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Board of County Commissioners  
Holly Williams, District 1  
Carrie Geitner, District 2  
Stan VanderWerf, District 3  
Longinos Gonzalez, Jr., District 4  
Cami Bremer, District 5

## SUMMARY MEMORANDUM

TO: El Paso County Board of County Commissioners  
FROM: Justin Kilgore, Planning Manager, Planning & Community Development  
DATE: February 8, 2024  
RE: LDC233, Proposed Amendments to the Land Development Code Pertaining to Landscaping

### Project Description

A request by the El Paso County Planning and Community Development Department to amend Chapter 6 of the El Paso County Land Development Code. The purpose of the amendment is to update the language pertaining to Landscaping. The amendment will modify sections of the El Paso County Land Development Code (as amended) as described below:

- Update and adoption of the Landscape Manual and Planting List, "Landscaping and Planting Manual."
- Clarification of right-of-way (roadway landscaping) plantings
- Encourage Xeriscaping and appropriate plantings within the Unincorporated County.
- Allowing Artificial Landscaping (Artificial Turf, and Artistic Landscape)
- Removing Alternative Landscaping requirement for Xeriscaping and the requirement for groundcover such as "Kentucky Bluegrass."
- Tree Replacement allowances to include shrubs and boulders.
- Recommendations for "Root Guards" for trees close to roads and sidewalks.

### Notation

Please see the draft Planning Commission minutes for a complete discussion of the topic and the Planning Commission staff report for staff analysis. The notice of hearing was published on January 13, 2024.

### Discussion

There were no recommended changes made by the Planning Commission. Commissioners asked about the need for the amendments, the consistency with surrounding jurisdictions, the review process, and whether we had support from the industry.

### Planning Commission Recommendation and Vote

Ms. Fuller moved / Mr. Trowbridge seconded for to recommend approval of the amendments to the El Paso County Land Development Code Chapter 6, General Development Standards, Article 2, Development Standards for Ancillary Facilities and Activities, Section 1, Fences, Walls, and Hedges, and Section 2, Landscape Requirements related to standards for plantings, that this item be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration. The motion was **approved (9-0)**. The item was heard as a regular agenda item.

### Attachments

1. Draft Planning Commission minutes from January 18, 2024.
2. Signed Planning Commission Resolution
3. Planning Commission Staff Report.
4. Draft BOCC Resolution.

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## **EL PASO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**

### **MEETING RESULTS (UNOFFICIAL RESULTS)**

Planning Commission (PC) Meeting  
Thursday, January 18, 2024  
El Paso County Planning and Community Development Department  
2880 International Circle – Second Floor Hearing Room  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

#### **REGULAR HEARING, 9:00 A.M.**

**PC MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING:** SARAH BRITTAIN JACK, JAY CARLSON, BECKY FULLER, JEFFREY MARKEWICH, BRANDY MERRIAM, BRYCE SCHUETTPELZ, WAYNE SMITH, TIM TROWBRIDGE, AND CHRISTOPHER WHITNEY.

**PC MEMBERS VIRTUAL AND VOTING:** NONE.

**PC MEMBERS PRESENT AND NOT VOTING:** NONE.

**PC MEMBERS ABSENT:** THOMAS BAILEY, JIM BYERS, ERIC MORAES, AND KARA OFFNER.

**STAFF PRESENT:** MEGGAN HERINGTON, JUSTIN KILGORE, MIRANDA BENSON, AND LORI SEAGO.

**OTHERS PRESENT AND SPEAKING:** VICTORIA CHAVEZ.

#### **1. REPORT ITEMS**

**Mr. Kilgore** advised the board that the next PC Hearing is Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. He also mentioned the appreciation brunch may take place following that meeting.

**Ms. Herington** further explained that multiple PC members were unable to attend this meeting, and PCD is trying to invite Commissioner VanderWerf, the Commissioner Liaison for this board.

**Mr. Carlson** asked if there was an update on a joint PC and BoCC meeting.

**Ms. Herington** explained that Commissioner VanderWerf would like to meet with the PC Chair and Vice-Chair to discuss meeting topics. PCD is currently arranging a time for that discussion. A potential meeting with both full boards would follow.

#### **2. CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE HEARING AGENDA (NONE)**

**3. CONSENT ITEMS**

**A. Adoption of Minutes of meeting held January 4, 2024.**

**PC ACTION: THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS PRESENTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT (9-0).**

**B. Adoption of the “2024 Sunshine Law Resolution”.**

**PC ACTION: FULLER MOVED / TROWBRIDGE SECONDED ADOPTION OF THE “2024 SUNSHINE LAW RESOLUTION” AS IT WAS PRESENTED. THE MOTION PASSED (9-0).**

**4. CALLED-UP CONSENT ITEMS (NONE)**

**5. REGULAR ITEMS**

**A. MP233**

**CHAVEZ**

**MASTER PLAN  
CO 83 ACCESS CONTROL PLAN**

The El Paso County Department of Public Works in conjunction with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the City of Colorado Springs requests adoption of the CO 83 Access Control Plan as an element of the El Paso County Master Plan. With adoption, this Plan will become the principal plan for further planning and development of the CO 83 corridor access within unincorporated El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs on this CDOT owned highway. The Plan encompasses CO 83 at Powers Boulevard (CO 21) to County Line Road (Palmer Divide Road). (All Commissioner Districts.)

**Ms. Victoria Chavez**, the project manager with DPW, requested that this item be postponed to a date certain of March 7, 2024. She also mentioned that the 2045 Major Transportation Corridor Plan is currently online and open for public comment through January 31, 2024.

**PC ACTION: FULLER MOVED / WHITNEY SECONDED POSTPONEMENT OF REGULAR ITEM 5A, FILE NUMBER MP233, FOR A MASTER PLAN, CO 83 ACCESS CONTROL PLAN, PER THE APPLICANT’S REQUEST TO A DATE CERTAIN OF MARCH 7, 2024. THE MOTION TO POSTPONE PASSED (9-0).**

**B. LDC233**

**KILGORE**

**LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT  
LANDSCAPE CODE UPDATE**

A request by the El Paso County Planning and Community Development Department to amend Chapter 6 of the El Paso County Land Development Code (as amended) pertaining to Section 6.2 Development Standards for Ancillary Facilities and Activities, specifically, sections 6.2.1 and 6.2.2, to provide clarification of the requirements, increase options for landscaping materials, and provide a Landscaping and Planting Manual for reference. The proposed revisions, in their entirety, are on file with the El Paso County Planning and Community Development Department. (All Commissioner Districts.)

**STAFF PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Trowbridge** asked if PCD would allow trees that are in place for screening purposes to be replaced by boulders.

**Mr. Kilgore** answered that PCD staff would evaluate that screening requirement in the review process. He added that Mr. Moraes submitted comments he would later explain. The presentation continued.

**Mr. Carlson** mentioned the requirement for a landscaping island every 15 parking spaces. He asked how that would look in instances where cars are “double loaded” or parked head-to-head. Would an island be required every 7 rows?

**Mr. Kilgore** answered that the 15 parking spaces would be counted lineally. Typically, head-to-head parking examples, like Mr. Carlson mentioned, construct a longer island at the endcaps.

**Mr. Carlson** indicated 15 parking spaces between landscaping may not be enough (the islands may be too frequent) especially when considering larger shopping center over multiple acres. He mentioned the struggles in irrigation and maintenance.

**Mr. Kilgore** stated that an applicant can submit an alternate design or substitute plan in that case. He also noted that there is now more flexibility with internal (parking lot) landscaping and the landscaping buffering a building when they are close to one another. The presentation continued.

**Mr. Carlson** asked if a landowner must replace landscaping with what was required at their landscape plan approval or if they can replace it with what is allowed after this code amendment.

**Mr. Kilgore** replied that PCD could process an administrative modification to the approved plan if that scenario happens. The presentation continued.

**Ms. Merriam** asked how noxious weeds are handled in the eastern portion of the County where the prairie is being developed and “noxious weeds” are more prevalent.

**Mr. Kilgore** explained that the State has different levels on the noxious weeds list. List A consists of plants that need to be removed immediately. List B consists of the “not advisable” plants. List C consists of plants considered less invasive but still need to be controlled/removed. He stated he would need to speak with the Environmental Division regarding how the State handles items on List A, which he believes are the only highly controlled plants.

**Ms. Merriam** asked if the County did anything regarding noxious weeds in open space.

**Mr. Kilgore** answered that the landowner/developer would manage any noxious weeds until the land is taken over by a management group or HOA. He can't give an answer to how noxious weeds are handled County-wide, only how PCD reviews the subject for application review purposes. He would defer to the Environmental Division to answer that question.

**Ms. Merriam** stated she would like to know how that process works and would appreciate it if Mr. Kilgore would follow-up with her regarding what he discovers.

**Mr. Markewich** asked if a landowner could request noxious weed code enforcement if an adjacent property has items on the list that they want to avoid migrating onto their own property.

**Mr. Kilgore** stated he would need to research and follow-up with Mr. Markewich because he's not sure if County Code Enforcement enforces the Environmental Division's noxious weed list (as they do with weed height). He stated the *Noxious Weed Control Book* may cover enforcement procedure.

**Mr. Whitney** asked if there was a County-wide eradication plan for noxious weeds.

**Mr. Kilgore** asked if the board would like the Environmental Division's *Noxious Weed Control Book* to be presented during the hearing (they did not). He believes that information may be included in the book. He believes eradication is only required for List A.

**Mr. Carlson** asked if the book could be sent to all board members. (It has since been uploaded to the EDARP project file for LDC233.)

**Mr. Kilgore** completed his presentation.

## **NO PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## **DISCUSSION**

**Mr. Kilgore** reviewed the comments submitted by Mr. Moraes.

**Mr. Carlson** asked for the comments to be shared with the board. (They have since been uploaded to the EDARP project file in their entirety.) The board indicated they do not need to see the comments before voting during the hearing. Mr. Carlson asked if changes were made to the Code amendment, besides scrivener's errors, following Mr. Moraes' comments. (There were not.)

**Mr. Whitney** reiterated that he would like to see Mr. Moraes' comments but does not feel the need to do so before voting.

**Mr. Markewich** asked about the nature of Mr. Moraes' comment regarding artificial turf.

**Mr. Kilgore** explained that Mr. Moraes' concern was about PFAS potentially leaching into the soil.

**Mr. Whitney** clarified that Mr. Moraes' comment was about the possible environmental impact.

**Mr. Kilgore** confirmed.

**Ms. Brittain Jack** asked if it was safe to assume that artificial turf would not have been allowed in the Code unless it met environmental impact requirements.

**Mr. Kilgore** replied that would be correct. He added that the review process included sending the proposed amendments to 43 different agencies, including the land-use team of the HBA. That team includes landscape architects and engineers. They provided a letter of recommendation. Many of the changes and suggestions came from the review agencies. He stated 4-5 of the significant returned reviews included environmental comments.

**Mr. Carlson** asked if any commercial developers were included in the review request.

**Mr. Kilgore** answered that there are multiple commercial developers on the HBA land-use team.

**Ms. Seago** addressed the earlier question regarding noxious weed code enforcement. She stated she cannot speak for the County's policy regarding noxious weeds on County-owned property, however, there is an ordinance for noxious weed enforcement on private property which is handled by the Environmental Services division (Parks Department). That ordinance grants the County similar powers to those of the PCD Code Enforcement division. She then explained the judicial process of noxious weed enforcement: a warrant may be granted for entry to inspect, voluntary compliance is sought with the landowner, court-ordered compliance may be sought, or the County may seek permission to perform mitigation measures, seeking reimbursement afterward. She is not aware of the judicial process being necessary on a noxious weed issue in recent past, but it is an option.

**Mr. Carlson** asked how citizens could request noxious weed enforcement on County property.

**Ms. Seago** suggested the citizen contact the County's Environmental Services division. She doesn't know what that department's budget or plan is regarding noxious weeds.

