

Ensuring Responsible Practices



ADOPTING RETAINING WALL STANDARDS

Why?



- Safety of residents above and below retaining wall systems
- Building on steep terrain often includes wall systems
- Supplement NC Building Code
- Larger walls provide greater visual impact and pose larger threats to public safety

Proposed Standards



- Apply to walls and wall systems >10 feet
- Terracing of walls >20 feet
- Landscaping
 - Foreground landscaping
 - Attached vegetative screening
 - Bushes on terraces
- Safety barrier
- Engineer certification
- Enable the long term monitoring of wall systems



Terracing

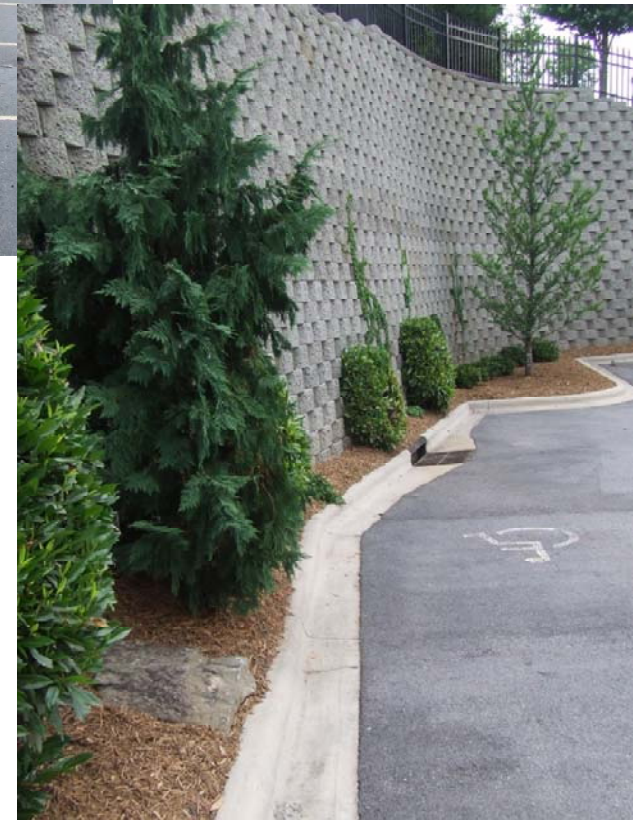
- Wall systems $>$ 20 feet
- Increased stability & maintenance
- Lowest level \leq 20 feet
- Successive levels \leq 15 feet
- Terrace depth \geq 10 feet





Landscaping

- Foreground landscaping
- Vegetative Screening
- Bushes on Terraces





Safety Barrier

- Minimum 4 foot fence at the top level of a wall system
- Guardrail required where vehicular traffic will be within 10 feet of edge of top level





Engineer Certification

- Already required by Building Code
- Will require certification by design engineer





Long-Term Monitoring

- Wall systems > 40 feet
- Survey to establish a baseline for future inspections
- Survey to be recorded with the Register of Deeds for future reference

