AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE TO UPDATE LANDSCAPING AND TREE PROTECTION STANDARDS AS FOLLOWS: AMENDING ARTICLES 5-1, 5-9(b), (c), AND (d), 18-1, 18-2(b) AND (c); 18-3(a)(1) AND (2), 18-3(b)(2), 18-3(b)(6)(c), 18-3(b)(7)(a), 18-3(b)(8), 18-3(b)(9),18-4, 18-4(a), 18-4(c)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) AND (7), 18-4(d), 18-5, 18-5(a)(1) to (17), 18-5(b), 18-5(c), 18-6, 18-7; 26-1, 26-2, 26-4(b), 26-4(b)(2), 26-4(d), 26-5(3), 26-5(6)(b), (c), AND (e), 26-6(e), 26-7, 26-8, 26-8(a) AND (b), 26-9, 26-11 AND 26-11(1), ALL EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE OF COUNCIL. (URBAN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION).

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WHEREAS, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Planning Commission considered at a meeting on July 25, 2024 text amendments to Articles 5-1, 5-9(b), (c), and (d), 18-1, 18-2(b) AND (c); 18-3(a)(1) AND (2), 18-3(b)(2), 18-3(b)(6)(c), 18-3(b)(7)(a), 18-3(b)(8), 18-3(b)(9), 18-4, 18-4(a), 18-4(c)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), AND (7), 18-4(d), 18-5, 18-5(a)(1) to (17), 18-5(b), 18-5(c), 18-6, 18-7; 26-1, 26-2, 26-4(b), 26-4(b)(2), 26-4(d), 26-5(3), 26-5(6)(b), (c), and (e), 26-6(e), 26-7, 26-8, 26-8(a) AND (b), 26-9, 26-11 AND 26-11(1) to the Zoning Ordinance, to update landscaping and tree protection standards under the Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Commission did recommend approval of the alternative text amendment by a vote of 6-0; and

WHEREAS, this Council agrees with the recommendation of the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation of the Planning Commission is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

Section 1 – That Article 5-1 of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Zoning Ordinance ("Definitions") be and hereby is amended as follows:

#### Sec. 5-1. Administration and enforcement.

The Directors of the Divisions of Planning, Building Inspection, and Environmental Services, and the Directors' authorized agents of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, shall administer and enforce this Zoning Ordinance, except where other Divisions of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government have been assigned such responsibility as provided herein. The Director of Building Inspection, or the Director's authorized agent, shall promptly investigate all written complaints of violations and record all findings and actions in the official records, which shall be available in the Offices of the Division holding enforcement responsibility. The Directors shall use the best efforts to prevent violations. If the Directors, or the Directors' agent, finds any of the provisions of this Zoning Ordinance are being violated, the Director of Building Inspection, or the Director's agent, may cite the violator to district court, may assess civil penalties through an administrative process, may seek a restraining order or injunctive relief, may order the stoppage of work which is determined to have created or contributed to conditions that pose a threat to the public health, safety or welfare, or may order the action necessary to

correct the violation and to enforce the provisions of this Zoning Ordinance. The Directors of Planning, Building Inspection, and Environmental Services shall make records of all official actions relating to the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Zoning Ordinance, including, but not limited to, written records of all complaints and actions taken with regard thereto, all violations discovered with actions taken thereto, and the final disposition of all such matters.

(a) Right of Entry. The Director of Building Inspection and Environmental Services, or their authorized agent is authorized to enter upon property, land, structures or buildings, at reasonable times for the purpose of inspecting, ascertaining and causing to be corrected any violation of this Zoning Ordinance. The Director, or their authorized agent, is hereby empowered to prescribe, adopt, promulgate, and enforce reasonable rules, regulations, and/or guidelines pertaining to administrative inspections of properties for zoning violations which are not otherwise inconsistent with the Zoning Ordinance and constitutional restrictions of unreasonable searches and seizures. Whenever the Director or their authorized agent is denied entrance to any property, land, structure or building, they may apply to the district court for a warrant allowing entrance and inspection. This authority shall apply to the interior of occupied, private dwellings only when the inspecting agent has reason to believe that a zoning violation exists in the dwelling.

Section 2 – That Article 5-9(b), (c), and (d) of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Zoning Ordinance be and hereby are amended to read as follows:

### Sec. 5-9. Civil citations and civil penalties.

[...]

- (b) Appeals of Civil Citations. Appeal of the civil citation may be made to the Infrastructure Hearing Board as provided in Section 16-78 of the Code of Ordinances.
- (c) Civil Penalties. A civil citation and associated civil penalty shall not exceed \$500.00 per violation of this Zoning Ordinance. The compliance history of the violator, the degree of violation, and whether the violation demonstrates a willful and knowing disregard for the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance, shall be considered when determining the amount of the civil fine.
- (d) Abatement. When there is reason to believe that the violation poses a serious threat to the public health, safety or welfare; or in situations where damage resulting from continuation of the violation would be irreparable or irreversible; or if the violation represents a continuing public nuisance, the government may, without further notice, proceed to abate the conditions. In the case of a continuing public nuisance, abatement involving the removal of structures or materials shall only take place after a civil citation has been issued and has not been appealed to the Infrastructure Hearing Board, or after an appealed civil citation has been upheld by the Infrastructure Hearing Board. The government may, in addition to any fine imposed herein, charge the responsible person, persons or entities with the cost of abatement, including equipment expense, disposal fee, if any and an administrative fee of \$150.00. The Urban County Government may file a lien for such abatement, in accordance with Section 16-81 of the Code of Ordinances and KRS 65.8835. Citations, if issued, shall not preclude the government from abating the conditions and billing the responsible person, persons or entities for the cost of abatement.

Section 3 – That Article 18-1 of the Lexington-Fayette-Urban County Government Zoning Ordinance be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

#### Sec. 18-1. Intent.

The intent of this Article is to improve the appearance of vehicular use areas (VUAs) and property abutting public rights-of-way; to require buffering between incompatible land uses; and to promote public health and safety through the reduction of noise pollution, air pollution, visual pollution, air temperature, and artificial light glare. This Article is established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, and Policies of the Comprehensive Plan.

