

INFORMATION PAPER



September 3, 2025
Planning, Building and Development
Director Eric Waggoner

SUBJ: PROPOSED LANDSCAPING AMENDMENTS TO THE LAKE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES (LCC)

Summary: The Committee has previously directed staff to initiate the text amendment process for additional updates regarding landscaping. The attached action item introduces a County Board resolution directing the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to conduct public hearings upon the conclusion of staff's drafting process.

Background:

- In August 2024, the Planning, Building, Zoning and Environment Committee adopted amendments to the Lake County, Illinois Code of Ordinances relating to the enhanced planting and protection of native tree and plant species in unincorporated Lake County.
- At that time, staff worked with the organization Openlands to draft amendments related to native trees and had received additional suggested amendments.
- Openlands is a non-profit conservation organization focused on protecting land, water, and wildlife; growing the tree canopy; empowering people and communities; and advocating for policy solutions.
- As a continuation of the enhancements passed in 2024, staff have incorporated Openlands' additional suggestions into a new set of amendments.
- Proposed text amendments to Chapter 151 of the Lake County Code of Ordinances will include enhancements to parking lot landscaping, and updates to Appendix A's "Best Management Practices" section.

Next Steps: In introducing the topic to Committee, staff will collect any feedback and incorporate as appropriate into the draft regulations. Following the County Board's approval of the resolution to initiate the ZBA hearing process, which is anticipated on September 9, 2025, staff will complete the drafting process and then proceed to schedule a ZBA public hearing to consider the proposed text amendments to the LCC.