**Ms. Merriam** asked if enforcement was limited to List A mentioned by Mr. Kilgore.

**Ms. Seago** stated she had not read the ordinance in detail, but it appeared to address all lists and how each of them are separately handled.

**Mr. Markewich** asked if Appendices A and B were brand new.

**Mr. Kilgore** confirmed. He explained that Appendices A through C were added to the Landscape and Planting Manual for ease of reference to the LDC all in one place.

**Mr. Markewich** asked what assurance is in place that the Landscape and Planting Manual will be used after integration. He wonders why it wasn't used before.

**Mr. Kilgore** answered that the LDC referenced the Landscape and Planting Manual previously, but the manual was never adopted and codified.

**Mr. Markewich** clarified that after the PC potentially recommends adoption, the BoCC could adopt the manual and it would officially be part of the Code and rules that everyone must look at.

**Mr. Kilgore** confirmed but added it would be an administrative document that is subject to changing recommendations. He gave an example that Colorado Parks and Wildlife could recommend adding a plant to the "not advisable" list and it wouldn't need to be brought before the Board for that addition. Only major revisions would need to go back to PC and BoCC.

**Mr. Markewich** asked if the future, full LDC revision was taken into consideration when making the subject amendments. He assumes that updating sections of the Code now will allow more attention to be placed on other areas that were not recently updated.

**Mr. Kilgore** replied that recently updated sections would still be reviewed for consistency and further recommendations. PCD felt this was necessary to address before that full revision because it has been delayed for so long.

**Ms. Merriam** asked how it would be handled if someone from the public had an issue with anything within the manual, being that it is an administrative document.

**Mr. Kilgore** stated that was one of the provisions within the revisions. (He then laughed at himself.) He continued to say that as those situations arise, they should be handled at the administrative level and members of the public should not be prohibited from alternative options. He gave an example of an airport that didn't want to use any form of vegetation in their site development plan because they had experienced problems with deer and birds in the area. That flexibility for an alternative design is handled at the administrative level and is allowed.

**Mr. Carlson** asked if the public could give input for administrative revisions to the manual.

**Mr. Kilgore** replied that the public can always submit an issue with an administrative decision (appeal), which would then be escalated for review. Administrative changes to the manual that exceed minor scrivener's errors/clarification language would be made available to the public via EDARP. PCD is cognizant of the public-facing nature of the department and staff members are deliberate in having all information available as public record.

**Ms. Herington** added that there are many avenues to make that information available to the public (i.e., social media, PCD website, PIO announcements) when it is a topic of interest. She added that the current staff isn't able to give much clarification regarding *why* certain manuals were not used or well documented in the past, but staff members are working on bringing those documents together now to create a standardized process.

**Mr. Whitney** commended Mr. Kilgore for his presentation and the proposed update.

**Mr. Smith** asked if this part of the LDC is mainly applicable to developers. For instance, private citizens do not need permits to change their own landscaping.

**Mr. Kilgore** agreed and added that the recommendations will exist for private citizens to use as informational reference. He explained that an individual homeowner would only need to adhere to this part of the Code if acting as a developer via "paper subdivision" and had purchased multiple vacant lots to build on, or if adherence was required in a PUD.

**Mr. Smith** mentioned that much of the information covered in this manual is information he would have requested from the Colorado State University (CSU) Extension service. Should the public go there, or go to PCD?

**Mr. Kilgore** answered that they could go to either place. Planning departments are generally a one-stop-shop. He added that the CSU Extension service is a wonderful resource.

**Mr. Markewich** gave a hypothetical example of a private property landscape project. If that work is done by a contractor, is a permit that follows the subject Code update required?

**Mr. Kilgore** explained that the subject Code update is applicable at the initial development stage and for commercial site development plan conformance. He gave an example: if a commercial lot was sold and the new owner came in and chopped down all the trees that had been planted as part of the site development plan approval, the new owner would be in violation of the approval. PCD would work with the new owner to replace the trees or come up with an alternative design to meet the buffering requirement.

**Ms. Herington** added that the short answer to Mr. Markewich's question is "no". There is no individual lot landscaping requirement for the example he suggested, nor is there a required permit. She believes the City of Colorado Springs is looking to implement an individual lot residential landscaping permit with Colorado Springs Utilities but that does not exist in the County.

**Mr. Carlson** asked if there was a difference in landscaping requirements between different zoning types (i.e., residential, commercial, industrial) or is the requirement dependent on being adjacent to residential. He mentioned that trees and landscaping would block signage and retail buildings.

**Mr. Kilgore** stated those considerations would be evaluated at the site development plan stage.

**Mr. Carlson** asked how stringent PCD would be on the height of trees in a retail center. He asked if bushes that reach 6' high would be an acceptable replacement or does PCD want the canopy and ground shade that trees provide.

**Mr. Kilgore** stated tree caliper and diameter at breast height requirements are addressed in the manual. Substitutions can be discussed with PCD.

**Mr. Carlson** clarified that if a developer wanted to vary from the requirement, they would ultimately need to request a deviation through PCD.

**Mr. Kilgore** explained that a separate variance request would not be needed after adoption of the proposed Code amendment. Alternatives will all become part of the same process.

**Mr. Carlson** mentioned the requirement of 1 tree for every 500 square feet of lot area. He asked if that was a requirement across the board for all commercial properties. He gave an example that a gas station on a single acre would require 87 trees.

**Mr. Kilgore** confirmed but added that a substitution would be considered. He added that what Mr. Carlson brought up is a common complaint that PCD hears. The proposed Code amendment allows more flexibility.

**PC ACTION: FULLER MOVED / TROWBRIDGE SECONDED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF REGULAR ITEM 5B, FILE NUMBER LDC233 FOR A LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT, LANDSCAPE CODE UPDATE, UTILIZING THE RESOLUTION ATTACHED TO THE STAFF REPORT, THAT THIS ITEM BE FORWARDED TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION. THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL PASSED (9-0).**

## **6. NON-ACTION ITEMS (NONE)**

**MEETING ADJOURNED** at 10:01 A.M.

**Minutes Prepared By:** Miranda Benson

AMENDMENT TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE (RECOMMEND APPROVAL)

Ms. Fuller moved that the following Resolution be adopted:

BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION

OF THE COUNTY OF EL PASO

STATE OF COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. LDC233  
LANDSCAPE CODE UPDATE

WHEREAS, the Planning and Community Development Department of El Paso County requests approval of Amendment(s) as represented within the attached Exhibit A and Exhibit B:

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held by this Commission on January 18, 2024; and

WHEREAS, based on the evidence, testimony, exhibits, consideration of the master plan for the unincorporated area of the County, presentation and comments of the El Paso County Planning and Community Development Department and other County representatives, comments of public officials and agencies, comments from all interested persons, comments by the general public, and comments by the Planning Commission Members during the hearing, this Commission finds as follows:

1. The proposed amendment(s) to the El Paso County Land Development Code was properly submitted for consideration by the Planning Commission.
2. Proper publication and public notice were provided as required by law for the hearing before the Planning Commission.
3. The hearing before the Planning Commission was extensive and complete, that all pertinent facts, matters and issues were submitted and that all interested persons were heard at that hearing.
4. All data, surveys, analyses, and studies, as are required by the State of Colorado and El Paso County have been submitted, reviewed, and were recieved into evidence and found to meet the intent of the Introductory Provisions of the Land Development Code.
5. For the above-stated and other reasons, the proposed Amendment(s) are in the best interest of the health, safety, morals, convenience, order, prosperity and welfare of the citizens of El Paso County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the El Paso County Planning Commission recommends approval of the proposed amendment(s) as describe above of the El Paso County Land Development Code, including other conforming amendments throughout the Code as presented at the public hearing represented within the attached Exhibit A and Exhibit B;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in the case of any inconsistency with these amendment(s) and any previous zoning regulations, these revision(s) shall prevail;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution and the recommendations contained herein be forwarded to the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners for its consideration.

Mr. Trowbridge seconded the adoption of the foregoing Resolution.

The roll having been called, the vote was as follows: (circle one)

Thomas Bailey	aye / no / non-voting / recused / <u>absent</u>
Sarah Brittain Jack	<u>aye</u> / no / non-voting / recused / absent
Jim Byers	aye / no / non-voting / recused / <u>absent</u>
Jay Carlson	<u>aye</u> / no / non-voting / recused / absent
Becky Fuller	<u>aye</u> / no / non-voting / recused / absent
Jeffrey Markewich	<u>aye</u> / no / non-voting / recused / absent
Brandy Merriam	<u>aye</u> / no / non-voting / recused / absent
Eric Moraes	aye / no / non-voting / recused / <u>absent</u>
Kara Offner	aye / no / non-voting / recused / <u>absent</u>
Bryce Schuettpez	<u>aye</u> / no / non-voting / recused / absent
Wayne Smith	<u>aye</u> / no / non-voting / recused / absent
Tim Trowbridge	<u>aye</u> / no / non-voting / recused / absent
Christopher Whitney	<u>aye</u> / no / non-voting / recused / absent

The Resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 to 0 by the El Paso County Planning Commission, State of Colorado.

DONE THIS 18th day of January 2024 at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

EL PASO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

By:   
Mr. Carlson, Vice-Chair

EXHIBIT A

Landscape Code Redlines







- (b) **New Use Established or Use Changed.** Landscaping areas shall conform to this Section for a new building or use of previously vacant land, uses in an enlarged building, and all uses in a building when any use is changed that requires a change of occupancy to be approved by the Building Department or by the PCD.
- (c) **Effect of Increase in Building Area.** A single or cumulative building addition (floor area) which exceeds 50% of the existing building's gross floor area shall require the entire building landscaping to comply with this Section. The existing building shall be considered the building as it existed on the effective date of this Section.
- (3) **Requirements of Section Supplemented by Manual.** The requirements of this Section are supplemented by the ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation~~ ~~Planting~~ Manual.
- (4) **Authority of Director to Approve ~~Alternative~~ ~~Substitute~~ Landscape Designs.** The PCD Director may approve landscaping that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section provided the proposed landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation~~ ~~Planting~~ Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the PCD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section.

(B) **Roadway Landscaping Requirements.** Roadway landscaping areas are required. A roadway landscaping area is located along the lot, parcel or tract frontage between the road right-of-way, easement, or tract boundary lines and any building or use.

- (1) **Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area.** Table 6-1 lists the depth and number of trees required to be provided along any road in roadway landscaping area. Where the required setback is narrower than the depth of the required landscape area, the roadway landscaping area depth shall control. Unless otherwise approved by the ECM Administrator, the depth of roadway landscaping shall be measured from the property line. Where a roadway easement has been provided, the measurement shall be from the ROW or roadway easement. Where future ROW has been identified, the measurement should begin at the future ROW line in order avoid subsequent impairment of the landscaping.

**Table 6-1. Roadway Landscaping Required by Roadway Classification**

Road Classification	Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area	Required Trees (Trees/Linear Foot of Frontage)
Expressway, Principal Arterial	25 feet	1 per 20 feet
Urban Interchange/Intersection	25 feet	<del>NA-1 per 20 feet (Substitute shrubs for visibility)</del>
Minor Arterial	20 feet	1 per 25 feet
Non-Arterial <sup>1</sup>	10 feet	1 per 30 feet

<sup>1</sup> The required depth of the roadway landscape area shall be increased to 15 feet along a non-arterial road or public alley where the road or alley separates a non-residential use from a residential zoning district. The number of required trees shall be increased to 1 per 15 feet of linear frontage. A minimum of ¼ of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

- (2) **Location and Type of Trees in Roadway Landscaping Area.**
  - (a) **Clustering Allowed.** The roadway landscaping trees may be clustered along a road frontage. The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in areas where the winter

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shade will cause unsafe conditions on an adjacent road. ~~Clustering shall not be permitted when shade from clustering would be detrimental to adjacent road due to potential winter conditions as determined by the PCD Director or designee.~~

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(b) **Type of Tree Limited.** The types of roadway landscaping trees utilized shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and listed in the Landscape ~~Water Efficiency Manual~~ and Water ~~Conservation~~ Wise Planting List.