Section 4 - That Article 18-2(b) and (c) of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County

Government Zoning Ordinance be and hereby are amended to read as follows:

#### Sec. 18-2. Sites affected.

[...]

(b)Existing Sites. Any development that expands, moves, removes, or reconstructs the building, structure, or vehicular use area (VUA) by thirty (30%) percent or more of a previously approved development plan by the Planning Commission shall comply with the provisions of this Article.

(c)Change of Use. Interior landscaping shall not be required where only the use of the property is changed and no new construction or reconstruction is proposed.

Section 5 – That Article 18-3(a)(1) and (2) of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County

Government Zoning Ordinance be and hereby are amended to read as follows:

- (a) Perimeter Landscaping Requirements. Unless otherwise provided, landscape materials shall be installed to provide a minimum of fifty percent (50%) winter opacity and a seventy percent (70%) summer opacity, between one (1) foot above finished grade level to the top of the required planting, hedge, fence, wall, or earth mound within four (4) years after installation. The required landscaping shall be provided along the property perimeter in designated landscape buffer areas (LBAs) as shown in the chart in Subsection (a)(1) of this section or adjacent to the vehicular use area as shown in Subsection (a)(2) of this section. A "Planting Manual" shall be maintained by the Division of Environmental Services and available in the offices of the Division of Environmental Services and the Division of Planning, to provide more detailed information on the acceptable plant material.
  - (1) Property Perimeter Requirements:

	A.	B.	C.	D.
	When the following	following		-
1.			common boundaries, including street frontage.	One tree/40 feet of linear boundary, OFT <sup>2</sup> , from Group A, B, or C of Plant List plus continuous six feet high planting, hedge, fence, wall or earth mound.
2.	Any office or business zone (except P-2).		common boundaries (located behind the building line) except street frontage <sup>7</sup> .	One tree/40 feet of linear boundary, OFT, from Group A or B only, plus, 1) a double staggered row of six feet high hedge or 2) a six feet high fence, wall or earth mound.

3.	Any industrial or P-2 zone.	or business zone.	15 feet adjacent to all common boundaries except street frontage 7	
4.	(as defined by the Subdivision	freeway or arterial (major or minor) street not providing direct access to the property.	zones and ten feet for all other zones adjacent to freeway or arterial (major or minor).	Double staggered row of trees every 30 feet OFT, Group A or B, plus continuous six (6) feet high planting, hedge, wall, fence (not to exceed eight feet in height at street grade) or earth mound. Such plantings are to be shown on a unified plan for the development.
5.	agricultural and industrial zones.	tracks and along sight triangles)		
6.	Utility substation, junk yards, landfills, sewage plants, sewage pump stations, transfer stations or similar uses.	including street rights- of-way.		
7.	Any R-1T, R-3, R-4 or R-5 zone except when developed as buildings for single-family or twofamily occupancy.	R-1D, or R-2 zone.	all common boundaries except street frontage.	One tree/40 feet of linear boundary, OFT <sup>2</sup> , from Group A, B, or C of Plant List plus a continuous six feet high planting, hedge, fence, wall, or earthmound.
	zone.	zone.	common boundaries except street frontage.	Double row staggered of trees every 30 feet of linear boundary from Group A, B, or C.
9.	Any residential, business, office, or industrial zone.	boundary.		Same as 1D, except use species from Group A.
10.	whether private or	including street rights- of-way.	boundaries, as shown on a development plan or subdivision plan.	One tree/40 feet of linear boundary from Group A or B, plus continuous six feet high planting, or hedge, in addition to a wall or fence a minimum of three feet in height.

- 1. Grass or ground cover shall be planted on all portions of the landscape buffer area not occupied by other landscape material.
- 2. OFT means "or fraction thereof." Unless otherwise specified, trees do not have to be equally spaced, but may be grouped.
- 3. To determine required area of landscape buffer area, multiply required averaged width by length of common boundary. Using item 1C as an example, the ten (10) foot average required width times an assumed one hundred (100) feet of common boundary equals one thousand (1,000) square feet of required landscape area. Thus, if some sections of the landscape buffer area are only three feet in width, other sections will have to be greater than ten feet in width in order to attain the required one thousand (1,000) square feet of landscape area.

- 4. A continuous planting of evergreen trees fifteen (15) feet o.c. Shall be deemed to meet the requirements for trees and a continuous planting provided the trees meet the requirements of Section 18-4(c) and an opacity of seventy (70 ) percent is achieved.
- 5. No map amendment request, major subdivision plan, or development plan shall be approved by the Planning Commission except in compliance with this section. However, the Planning Commission shall not require such landscaping adjoining the Urban Service Area boundary where any of the following conditions exist: major railroad lines, major water bodies (not including streams or farm ponds), publicly owned parks or open space, public property with a low intensity of use, or existing urban development along the Urban Service Area boundary.
- 6. The 15-foot Landscape Buffer Area (LBA) may be reduced to eight (8) feet when used in conjunction with a six-foot high wall or fence.
- 7. In situations where a slope occurs along a boundary, the required landscaping shall be placed (in relation to the slope) where it will most effectively screen the more intensive use from the adjoining property.
- 8. In conjunction with the required development plan in a P-2 zone, the Planning Commission may permit portions of required perimeter planting to be reallocated to areas interior to the site, as per Article 8-24.
  - (2) Vehicular Use Area Perimeter:
    - (a) A vehicular use area (VUA) is any paved area, which is not exclusive to pedestrian use, containing more than eighteen hundred (1,800) square feet of area or used by five or more of any type of vehicle; whether moving or at rest, including, but not limited to, parking lots; loading and unloading areas; drive-through or drive-up window facilities; and sales and service areas. A driveway is considered part of a vehicular use area when adjacent to public streets or other vehicular use elements. Intervening curbs, sidewalks, or landscaping strips, etc., do not eliminate adjacency of VUA.
    - (b) A Vehicular Use Area Perimeter buffer shall be located between vehicular use areas and any adjacent streets and adjacent properties excluding required sight clearances at driveways and ingress/egress locations. A vehicular use area perimeter buffer shall not be required when a vehicular use area is contiguous to a required property perimeter buffer and the screening intent of this Article is met.
    - (c) The Vehicular Use Area Perimeter requirements are in addition to the vegetative open space requirements in Article 20.
    - (d) Vehicular Use Area Perimeter Requirements shall be required for all zones as follows:
      - 1. The vehicular use area perimeter buffer shall be located along the perimeter of a vehicular use area and maintain a minimum average width of eight (8) feet, as measured from the outer edge of the vehicular use area. The buffer shall contain:
        - (i) A continuous hedge, fence, wall, or earthen mound, except where trees require breaks.
          - (a) Hedges shall be composed of a double staggered row of evergreen shrubs or deciduous shrubs, with a minimum planting height of twenty-four (24) inches. All plants shall conform to opacity, minimum height of thirty-six (36) inches, and other requirements of the development plan within three (3) years after the date of the final approval of each planting or replanting.
            - (1) Up to twenty-five percent (25%) may be deciduous.
            - (2) Plant material other than groundcover shall be located at least three (3) feet from the back edge of the curb where cars overhang.
          - (b) Fences or walls shall be opaque and shall be a minimum of four (4) feet in height.

