

RESOLUTION TO AMEND ARTICLE 16 OF THE WAKE COUNTY UNIFIED  
DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OA-02-18

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WHEREAS, the Wake County Unified Development Ordinance guides the physical development of the County, and preserves and enhances the overall quality of life of residents, by mandating the use of native plants where plantings are required to meet the UDO's landscaping requirements; and

WHEREAS, the proposed text amendments will clarify the regulation and provide updated references on native and non-native invasive plants; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Staff recommends approval of the proposed text amendments; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2018, the Wake County Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the proposed text amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Wake County Board of Commissioners held a duly-noticed public hearing on January 22, 2019 to consider amending the Unified Development Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
THAT:

The proposed text amendments are hereby adopted, and the Unified Development Ordinance is hereby amended as shown in the attached OA-02-18 Ordinance Amendment Summary.

Adopted this 22nd day of January 2019.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR  
THE COUNTY OF WAKE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Hogan, Clerk to the Board

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica N. Holmes, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Warren, County Attorney

## OA-02-18 Ordinance Amendment Summary

*The proposed amendment reads as follows:*

### 16-10-3 Plant Material, Installation and Maintenance

#### (B) Plant Materials

##### (1) Existing Vegetation

Existing vegetation that meets or exceeds applicable screening requirements may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section, provided the bufferyard contains sufficient area surrounding the vegetation to ensure its protection from encroachments that may threaten its continued healthy growth. Due to their effectiveness in immediately providing a more effective screen, the retention and protection of existing vegetation must be given preference over the installation of new plant materials in the achievement of the required screening. Existing vegetation that is in a healthy condition, meets the minimum planting size requirements, and will meet the required mature plant size must be given credit ~~plant for plant~~ toward meeting the required screening. Existing vegetation must be noninvasive in nature. If invasive plants are found within the buffer, they must be permanently removed through mechanical or herbicidal means. No disposal of these plants (whole plants, clippings, root masses, etc...) may occur within buffers, easements, open space areas, or along rights-of-way. ~~See Appendix A for a USDA list of nonnative invasive species.~~ Invasive species are those identified on the most current lists published by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and NC Invasive Plant Council.

##### (2) Location and Spacing

Plants must be staggered or clustered as necessary to maximize screening objectives and to meet the needs of the particular species of plants for root space, water, light, and circulation.

##### (3) General Standards

All ~~landscaping~~ required landscape plant materials, inclusive of trees, shrubs and groundcovers, must comply with the American Nurseryman's Standards. Neither nonnative nor invasive plant species may be used for planting in landscaping and bufferyards ~~(see the USDA list of these species).~~ ~~Native species used in replantings are encouraged over ornamentals. All species chosen for planting should be chosen from amongst those species that typically grow in our geographical area, Zone 7.~~ The developer designer is responsible for researching ~~the biological requirements of each proposed~~ species utilized in the plantings and indicate on the plans that the material being used is native to our geographical area.

*Additionally, the amendment would delete Appendix A which lists non-native invasive species*