

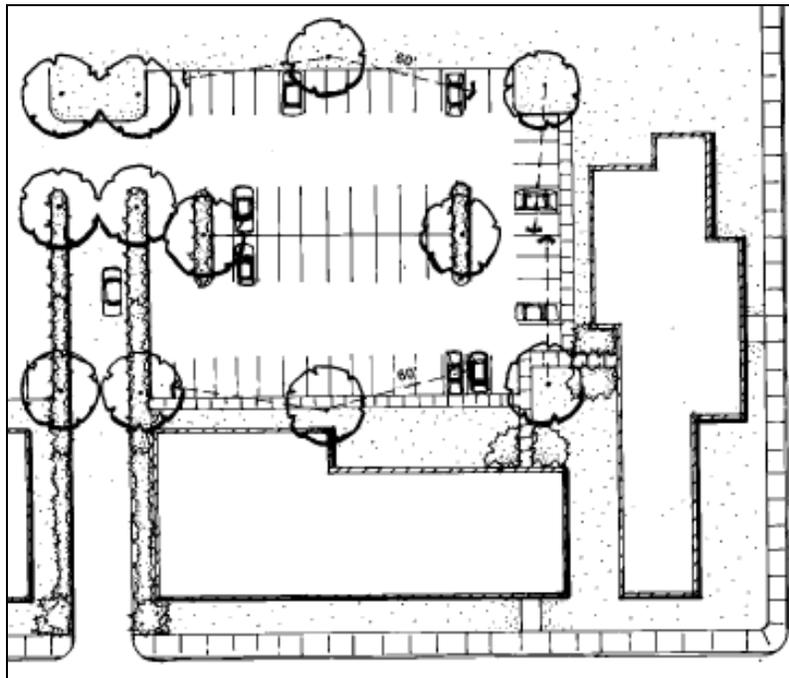
**Land  
Development  
Code**



**City of  
Hickory, NC**

**C. Interior Parking Area Landscape Requirements – New Parking Areas**

- (1) All rows of parking shall be terminated by a canopy tree planted within a landscape island. The landscape island shall be a minimum dimension of six (6) feet by eighteen (18) feet for single-loaded parking rows and six (6) feet by thirty-six (36) feet for double-loaded parking rows. Trees planted within perimeter landscape strips may be used to satisfy this requirement.
- (2) One (1) canopy tree shall be required for every fifteen (15) parking spaces, and one (1) shrub shall be provided for every ten (10) parking spaces required. All vehicular parking spaces must have at least one (1) tree within sixty (60) feet of each parking space.
- (3) At least seventy-five (75) percent of all trees required by this section shall be canopy trees as listed in the Manual of Practice. When planting under overhead utility lines, two (2) understory trees must be substituted for every required canopy tree. Refer to the Manual of Practice for a list of trees that are approved for planting under utility lines.
- (4) For parking areas over 40,000 square feet, a minimum ten (10) foot wide continuously planted median shall be installed along the length of the longest interior parking row, to break up large areas of pavement. Parking areas over 80,000 square feet shall require two of the described medians. This does not apply to vehicular sales or rental areas.
- (5) Landscape islands and planting areas shall be protected from vehicular encroachment by curbing or wheel stops at least 6 inches in height.



**Figure 10-3: Interior Parking Area Landscaping**

**D. Interior Parking Area Landscape Requirements – Existing Parking Areas**

For expansion or renovation projects that are required to follow landscape requirements on all or part of the site (per Section 9.14.7), the standards as outlined in Paragraph (c) above are applicable. However, the required parking may be reduced by 20 percent to

allow for the provision of interior landscaping. Under circumstances where the application of these requirements is infeasible or unworkable, the applicant may submit an alternative landscape plan, as outlined in Section 9.14.8.

#### 9.14.8 Alternative Methods of Compliance

- A. The Planning Commission, by means of a Special Use Permit in accordance with Sec. 2.4, shall have the authority to waive or reduce the requirements of Sec. 9.14, Landscaping and Screening provided that the alternative landscape plan meets or exceeds the objectives of this Land Development Code.
- B. Perimeter buffer requirements between properties may be reduced or eliminated by a legal agreement between the property owners and the City of Hickory provided that the agreement runs with the land and is recorded with the appropriate county's Register of Deeds.

#### 9.14.9 Plant Specifications

##### A. Plant Species

Plants shall be chosen from the recommended plant species lists in the Manual of Practice. Plants which are not on the list may be used if approved by the Planning Director upon a showing that the proposed plants will likely achieve the objectives of this section as well as or better than plants listed in the Manual of Practice. Invasive, exotic plant species (see chart in Manual of Practice) shall not be used to meet the landscape requirements of this Land Development Code.

- B. For the purpose of measuring required canopy trees for this section, the caliper of a tree is the diameter measured six (6) inches above the ground, if that measurement does not exceed four (4) inches. If the measurement does exceed four (4) inches, the measurement is taken twelve (12) inches above the ground.