- (ii) One (1) canopy tree (Group A or B) per twenty-five (25) linear feet of the total perimeter of the parking area.
  - (a) Trees shall be located at least four (4) feet from the back edge of the curb where cars overhang.
  - (b) In areas where overhead utilities prevent the use of canopy trees (Group A or B), understory trees (Group C) may be substituted.

Section 6 – That Article 18-3(b)(2), 18-3(b)(6)(c), 18-3(b)(7)(a), 18-3(b)(8) and 18-3(b)(9) of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Zoning Ordinance be and hereby are amended to read as follows:

#### Sec. 18-3. Where landscape materials are required.

(b)Interior Landscaping for Vehicular Use Areas. Any open vehicular use area containing five thousand (5,000) or more square feet of area, or fifteen (15) or more vehicular parking spaces, shall provide interior landscaping in addition to the previously required perimeter landscaping. Interior landscaping shall be peninsular or island types. Where a vehicular use area is altered or expanded to increase the size to five thousand (5,000) or more square feet of area, or fifteen (15) or more vehicular parking spaces, interior landscaping for the entire vehicular use area shall be provided and not merely to the extent of its alteration or expansion.

[...]

(2)Minimum Interior Vehicular Use Area Tree Canopy. Tree canopy equal to or exceeding thirty (30%) percent of the total vehicular use area shall be provided, including loading, unloading, and storage areas in a Wholesale and Warehouse Business (B-4), Light Industrial (I-1), Heavy Industrial (I-2), or Economic Development (ED) zone. In areas where overhead utilities prevent the use of canopy trees (Group A or B), understory trees (Group C) may be substituted. Trees shall have a clear trunk of at least eight (8) feet above the ground. Clustering is permitted within the interior landscape areas.

[...]

(6)Interior Landscape Area with Trees.

(c) Plant Material Required - At least one canopy tree from Group A or Group B; in areas where overhead utilities prevent the use of canopy trees (Group A or B), understory trees (Group C) may be substituted. Trees shall be under planted with low shrubs, ground cover, herbaceous cover or native warm season grass to cover at least seventy-five (75%) percent at maturity.

[...]

- (7) Landscaping for Service Structures. All service structures shall be fully screened except when located in an R-1, R-2, B-4, I-1 or I-2 zone or when located more than thirty-five (35) feet above the established grade. Service structures in the B-4, I-1 or I-2 zone shall be fully screened when located within one hundred (100) feet of any zone except B-4, I-1 or I-2. For the purpose of this Article, service structures shall include propane tanks, air-conditioning units and condensers, electrical transformers and other equipment or elements providing service to a building or a site.
- (a) Location of Screening. A continuous planting, hedge, fence, wall, or earth mound shall enclose any service structure on all sides unless such structure shall be frequently moved, in which case screening on all but one (1) side is required. The average height of the screening material shall be one (1) foot more than the height of the enclosed structure,

but shall not be required to exceed eight (8) feet in height. Whenever a service structure is located next to a building wall, perimeter landscaping material, or vehicular use area landscaping material, such walls or screening material may fulfill the screening requirement for that side of the service structure if that wall or screening material is of an average height sufficient to meet the height requirement set out in this section. Whenever service structures are screened by plant material, such material may count towards the fulfillment of required interior or perimeter landscaping. No interior landscaping shall be required within an area screened for service structures.

[...]

- (8) Screening of Outdoor Storage Areas. All outdoor storage areas in the Wholesale and Warehouse Business (B-4), Light Industrial (I-1), Heavy Industrial (I-2), or Economic Development (ED) zones shall be screened by a solid wall or fence not less than six (6) feet in height.
- (9) Innovative Design Landscape Plan. Interior landscaping requirements for vehicular use areas may be modified on a development plan without a variance in accordance with an Innovative Design Landscape Plan. An Innovative Design Landscape Plan shall be certified by a landscape architect licensed to practice in the State of Kentucky.

Section 7 – That Article 18-4, 18-4(a), 18-4(c)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) and 18-4(d) of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Zoning Ordinance be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

### Sec. 18-4. Landscape materials.

The landscaping materials shall consist of the following, as described in the Planting Manual available at the Division of Planning and the Division of Environmental Services.

