

# Landscaping

Landscaping enhances the visual character of the home, reduces energy costs (provides shade and wind protection), and blends the home into the landscape character that is found throughout the neighborhood. A well planned yard provides opportunities for relaxation, limited recreational space, and privacy as required by the homeowners.

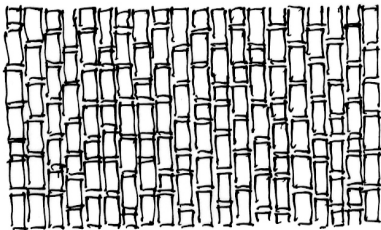
## Front Yard



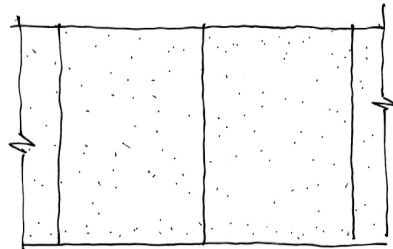
*Concrete Parking Strips*



*Permeable Paver System*



*Decorative Brick Pavers*



*Concrete*



*Concrete Steps*



*Front Walkway*

### Driveways:

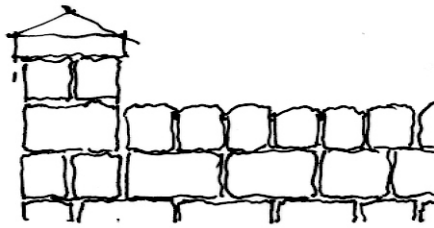
- Parking should always be provided off an alley if present. However, if a driveway is provided from the street, it should extend to the side or rear of the house to prevent parking in the front yard. Concrete parking strips or permeable paver system are encouraged as they reduce the amount of impervious surface created by the driveway.

### Walkways:

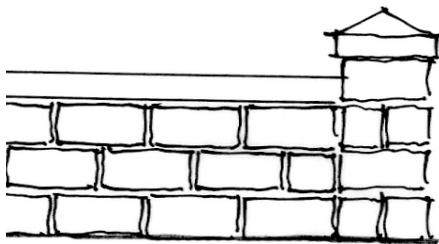
- A walkway should connect the main entrance of the house to the public sidewalk or street. The walkway should be at least 4 feet in width and made of poured concrete or decorative brick pavers that complement the architectural style of the house.
- Steps from the sidewalk to the front walkway, should be made of brick pavers or concrete.

**Retaining Walls:**

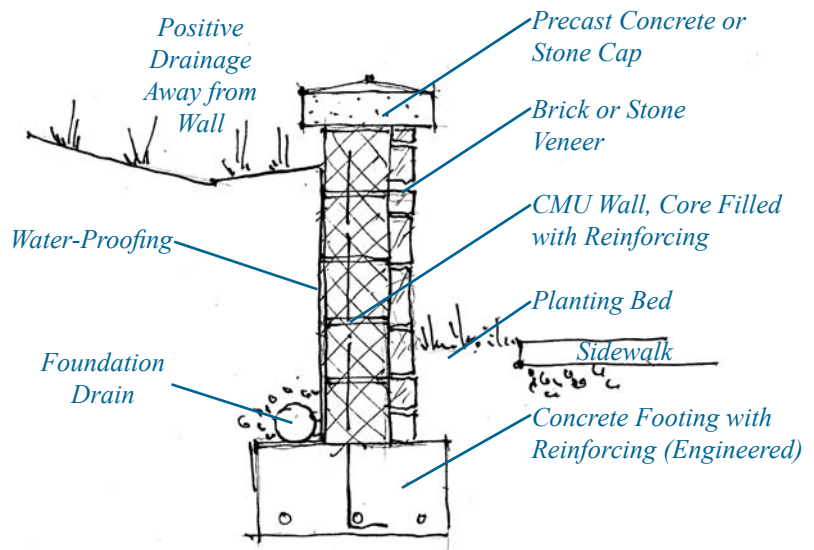
- Existing retaining walls adjacent to the sidewalk should be maintained. Failing walls should be reconstructed, but should maintain the character of the original wall.
- Where a new retaining wall is needed, it should be constructed of materials similar to existing retaining walls found in the neighborhood. The most common materials used are stone, stone textured concrete block, or decorative concrete.



*Stone Retaining Wall with Stone Caps*

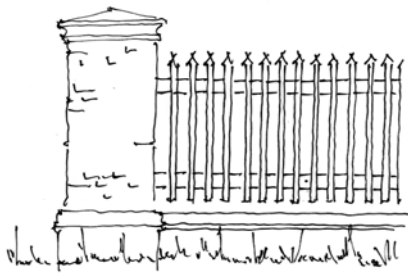


*Decorative Concrete Block Retaining Wall with Stone Cap*

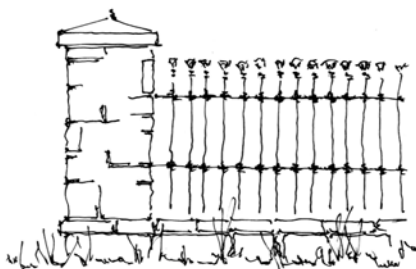


**Fencing:**

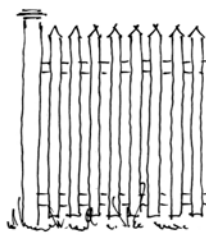
- Front yard fencing should be limited to decorative wrought iron or painted wood picket fencing. Front yard fencing includes all fencing from the front of the house (not the porch) to the public sidewalk or right-of-way line. The maximum fencing height should not exceed three feet. Chain link, wood privacy, or split log fences should not be used in the front yard.