##### C. Minimum Plant Size Requirements

- (1) Canopy trees shall be two and one half (2.5) inches in caliper and a minimum of eight (8) feet in height at time of planting.
- (2) Understory trees shall be at six (6) feet in height at time of planting. Understory trees may be single or multi-stemmed.
- (3) Only certain understory trees shall be planted under overhead utility lines. An approved plant list is in the Manual of Practice. When overhead utility lines are present, two (2) understory trees shall be planted for every one (1) canopy tree required.
- (4) Evergreen trees shall be a minimum of five (5) feet in height at planting.
- (5) Shrubs (evergreen or deciduous) required for parking areas shall be a minimum of a three (3) gallon container with a height of at least twenty-four (24) inches at time of planting.
- (6) Shrubs required as part of a ten (10) foot or greater buffer shall be a minimum of a five (5) gallon container with a height of at least thirty-six (36) inches at time of planting.

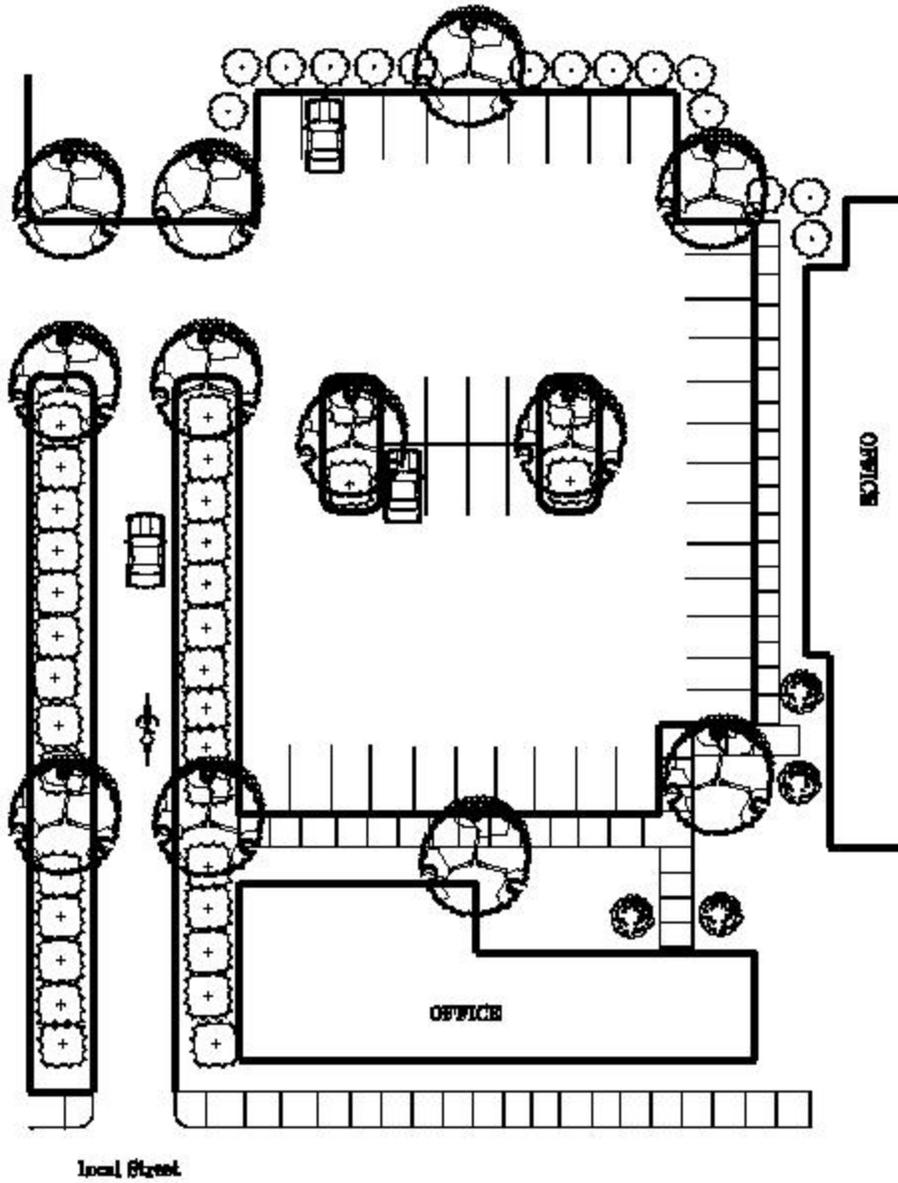
##### D. Ground Cover

All ground surfaces, not otherwise required to be paved, shall be maintained with ground cover such as grass or mulch.

**City of Hickory**  
**Landscape Ordinance**  
**And Tree Preservation**  
**Handbook**



# Interior Parking Area Landscaping



# Conceptual Diagram of Landscaped Medians for Parking Lots Over 40,000 Square Foot

