



DEPARTMENT OF
BUILDING SAFETY

CITY OF OTSEGO
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Required Yard Landscaping, Trees and Grading Certification

Landscaping Requirements

The Builder or Property Owner in the residential lot area shall sod and/or seed all front yards within the buildable portion of each lot and shall post any security required by the City to assure landscaping is in compliance with City Ordinances. The builder or owner shall provide not less than six (6) inches of topsoil in required front yards and side yards abutting the public right-of-way. Where slopes lie in excess of (10) percent, sodding (staked) shall be required. All grass seed shall be maintained so that turf is established within one (1) year of planting.

The builder or property owner will provide all trees (2" in caliper at 6" above grade), grass, seed and sod – maintain and warrant them to remain alive, of good quality and disease-free for twelve (12) months after planting. Any replacement shall be warranted for twelve (12) months from the time of planting.

***** Note: A minimum of 6" clearance must be maintained between your dirt and your siding *****

Trees

The builder or homeowner shall plant two (2) trees on every lot in the areas not already containing two (2) trees (developer's boulevard trees are excluded). This needs to be done within one year of occupancy, as required by Section 20-16-7 of the Zoning Ordinance. Trees can be selected from among the following species and need to be 2" in caliper (at 6" above grade) meeting the approval of the City Building Official. The trees cannot be planted within 10' of the curb.

Below is a list of acceptable trees which meet the landscape requirements for the City:

- ~~Ash~~ (no longer accepted due to the "Ash Borer")
- Basswood
- Birch
- Ginkgo (male only)
- Hackberry
- Honey Locust
- Kentucky Coffee Tree
- Linden
- Maples

Grading As-Built

Before any work can begin on your lot, there must be a "Grading Certificate" – or – "Grading As-Built" turned in by the builder's surveyor and approved by our City Engineer. If the final grade fails and landscaping has begun, i.e. underground sprinkler, it will have to be torn out. This certification is also part of the landscape escrow – the escrow will *not* be returned until we have received an 'Approved Grading Certificate' from our engineer.