(a) Walls and Fences. Walls shall be constructed of natural stone, brick or other weatherproof materials arranged in a linear, serpentine, or other alignment; while fences shall be constructed of wood or other weatherproof, durable materials generally used in the exterior construction of buildings. Fence posts shall be structurally stable based on the material used, and shall have a maximum spacing of 8' on center (o.c.). If wood is used, the posts shall be four by four (4" x 4") minimum. Posts shall be set in or anchored to crowned concrete footers at least six (6) inches larger in each direction than the post it supports. The base of the footer shall be at least twenty-four (24) inches below finished grade. If wood is used for any member, it shall be softwood treated with water-borne preservative to the American Wood Preservers Institute standard LP-2 for above ground use or LP-22 for ground contact use, or all heart redwood, or all heart cedar. All cut surfaces of pressure treated lumber shall be waterproofed. If another material is used, it shall be weatherproof. Slats are to be minimum one-half (.5 ½) inch in thickness and are to be placed on the outside of the fence unless the design is two-sided (shadow-box, etc.). All hardware is to be galvanized or otherwise rust-proofed. Wood horizontal members shall be installed bark-side up. Chain link fencing may not be used to meet the requirements of this Article. Chain link fencing may be installed in the required landscape area only if it is in addition to the required continuous planting, hedge, fence, wall or earth mound. Unless otherwise specified, all walls or fences shall have a minimum opacity of eighty (80) percent. Walls and fences allowed to meet the requirements of this Article shall not be used for the erection or display of any sign or other advertising device. Height limitations for walls and fences are regulated by zone and land use in Article 15-4(b).

[...]

(c) *Plants.* All plant materials shall be living and shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) Quality. Plant materials used in conformance with provision of this Zoning Ordinance shall conform to the Planting Manual and shall have passedall inspections required under State and Local regulations. Bare root plants, with the exception of shrubs and hedges, vines and ground covers shall be prohibited.
- (2) Prohibited Plant Material. The use of invasive species, as listed in the Planting Manual, are prohibited. Artificial and other non-living materials shall not be considered acceptable to meet the landscaping requirements of this ordinance.
- (3) Deciduous Trees. (Trees which normally shed their leaves in the Fall) A minimum of ten (10) feet overall height or a minimum caliper (trunk diameter, measured 6 inches above ground for trees up to 4 inches caliper) of at least one and three-fourths (1.75) inches immediately after planting shall be required. Columnar variety trees of any species are prohibited for all required landscaping per Article 18.
- (4) Evergreen Trees. Evergreen trees shall be a minimum of five (5) feet high with a minimum caliper of one and one-half (1.5) inches immediately after planting.
- (5) Shrubs and Hedges. Shall be at least twenty-four (24) inches in height when installed. All plants shall conform to opacity, a minimum height of thirty-six (36) inches, and other requirements within three (3) years after the date of the final approval of each planting or replanting.
- (6) Grass or Ground Cover. Grass of the fescus (Gramineak) or Bluegrass (Poaceae) family shall be planted in species normally grown as permanent lawns in Fayette County, and may be sodded, plugged, sprigged, or seeded; except in swales or other areas subject to erosion, where solid sod, erosion reducing net, or suitable mulch shall be used, nurse-grass seed shall be sown for immediate protection until complete coverage otherwise is achieved. Grass sod shall be clean and free of weeds and noxious pests or diseases. Ground cover such as organic material shall be planted not more than fifteen (15) inches on center and in such a manner as to present a finished appearance and have seventy-five (75) percent of complete coverage after two (2) complete growing seasons. In certain cases, ground cover also may consist of rocks, pebbles, and similar approved materials when used in islands with trees. These materials are prohibited in all other areas.
- (7) Mulch. Mulch use around trees, shrubs and other planting materials shall be placed at a depth of two (2) to four (4) inches and installed per the Planting Manual.

(d) Maintenance and Installation. All landscaping required by this Article shall be installed and maintained by the owner in compliance with the standards specified in the Planting Manual and, as applicable, the requirements specified in Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Ordinances No. 1-91 and No. 34-92 (Man o' War Boulevard), No. 134-89 (Old Frankfort Pike), No. 133-89 (Georgetown Road), No. 213-83 and No. 266-87 (Richmond Road), No. 42-98 (Downtown Street Trees), and No. 85-2008 (Newtown Pike), all available in the offices of the Division of Environmental Services; or any other future amendments to these ordinances. Any landscape material that fails to meet the minimum requirements of this Article at the time of installation shall be removed and replaced with acceptable materials. The person in charge of, or in control of, the property, whether as owner, lessee, tenant, occupant, or otherwise, shall be responsible for the continued proper maintenance of all landscaping materials and shall keep them in a proper, neat and orderly appearance, free from refuse and debris, at all times. All unhealthy or dead plant materials shall be replaced by the next planting period; while other defective landscape material shall be replaced or repaired within three (3) months. Sizes for the above-mentioned replacements shall be as provided in Subsection (c) (2) of this section. Topping trees or the severe cutting of limbs are in violation of this Article. Except as provided above, the removal of required landscape materials shall be approved by the Division of Environmental Services. When trees are removed, other than as permitted above, such trees shall either be replaced with the necessary number two and one-half (2.5) inch caliper trees to equal the total caliper of trees removed, or with trees of the same caliper as those that were removed. All replacement trees shall be planted in the original location unless an alternate location is approved by the Division of Environmental Services. Violation of these installation and maintenance provisions shall be grounds for the Division of Building Inspection to refuse a building occupancy permit, or for the Division of Environmental Services to require replacement of landscape material or institute legal proceedings to enforce the provisions of this Article.

Section 8 – That Articles 18-5, 18-5(a)(1), (2), (3), (4), and (5), 18-5(b), and 18-5(c) of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Zoning Ordinance be and hereby are amended as follows, and new subsections 18-5(a)(6) to (17) be and hereby are created to read as follows:

#### Sec. 18-5. Plan submission and approval.

When any property is affected by this Article, the property owner or developer shall submit a landscape plan to the Division of Environmental Services and reviewed in coordination with Article 26 and Article 30 requirements. The landscape plan shall be certified by a landscape architect licensed to practice in the State of Kentucky. The requirements of this Article shall be followed in approving or disapproving a landscape plan. Landscape plans shall be submitted of in conjunction with any final development plan required by the Planning Commission. Such plans shall be first submitted to the Division of Environmental Services for its approval or disapproval of the landscape portion of the plan.

