

Sec. 21.9.7. Landscaping.

- A. *Purpose.* The purpose of this section is to establish landscaping requirements to enhance the community's ecological, environmental, and beautification efforts as well as its aesthetic qualities. It is the intent of this section to reduce the negative effects of glare, noise, erosion, and sedimentation caused by expanses of impervious and un-vegetated surfaces within the urban environment. It is the intent of this section to preserve and improve the natural and urban environment by recognizing that the use of landscaping elements can contribute to the processes of air purification, oxygen, regeneration, groundwater recharge, noise abatement, glare and heat, provision of habitats for wildlife, and enhance the overall beauty of the City.
- B. *Enforcement.* If at any time after the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, the approved landscaping is found to be in nonconformance with standards and criteria of this section, notice by the City may be issued to the owner, citing the violation and describing what action is required to comply with this section. The owner, tenant or agent shall have forty-five (45) days after the date of said notice to restore landscaping as required. The City may extend the time of compliance based on weather conditions. If the landscaping is not restored within the allotted time, such person shall be in violation of this UDC.

C. *Single Family and Duplex Residential*

Installation and Maintenance.

1. Prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy sod shall be in place in full front and rear yards, except for landscape beds and gardens. On property containing a minimum of one-half (½) acre or greater, sod in front and rear yards shall be planted adjacent to the slab for a distance of fifty feet (50') and for a distance of twenty feet (20') in side yards.
2. All landscaped areas shall be irrigated with an approved automatic underground irrigation system unless the landscaped area has been designed utilizing xeriscaping methods. All irrigation systems shall be designed and sealed in accordance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and shall be professionally installed. No irrigation shall be required for undisturbed natural areas or undisturbed existing trees.
3. Vegetation other than grasses or ground cover under six inches (6") in height is prohibited in any City right-of-way unless specifically authorized in writing by the City Manager or his/her designee.
4. Landscape planting shall not be erected or installed in such a manner as to interfere with traffic view or impose a safety hazard.
5. New landscaped areas shall be prepared so as to achieve a soil depth of at least two inches (2").
6. Every single family residential lot shall provide a minimum of two (2) shade trees having a DBH (diameter at breast height) measured four and one half feet (4.5') above existing ground level which are a minimum of two ~~and one-half inches (2.5")~~ caliper ~~measured at four feet (4') above ground level~~ at the time of planting.

- D. *Nonresidential and Multi-Family.* The provisions of this section apply to new construction except public water and wastewater facilities for which only subsections 14 and 16 below apply.

Existing developments where all structures are not being demolished, do not have to comply with all of these requirements. Rather they cannot decrease compliance with an individual requirement to the point that they no longer comply with that individual requirement.

Installation and Maintenance.

1. Prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for any building or structure, all screening and landscaping shall be in place in accordance with the landscape plan approved as part of the Site Plan.