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(c) **Exceeding Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping.** The roadway landscaping trees shall be located within 50 feet of the road right-of-way, easement or tract boundary line and any building or use.

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(d) **Allowed in Right-of-Way if Approved.** The roadway landscaping trees may be placed in a right-of-way if the right-of-way owner approves the placement and no conflicts exist, or will exist, with utility easements or any provider of utilities. ~~establishment of landscaping along private roads must include appropriate maintenance agreement between parties.~~ Generally, trees are not allowed to be placed within any County right-of-way. Placing of the required roadway landscaping trees within the right-of-way shall not negate the requirement for the required roadway landscape area. All landscaping placed within County Right-of-way shall install appropriate safeguards for roadway and/or sidewalks to include "Tree root guards" where appropriate. Permission must be granted for all landscaping within the County Right-of-way through the Department of Public Works.

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(e) **Single-Family PUD Roadway Landscaping.** Roadway landscaping ~~is not required~~ along local residential roadways (non-arterials) within a residential PUD. ~~is subject to the individual PUD.~~

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(3) **Walls and Fences in Roadway Landscape Area.** Walls and fences which are 25% or more opaque shall not exceed 3 feet in height when located within a required roadway landscaping area. Opaque walls and fences higher than 3 feet (such as noise barriers) shall be located outside of the roadway landscaping area to maintain a landscaped appearance along the road.

(C) **Parking Lot Landscape Requirements.**

(1) **Required Trees.** A tree of a type suitable for parking lots shall be provided for every 15 parking spaces in parking lots with 15 or more parking spaces. The required trees may be clustered and shall be located in a manner which will divide and break up expanses of paving and long rows of parking and create a canopy effect over the parking lot. See Landscaping and Planting Manual for island details.

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(2) **Parking Lot Islands.** The most common method to satisfy the parking lot tree requirement is through the utilization of plant islands, fingers (areas open to the parking on 3 sides), and corners (open to the parking on 2 sides). Islands, fingers, and corners are required to be incorporated into all parking lots of 15 parking spaces or more in area. 1 island shall be provided for every 15 spaces. An island, finger or corner ~~that is the same size as must be a minimum of two parking space counts~~ spaces in size (18' x 18' or 9' x 36' in order to qualify as a required island. ~~An island the size of 2 spaces counts as 2 islands. Pedestrian entry spaces also count as an island, including the ramp, finger, or corner.~~ Parking lots containing fewer than ~~25~~ 15 spaces shall not be required to provide islands but must include some other form such as a finger or corner plantings to satisfy the requirement.

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Islands should be located at the end of center rows and at entry locations to direct traffic and minimize cutovers. Islands should generally be used and located to organize and enhance circulation, breakup continuous parking areas, and capture and direct stormwater. Islands protect vegetation from damage. See [Landscaping and Planting Manual](#).

Small parking lots may utilize the perimeter area of the parking lot to satisfy the parking lot tree location requirement when there are not more than 2 rows of parking spaces and a single drive aisle. Where a parking lot is not required to be paved, no islands shall be required.

The tree types, minimum planter sizes and utilization of perimeter tree placement shall be consistent with the [Landscape Landscaping](#) and [Water Conservation Planting](#) Manual.

[Parking lot island landscaping may also be counted towards Internal Landscape requirements provided any portion of the island is within 20 feet of a building elevation.](#)

(3) **Protection of Trees from Damage.** Parking lot trees shall be protected from vehicle damage by curbs, planters or other barriers.

(4) **Storm Drainage for Irrigation Encouraged.** Parking lots designs that allow runoff to enter landscaped areas for irrigation and controlling non-point source pollution are encouraged.

(5) **Required Parking Lot Screening.** Parking lots shall be screened from view from adjacent roads and properties with differing land uses. The minimum height of the screening shall be 3 feet and may be accomplished by using berms and plantings. A minimum of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the road frontage or common lot, parcel, or tract boundary, not counting intersecting driveways, shall be provided with the required screening. The maximum spacing of plants to achieve an acceptable screen and the maximum acceptable grades for screening areas, such as grass berms and plantings beds, should be consistent with the [Landscape Landscaping](#) and [Water Conservation Planting](#) Manual.

Decorative walls or fences may be approved if the Director finds that:

- The wall or fence avoids a blank and monotonous appearance by architectural articulation and the planting of vines, shrubs, or trees;
- The total use of berms or plantings is not physically feasible; or
- The wall or fence attractively complements the use of berms or plantings.

(D) **Required Buffer and Screen Areas.**

(1) **Buffer Between Non-Residential and Residential Districts Separated by a Non-Arterial Road or Public Alley.**

(a) **Where Required.** A buffer is required along the road-side lot, parcel, or tract line of any non-residential use where the use is separated from a residential zoning district by a non-arterial road or public alley.

(b) **Depth and Planting Standards.** The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 15 feet of the road frontage. A minimum of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

(c) **Opaque Fence or Wall Required.** An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the inside edge of the required buffer when the area immediately adjacent to the 15-foot buffer is used as a service corridor for loading, maneuvering or storage. If the area is used for parking, the required parking lot screening shall be applicable.

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(d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required.** The required buffer area shall require a ground cover at maturity with a minimum of 75% living plant materials. Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved living ground cover material shall be covered in an approved non-living ground cover.

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(2) **Buffer Between Non-Residential, Multifamily Residential and Single-Family/Duplex Uses.**

(a) **Where Required.** A buffer is required in the following situations:

- (i) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the non-residential use property between the non-residential use and a residential zoning district.
- (ii) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the multifamily use property between the multifamily use and a single-family or duplex zoning district.
- (iii) On the residential side of the project when use to use compatibility is a concern.

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(b) **Depth and Planting Standards.** The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 25 feet of common lot, parcel, or tract line. A minimum of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

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(c) **Opaque Fencing or Wall Required.** An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the lot, parcel, or tract line except where the adjacent single-family or duplex residential zoning district or use abuts a required roadway landscaping area.

(d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required.** Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural/synthetic landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved non-living ground cover material shall be covered in a living plant material.

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(E) **Internal Landscaping.** The following internal landscaping is required:

(1) **Requirements for Multifamily Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for multifamily uses:

(a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 15% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.

(b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.

(c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs.** A maximum of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

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(2) **Requirements for Non-Residential Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for non-residential uses.

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(a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 5% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.

(b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.

(c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs.** A maximum of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs adjacent to retail store fronts where the view of wall signs may be obstructed. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

(3) **Standards for Required Internal Landscape Area.**

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- (a) **Intent of Internal Landscaping.** The intent of the internal landscape area is to provide relief from structures and hard surfaces through the use of plantings.
  - (b) **Location of Internal Landscape Areas.** The required internal landscape areas shall be located in accordance with the following standards:
    - (i) Adjacent to those building elevations which form the major public views of the building from adjacent roads and properties and to the users of the project; or
    - (ii) At all pedestrian entrances, except service-only entries; or
    - (iii) Within a plaza or courtyard between buildings or portions of buildings, ~~the~~ plaza/courtyard is to have at least 1 side open; or
    - (iv) In an area provided to separate building areas from parking areas; or
    - (v) In a similar location which substantially conforms to the purpose of the required internal landscape area.
  - (c) **Area Calculation.** The entire lot, parcel or tract area shall be used as the basis for calculating required the internal landscape area. In instances where an entire lot, parcel, or tract is not used for the proposed development, the area used to calculate the required internal landscape area may be reduced by the PCD Director based on the area of the lot, parcel or tract actually being developed or used. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area determined by the PCD Director to be developed or used. However, even if reductions in the lot area are approved, the PCD Director may require that additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is provided at the first stage of a larger project to mitigate environmental impacts or meet the intent of the landscaping provisions of the LDC.
  - (d) **Paved Areas within an Internal Landscaped Area.** Sidewalks which provide basic pedestrian circulation shall not count toward meeting the internal landscape area requirement. Paved plazas may be credited to a maximum of 50% of required internal landscaping area if such plazas have trees and other pedestrian-only amenities (benches, sculpture, decorative paving, etc.), are not vehicular, and provide visual relief to those building elevations which form the major public views of the project.
- (F) **Minimum Plant Sizes and Percentage of Live Ground Cover.**
- (1) **Landscape Material Specifications.** Plant installation sizes and characteristics shall meet the following minimum requirements.
    - (a) **Deciduous Shade Trees.** Deciduous shade trees shall be 1½ inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.
    - (b) **Deciduous Ornamental Trees.** Deciduous ornamental trees shall be 1 inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.
    - (c) **Evergreen Trees.** Evergreen trees shall be 6 feet in height above ground, balled and burlapped, except Pinon Pine and upright junipers which shall be a minimum 4 feet in height.
    - (d) **Evergreen and Deciduous Shrubs.** Evergreen and deciduous shrubs, where required, shall be 5-gallon size.
    - (e) **Ground Cover and Vines.** Ground cover and vines shall be 1 size.
  - (2) **Required Live Material Ground Cover.** Unless ~~otherwise allowed~~ utilizing the principles of xeriscaping, required landscape areas shall include a minimum of ~~75~~30% ground cover by

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living ~~or synthetic~~ grass or other living plant materials at maturity. The remaining ~~25~~70% of the required landscape area may be covered with bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other landscape materials ~~or may be designed as hard-surfaced pedestrian areas. No other areas within required landscape areas shall remain bare.~~ The foliage crown of trees shall not be counted in meeting the ground cover requirement.

(G) **Other Required Landscape Areas.**

(1) **Other Areas to be Landscaped or Screened.**

- (a) **Zoning District Boundary Trees.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 30 feet of lot, parcel, or tract line coincident with a zoning district boundary line except if otherwise required to meet the buffering requirements between a non-residential use or multifamily use and residential zoning district.
- (b) **Refuse Areas Screened.** Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, shall be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by an opaque wall or fence, architectural elements, dense evergreen plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet, or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet.
- (c) **Loading Docks and Other Vehicle Areas Screened.** Loading docks, vehicle repair bays, and vehicle fueling areas shall be screened from view from adjacent roads by the use of plantings, berms, walls, fences, or other architectural elements.
- (d) **Landscaping Required Between Lot and Curb.** Landscaping is required between the lot, parcel, or tract line and the required roadway landscaping area. Although this landscape area is located within the right-of-way, easement or tract, the adjacent lot, parcel or tract owner shall be responsible for maintenance. Xeric plantings shall be used in order to avoid the need to install an irrigation system within the right-of-way, easement or tract. Xeric plants may require supplemental irrigation to get them established or in times of extreme drought. Installation of an irrigation system requires approval of EPCDPW or owner or right-of-way, easement or tract. Installation of plant materials may also require approval of the EPCDPW or owner or right-of-way, easement or tract.

~~(e)~~(d) **Water Storage Tank and Utility Facilities Landscape Requirements.**

- (i) Site-Specific Landscaping Required. PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for a water storage tank and utility facilities. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to putting a water storage tank or utility facility into operation. The site-specific landscaping is subject to the following standards:
  - Rural and Remote Areas: In rural and remote areas landscaping, screening and erosion control measures shall be tailored to the nature and character of the area and the type of facility or structure contemplated. Site-specific landscaping shall, at a minimum, include revegetation of disturbed areas with materials indigenous to the site or otherwise adaptable.
  - Urbanized and Developed Areas: In urbanized and developed areas, the site-specific landscaping shall address specific issues such as screening and visual impacts.

~~(f)~~(e) **Outside Storage Area Landscaping Requirements.**

- (i) Site-Specific Landscaping Required. PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for establishing an outside storage area. Installation of

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approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to utilizing an outside storage area.

- (ii) Site-Specific Landscaping Standards. The site-specific landscaping shall reflect a combination of berms, shrubs, trees, fences or walls which will provide, at maturity, a minimum 6 foot high, 100% opaque screening for the outside storage area.

(2) **Miscellaneous Requirements.**

(a) **Flexibility in Design Allowed.** The owner may select the types of and the planting spaces between the required trees. The types of trees selected shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and should be a type listed in the ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation Planting~~ Manual.

