



# Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association

## **Contractor Pledge: Tree/Earth/Soil Protection**

May 2014

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Chesterbrook Woods, through the Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association (“CWCA”), have expressed their desire to safeguard and to maintain the historic tree canopy in the neighborhood;

**WHEREAS**, CWCA has, in concert with developers and experts in environmentally responsible construction practices, adopted a list of best practices which they believe will help to safeguard and maintain the tree canopy, earth and soil in the neighborhood;

**WHEREAS**, the contractor identified below (“Contractor”) shares the community’s interest in safeguarding and maintaining the historic tree canopy and have developed and implemented construction practices that are consistent with that interest;

**WHEREAS**, CWCA desires to encourage its citizens to work with contractors that have developed and will implement construction practices that will safeguard and maintain the tree canopy by listing those contractors who sign this Pledge on a “Preferred Environmentally Responsible Contractors” list that will be available on the CWCA website and otherwise made available to Chesterbrook Woods Citizens;

**NOW THEREFORE**, Contractor pledges to implement the construction practices identified below and otherwise to be sensitive to the community’s desire to maintain the tree canopy and otherwise to protect the earth and soil in the neighborhood.



## Agreed Construction Practices

1. Erosion/Siltation. Contractor acknowledges that soil erosion and siltation represents a serious threat to the health of adjacent trees and water supplies and will undertake the following measures, as a minimum standard, to limit erosion.

- a. Install silt fencing around all disturbed areas and storm sewer inlets.
- b. Place straw and/or planting on and around .all disturbed surfaces.
- c. Use swales, silt fences and/or similar structures to keep runoff away from slopes, storm sewer inlets and adjacent properties.
- d. If slopes are disturbed, protect them with blankets, terraces, etc.
- e. Retain topsoil taken from disturbed areas and reapply that topsoil following the completion of construction and before planting seed or installing topsoil.
- f. Plant seed/install turf on all disturbed areas following construction.

2. Tree Canopy.

- a. Tree removal will be limited to those trees that must be removed to accommodate the residence building itself. Trees will never be removed for the convenience of Contractor equipment, parking, dump site or dumpster.
- b. A minimum of forty percent (40%) of the lot will be retained as undisturbed area, including trees.
- c. A Certified Arborist will mark critical root zones for all native trees and plants. These root zones will be left undisturbed (in addition to the 40% area). No construction activity will take place within these zones, including vehicle or foot traffic, material storage, etc.
- d. A Certified Arborist will perform root pruning (and fertilization if recommended by Arborist) for any trees within 15 feet of delineated area.
- e. A Certified Arborist may declare certain trees to be diseased, dangerous, or invasive; these trees may be removed. Trees will be planted to meet all canopy requirements.



- f. Efforts will be made to use plants and trees that are native to the northern Virginia region and to avoid the use of invasive plants.
  - g. Efforts will be made to locate plants and trees in a manner consistent with the natural environment, not merely in straight lines or rows not generally found in nature.
  - h. Contractor or its designee shall undertake measures to ensure that trees and other plantings survive after planting, including through the use of water bags and/or periodic hose watering until the property is sold or turned over to a third party.
  - i. Following construction, each lot will include a tree canopy coverage of a at least 50% of the lot.
3. No more than 30% of any lot shall be comprised of impervious materials.
4. No more than 40% of any lot shall be comprised of turf grass.
5. The construction area will be marked and fenced before any construction activity begins.
6. The construction area will be kept clean. Construction debris will not be piled or left in the yard or allowed to penetrate the soil. All construction debris will be placed into a covered dumpster on a daily basis. Dumpsters will be emptied promptly when full and will be removed from the site promptly when construction is completed.
7. Hazardous or toxic materials will never be left on site in an unsecured manner or location.

[CONTRACTOR NAME]

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