- (a) Plan Content. All landscape plans shall be legible and of a size and scale not exceeding one (1) inch equals sixty (60) feet. A landscape plan shall include the following information at a minimum:
  - (1) A title block containing the plan, name, name and address of developer and plan preparer, written and graphic scale, date, and north arrow;
  - (2) The boundary of the subject property, its record plan designation (if available), and the record plan name or owner's name of all adjoining property;
  - (3) All existing landscaping, locations of all existing trees, labeled using common and botanical plant names, and canopy and DBH size, environmentally sensitive areas, and natural features;
  - (4) Proposed tree removal areas, including justification for removal and any mitigation measures to be taken;
  - (5) Topography with contour intervals not greater than five (5) feet;
  - (6) Location and arrangement of all existing and proposed buildings, structures, vehicular use areas (including driveways, service areas, parking areas and arrangement of spaces, point of ingress and egress, etc.) and pedestrian rights-of-way;
  - (7) Screening, landscaping and buffering, as required by this Article, recreational and other open space areas as required by Article 20;
  - (8) Location of blue-line or first-order streams and other water bodies, storm drainage areas, floodplains, conceptual drainage controls and stormwater retention and any other designated environmentally sensitive or geologic hazard area.
  - (9) A Tree Inventory Map (TIM) and an approved Tree Protection Plan (TPP) as required by Article 26.

- (10) Site data table to include at a minimum:
  - a) Existing and proposed zone (if applicable);
  - b) Total site area in acres and square feet;
  - c) Total VUA in square feet;
  - Required and proposed VUA interior landscape area in square feet;
  - e) Required and proposed VUA interior trees;
  - f) VUA perimeter total length in linear feet;
  - g) Existing canopy coverage expresses in square feet and as a percentage of the property;
  - h) Required and proposed VUA perimeter trees;
  - Required and proposed VUA tree canopy in square feet and as a percentage;
  - j) Required and proposed total tree canopy in square feet, and
  - k) Total number of Group A, Group B, and Group C trees proposed to meet tree canopy area.

### (11) Plant schedule:

- a) A key matching the plant being specified (may be plant symbols or written);
- b) Quantities of plants being specified;
- c) Common plant and botanical plant names; and
- d) Plant specifications including planting height, caliper, and spacing.
- (12) Proposed limits of grading, cut and fill areas, equipment storage areas, retaining walls, proposed detention areas, lot locations and similar activities.
- (13) All existing and proposed easement and location for utilities and other purposes shall be denoted clearly.
- (14) Vegetation and Tree Protection Barriers (TPB).
- (15) Applicable detail drawings, including but not limited to:
  - a) Tree protection barrier;
  - b) Plant installation to include trees, shrubs, perennials and ground covers; and
  - c) Details for specialized installations.
- (16) All conditions of a Board of Adjustment or Planning Commission action shall be denoted.
- (17) Typical notes:
- a) Screening and landscaping shall be provided as required by Article 18 of the Zoning Ordinance.
- b) All plant material shall be installed according to the planting specifications of the Planting Manual.
- (b) Building Permit and Certificate of Occupancy. Where landscaping is required, no building permit shall be issued until the required landscaping plan has been submitted and approved; and no Certificate of Occupancy shall be issued until the landscaping is completed as certified by an on-site inspection by the Division of Environmental Services. If the required landscaping has not been completed and a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy is issued under Section 5-4(a) of this Zoning Ordinance, a full cash bond shall be posted at that time. The amount of the bond shall be based upon the cost of the proper installation of the uninstalled landscape material shown in the submitted plan, with the cost certified by a landscape contractor. The amount of the bond shall also include an inflation factor and/or administrative contingency cost of no

more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the base cost, as determined by the Division of Environmental Services, to complete the work in the event of the foreclosure of the bond.

(c) Posting of a Full Cash Bond. After a full cash bond has been posted, the landscaping material required in the approved landscaping plan shall be installed within three (3) months after the date of posting the full cash bond. A one-month extension of the planting period may be granted by the Division of Environmental Services upon a demonstration by the property owner or developer that such an extension is warranted because of adverse weather conditions or unavailability of required plant materials. No more than three (3) such one-month extensions may be granted. The full cash performance bond shall be called if the required landscaping has not been installed by the end of the approved planting period, and the Division of Environmental Services shall apply the proceeds of the bond to have the work completed.

Section 9 – That Article 18-6 of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

Zoning Ordinance be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

### Sec. 18-6. Planting manual.

The Urban County Government Planting Manual, as revised, modified, or amended from time to time, is incorporated herein by reference provided that in the event of any conflict between the Manual and this Article the provisions of this article shall apply. Developers shall refer to the Planting Manual List, which is available at the offices of the Division of Planning and the Division of Environmental Services. Any materials that are not on the Plant Materials List, as defined within the Planting Manual, shall be considered on an individual basis to determine the suitability of the specific plant in the proposed location. A plant not on the Plant Materials List shall be permitted only upon the expressed approval of the Division of Environmental Services.

Section 10 – That Article 18-7 of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

Zoning Ordinance be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

# Sec. 18-7. Variances.

Any landscape plan disapproved by the Division of Environmental Services, may be appealed within sixty (60) days of such action to the Board of Adjustment.

- (a) Reviewing Variance Requests. The Division of Planning shall review the plan in consultation with the Division of Environmental Services, in its review of a variance request, shall base its recommendations on all of the following criteria:
  - (1) The requested variance arises from special circumstances which to do generally apply to land in the general vicinity or in the same zone.
  - (2) The strict application of the provisions of this Zoning Ordinance would deprive the applicant of a reasonable use of the land or would create unnecessary hardship on the applicant.
  - (3) Such special circumstances are not the result of actions of the applicant subsequent to the adoption or amendment of this Zoning Ordinance.
  - (4) Reasons that the variance will adversely affect the public health, safety and welfare, and will not alter the essential character of the general vicinity, and will not cause a hazard or a nuisance to the public.