(b) **Minimum Cover of Internal Landscape Area.** The internal landscape area shall consist of a minimum of 50% ground cover by living ~~or synthetic (grass only)~~ plant materials. ~~xeriscape may be included for a reduction to 30%.~~ The ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation Planting~~ Manual provides guidance for planting near foundations.

(c) **Plant Spacing.** The planting spacing should accommodate the growth characteristics of the trees without adversely impacting structures, walks, or drives.

(d) **Minimum Planting Size of Trees.** The minimum planting size of trees shall comply with this Section and should comply with any additional specifications established in the ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation Planting~~ Manual.

(e) **Existing Vegetation.** Existing vegetation which meets the plant type requirements of the ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation Planting~~ Manual may be counted toward the internal landscape requirement.

(f) **Limitations on Landscape Placement.**

(i) **No Conflicts with Traffic or Sight Distance.** Landscaping shall not conflict with traffic. Sight distance shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(ii) **No Interference with Utilities and Fire Equipment.** Landscaping shall not interfere with the general function, safety, or acceptability of any gas, electric, water, sewer, telephone, or other utility easement or conflict with criteria established or adopted by a fire department. Landscaping shall not exceed 8 inches in height within 3 feet of a fire hydrant or other applicable fire department criteria.

(g) **Limitations on Landscape Materials.**

~~(i) No Artificial Landscape Materials.~~ (i) The use of artificial vines, turf, or groundcovers as landscape material may be allowed on a case-by-case basis where live landscaping materials may be at risk or inappropriate due to land use, water availability, or location.

~~(ii) Elm Trees Prohibited. Trees of the Ulmus genus (elm) are prohibited in meeting the landscape requirements of this Code unless demonstrated to be Dutch Elm Disease resistant.~~

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~~(iii) Use of Box Elder, Salix, and Populus Limited. Box Elder (Acer negundo) and all trees of the Salix and Populus genus, except Aspen (Populus Tremuloides), shall not be planted within 25 feet of a right-of-way.~~

~~(ii) Prohibited/Noxious planting list is included in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.~~

**(h) Calculating the Required Number of Plants.**

(i) Fractional Numbers Rounded to Closest Whole Number. Where a requirement results in a fractional number, the applicable requirement shall be the closest whole number (5.0 to 5.49 = 5; 5.5 to 5.9 = 6).

(ii) Greatest Landscape Standard Applies. Where more than 1 landscape requirements requirement applies to the same use and landscape area, the greater requirements shall be met.

(iii) Landscaping Only Fulfills 1 Requirement. Landscaping necessary to fulfill 1 requirement shall not be counted in fulfilling a different landscape requirement, unless otherwise stipulated in this Code.

(iv) Clumping Forms of Trees Encouraged. Clumps of tree trees, such as Hawthorn (Craetagus sp.), are encouraged instead of single-trunk trees. However smaller caliper trees to meet the minimum caliper are accepted, however, a clump of 3 or fewer trees shall be credited as only 1 of the required trees.

(i) **Approval of Certificate of Occupancy or Use.** All required landscaping shall be completed, and then inspected and approved by the PCD prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the Building Department or establishment of the use, except when financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director guaranteeing the completion of the landscaping is provided. Plant substitutions require approval before issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Any request for a Certificate of Occupancy prior to the completion of the required landscaping shall include a written request explaining the circumstances why the landscaping cannot be installed, a cost estimate prepared by a qualified party, a landscape completion agreement signed by the owner, and financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director. Inspection and certification by a landscape architect of compliance with this Section may be accepted at the discretion of the PCD Director.

(j) **Compliance with Plans.** The completed landscaping shall comply with the approved landscape plan and shall include the quantities, locations, species and sizes of plants and other landscape materials as represented on the approved landscape plan. Seeded landscape areas shall have no bare areas larger than 6 square inches after germination.

**(k) Maintenance.**

(i) Owner Responsible. The owner is responsible for all regular and normal maintenance of required landscaping including weeding, irrigation, fertilizing, pruning and mowing, mowing, and replacement in the care of artificial turf.

(ii) Replacement of Dead or Damaged Materials. Replacement of dead, diseased or substantially damaged plant materials shall occur within 6 months from when the plant material died, or when the inspection determined the plant

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material was dead or damaged. Replacement shall be of the same or similar type as originally approved. An alternative type of species shall require approval by the PCD Director.

- (iii) Maintenance Inspections. Maintenance inspections may be performed periodically. Failure to maintain the landscaping in compliance with the approval is considered a zoning violation.

~~(Res. No. 16-164, 5-17-2016; Res. No. 17-374, Exh. A, 12-12-2017; Res. No. 19-62, Exh. A, 2-26-2019)~~

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EXHIBIT B

Landscaping and Planting Manual Redlines

# Landscape and Water Conservation Manual



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Development Services Department  
2280 International Circle  
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

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#### 4.1. BASIS FOR LANDSCAPING PLANS

##### 4.1.1. Purpose of this Manual

This Landscaping and ~~Water Conservation~~ Planting Manual (~~Manual~~), supplements the landscaping, buffering, and screening requirements established by the El Paso County Land Development Code (LDC). This Manual includes policies, explanations, examples and illustrations of methods that can be used to help an owner comply with the requirements of the LDC.

This Manual provides information concerning the development and maintenance of landscaping for both private property and public rights-of-way whether required by the LDC or otherwise proposed as part of a development. This Manual also provides information to help ensure appropriate buffering and screening is provided between differing land uses to enhance compatibility.

It is the intent of El Paso County that the information presented in this Manual will help ensure landscaping will:

- have an increased survival rate;
- require minimal maintenance;
- provide the greatest benefit for the dollars spent; ~~and~~
- work with and compliment the natural environment; and
- encourage water conservation.

##### 4.1.2. Applicability and Relationship to the LDC

This Manual supplements the requirements of the LDC and provides suggestions concerning the best practices to implement the provisions of the LDC. The LDC is the regulatory document that defines the minimum requirements for landscaping with respect to landscape area, size and types of plantings, number of plants, and location of landscape areas. The provisions of the LDC specifically applicable to landscaping have been included in Appendix A to assist the user of this Manual.

##### 4.1.3. Property Rights and the Value of Landscaping

El Paso County recognizes that landscaping can be a significant expense to ~~business people~~ businesspeople and residents. At the same time, vegetation enhances property values, and attracts customers to businesses; provides a quality environment for tourists and residents; reduces stormwater runoff rates and volumes and mitigates water quality concerns in accordance with State and Federal requirements; and controls dust in support of Federal and local requirements. Landscaping also improves the livability of residential neighborhoods, improves the compatibility of adjacent uses, screens undesirable views, contributes to the image and appeal of the overall community, and can reduce noise pollution. Landscaping also supports ecological systems and helps to protect critical species (pollinators, etc.). Landscaping reduces pollution and serves to lessen the effects of urban heat sink effect in dense urban residential areas. The intent of this Manual is to achieve a reasonable balance between the right of individuals to develop and maintain their property in a manner they prefer and the rights of residents of the community to live, work, shop, and recreate in pleasant and attractive surroundings.

##### 4.1.4. Water Resources and Landscaping

El Paso County is in a semi-arid, high plains and foothills environment, which dictates the use of water-conserving, hardy, or indigenous plants. Regardless of the type of plant

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## 1.2. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The following general guidelines should be considered in all situations where landscaping is required by the LDC.

### 1.2.1. Vegetation

#### (A) Mimic Nature

Plants that mimic and blend with the surrounding natural landscape should be used. For example, the Black Forest should emphasize conifers, while the High Plains should emphasize rolling ~~land forms~~ and shrubs.

#### (B) Consider All Four Seasons

Four season effectiveness (evergreens, persistent seed heads or berries, and dense forms) should be included in every landscape design.

#### (C) Locate Plants with Similar Needs Together

Plants with similar water needs should be located next to each other.

#### (D) Accommodate the Growth Habit of Each Plant

Plants should be placed in locations that are appropriate for their growth habit: shade vs. sun, height and spread vs. available space, etc.

#### (E) Use Xeric Vegetation

Xeric vegetation should be used in order to conserve water, minimize maintenance costs, and enhance survival. Appendix B provides a list of suggested drought-tolerant and drought-resistant plants. Other species may be acceptable if they meet xeric principals and are proven to thrive in El Paso County's climate. High water use plants should be minimized or eliminated.

Whenever possible, group plants by water, soil, and sun needs.

#### (F) Preserve Existing Vegetation

Native vegetation or other vegetation that generally conforms to the requirements of the LDC and the guidelines provided in this document should be preserved whenever possible, and may be used, in whole or part, to meet landscaping required by the LDC, depending on the effectiveness of the existing landscaping in achieving the County's landscape goals and its ability to be protected and maintained.

#### (G) Avoid Clustering of Evergreens Under Certain Conditions

The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in instances where their location (south side of a road) would cause unsafe conditions such as ice or snow build-up due to winter shading and lack of sun exposure. In this instance, the use of shrubs may be most appropriate.

#### (H) Spacing of Trees

The minimum number of trees required in any circumstance is not meant to force specific plant spacing on an "on-center" basis. The owner has flexibility to group or cluster trees and is encouraged to vary the spacing and distance between trees and shrubs. Trees and tall shrubs should be clustered in locations where they can provide

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the greatest mitigation for land uses, enhance views, or create points of interest.

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**1.2.2. Irrigation and Soil Preparation**

**(A) Irrigation Systems**

Irrigation systems should use the most current water-saving technology. Drip irrigation should be used whenever possible. ~~Over-spray~~ ~~Overspray~~ from sprinkler systems onto paved surfaces should be avoided. Irrigation maintenance budgets should be prepared to ensure optimal water use for plant survival.

**(B) Soil Preparation**

Soil should be amended to increase water retention and organic content for plant health and vigorous growth.

**1.2.3. Retaining Walls and Slopes**

Retaining walls higher than 4 feet may be appropriate in areas where special grading conditions exist. Retaining walls should be visually softened by the planting of trees and shrubs to avoid a continuous, monotonous effect and should also be "stepped" in four-foot maximum height increments to slow water runoff and provide planting areas. Except where necessary to convey stormwater as part of an overall site design, slopes should not generally exceed 3:1. ~~Appropriate safeguards and appropriate trees should be selected in order to prevent the undermining of the retaining walls. Root guards are required for trees.~~

**1.2.4. Determining Project Area**

In instances where an entire parcel or lot is not used for the proposed development, the project area may be determined to be less by the ~~DSDPCD~~ Director. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area; however, if additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is necessary due to certain circumstances, the ~~DSDPCD~~ Director may require that landscaping.

**1.2.5. Buffering/Screening**

**(A) Buffers to Reflect Character of Site**

Buffer design should reflect the unique site and land use situation for ~~each project~~. In any case, four-season effectiveness should be achieved for all buffering and screening ~~areas~~.

**(B) Required Opaque Structures**

Any required opaque structure, including dumpster screening, should be integrated with the overall project architecture. For example, if the main building is stucco, the screening walls should be stucco to match.