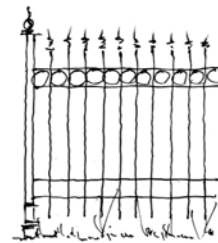
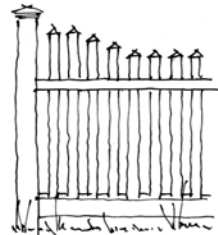
*Wood Picket Fence with Stone Pier*



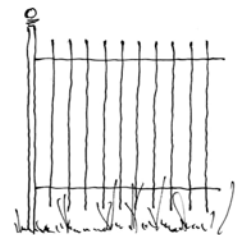
*Wrought Iron Fence with Stone Pier*



*Wood Picket Fences*



*Decorative Wrought Iron Fences*



- The planting of evergreen shrubs can be used in place of a fence. The shrubs should be maintained to a maximum height of three feet.



### Plantings:

- Perimeter planting along the property line and other landscaping is encouraged. Care should be taken to select plants that will not eventually overgrow and hide sections of the house or porch.
- The front yard should be planted in grass, ivy or any evergreen ground cover, or a combination of all. Some grass area is important to help define a front yard.
- Existing trees in good health should remain, while the planting of new trees is strongly encouraged where appropriate. The type of tree and its location should blend in with other existing trees on your lot and on the neighboring lots. For new construction, extra credit is given towards the landscaping requirements of the City's Zoning Ordinance when existing trees are retained.
- The planting of trees and shrubbery is encouraged in front yards. The plant and tree types should be similar to those found in the surrounding neighborhood and should be suitable for urban landscapes. The selection of trees should consider tree height and root ball size at maturity in order to ensure that the tree will not damage the house, its foundation, sidewalks, and or retaining walls. Many local nurseries have information that will assist you in selecting appropriate trees or shrubs for your yard.
- Use plantings native to Virginia. Since native plants have been growing and evolving for many years, they have adapted to local soils and climate. Thus they are more likely to require less care than exotic plants, which cuts down on the need for water, fertilizer, and pesticides.

### Rear and Side Yard



*Decorative Rear Yard Privacy Fence on a Corner Lot*

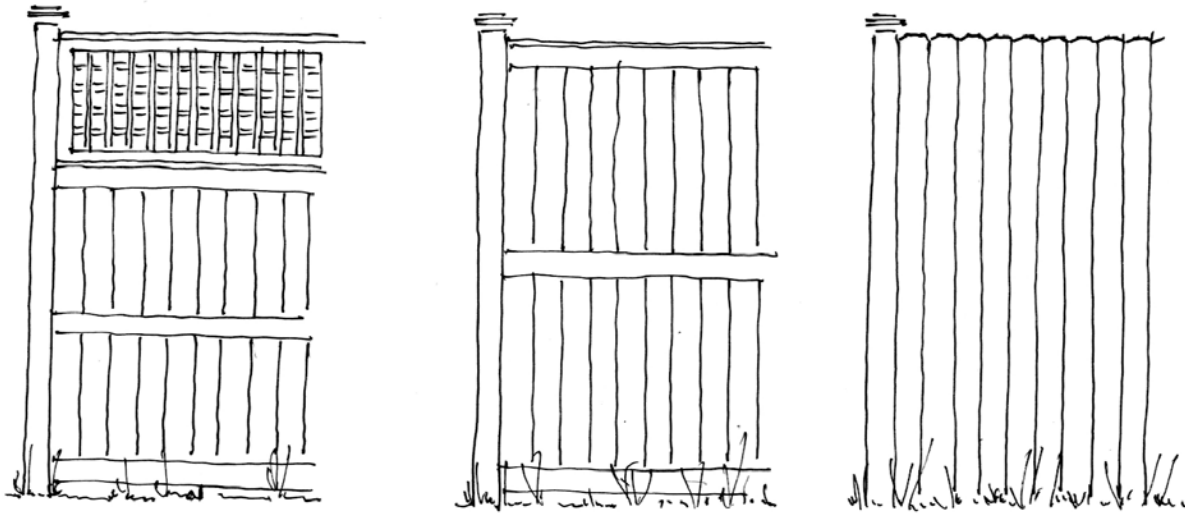
### Driveways:

- Parking should always be provided off an alley if present. Concrete parking strips or permeable pavement systems are encouraged as they reduce the amount of impervious surface created by the driveway.

### Fencing:

- Fencing in the rear yard, where visible from the street, should be decorative. Chain link fencing or the structural side of a privacy fence should not be visible from the street.
- Rear and side yard fencing should not exceed six feet. Rear yard fences should be considered to provide security and privacy.





*6' Privacy Fences for Rear Yards*

- The planting of trees or shrubs in place of fencing is encouraged. Shrubs should be kept to a maximum height of six feet.

**Plantings:**

- The rear and side yards should be planted with grass, ivy or any evergreen ground cover, or a combination of all. Grass is important for recreation and play areas.
- The planting of trees and shrubbery in the rear and side yards as landscaping elements is strongly encouraged. The plant and tree types should be similar to those in the surrounding neighborhood and should be suitable for urban landscapes. The selection of trees should consider height and root ball size at maturity that will not eventually damage the house and its foundation. Many local nurseries have information helpful in the selection of appropriate plant and tree material.
- Use plantings native to Virginia. Since native plants have been growing and evolving for many years, they have adapted to local soils and climate. Thus they are more likely to require less care than exotic plants, which cuts down on the need for water, fertilizer, and pesticides.



*Two-Sided Privacy Fence.*

