

## RESOLUTION 2015-11

### NASHVILLE INDIANA TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION TO AMEND LANDSCAPING GUIDELINES

**WHEREAS**, The Town Council of the Town of Nashville, Indiana (the "Council") has been requested by its Development Review Commission to amend the current Design Guidelines

**WHEREAS**, the Council has reviewed the suggested changes to said Guidelines and hereby finds that said changes will be of public utility and will be to the benefit and welfare of all citizens and taxpayers of the Town.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council as follows:

## LANDSCAPE

*Nashville and Brown County is well-known for its natural beauty, which attracts tourists from throughout the region and plays a major role in the local economy, as well as improving the quality of life of residents. Protection and enhancement of this natural environment is in the best interest of our community and a primary goal of the Development Review Commission.*

*The following guidelines are provided to assist new developers in preparing a landscaping plan and assist property owners in effectively improving privately-owned existing landscaped areas. The initial review of any planned landscape alterations – including the planting or removal of trees, shrubs or other vegetation – will be done by the Town's Tree Board, upon recommendation by Staff or the DRC. Information about existing trees or proposed trees may be sought from the Nashville Tree Board.*

**Landscaping definition:** *Any activity that modifies the visible features of an area of land with the goal of beautifying the environment within the landscape and that can be observed from a public right-of-way, including:*

- 1) Living elements such as flowers, shrubs, trees and ground cover whether planted in soil or window boxes and planters of 20 gallons or less in size. Natural elements such as mulch, gravel and stones.*
- 2) Human elements such as structures, buildings, fences, masonry, affixed benches, arbors, pathways and sidewalks used by the public, pergolas, gazebos, or other material objects created by humans.*
- 3) Abstract elements such as artificial light, planters 20 gallons or more in size, and lighting conditions.*
- 4) Areas of green landscaping, contours, grade, landforms, elevation, shape and terrain.*

#### **When is a permit required?**

*No permit is required for activities included in items listed under number 1.*

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*A permit is required for all activities related to Numbers 2, 3 and 4 as follows:*

- a. If the applicant is replacing like items with like items included in Numbers 2, 3 and 4 a permit can be issued at the Town Administration. Electronic (email) submission is encouraged for these items. When possible these items will be approved by email with no visit to Town Hall required.*
- b. If the applicant is conducting new construction or making changes to items included in numbers 2, 3 and 4 a review and permit is required from the DRC. Any construction under which "New Construction" DRC guidelines would apply must also submit a landscaping plan to address the above listed elements.*

*Landscaping is both science and art and requires a good knowledge of plants and design skills to blend these four elements together to create an appealing dimensional collection.*

*"Green Space" requirements as specified in the Nashville Planning and Zoning Ordinance also apply and may dictate the cubic area of a new development that must be landscaped. All parts of the above listed elements apply toward the "Green Space" requirement.*

**L1** The grade of the landscape should be maintained and preserved. In new construction, the grade of the land should blend with the general appearance of neighboring properties.

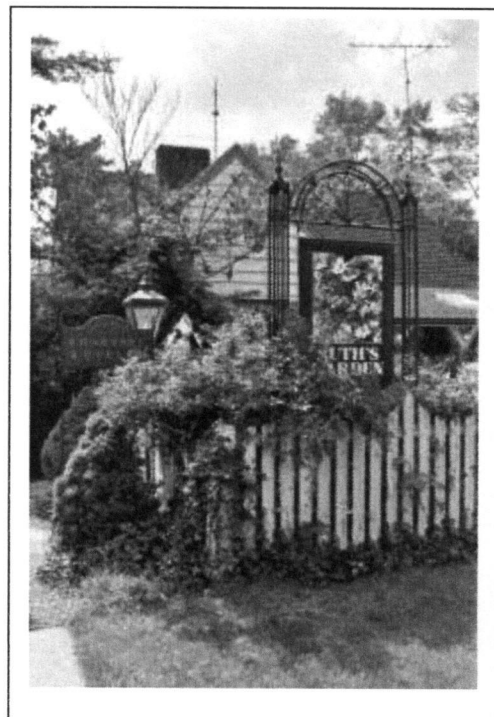
**L2** Existing plants and trees should be maintained and irrigated as needed. Irrigation systems are encouraged for larger landscape areas.

**L3** Native species are strongly encouraged for use in landscaping. Information about native trees, flowers and shrubs can be found through contacting the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society ([www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org)), the Indiana Department of Natural Resources ([www.in.gov/dnr/naturepr/](http://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepr/)), or many other sources.

**L4** The use of window boxes is encouraged on new and existing buildings. On historic buildings, boxes should be installed to minimize impact on the building.

**L5** Green space should be retained where it has traditionally existed in the town, and new green space should be incorporated into new development. In new development, the size, type and location of green space should reflect that found in surrounding properties.

The extensive use of plantings around these signs helps to create a welcoming atmosphere for the business.



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**L6** Tree and soil removal should be minimized during construction projects. Ground disturbing activities that could result in damage to or premature death of the tree should be minimized within the established root zone of mature trees.

**L7** Exotic or invasive plants should not be used for landscaping. The chart below lists several of the most invasive species in the state. For further information on these and other invasive species, contact the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves ([www.in.gov/dnr/naturepr/](http://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepr/)) or the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society ([www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org)).

### THE "10 MOST UNWANTED"

- ☛ Bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera maackii*, *L. tatarica*, *L. morrowii*)
  - ☛ Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
  - ☛ Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
  - ☛ Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)
  - ☛ Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)
- ☛ Common reed or phragmites (*Phragmites australis*)
  - ☛ Crown vetch (*Coronilla varia*)
- ☛ Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
  - ☛ Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- ☛ Buckthorns (*Rhamnus cathartica*, *R. frangula*)



*Mature trees, vegetation, and a historic iron fence help to define the sidewalk edge and engage the pedestrian.*

**L8** Plantings and landscaping should be used in historically appropriate ways, such as demarcating property lines and screening private areas from the public right-of-way.

**L9** Use of rip-rap should be minimized within the downtown.

**L10** Avoid creating barren spaces through the removal of existing vegetation or lack of landscaping in new development.

**L11** New landscaping should be designed so that it does not obscure views of historic buildings.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF  
NASHVILLE, BROWN COUNTY, INDIANA, THIS 17<sup>th</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President Charles B. King

yea     nay     abstain

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Vice-President Jane Gore

yea     nay     abstain

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alisha Greedy, Councilmember

yea     nay     abstain

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arthur Omberg, Councilmember

yea     nay     abstain

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Rudd, Councilmember

yea     nay     abstain

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda K. Young, Clerk-Treasurer