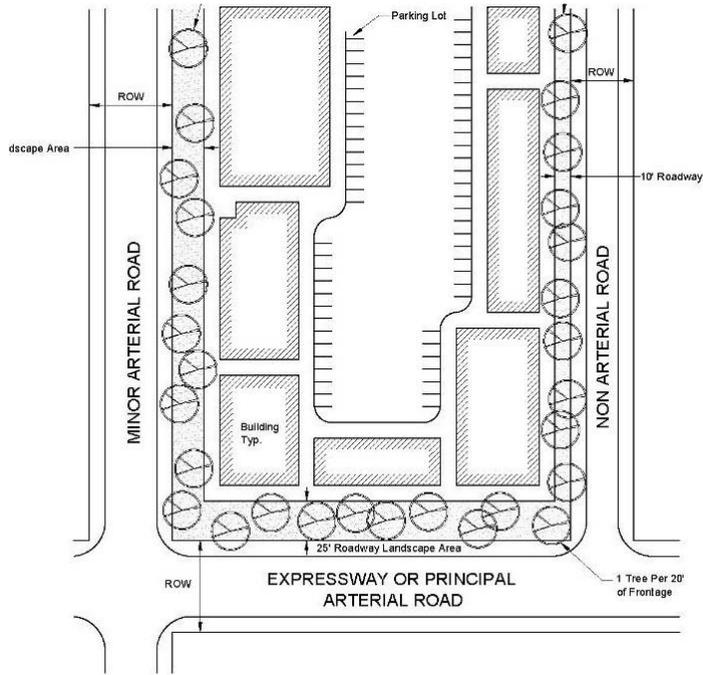
**(C) Screening Fence Design**

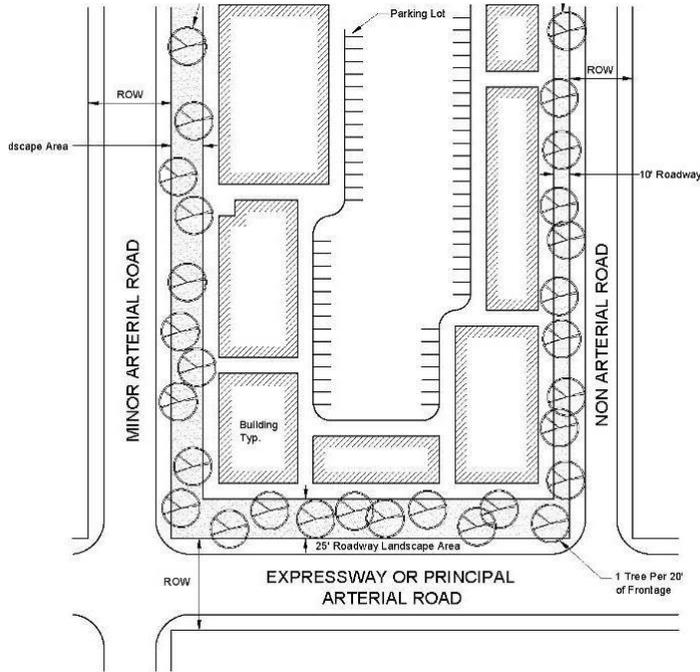
Fences should provide texture or design, ~~such as offsets or changes in materials~~, to avoid a monotonous appearance. ~~Chain link fencing with slats or tennis court fabric is acceptable only in industrial zone districts. Fence~~ ~~Fences~~ should be soundly constructed and maintained.

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Section 1.3





**1.3.3. Roadway Landscaping Guidelines for Rural Areas**

**(A) Tall Shrubs and Landforms as Opposed to Trees**

Consider using tall shrubs and landforms for specific areas that require buffering (present or future) in rural areas. The LDC allows the replacement of trees with shrubs.

**(B) Bluegrass Discouraged**

Bluegrass sod is discouraged in rural areas; native grasses or other xeric turfgrasses, including grasses listed on the [Water Wise Planting List](#), are more appropriate. See [Water Wise Planting List](#) for additional details.

**(C) Landscaping Options for Roadway Landscaping Area in Rural Areas**

Berms and native shrubs in a design that creates visual interest are encouraged. A minimum of 75% of the length of the road should incorporate either berms (3' minimum height) or shrubs (5'-3' mature height minimum), with 50% of the length having shrubs. Trees are recommended only as an accent.

Where the required minimum roadway landscape area is only 10' in width, the width may undulate to accommodate the use of berms and the maximum allowable 3:1 berm slope.

**1.3.4. Location of Landscaping Materials within Roadway Landscaping Area**

The required roadway landscape materials may be clustered along the frontage. Design should be determined by screening needs, preservation and enhancement of views, or project impacts.

**1.3.5. Policies and Explanations**

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**(A) Meandering Sidewalks**

Public sidewalks may be allowed to "meander" within a roadway landscape area provided they are approved by the ECM Administrator and an easement approved by the OCA Office of the County Attorney is provided to El Paso County.

**(B) Landscaping in ROW**

Landscaping shall be provided in the road right-of-way to the curb line. Landscaping shall be similar to the groundcover treatment within the required roadway landscape area.

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#### 1.4. PARKING AREA SCREENING AND LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS

##### 1.4.1. Recommended Material Types

The lowest-water use vegetation and durable materials are highly encouraged due to the harshness of parking area environments. Materials should be chosen that are contextually appropriate: boulders and conifers in mountainous areas; berms and conifers in the Black Forest; berms and native shrubs in the High Plains. A combination of low, decorative walls and street trees may be most appropriate in urban areas.

##### 1.4.2. Design of Parking Area Landscaping

Parking areas should incorporate landscape features to break up and dilute the expanses of paving. Vegetation can also improve water quality, and parking area islands can serve as detention or water quality areas. Landscaping and buffering can be utilized to increase site aesthetics, property values, and attractiveness to customers; to visually decrease the scale of the parking areas; to provide shade for the pedestrian and parked vehicles; to reduce glare and heat; to separate and organize circulation systems; to provide openings in impervious surfaces for drainage and infiltration of ground water; to reduce glare from headlights; and to separate and screen uses.

##### 1.4.3. Parking Area Islands

The following standards generally apply to the use, placement, and landscaping of parking area islands. Parking lot islands and corners and fingers are all considered parking area islands.

- One parking area island/peninsula should shall be provided for every 15 parking stalls/spaces.
- Each island should be a minimum of two parking stalls/spaces in size (18' x 18' or 9' x 36') and
- Each island should have a minimum of two low-water trees and ten low-water shrubs.

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less than 36" tall, plus mulch. ~~However, only 1 tree is required for every 15 parking spaces and groundcover is required to meet the general groundcover standards within an island. All shrubs are optional.~~

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▪▪ Appropriate mulch ~~is (e.g., bark or rock)~~ should be used in areas not covered by living groundcover.

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▪▪ Large boulders (3' max. height x 4' minimum length) may be substituted for some of the recommended shrubs. ~~(No more than 50% replacement allowed.)~~

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▪▪ ~~Sod Bluegrass sod or turfgrass is non-xeric turfgrasses are~~ discouraged.

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▪ Tall (greater than 18") ornamental grasses that persist through winter are ~~acceptable and count as considered shrubs when shrubs are used instead of trees as allowed by the LDC.~~

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▪▪ ~~Parking area islands will only be counted as islands if they are at least 9' x 18'.~~

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▪▪ Parking area islands should be utilized at the end of parking rows both as a means to contain parking area trees and other landscape materials and to provide separation and delineation between drive aisles and parking stalls.

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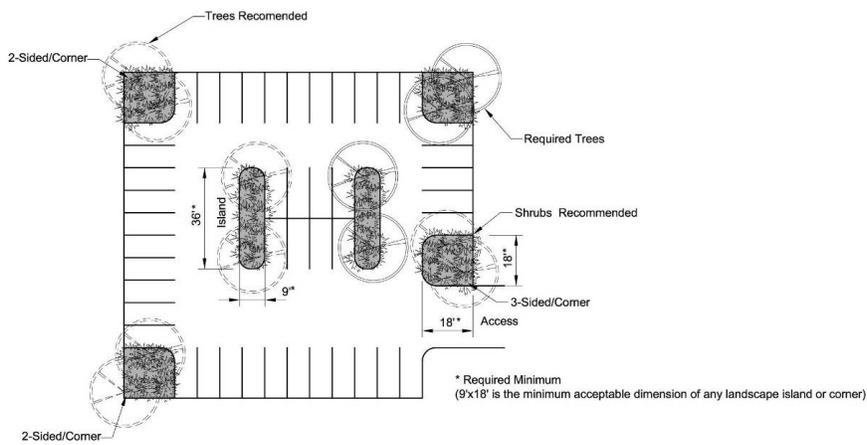
The figure below provides some ~~recommendation~~ recommendations concerning the use of islands and plantings.

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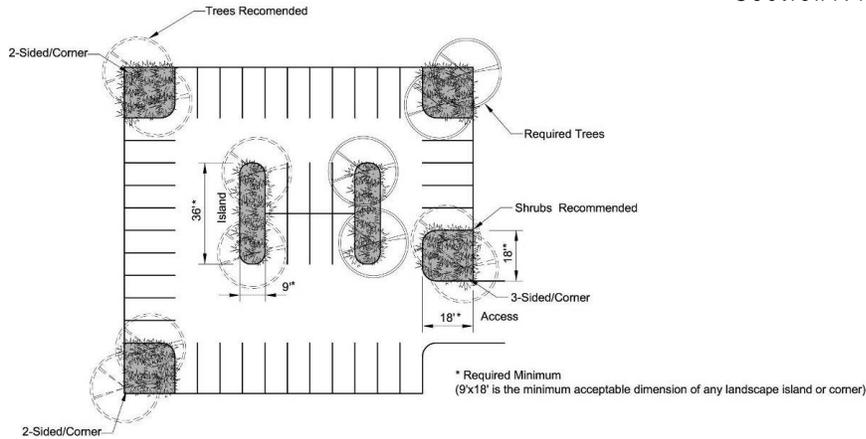
Islands and corners should be used to guide traffic, break up large expanses of paving, or control stormwater.

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**Typical Landscaping and Placement of Parking Area Islands**



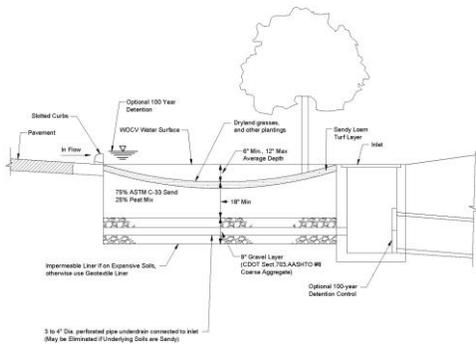
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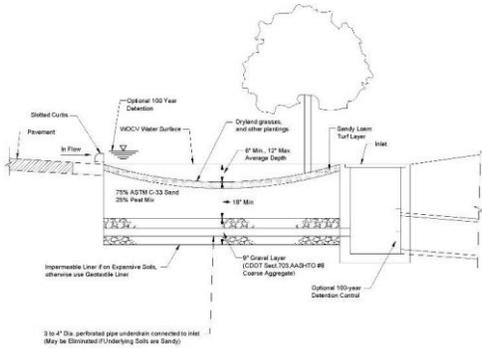
**1.4.4. Depressed Parking Area Islands**

Depressed islands are acceptable and encouraged, and can be used as a tool to manage and improve stormwater quality and control peak discharges. The grade of the surface of the landscaping should be slightly below the adjacent pavement to allow runoff to flow into the landscaped area, as opposed to elevating the landscaping and surrounding it with a curb. The figure shows how a depressed island is designed to provide these benefits while meeting the requirements to provide parking area islands.

**Depressed Landscaped Parking Area Island**



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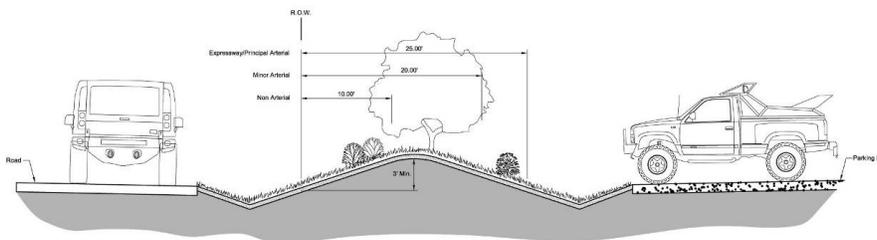
**1.4.5. Parking Area Screening**

Parking area screening may incorporate a wide variety of techniques, including: earthforms/berms, built features/walls, and plant materials. Techniques may be combined to create unique and site-specific designs.