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2. In any case in which a Certificate of Occupancy is sought at a season of the year in which the City determines that it would be impractical to plant trees, shrubs or grass, or to lay turf, a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy may be issued for up to four (4) months.
 3. All landscaped areas shall be irrigated with an approved automatic underground irrigation system unless the landscaped area has been designed utilizing xeriscaping methods. All irrigation systems shall be designed and sealed in accordance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and shall be professionally installed. No irrigation shall be required for undisturbed natural areas or undisturbed existing trees.
 4. Vegetation other than approved grasses or ground cover under six inches (6") in height is prohibited in any City right-of-way unless specifically authorized in writing by the City Manager or his/her designee, after consultation with the Director of Public Works or his/her designee.
 5. Trees planted having a DBH (diameter at breast height) measured four and one half feet (4.5') above existing ground level shall be a minimum of two and one half inches (2-5") caliper measured at four feet (4') above ground level at the time of planting. All trees planted to meet the minimum landscaping, requirements of this section shall be planted so as to provide for no impervious material within the drip line of the tree. For the purposes of determining the drip line to meet the requirements of this section, the drip line radius shall be measured as being ten (10) times the caliper of the tree. For example, a two and one half inch (2-5") tree will have a twenty five inch (205") radius or fiftyfour inch (540") diameter. Tree wells or tree grates may be utilized to meet the requirements of this section. The City may, at its option, require certification by a registered arborist that adequate space has been provided for pervious cover beneath the drip line of a tree.
 6. New landscaped areas shall be prepared so as to achieve a soil depth of at least two inches (2").
 7. The use of architectural planters in nonresidential districts may be permitted in fulfillment of landscape requirements subject to approval of the Planning and Zoning Commission at the time of Site Plan approval.
 8. Landscape planting shall not be erected or installed in such a manner as to interfere with traffic view or impose a safety hazard.
 9. A minimum twenty foot (20') wide landscape buffer shall be provided adjacent to any public right-of-way. Trees shall be planted at an average density of one (1) tree per twenty linear feet (20') of street frontage except for public schools. The landscape buffer shall require an irrigation system and shall be maintained by the property owner. The requirements of this section are not applicable to properties zoned Main Street Mixed-Use - New Development (MSMU-ND).
 10. A minimum of twenty percent (20%) of the total land area of any proposed multifamily or nonresidential development shall be landscaped and shall be comprised of trees, shrubs, sod or other ground cover. In the event of the construction of a phased development, the minimum twenty percent (20%) requirement shall apply to each phase as it is developed.
 11. All commercial and multi-family properties shall provide shade trees at a ratio of nine (9) trees per acre. Industrial property shall provide shade trees at a ratio of six (6) trees per acre. Public schools shall provide shade trees at a ratio of at least four (4) trees per acre. Existing trees may be counted toward meeting the requirements of this section.
 12. Interior Landscaping. A minimum of ten percent (10%) of the gross parking areas shall be devoted to living landscaping which includes grass, ground covers, plants, shrubs and trees. Gross parking area is to be measured from the edge of the parking and/or driveway and sidewalks. Interior landscaping requirements do not apply to public water and wastewater facilities if an eight feet (8') masonry fence is provide[d] at or near the property boundary.

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13. Interior areas of parking lots shall contain planting islands located so as to best relieve the expanse of paving. Planter islands must be located no further apart than every twenty (20) parking spaces and at the terminus of all rows of parking. Such islands shall be a minimum of 162 square feet or nine feet by eighteen feet (9' x 18') in size. Planter islands shall contain a combination of trees, shrubs, lawn, ground cover and other appropriate materials provided such landscaping does not cause visual interference within the parking area. This subsection does not apply to public schools.
 14. Perimeter Landscape Area - Where a nonresidential or multifamily use adjacent to a nonresidential or multifamily use that is zoned for nonresidential or multifamily uses shall provide a minimum five-foot (5') landscape buffer adjacent to those uses except where the building extends into that five foot (5') landscape buffer. A minimum of one (1) shade tree shall be planted for each one-hundred linear feet (100') of landscape buffer except where the entire five-foot (5') wide landscape buffer is encumbered by an easement that does not allow the planting of trees. A nonresidential or multifamily use adjacent to a single family or duplex residential use or single family or duplex residentially zoned property shall provide a minimum twenty-foot (20') landscape buffer adjacent to the proper line of the residential use or residentially zoned property. A minimum of one (1) shade tree [s]hall be planted for each thirty (30) linear feet of landscape buffer. The landscape buffer shall be covered with grass or another solid vegetative cover. The landscape buffer shall include a masonry wall which shall be eight feet (8') in height. The requirement of this subsection doe[s] not apply to public water and wastewater facilities if an eight foot (8') masonry wall is provided at or near the property boundary.

F. *Landscape Plan Required.* A landscape plan shall be submitted to the City for approval. The landscape plan may be submitted as a part of the Site Plan. The landscape plan shall contain the following information:

1. location of all existing trees with indication as to those to be preserved;
2. location of all plants and landscaping material to be used including paving, benches, screens, fountains, statues, or other landscaping features;
3. species of all plant material to be used;
4. size of all plant material to be used;
5. spacing of plant material where appropriate;
6. type of watering system and location of watering source, irrigation, sprinkler, or water system, including placement of water sources;
7. description of maintenance provisions of the landscaping plan; and
8. persons responsible for the preparation of the landscape plan.

(Ord. No. 16-S-27 , §§ 3, 4, 8-30-2016; Ord. No. 18-S-04 , § 1(Exh. A), 1-23-2018; Ord. No. 18-S-24 , § 1(Exh. A), 8-7-2018; Ord. No. 21-S-26 , § 1(Exh. A), 7-6-2021; Ord. No. 23-S-07 , § 1(Exh. A), 3-14-2023)