



LANDSCAPE Q&A

Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Landscaping At Potomac Greens

The Potomac Greens Landscape Committee has prepared this Q&A to help residents understand their obligations and responsibilities with regard to landscaping in Potomac Greens. Our grounds are taken care of by a contracted landscape maintenance company, and the City of Alexandria also plays a role. At the same time, individuals residing in Potomac Greens some have landscape responsibilities, as indicated in this Q&A. Trees, shrubs and flowers are recognized as both contributing to the quality of life in a community as well as enhancing property values, so we encourage everyone to do their part to maintain this community asset.

1. Who is responsible for the care of “street trees” and the “tree box” areas located along the main streets of the neighborhood?

The City of Alexandria owns and is responsible for maintenance of sidewalks, “street trees” and “tree boxes” along the main streets.

Sidewalks: *the City is responsible for maintaining the sidewalks in the neighborhood. It is not permitted to place objects such as planters on the sidewalks without special permission from the City as they can be an obstacle and a potential legal liability for the owner.*

Street Trees: *the City will replace a tree that dies with the same species of tree (in accordance with the original landscape plan), and will periodically survey and trim trees to prevent limbs from growing into the sides of houses.*

Tree Boxes: *the City is not responsible for maintaining the “tree boxes.” Homeowners or the Association have the right to determine if and how these will be planted as long as plantings don’t impact the health of the trees. The City has communicated that fencing in the “tree box” areas is not encouraged as such fences present a “tripping” hazard to City workers and residents alike and thereby possible legal liability.*

2. Who is responsible for “foundation plantings” in front of each home and smaller trees planted on the homeowner’s property (redbuds, dogwoods, magnolias, etc.)?

Homeowners are responsible for maintaining the foundation plantings (shrubs that exist against the base of the house), and are requested to replace plantings that die with shrubs from a list of approved species, which is attached to this document. This also applies to small ornamental trees that have been planted on the owner’s property. Trimming of these trees is the responsibility of the homeowner. The removal of these trees may require approval from both the City and HOA Architectural Review Board.

3. What are the services provided and the schedule for those services under the community’s landscaping contract with Grounds Landscaping and Management Inc.?

The general schedule of services is listed in the attached document. The exact timing may vary due to weather and other circumstances.

4. How can a homeowner assume responsibility for their on-property garden/landscaping?

Our landscaping contractor is aware that some homeowners would like to plant and maintain the flowerbeds on their properties. A homeowner need only place a “blue reflector” in the bed that they wish to manage and this will be respected by the landscaping crews. The crews will mulch these areas and may do some light weeding, etc., but will otherwise skip over designated flowerbeds in preference to the wishes of the homeowner.

Blue reflectors may be obtained by contacting Sentry Management’s Manager Christie Beruete: cberuete@sentrymgt.com.

The Potomac Greens Landscape Committee meets monthly and reports to the Board regularly. Board meetings are open to all homeowners in Potomac Greens, and residents are encouraged to attend. An open forum at the conclusion of each meeting provides opportunities to ask questions.