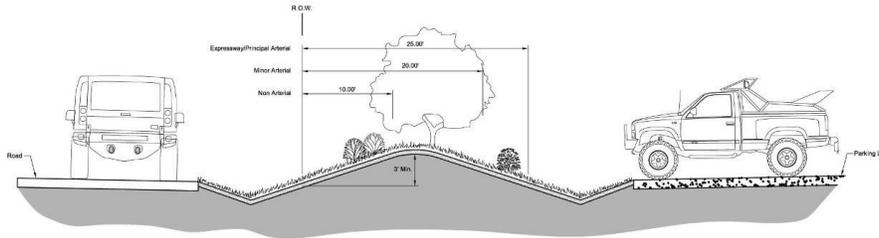
**(A) Rural Screening along Road Frontage**

A variety of options are available to meet the parking area screening requirements of the LDC. The figure below presents the most typical scenario in rural areas. When combined with the roadway landscape area requirements, trees are generally required between the parking area and ROW line. However, in accordance with the LDC and this manual, shrubs are encouraged as an alternative to substitute for trees. In addition, parking area setbacks may be greater than anticipated due to the depth of the required roadway landscape area. The following diagram provides an example of how berms and plantings should be used to meet the requirements of both the roadway landscape area and parking area screening in a rural area. Some of the urban screening options presented in the next section may also be applicable in some rural areas.

**Rural Parking Area Screening Using Berms to Achieve 3 Foot Screen**



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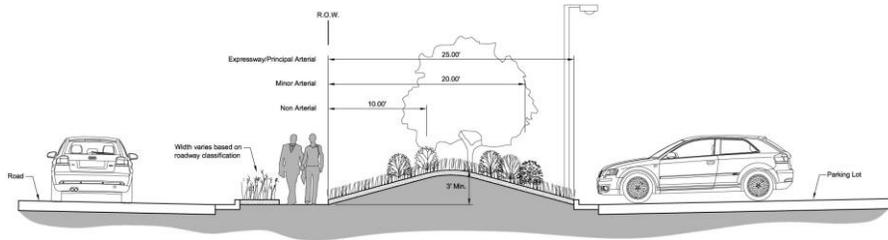


**(B) Urban Screening along Road Frontage**

A variety of options are available to meet the parking area screening requirements of the LDC. The figures below present several combinations of landscaping, berms, and walls that could be applied in urban areas. The roadway landscape area covers the same area as the parking area screening. As a result, the roadway landscape area depth, and the requirement to provide trees exceed the minimum parking area screening requirements when a parking area is located adjacent to a road in most cases.

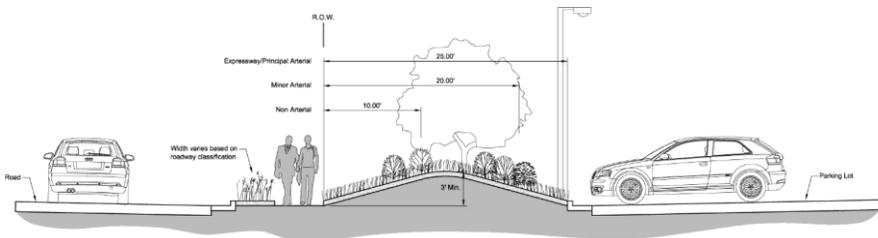
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**Urban Parking Area Screening Using Berms to Achieve 3 Foot Screen**

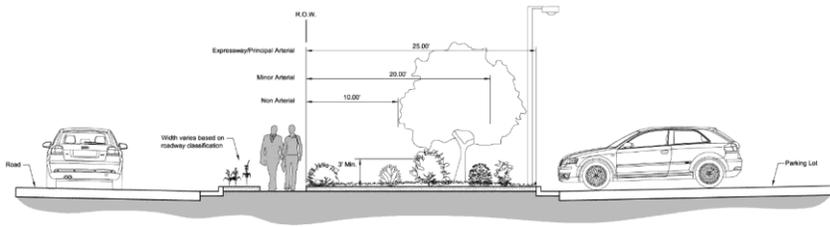


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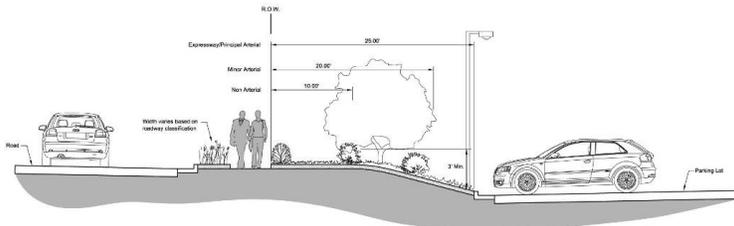
**Urban Parking Area Screening Using Vegetation to Achieve 3-Foot-High Screen**



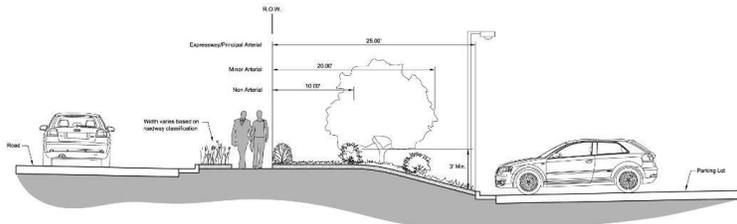
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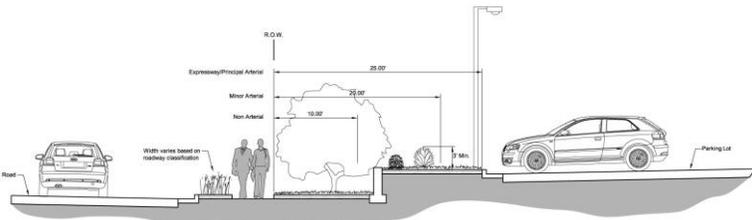
**Urban Parking Area Screening Using Slope to Achieve 3-Foot-High Screen**



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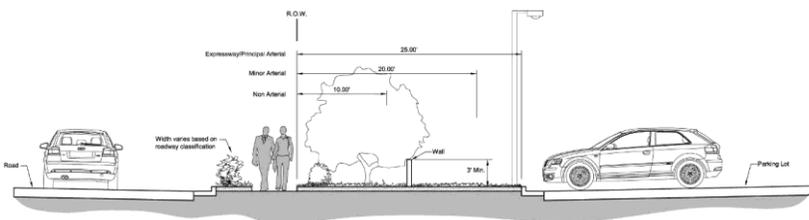


**Urban Parking Area Screening Using Vegetation to Achieve 3-Foot-High Screen**

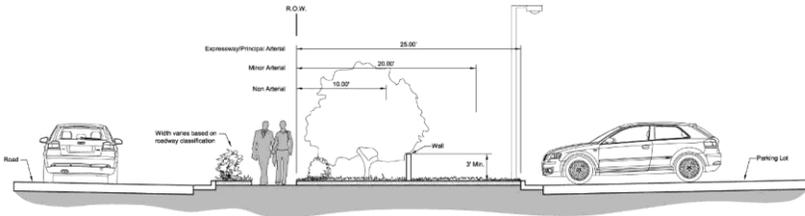


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**Urban Parking Area Screening Using Wall to Achieve 3-Foot-High Screen**



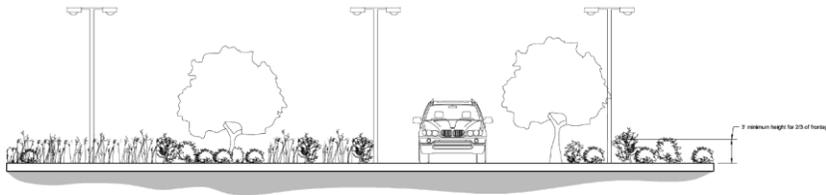
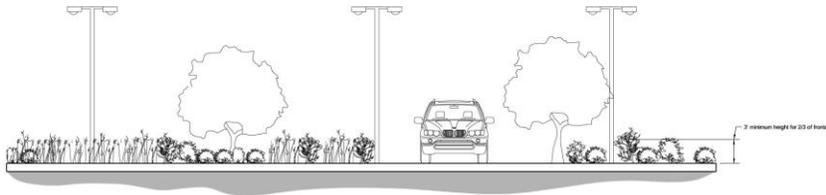
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**(C) Parking Area Frontage**

All parking areas shall be screened to a height of 3' by vegetation, walls, and berms for at least 2/3 the length as **showingshown**, in the figure below. This means that some areas may not have any screening while all other areas will have a minimum of 3' tall screen.

**Parking Area Screened to a Height of 3' for at Least 2/3 of the Length.**



**1.4.6: Parking Area Landscaping Policies and Explanations**

**(A) Visual Character**

The visual character of parking areas should be enhanced by planted islands, intensive shade trees or ornamental plantings. Large impervious areas are to be broken up with functional landscape medians and islands that can organize vehicular traffic and provide pedestrian pathways.

**(B) Other Plant Types**

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The DSDPCD recognizes that other species in addition to those identified in Appendix B may be approved in a parking area if special conditions exist. For example:

- The scale and overall design achieves the goals/intent.
- Coniferous evergreen trees may be approved if such trees are planted in areas which exceed the minimum recommended planter size and if visibility is not a problem.
- Existing vegetation may be used, regardless of species. Larger islands may be required to accommodate larger, established root systems.

**(C) Reference Elevation for Screen**

In general, the reference elevation for the base of the required screen shall be the surface of the parking area space that is to be screened.

**(D) Screening Applies Where Parking Area is Visible**

Parking area landscape requirements will apply to any type of parking area where it can be seen from a public or private road.

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**(E) Reductions in Parking Area Screening or Islands**

Reductions in the amount of parking area screening and islands can be considered where the parking area is located a considerable distance from the road (200-300 feet-) or within the street perimeter buffer. The distance from the road and topography are primary considerations in allowing a reduction in the screening and island criteria, as well as the effectiveness of existing or proposed perimeter screening.

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**4.5. BUFFER AND SCREEN AREAS BETWEEN DIFFERING USES OR ZONE DISTRICTS**

**4.5.1. Purpose**

Buffering and screening is used to block displeasing views; reduce noise, odors, glare, and dust; mitigate traffic; protect residential privacy; and reduce trespassing. Buffering and screening can also make uses more compatible, such as with Special Uses. Between similar uses, buffering and screening (perimeter landscaping) can help identify parking areas and property boundaries.

**4.5.2. Water Conservation**

Water conservation can be incorporated into buffer and screen areas. Swales can be used to direct water to planted areas to minimize irrigation needs and detention pond volumes, the use of appropriate plant materials can conserve water and minimize maintenance costs, and the creative use of a variety of plants will provide four-season interest and effectiveness.

**4.5.3. Required Buffers/Screens**

Circumstances for each site and use are unique, and additional buffering/screening may be required to accomplish appropriate design. Of special concern are sites adjacent to residential areas or environmentally sensitive areas, areas with significant view corridors, industrial uses, or uses that are visible from highly-traveled roads.

**(A) Buffer/Screen Between Non-Residential and Residential Uses Separated by a Non-Arterial Road**

Along the ~~road-side~~ roadside property line in any non-residential project in any zone district

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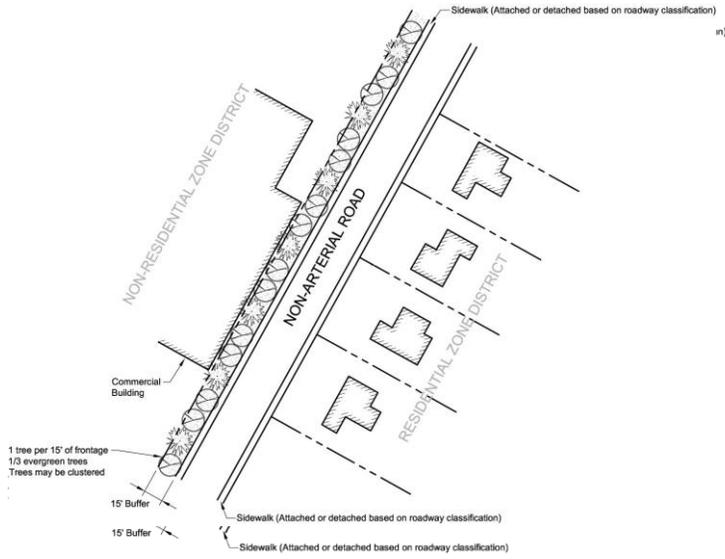
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where the project is separated from a residential use by a non-arterial street, a buffer meeting the requirements of the LDC is required. Non-arterial streets are those not designated as arterial streets or above on the County's Functional Classification Map, as amended. Private streets and ~~any~~ alleys are also considered non-arterial roads. The figures below provide two examples of how the standards can be met. Note that the parking area screening requirements ~~resulting result~~ in more landscaping being required within the use buffer area when a parking area abuts the roadway.

