



## PUBLIC NOTICE

**FROM: Gordon Denney, Director, Park & Tree Department**

**DATE: September 30, 2016**

**RE: Revision to Landscape Warranty Bond Calculation**

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The City of Savannah Park and Tree Department is seeking to revise the process by which it calculates the Landscape Warranty Bond on development projects. The current process uses a cost per disturbed acreage formula and does not look at the actual cost to install the landscape necessary to meet the requirements of the Landscape and Tree Protection Ordinance.

One example of the current issue we face is where a site has a substantial amount of their landscape and tree point requirements met through preserved areas. As such the developer would not be required to plant much on site but the current process does not have a way to take that into account. This leaves it up to the administrator of the Landscape and Tree Protection Ordinance to figure out how to recalculate the values and come up with a bond amount that represents what was planted.

On the other side of the issue is when a development project does not retain any landscape or trees on their site and has to plant a substantial amount to meet their landscape and tree point requirements. The current method uses dollar figures from the 1990's and does not take into account the ever changing market rates for goods and services in the landscape industry. Therefore a provided warranty bond amount may not cover the needs for replacements in the event the bond would need to be used.

In an effort to address these two issues we have created a new process for calculating Landscape Warranty Bonds:

- Projects less than 1 acre will be 30% of the installed landscape cost
- Projects between 1 and 5 acres will be 50% of the installed landscape cost
- Projects over five acres will be 70% of the installed landscape cost
- Minimum warranty shall be \$1,500 unless waived by the Administrator

This will require that Development Services receive an estimate for the landscape installation so that Park and Tree can calculate the value of the Landscape Warranty Bond. This can be submitted at the same time you provide the costs for any water, sewer, and/or stormwater infrastructure which may need to be bonded as part of the project.

The new process would go into effect November 1, 2016 for all new projects. Any project currently under review or submitted prior to the November 1, 2016 date will still be calculated under the existing process.

If there are any questions please feel free to contact Ted Buckley, City Landscape Architect, at (912) 651-6610 or by email at [wbuckley@savannahga.gov](mailto:wbuckley@savannahga.gov).