

## Site and Setting

### 3.2 SITE FEATURES AND GROUND SURFACES



Example of appropriate site improvements including fences, pillars, landscaping and street trees

Site features and ground surface treatments not only provide the context for the buildings, but they also contribute significantly to the overall character of the districts. These features help define outdoor spaces and rooms. They also help to define vistas and views of the streets, rivers, and the city as a whole. The placement of hedges, trees, lawns, and walkways help to determine the circulation of a property.

Landscaping features and especially Heritage Trees (any tree in a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone that exceeds the second story of a building) play a significant role in creating a character of a property, but they can also provide much needed tree cover and cooling effect for an area that is primarily pavement and brick building material. As many sidewalks do not have street trees in the urban historic neighborhoods, providing opportunities for landscaping and tree growth gives Covington a chance to have a well-vegetated urban environment.

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Example of matching ground surface covering with surrounding surfaces



Street trees on Greenup Street.

#### GUIDELINES:

1. Site improvements shall compliment the structure, and be compatible with structures surrounding it.
2. Site improvements that detract from the building or greatly vary from surrounding sites are discouraged.
3. Preserve walkways or garden ornaments that are original, or near-original to the site.
4. Match ground surface covering, such as driveways, with surrounding surfaces. Attempt to blend new ground surface covering with the existing public sidewalk in color, texture, and design.
5. Blend ground surface coverings, including ground plantings and landscaping, with surrounding surfaces. If surrounding properties have mostly grassy front yards, retain the grass on the front yard. If surrounding properties have a varied landscape of paving and plantings, a more flexible plan may be allowed.
6. Existing walkways or garden ornaments, including historic arbors and gazebos, should be retained and repaired.
7. Avoid the removal of Heritage Trees in street right-of-way or private property. If a tree is dead, severely damaged or presents potential danger may be removed per consultation and approval from the City Arborist and a new tree should be installed.
8. Make all attempts possible to retain Heritage Trees in both the front and rear of the property as they add to the overall aesthetic appeal of our historic neighborhoods.