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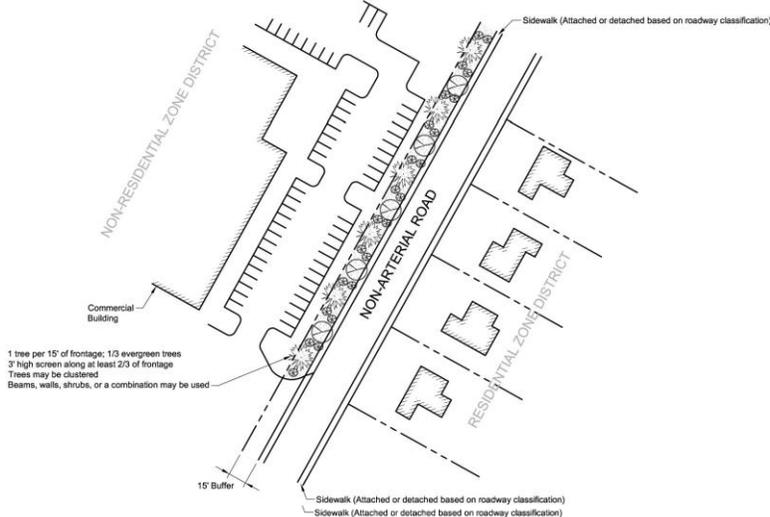
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**Example of 15' Buffer Standard between Non-Residential Zone District and Residential Zone District**



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**Example of 15' Buffer Standards between Non-Residential Zone District and Residential Zone District when Parking Area Abuts Road Frontage**



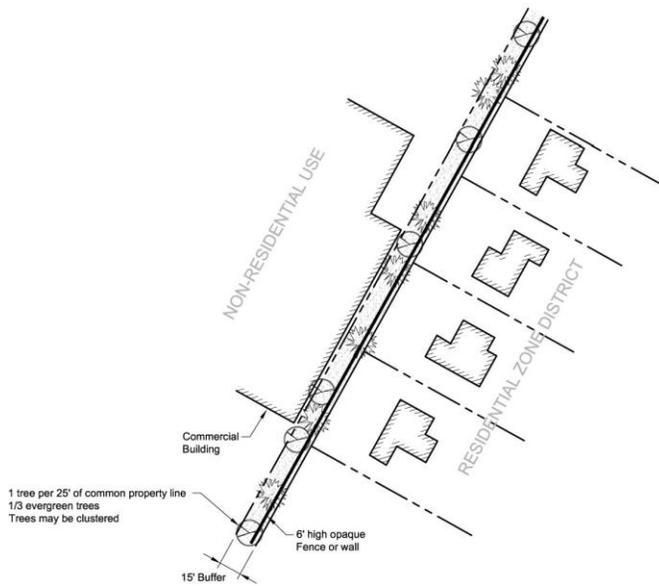
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**(B) Buffer/Screen Between: Adjacent Non-Residential and Residential Projects, and Adjacent Multifamily Residential and Single-Family/Two-Family Residential Projects**

Along the common property line in any non-residential project in any zone district where the project is adjacent to any residential zone district and along the property line in any multifamily project where the project is adjacent to a one-family or two-family use, a buffer meeting the requirements of the LDC is required. The figure below provides an example of how the standards can be met.



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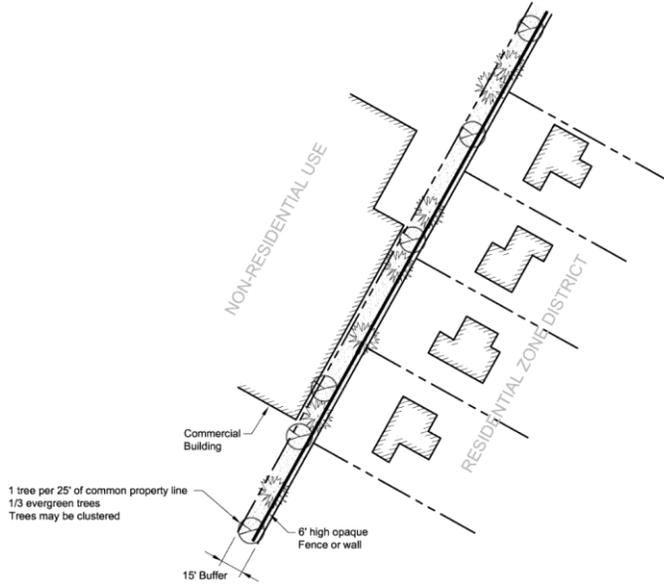
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**Example of 15' Buffer Standards between Non-Residential Use and Residential Zone District**



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**1.5.4. Trash Collection Areas**

Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, are required to be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by the use of an opaque wall or fence, other architectural elements, or dense evergreens. Walls/fences should be of a durable material, such as masonry, and should match the overall project architecture. Wood or chain link are discouraged. Gates should be metal.

**(A) Rural Areas**

In rural areas, dense evergreen, or four-season plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet are appropriate.

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**1.5.5. Policies and Explanations**

**(A) Design for Effectiveness from Time of Installation**

Buffers and screening shall be designed in a manner that appropriately provides the required effect at the time of installation, as well as in the future.

**(B) Restoration Efforts**

Restoration/conservation/preservation efforts on portions of a site that are part of larger natural areas, such as wildlife habitat conservation areas, habitat corridors, or wildlife movement corridors, etc. may count toward the buffering/screening requirements, with approval from the DSDPCD Director.

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4.7. **LANDSCAPING AND GRADING IN UTILITY EASEMENTS OR RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

Utility providers, as a matter of general policy, will not normally permit use of their easements/rights of way by other parties. These criteria are general guidelines only and should not be construed as the complete and only conditions for such exceptions. Each case will be evaluated on an individual basis and must be approved by the utility provider.

- Changes in grades and elevations along the rights of way ~~should~~shall not reduce safe ground clearances of overhead wires.
- Safety clearance distances between overhead and underground wires and any improvements/structures should be maintained as applicable.
- Working space clearances as applicable should be maintained around line structures.
- Excavations ~~should~~shall not reduce support strength of overhead line structures.
- Excavations ~~should~~shall not reduce the depth of burial of underground cables.
- Low level landscaping, with a maximum height of ~~45~~25 feet or less, may be allowed within the easement/right of way provided all other applicable requirements of this document are met and permission is expressly granted by the easement/ROW holder.
- The party or owner installing and planting landscaping will be responsible for maintenance of the landscaping.
- Future power line installations may necessitate the relocation of vegetation. The removal/relocation and replacement will be at the owner's expense if located in an easement or Right-of-Way.

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## 1.8. MULCH

Mulch, organic or inorganic groundcover, prevents the growth of weeds, prevents erosion and dust, retains moisture in the soil, provides shade for plant roots, and presents an attractive and finished appearance for landscapes. Mulch is required on all landscaping projects, in areas other than turfgrass.

### 1.8.1. Specifications

Acceptable mulch materials include but are not limited to the following examples: bark and pole peelings, river rock, washed gravel of  $4\frac{3}{8}$ " diameter or greater, (should be limited in areas prone to washout), or other similar materials that may be approved by the DSDPCD. Avoid very light or dark colors, as these can adversely affect soil and ambient temperatures. Non-water/low water using turf or plant species are encouraged (See Water Wise Planting List).

### 1.8.2. Mulch Installation

Mulch should be installed over breathable fabric underlayment, pinned at intervals of not less than 24".

### 1.8.3. Mulch Depth

Mulch should be installed at the following minimum depths:

- Bark and pole peeling mulch shall be installed at a depth of not less than 4".
- Rock mulch shall be installed at a depth of not less than 3".

Mulch shall be maintained in a manner so that the minimum required depths are achieved throughout the life of the project. In no case shall underlayment fabric be visible.

### 1.8.4. Steel Edging

Steel edging of at least 1/8" thickness and 6" depth should be used to define all mulch beds, unless a bed is

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defined by curbing or other constructed edge.

**4.9. IRRIGATION**

**4.9.1. Recommended Conservation Techniques**

Drip irrigation is highly recommended for all trees and shrubs in order to conserve water. Drip irrigation may be required for certain species to allow for establishment and/or maintenance. Sprinkler systems may be used but are discouraged. Additionally, moisture sensors are also recommended to avoid watering during or after rain. In areas where outdoor irrigation is not allowed due to well permit restrictions, plants that are most drought-tolerant ~~shall~~ should be installed.

**4.9.2. Policies**

Statements regarding the proposed type of irrigation or watering method should be similar to those outlined in the following table.

**Types of Recommended Irrigation**

Type of Planting	Irrigation Required	Possible Solutions
Native grass seed or drought tolerant turf grass seed.	May germinate with normal precipitation if planted in late fall or early spring.	<del>insure</del> <u>Ensure</u> sufficient moisture by temporary overhead or agricultural system; add soil amendments/surfactants to soil to aid in moisture retention

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Xeric ground covers, shrubs, and trees per approved plant list, or as approved by <del>the DSP/PCD</del>	Drip irrigation for one or two growing seasons until established; on as-needed basis after that.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Small accessible areas may be hand watered.</li> <li>2. Drip irrigation system, plants gradually weaned off system.</li> <li>3. Overhead temporary system.</li> </ol>
Water intensive ground covers, shrubs, <del>grasses</del> , and trees not native to the Rocky Mountain Region NOT RECOMMENDED, unless limited to a designated high-water use area, <del>as allowed herein</del>	Spring through Fall and intermittent winter.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Drip irrigation system.</li> <li>2. Permanent/Sprinkler irrigation system.</li> </ol>
<del>Bluegrass sod. RECOMMENDED IN URBAN AREAS ONLY and limited to a designated high water use area, as allowed herein</del>	<del>Spring through Fall and intermittent winter.</del>	<del>Permanent irrigation system.</del>

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**4.10. DEFINITIONS**

Words used in this manual have their dictionary meaning unless they are specifically defined in this manual, the LDC, or the ECM. Words defined within this manual shall have the specific meaning assigned, unless the context clearly indicates another meaning.

**Substitute Landscape Plan**

A landscape plan that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section. The PCD Director may approve a substitute landscape plan provided the proposed landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the Landscape and Planting Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the PCD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section. (LDC 6.2.2(A)(4))

**Berm:-**

A mound of soil, either natural or manmade, used to obstruct views, attenuate noise, or direct the flow of stormwater.

**Buffering:-**

The installation of plant materials, fencing, or landforms (or a combination of these measures), between 2 or more lots or parcels which inhibits visibility or mitigates the transmission of noise, dust, smoke, lights, and other nuisances from one lot or parcel to another, or provides for future public improvements or additional open space.

**Canopy:-**

The upper vegetative cover of a tree or plant grouping; dripline of a tree or plant grouping.

**Context:-**

The surrounding environment or character of an environment; trees or landforms that naturally exist on a site or surrounding sites.

**Coniferous:-**

Evergreen plant; keeps its leaves/needles all year.-

**Deciduous:-**

A plant with foliage that is shed annually.

**Drought Tolerant**

A plant that will survive in the typical or somewhat less than typical amount of rainfall in El Paso County.

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landscaping and other bulk items or public roads and rights-of-way. The term parking area includes parking lots and parking structures.

**Plant Community:-**

A natural association of vegetation that is dominated by one or more prominent species, or a characteristic physical attribute; see also "context".

