

PLANTING REPLACEMENT POLICY FOR LANDSCAPED OPEN SPACE

Landscaped open space areas are those where trees or other plant materials have been installed for one or more of these purposes:

- Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement – These plantings are installed near roadway intersections at community entrances or at signs for neighborhoods or villages.
- Open Space Beautification – Such plantings are installed primarily to provide visual interest at parks and other high-visibility areas.
- Screening – Trees and shrubs are planted to provide screening between residences and features, such as playgrounds.
- Environmental Restoration - Plant materials are installed around waterways to improve water quality and habitat, to stabilize banks, or to replace invasive plant colonies.

When trees and other plant materials in these areas die, or must be removed for other reasons, OSM staff remove the dead plant material and evaluate the conditions at each site prior to determining one of the following responses:

- Replace the tree or other plant material with fresh plant material of the same kind. This would normally be done during the first fall after removal.
- Relandscape the area with different plant materials or a different arrangement of materials or both. The purpose of redesigning the plantings would be to better suit current conditions at the site or to improve its appearance with a fresh look.
- Determine that replacement is not appropriate and take no further action. It is not appropriate to replace plants if conditions at the site make it unlikely that the tree will survive. Often trees in the vicinity of dead trees have grown so large that increased shade and competition for water make replacement impractical and, in many cases, unneeded.

October 2007