Section 11 – That Article 26-1 of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

Zoning Ordinance be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

### **ARTICLE 26: TREE PROTECTION STANDARDS**

### Sec. 26-1. Purpose.

Lexington recognizes the importance of trees in urban environments, and their benefits, such as providing shade, reducing noise and glare, improving aesthetics and improving air quality through carbon dioxide reduction and replenishing oxygen to the atmosphere, by improving surface drainage and reducing the effects of storm drainage flooding, by filtering non-point source pollution from area streams, by stabilizing soil thereby minimizing erosion, and providing habitat for wildlife. This Article establishes standards for tree protection and planting, particularly in new developments and re-developments subject to review by the Planning Commission. This Article also outlines minimum standards for tree protection and preservation, as well as the mitigation of environmental impacts caused by tree removal. The objective of this Article, is to bolster the urban environment by prioritizing tree protection and preservation, implementing measures to safeguard trees during and after development, and establishes guidelines for afforestation and reforestation.

Section 12 – That Article 26-2 of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

Zoning Ordinance be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

### Sec. 26-2. Interpretation and definitions.

The provisions of this Article shall be construed so as to liberally carry out its purpose in the creation and enhancement of an urban forest. Words used in this Article shall be construed as having their common meaning or, when specified, as defined in other Articles in this Zoning Ordinance except as they may be defined herein below:

Approved Tree List means the list of replacement and landscape trees defined in the Planting Manual available at the Division of Planning and the Division of Environmental Services.

Bole means the main stem of the tree structure also considered the trunk of the tree up to where main branches begin to stem.

Buffer means a vegetation strip or management zone of varying size, shape, and character maintained to mitigate the impacts of actions on adjacent lands.

Critical Root Zone (CRZ) means a circular area surrounding a tree of which the center is the center of the bole of the tree. The radial measurement is one (1) foot per inch DBH of trees up to twenty-four (24) inches DBH and one and one-half (1.5) feet per inch DBH of trees over twenty-four (24) inches DBH.

DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) means the total cross-sectional diameter in inches of a tree measured at a height of four and one-half (4.5) feet.

- (a) In case the trunk is at an angle, the trunk is measured perpendicular to the trunk four and one-half (4.5) feet along the center of the trunk axis.
- (b) When the trunk is on a slope, the trunk is measured four and one-half (4.5) feet up the trunk of the tree on the uphill side of the tree.
- (c) When the trunk branches or splits less than four and one-half (4.5) feet from the ground, the trunk is measured at the smallest cross-sectional diameter below the lowest branch.
- (d) For multi-stemmed trees, all the trunks are measured, adding the total diameter of the largest trunk to one-half (.5) the diameter of each additional trunk.

Developable Area means net acreage as defined at the time of preliminary subdivision plat and which may count treed portions of designated Scenic Resource or Special Design Areas toward the tree canopy requirements herein.

Distressed Tree means a tree that has been weakened from disease, insect infestation, lightning or windstorm injury, mechanical injury, or rotted wood and the prospect for long time survival is diminished. The distressed condition could be either visible, or not visible

as ascertained by the Urban Forester or documented in writing by an ISA Certified Arborist.

*Drip line* means a vertical line from the horizontal extremity of the canopy of a tree to the ground. For trees with canopies set off-center, the drip line will be projected based upon the average diameter of the existing drip line using the tree trunk as its point of origin.

Greenway means a lineal open space system, as described and shown on the Comprehensive Plan or depicted in the Greenway Master Plan, that is designed to conserve floodplains, abandoned railroads, various connection spaces for purposes such as stormwater management, safeguarding natural resources, supporting alternative transportation, facilitating recreation, wildlife corridors, adapting to climate changes, mitigating urban heat, promoting biodiversity, enhancing air quality, ensuring clean water, and nurturing healthy soils. This will contribute to the sustainable well-being of the urban community by fostering social, health, and economic benefits.

Grubbing means the effective removal of understory vegetation from the site.

Healthy Tree means a tree that does not exhibit any serious structural defects in the roots, bole or major branches, or does not exhibit any disease or insect infestation resulting in a structural defect, which under the normal range of environmental conditions at the site, may cause the tree to fail.

ISA Certified Arborist means a professional certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

Perimeter Tree means any tree bole located within fifteen (15) feet of the outer property line of a parcel to be developed.

Planting Manual means the listing of acceptable plant materials and their planting specifications as referenced in Article 18 of this Zoning Ordinance.

Remove or Removal means the actual removal of a tree by digging up, cutting down, knocking down, or causing mortality by chemical or other artificial means, or through damaging by girdling, knicking, topping, root cutting, trenching, grading within the critical root zone, filling, soil compaction, or any other means which lead to a weakened or mortal state.

Riparian Buffer means the vegetative strip of land influenced by and surrounding a water body or wetland composed of overstory and understory vegetation which serves to maintain the integrity of the water system through shading, sediment filtration, aquatic habitat enhancement, erosion control, and groundwater flow regulation.

Riparian Trees means the trees and understory which have adapted to conditions which constitute root systems surviving where there are high water tables, and can exist adjacent to streams, creeks, rivers, lakes, and in wetlands or other saturated soil conditions.

Significant Tree means a healthy tree, not identified as an invasive species in the Planting Manual that qualifies under one (1) or more of the following criteria:

- a) The tree has a minimum DBH of four (4) inches and is an American Elm, Bur Oak, Blue Ash, Buckeye, Chinkapin Oak, Kentucky Coffeetree, Shellbark Hickory, Shumard Oak, or Yellowwood;
- b) The tree has a minimum DBH of twelve (12) inches;
- c) Tree which is determined by the Division of Environmental Services to be of unique and intrinsic value to the public because of its size, age, historic association or ecological value or any tree designated a State Champion, United States Champion or World Champion. A record of all specimen trees so designated and their location shall be kept; or

d) The tree is determined by the Division of Environmental Services or other appropriate state or federal governmental official to provide unique habitat for any endangered or threatened wildlife species protected by law.

