

Potential Regulatory Barriers to Tree Conservation, Planting, and Growth at Development Sites

Regulation	Description
Street trees	Required width of planting area may not provide adequate soil volume for trees. Buffer strip is typically required to be located between the sidewalk and street, further limiting potential rooting space. Setbacks between trees and infrastructure may not be adequate to prevent damage.
Parking lot landscaping	Required size of parking lot islands may not provide adequate soil volume for trees. Setbacks between trees and infrastructure may not be adequate to prevent damage.
Lot design	Required building setbacks and frontages may limit placement of buildings and pavement on the site and decrease the feasibility of conserving remaining forest areas.
Septic systems	Regulations may require clearing of reserve fields at the time of development.
Landscaping for STPs	Guidance may prohibit trees in some or all practices, or within certain areas of practices, such as pond embankments.
Floodplain	Within designated floodways, trees may be prohibited (usually regulated by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Subdivision design	Conventional subdivision design standards may not allow for conservation of natural areas such as forest. Road design standards for subdivision may prohibit use of landscaped island in cul-de-sacs.
Parking ratios	Excessive minimum parking ratios can create large unused parking areas that limit potential for tree conservation.
Utilities, signs, and lighting	Regulations may not allow tree planting within utility easements or rights-of-way. In urban environments, adequate space for necessary setbacks between infrastructure and trees may not exist, which can result in limited growing space for trees and potential conflicts between trees and infrastructure.