

LANDSCAPE DESIGN GUIDELINES

I. GENERAL

A. Narrative

Trees and plantings are vital elements in the fabric of the village. They allow people to continue their connection with nature, can moderate seasonal climate effects, can soften hard urban surfaces, and can provide a physical buffer between the pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

A quick glance at the trees and plants lining an urban street reveals the variety of purposes they serve. Some act as buffers, keeping pedestrians at a safe distance from traffic. Others provide much desired shade on hot summer days. Still others frame points of interest along the streetscape, or call attention to a particular entrance to a building. Some may even provide a pleasant place to sit while enjoying a lunch from a neighborhood deli. In general, plants and trees enhance the street environment, reinforcing the public realm of the street as a place for the pedestrian, and as a place for social interaction within an urban setting.

The urban landscape can be treated architectonically or in a soft, naturalistic manner. Plant materials can be employed formally to carefully delineate spaces or organically to simulate natural woodlands. Either design strategy may be employed to Great Bridge Village's urban experience and its "sense of place".

The use of native plants is strongly encouraged. Water efficient landscaping techniques and rain water harvesting is also encouraged.

