

2014 Dorchester County Tree Planting Plan

Introduction

The 2008 Dorchester County Comprehensive Plan recommends under Policy 2.8 in its seventh chapter furtherance of environmental protection and canopy conservation. To these ends, the policy statement provides for adoption of a Dorchester County Tree Planting Plan and a “tree bank” to fund the plan.

Tree Planting Guidelines

Dorchester County will plant trees on public lands and along public corridors, including community facilities such as schools and parks, and along public transportation rights-of-way and riparian corridors. These trees will directly benefit the public by standing on lands owned by the County or other governmental entities or by standing on roadsides and riverbanks to enhance these features. In the latter case, the County may secure an easement ensuring maintenance and retention of trees planted.

Tree Bank

Dorchester County will create a separate account into which a fee in lieu of planting trees required for mitigation will be deposited. Those paying the fee in lieu are developers and landowners otherwise required to plant trees as a condition of tree removal and/or land development. The County may supplement the tree bank with other revenues as may become available.

Revenue disbursed from the Tree Bank will provide for the installation and maintenance of trees, in accordance with the standards of the American Nursery and Landscaping Association, for landscaping associated with the same, and for active measures to defend, treat, and save trees on public lands threatened by drought, disease, or other threats to their integrity.

Conclusion

Dorchester County Council will establish procedures for a fee in lieu of mitigation for required trees in its Zoning and Land Development Standards and amend the Dorchester County Planning & Zoning Fee Schedule to include a fee, reflective of the replacement costs of replacing trees. Implementation of this plan furthers the County’s comprehensive plan vision of growing communities that promote quality of life in Dorchester County towns, neighborhoods, and rural areas.