Tree means any live upright woody plant with one (1) or more well-defined perennial trunk(s) bearing lateral branches at some distance from the ground.

*Tree Canopy* means the effective radial circumference area of a tree's vegetative cover including all branches and leaves.

*Tree Canopy Coverage* means the proportion of area on the ground or water covered by the spread of the outermost perimeter of foliage.

Tree Protection Area (TPA) means, a circular zone around a tree, centered at the of the bole, clearly marked, and fenced off, where the storage or dumping of any materials or waste, parking or movement of vehicles, and disturbance of the soil or grade are prohibited. The radius of the TPA is established by selecting the greater value obtained from:

- (a) The distance from the center of the bole of the tree to the outermost drip line, plus ten (10) feet buffer from the drip line; or
- (b) The Critical Root Zone (CRZ).

Tree Protection Barrier (TPB) constitutes a physical enclosure designed to protect trees and their root systems from potential damage during construction or associated activities, positioned beyond the Critical Root Zone (CRZ).

Tree Protection Plan (TPP) is a plan certified by an ISA Certified Arborist or a Landscape Architect licensed to practice in the State of Kentucky which outlines specific measures to protect trees during construction or other site disturbance.

Tree Stand means a grouping of at least three (3) trees, each with a minimum DBH of four (4) inches, and continuing canopy coverage.

*Urban Forester* means the individual or authorized agent employed and directed by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government to be responsible for carrying out the duties described in this ordinance and for administration, implementation, and overseeing of the various urban forestry and/or related duties.

Wetland means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas and of a minimum size area as determined by Federal regulations.

Section 13 – That Article 26-4(b), 26-4(b)(2), 26-4(c)(4) and 26-4(d) of the Lexington-

Fayette Urban County Government Zoning Ordinance be and hereby are amended as

follows:

# Sec. 26-4. Procedures.

The following procedures are required as an adjunct to review of proposals for development:

[...]

(b) Preliminary Development Plan Requirements. A Tree Inventory Map (TIM), in a number of copies specified by the Division of Planning, shall be required to be filed as a part of any initial application for approval of a preliminary development plan. TIMs shall be conducted by an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist or by a registered Landscape Architect.

TIMs conducted by an ISA Certified Arborist shall have their certification number provided and those prepared by a registered Landscape Architect shall have their stamp or registration number provided on the map. If a TIM is not provided at the time of filing in a full and complete form, the plan application shall not be considered as properly filed and may be rejected for submittal by the Division of Planning. This map shall be provided at the same scale as the preliminary development plan and shall contain the following information at a minimum:

[...]

2. The species of trees noted in Section 26-2. This information can be generalized as a single note calling out any significant trees.

[...]

(c) Final Development Plan and Preliminary Subdivision Plan Requirements. A Tree Preservation Plan (TPP) shall be required to be filed as a part of any initial application for approval of a preliminary subdivision or final development plan. If the TPP is not provided at the time of filing in a full and complete form, the plan application shall not be considered as properly filed and may be rejected for submittal by the Division of Planning. This report shall contain the following map and text information at a minimum:

[...]

4. Generalized planting plan and location for new trees as required in this Article, including trees required to satisfy other LFUCG landscaping requirements. (See Sections 26-5(a) and 26-7.) Sites not required to prepare a landscape plan per Article 18 of this Zoning Ordinance shall show planting requirements per the LFUCG Planting Manual or the LFUCG Stormwater Manual for Riparian Planting Areas.

[...]

(c) Review of Development Design. The basis for review of a TPP shall be the design of a development so as to protect and preserve the greatest number of trees as is reasonable and practical. Individual trees should be removed only as necessary to carry out permitted development under the approved zoning of the site or to achieve the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan such as to provide continuity in the design of collector streets, stormwater facilities, or similar infrastructure elements; and provided that the design of the development has maximized the preservation of tree stands and significant individual trees. Consideration should be given by the Planning Commission to alternative street cross-sections, street geometrics, or site design in accordance with Section 1-5, Variances, of the Subdivision Regulations, where the developer has established that trees will be properly preserved as a result of such alternative designs and/or techniques. The Planning Commission may approve waivers of street layout and grade requirements based on a thorough examination of alternative site concepts and a finding that the proposed waiver is the minimum necessary in achieving a safe and reasonable design.

Section 14 – That Article 26-5(3), 26-5(6), 26-5(6)(b), 26-5(6)(c) and 26-5(6)(e) of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Zoning Ordinance be and hereby are amended as follows:

## Sec. 26-5. Tree canopy standards.

[...]

(3) B-2, B-2A and B-2B zones: zero percent (0%).

[...]

(6) All mixed use zones: Ten percent (10%).

[...]

- (b) Sites Which Exceed the Standard. It is further recognized that in some situations, the site may have a tree canopy in excess of the minimum tree canopy established above. In those instances the development shall ensure that the total canopy coverage shall not be reduced below the standards provided above. If existing trees are removed below that standard, new trees per Subsection (e) of this section shall supplement the loss to achieve the required canopy.
- (c) Agriculture Standard Exceptions. The standards contained for the agricultural zones are intended to be applied only to existing tree canopies to be retained where the site is below the minimum canopy requirements on new development sites. New trees shall be planted per Subsection (d) of this section to replace any loss in the existing canopy in such cases. The standard shall not be considered as applicable to bona fide agricultural and silvicultural uses exempted from zoning restrictions by state statute.

[...]

