

# **Village of Pinehurst**

## **Voluntary Tree Preservation & Xeriscaping Program**

In order to help promote and preserve the natural beauty and aesthetics of Pinehurst, the Village has developed the Voluntary Tree Preservation & Xeriscaping Program. When Pinehurst was originally founded as a health resort in 1895, the area had been mostly clear-cut by the logging industry. Since then, a great effort has been made by several generations to return the lush greenery to our area and maintain a healthy environment. This program is a continuance of those efforts. Aimed at new residential development, as well as additional construction to existing structures, within the Village of Pinehurst, this voluntary program encourages the retention of trees in order to minimize the impact of tree loss before, during, and after development; ensures a sustained tree canopy in Pinehurst; and promotes the use of indigenous plants that have low irrigation requirements. Simply stated, the Village is encouraging builders and homeowners to preserve as many viable trees on their property as possible.

### **Purpose**

The purposes for this voluntary program are to:

1. Preserve existing tree cover to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by preserving the visual and aesthetic qualities of the Village;
2. Promote tourism and other economic development activities that are the result of the aesthetic appeal of the Village;
3. Preserve the character and integrity of the community;
4. Protect property values;
5. Protect existing trees located upon undeveloped sites for use as future buffers and streetscapes as described in the Village's Long-Range Plan;
6. Control erosion and reduce sediment and other pollutant run-off into waterways in an effort to protect water quality;
7. Protect the natural habitat of indigenous threatened and endangered animal species;
8. Maintain a consistently maturing tree canopy so that as old trees die, new trees will be there to replace them;
9. Moderate interior and exterior temperatures by controlling solar radiation on buildings and paved surfaces; and
10. Promote the use of indigenous plants that are drought resistant and/or have low irrigation requirements in order to preserve our natural water resources.

To be formally recognized through various incentives by the Village as participating with the Voluntary Tree Preservation & Xeriscaping Program, the builder and homeowner must meet the following requirements:

### **Recommended Buffers and Vegetation Protection**

Other than where necessary to gain reasonable access to the property, clearing and/or removal of ideal trees shall be discouraged in the following areas according to the zoning district:

<b>Preservation Area Measured from Property Line</b>	<b>District</b>						
	<b>R-210</b>	<b>R-30</b>	<b>R-20</b>	<b>R-15</b>	<b>R-10</b>	<b>R-8</b>	<b>R-5</b>
Minimum Side Yard Tree Preservation	10 feet	10 feet	5 feet	5 feet	5 feet		
Minimum Front Yard Tree Preservation	20 feet	20 feet	20 feet	15 feet	15 feet	10 feet	10 feet
Minimum Rear Yard Tree Preservation	20 feet	15 feet	15 feet	15 feet	15 feet	10 feet	10 feet

Trees that are clustered close together may be thinned to help promote healthy tree growth. While the Village encourages the preservation of all ideal trees that do not interfere with building plans outside of these setbacks, it is up to the discretion of the builder and/or homeowner as to which trees will remain. It is recommended that a 10 (ten)-foot distance remain between any permanent foundation and the trunk of any tree to allow for healthy root structures.

### **Specimens to be preserved within recommended buffers**

The following are the size and specimen of all trees that are to be preserved as part of this voluntary program:

1. Pine trees with a diameter of 6 (six) inches or larger at breast height;
2. Magnolia, Holly, and Dogwood trees with a diameter of 3 (three) inches or larger at breast height.

The “diameter at breast height” is the tree diameter measured in inches at the height of 4.5 feet above the ground.

### **Tree Marking**

Prior to the clearing of the lot for construction, trees that are to be saved in accordance with this program shall be marked in a readily visible manner for inspection. Upon notifying the Village Planner, the lot will be inspected, whenever possible, within 24 hours of receiving that notification.

## **Xeriscaping Requirements**

In order to be considered as a participant in this program, a development must also incorporate native, drought tolerant plants in the landscaping, a practice known formally as *xeriscaping*. The attached list of plants native to the Sandhills region is a recommended reference to accomplish this objective.

### **Basics about using native plants:**

When landscaping with native plants match the right plants with the right site conditions. Consider using plants that occur together in their natural habitats. Do your homework before planting; study the plants, their life history and natural habitats. Visit a natural area such as the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens at Sandhills Community College or the Weymouth Woods-Sandhills Nature Preserve to observe how plants occur, and design your landscape accordingly. Buy nursery propagated plants, not plants collected from the wild, unless you are moving them from within your own property. Remember, landscaping with natives is art imitating nature.

### **Benefits of native plants:**

- Adapted to regional conditions (i.e. drought tolerant) and may require less maintenance and are cost-effective.
- Environmentally friendly, require fewer pesticides and fertilizers because of natural adaptations.
- Promote biodiversity and stewardship.
- Provide food and shelter for native wildlife.
- Restore regional landscapes.
- Prevent future exotic introductions.

### **Native plants for wildlife:**

Using natives in landscaping helps sustain native butterflies, moths and other beneficial insects; native birds, reptiles, mammal, and other fauna. Fall migrating birds depend on high-energy fruits from flowering dogwood, tulip trees, blackgum, persimmon, and sassafras. Spring migrants feed on insects that occur on many trees, especially oaks. A mature oak will produce acorns for wildlife, as well. Sourwood trees and other native trees provide natural nesting habitat, while Eastern red cedar, pines and hollies provide winter cover and food.

## **Program Incentives**

To encourage builders and property owners to participate in this program and to promote the awareness of the program, the Village of Pinehurst offers these possible incentives:

1. Recognition of the builder and owner in the Village Newsletter for each new home constructed under these guidelines;
2. Recognition in local publications as being a participant in the Pinehurst Voluntary Tree Preservation & Xeriscaping Program;
3. Recognition during the construction of each qualifying home at the building site by way of a sign provided by the Village acknowledging the home and builder as being a Partner of Pinehurst; and
4. Recognition of each builder and a picture of the home built in accordance to these guidelines in a formal display in the lobby of the Planning and Inspections Department in the Village Hall.
5. Permission to use the new Pinehurst Conservation logo in ads selling the particular home.