoreline Protection project impacts 100 square feet of City property, 100 square feet of native vegetation will need to be planted. If an adjacent property owner requests to remove undesirable vegetation (briars, etc.) to enhance the view of the reservoir, restoration is also required.

The area to be restored shall be City of Norfolk property or contiguous area if needed. The restoration should focus on minimizing turf grass and establishment of natural vegetation for water quality protection of the reservoir.

When determining the proper amount and type of vegetation to be planted, the following guidelines should be used. The number of plants from each category (trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants) depends on the total square footage to be restored. The City of Norfolk's general rule requires replacement of plants of like category based on the total square footage:

- One (1) sapling, 6-8' tall for every 100 square feet.
- One (1) shrub, at least 24" tall, for every 25 square feet.
- One (1) herbaceous plant for every 10 square feet, planted in clumps of 2 to 3 OR a native plant seed mix at the recommended coverage rate.
- Mulch will be placed around all plants to minimize turf grass.

Therefore if the proposed project impacts 100 square feet of City of Norfolk property, the landowner will provide a landscape plan showing the restoration of 1 sapling, 4 shrubs and 10 herbaceous plants or combination thereof, with mulch groundcover.

All Landscape Plans should be prepared by a Virginia Certified Horticulturist.