- (e) Calculation of Tree Canopy Cover. Tree canopy coverage may be determined by one (1) of the following:
  - 1. Existing Canopy Area.
    - a. By calculating the percent of cover in relation to developable area using aerial photography interpretation.
    - b. By field measurement of the square footage of the existing tree canopy using the following formula:

 $C = \pi R^2$ , where:

C = canopy area in square feet; and

R = the radius of the canopy measured in feet.

c. By field measurement of the square footage of the existing tree stand canopy using the following formula:

 $C = (\pi R^2)1.25$ 

- 2. New Canopy Credit. In areas where the predevelopment canopy is less than the canopy required by this section, a landscape credit shall be used to determine post development canopy for trees that are to be planted. Trees shall be planted in accordance with the landscaping requirements set forth in Section 18-4(c), Plants, of this Zoning Ordinance and the LFUCG Planting Manual for the following sizes of the trees. Landscape credit is given for planted trees only. The following credits represent categories of trees only, not installation sizes:
  - a. Each Small Tree = one hundred (100) square feet.
  - b. Each Medium Tree = four hundred (400) square feet.
  - c. Each Large Tree = seven hundred fifty (750) square feet.

Mass or grouped plantings of trees are encouraged in all cases. In the case of single-family detached residential or similar fee simple lot development, the total number of required tree credits shall be reduced ten (10%) percent of the portion of new tree credits planted in a common or public area.

Any planting materials that are not on the Plant Material List in the Planning Manual shall be considered on an individual basis to determine the suitability of the specific tree in the proposed location. A plant not on the Plant Materials List shall be permitted only upon the expressed approval of the Division of Environmental Services. If any columnar tree variety, regardless of species, is permitted by the Division of Environmental Services, the tree shall be considered as a small tree and be granted new canopy credit of one hundred (100) square feet according to the table above.

Section 15 – That Articles 26-6 of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Zoning Ordinance be and hereby is amended, creating a new subsection 26-6(e) as follows:

# Sec. 26-6. Requirements for trees in special locations.

The provisions of the following sections are designed to provide special conditions for trees intended to meet the overall site requirements of Section 26-5 above. The following are listed in their order of priority based on the intent to maximize environmental integrity.

[...]

(e) Tree Stand Areas.

Section 16 – That Article 26-7 of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Zoning Ordinance be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

# Sec. 26-7. Trees adjoining designated historic turnpikes.

There are road and road segments in the Rural Service Area which have been designated as "historic turnpikes" in the adopted Rural Land Management Plan (2017). For any such road or designated segment, no tree located within twenty (20) feet of the edge of pavement shall be removed without the following approvals: Trees shall be removed only if dead or distressed as determined by the Urban Forester, or as necessary to achieve required sight distance for driveways or similar safety-related reasons as determined by the Urban County Engineer or designee.

Section 17 – That Article 26-8(a) and (b) Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Zoning Ordinance be and hereby are amended to read as follows:

## Sec. 26-8. Approval of Tree Protection Plan (TPP).

The proposed TPP shall be reviewed by the Urban Forester and their recommendation sent to the Planning Commission prior to their action of the related major Subdivision or final development plan and any requested waivers in connection with this Article 26. No grading, filling, or other construction activity shall commence on the property until the TPP has been approved by the Planning Commission. Changes to a TPP shall be reviewed by the Urban Forester and their recommendation sent to the Planning Commission for approval. The following note shall be shown on all final plats: "In accordance with plans approved by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, "x number" of trees or tree canopy (whichever is more applicable) is/are required to be planted on this property per the approved tree protection plan specifications."

- (a) Landscape Plans. Where landscape plans under Article 18 of this Zoning Ordinance are required for a site with an approved TPP, the TPP requirements and specifications shall be incorporated into the required Landscape Plan and under the supervision of the Urban Forester and the Division of Environmental Services, and shall thereby be subject to all provisions and requirements under Article 18.
- (b) No Landscape Plans. Where TPPs do not involve a required landscape plan, the TPP shall be the controlling document for the location of TPAs, tree installations, and specifications contained therein. The same Urban Forester and Planning Commission review and approval procedure shall apply to any proposed amendments of an approved TPP not involving a required landscape plan under Article 18.

Section 18 – That Article 26-9 of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Zoning ordinance be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

### Sec. 26-9. TPP field adjustments.

The Urban Forester may permit removal of up to five percent (5%) of the total canopy coverage required under an approved TPP provided that there are unique physical features such as environmentally sensitive areas, stream crossing limitations, rock outcroppings, or historically significant sites that were not anticipated in TPP approval process. Written documentation of the Urban Forester's approval is required. Any trees removed shall be replaced in conformance with Section 26-5. Any removal in excess of five percent (5%) shall require a waiver under Section 26-5(e).

Section 19 – That Article 26-11(1) of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Zoning ordinance be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

## Sec. 26-11. Tree protection during construction.

All areas designated for existing tree preservation on the Tree Preservation Plan shall be protected during construction activity. The boundary of the TPA shall be designed to protect each tree, tree stand, and riparian zone before and during construction. The landowner is responsible for ensuring the physical layout of the TPAs shown in the TPP are installed as approved. TPAs shall be added to all applicable plan drawings and amendments including construction drawings submitted to the Division of Engineering. A TPA may vary widely in shape, but shall extend a minimum of ten (10) feet beyond the existing tree canopy along the outer edge of the tree stand. The TPA shall provide for the following protection measures:

1. Fencing at least three (3) feet tall, clearly visible with signage posted every one hundred (100) feet, and lettered with three-inch-high letters clearly identifying the TPA shall be used to surround all tree protection areas. The tree protection fencing will be placed at a distance equal to or greater than the critical root zone of the tree(s) to be protected. Any proposed TPA areas less than the minimal standards can only be delineated by approval of the Urban Forester. Written approval by the Urban Forester that the TPA requirements have been installed shall be provided to Division of Engineering prior to approval of an erosion control plan or the issuance of any land disturbance permit or other construction activity. The fencing shall be maintained and remain standing until issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy or until the Urban Forester has determined that construction activity has ceased to the point that the fencing may be removed or that the fence may be relocated to permit final grading provided the activity will not adversely affect the health of protected tree(s).

Section 20 – That this ordinance shall become effective on the date of its passage.

PASSED URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL:

0817-24:twj:4855-1054-5627, v. 1

	MAYOR	
ATTEST:		
CLERK OF URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL		
DIBLISHED.		