**Right-of-Way:-**

The entire dedicated tract or strip of land that is to be used by the public for various purposes or intended to be occupied by a road, crosswalk, railroad, electric transmission line, oil or gas pipeline, water main, sanitary or storm sewer main or for another similar use.

**Roadway Landscape Area:-**

A minimum required landscaping area on a private property which is adjacent to a lot or parcel boundary line common to a right-of-way or another lot or parcel. Driveways and sidewalks to  
Driveways and sidewalks to afford limited access may be allowed to interrupt this required area; however, structures, buildings and parking are not allowed within the roadway landscape area.

**Rural**

For purposes of this Code, the zoning, use and development of land in zoning districts or areas which allow lot sizes that are 2.5 acres in size or greater, characterized by dispersed residential development, agricultural uses and activities, or vacant land.

**Screening:-**

A method of visually shielding or obscuring a structure or use from view by fencing, walls, trees, or densely planted vegetation. Screening provides a complete, opaque, year-round visual separation between differing land uses.

**Semi-Arid Climate:-**

A climate characterized by 10" to 20" of annual precipitation.

**Shade Tree:-**

A deciduous tree planted primarily for its high crown of foliage or overhead canopy. A major shade tree at maturity reaches a height of at least fifty feet.

**Shrub:-**

A self-supporting woody perennial plant of low to medium height characterized by multiple stems and branches continuous from the base, usually not more than 12' in height at its maturity. May be evergreen or deciduous.

**Soil Amendment:-**

Organic and inorganic materials added to soil to improve texture, nutrients, moisture holding capacity, and infiltration rates.

**Tree:-**

A large, woody plant having one or several self-supporting stems or trunks and numerous branches.

**Turfgrass:-**

Continuous plant coverage consisting of hybridized grasses that, when regularly mowed, form a dense growth of leaf blades and roots.

**Urban**

Land development of higher density and intensity which is characteristically provided with services of an urban nature (i.e. central water and sewer, fire hydrants, paved roads often with curb and gutter, and shorter emergency service response times). This category of development ordinarily includes most commercial, office and industrial uses and residential uses with densities of more than 1 dwelling unit

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per 2.5 acres.

**Vegetation:-**

Plants in general or the sum total of plant life in an area.-

**Verge:-**

The landscaped area between a sidewalk and the back of curb.-

**Xeric:-**

Plants or landscapes that embody xeriscape principals.

**Xeriscape:-**

The use of water conserving, indigenous plants appropriate to the surrounding environment. The goal of xeriscaping is to conserve water, minimize maintenance efforts and costs, and ensure survivability.

**Xeriscape Principals:-**

Methods of professional landscaping that include: planning and design, soil analysis, efficient irrigation, appropriate plant selection, practical turf areas, use of mulches, and proper maintenance.

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**"Water Wise" Trees, Shrubs, & Grasses**  
**\*See also: Appendix B**

<b><u>Trees</u></b>	
<u>American Plum</u>	<u>Prunus americana</u>
<u>Amur Maple</u>	<u>Acer ginnala</u>
<u>Arizona Cypress</u>	<u>Callitropsis arizonica</u>
<u>Austrian Pine</u>	<u>Pinus nigra</u>
<u>Baby Blue Eyes Spruce</u>	<u>Picea pungens 'Baby Blue Eyes'</u>
<u>Bosnian Pine</u>	<u>Pinus heldreichii</u>
<u>Bristlecone Pine</u>	<u>Pinus aristate</u>
<u>Bur Oak</u>	<u>Quercus macrocarpa</u>
<u>Caddo Maple</u>	<u>Acer saccharum 'Caddo'</u>
<u>Cockspur Hawthorn</u>	<u>Crataegus crus-galli</u>
<u>Crabapple</u>	<u>Crabapple Malus</u>
<u>Goldenrain Tree</u>	<u>Koelreuteria paniculata</u>
<u>Gray Gleam Juniper</u>	<u>Juniperus scopulorum 'Gray Gleam'</u>
<u>Hackberry</u>	<u>Celtis occidentalis</u>
<u>Hot Wings Tatarian Maple</u>	<u>Acer tataricum 'GarAnn'</u>
<u>Kentucky Coffeetree</u>	<u>Gymnocladus dioicus</u>
<u>Lacebark Pine</u>	<u>Pinus bungeana</u>
<u>Maidenhair Tree</u>	<u>Ginkgo biloba</u>
<u>Mugo Pine</u>	<u>Pinus mugo</u>
<u>Northern Red Oak</u>	<u>Quercus rubra</u>
<u>One-seed Juniper</u>	<u>Juniperus monosperma</u>
<u>Pinyon Pine</u>	<u>Pinus edulis</u>
<u>Ponderosa Pine</u>	<u>Pinus ponderosa</u>
<u>Red Maple</u>	<u>Acer rubrum</u>
<u>Rocky Mountain Juniper</u>	<u>Juniperus scopulorum</u>

<a href="#">Russian Hawthorn</a>	<a href="#">Crataegus ambigua</a>
<a href="#">Seven-Son Flower</a>	<a href="#">Heptacodium miconioides</a>
<a href="#">Tatarian Maple</a>	<a href="#">Acer tataricum</a>
<a href="#">Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn</a>	<a href="#">Crataegus crus-galli var. inermis</a>
<a href="#">Thornless Honeylocust</a>	<a href="#">Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis</a>
<a href="#">Turkish Filbert</a>	<a href="#">Turkish Filbert <i>Corylus colurna</i></a>
<a href="#">Vanderwolf's Pyramid Limber</a>	<a href="#">Pinus flexilis 'Vanderwolf's Pyramid'</a>
<a href="#">Weeping Norway Spruce</a>	<a href="#">Picea abies 'Pendula'</a>
<a href="#">Weeping White Spruce</a>	<a href="#">Picea glauca 'Pendula'</a>
<a href="#">Western Catalpa</a>	<a href="#">Catalpa speciosa</a>

<b>Shrubs</b>	
<a href="#">Common Ninebark</a>	<a href="#">Physocarpus opulifolius</a>
<a href="#">Common Snowberry</a>	<a href="#">Symphoricarpos albus</a>
<a href="#">Cranberry Cotoneaster</a>	<a href="#">Cotoneaster apiculatus</a>
<a href="#">Creeping Barberry</a>	<a href="#">Berberis amplexans</a>
<a href="#">Creeping Three-Leaf Sumac</a>	<a href="#">Rhus trilobata 'Autumn Amber'</a>
<a href="#">Crimson Pygmy Barberry</a>	<a href="#">Berberis thunbergii var. atropurpurea 'Crimson Pygmy'</a>
<a href="#">Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany</a>	<a href="#">Cercocarpus ledifolius</a>
<a href="#">Cutleaf Smooth Sumac</a>	<a href="#">Rhus glabra 'Laciniata'</a>
<a href="#">Dark Knight Spirea</a>	<a href="#">Caryopteris x clandonensis 'Dark Knight'</a>
<a href="#">Diablo Ninebark</a>	<a href="#">Physocarpus opulifolius 'Monlo'</a>
<a href="#">Dwarf Blue Rabbitbrush</a>	<a href="#">Ericameria nauseosa ssp. nauseosa var. nauseosa</a>
<a href="#">Dwarf Creeping Juniper</a>	<a href="#">Juniperus procumbens 'Nana'</a>
<a href="#">Dwarf Globe Blue Spruce</a>	<a href="#">Picea pungens 'Glauca Globosa'</a>
<a href="#">Dwarf Korean Lilac</a>	<a href="#">Syringa meyeri 'Palibin'</a>
<a href="#">False Indigo Bush</a>	<a href="#">Amorpha fruticosa</a>
<a href="#">Fernbush</a>	<a href="#">Chamaebatiaria millefolium</a>
<a href="#">Gentry's Gem Spruce</a>	<a href="#">Picea pungens 'Gentry's Gem'</a>
<a href="#">Golden Elder</a>	<a href="#">Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis 'Aurea'</a>
<a href="#">Golden Sword Yucca</a>	<a href="#">Yucca filamentosa 'Golden Sword'</a>
<a href="#">Green Mound Alpine Currant</a>	<a href="#">Ribes alpinum 'Green Mound'</a>
<a href="#">Gro-Low Sumac</a>	<a href="#">Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low'</a>
<a href="#">Hancock Coralberry</a>	<a href="#">Symphoricarpos x chenaultii 'Hancock'</a>
<a href="#">Harvard's Century Plant</a>	<a href="#">Agave havardiana</a>
<a href="#">Hillside Creeper Pine</a>	<a href="#">Pinus sylvestris 'Hillside Creeper'</a>
<a href="#">Japanese Barberry</a>	<a href="#">Berberis thunbergii</a>
<a href="#">Judd Viburnum</a>	<a href="#">Viburnum x juddii</a>
<a href="#">Kinnikinnick</a>	<a href="#">Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</a>
<a href="#">Leadplant</a>	<a href="#">Amorpha canescens</a>
<a href="#">Littleleaf Mountain Mahogany</a>	<a href="#">Cercocarpus intricatus</a>
<a href="#">Mesa Verde Spruce</a>	<a href="#">Picea pungens 'Mesa Verde'</a>
<a href="#">Miss Kim Dwarf Lilac</a>	<a href="#">Syringa pubescens subsp. patula 'Miss Kim'</a>

<a href="#">Mock Bearberry</a>	<a href="#">Manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos x coloradoensis</i></a>
<a href="#">Mohican Wayfaring Tree</a>	<a href="#">Viburnum lantana 'Mohican'</a>
<a href="#">Montgomery</a>	<a href="#">Picea pungens 'Montgomery'</a>
<a href="#">Mops Dwarf Mugo Pine</a>	<a href="#">Pinus mugo 'Mops'</a>
<a href="#">Mountain Mahogany</a>	<a href="#">Cercocarpus montanus</a>
<a href="#">Nanking Cherry</a>	<a href="#">Prunus tomentosa</a>
<a href="#">Nearly Wild Rose</a>	<a href="#">Rosa 'Nearly Wild'</a>
<a href="#">Oregon Grape</a>	<a href="#">Berberis aquifolium</a>
<a href="#">Panchito Manzanita</a>	<a href="#">Arctostaphylos x coloradoensis 'Panchito'</a>
<a href="#">Pawnee Buttes Sand Cherry</a>	<a href="#">Prunus besseyi 'P011S'</a>
<a href="#">Peking Cotoneaster</a>	<a href="#">Cotoneaster acutifolius</a>
<a href="#">Persian Lilac</a>	<a href="#">Syringa x persica</a>
<a href="#">New Mexican Privet</a>	<a href="#">Forestiera pubescens var. pubescens</a>
<a href="#">Purple Smoketree</a>	<a href="#">Cotinus coggygria 'Royal Purple'</a>

<a href="#">Pyracantha</a>	<a href="#">Pyracantha coccinea 'Gnome'</a>
<a href="#">Red Twig Dogwood</a>	<a href="#">Cornus sericea</a>
<a href="#">Redleaf Rose</a>	<a href="#">Rosa glauca</a>
<a href="#">Rock Spirea</a>	<a href="#">Holodiscus dumosus</a>
<a href="#">Rocky Mountain Sumac</a>	<a href="#">Rhus glabra var. cismontana</a>
<a href="#">Rose Glow Japanese Barberry</a>	<a href="#">Berberis thunbergii var. atropurpurea 'Rose Glow'</a>
<a href="#">Russian Sage</a>	<a href="#">Perovskia atriplicifolia</a>
<a href="#">Saltbush</a>	<a href="#">Atriplex canescens</a>
<a href="#">Sand Sagebrush</a>	<a href="#">Artemisia filifolia</a>
<a href="#">Saskatoon Serviceberry</a>	<a href="#">Amelanchier alnifolia</a>
<a href="#">Scrub Oak</a>	<a href="#">Quercus gambelii</a>
<a href="#">Shadblow Serviceberry</a>	<a href="#">Amelanchier canadensis</a>
<a href="#">Siberian Peashrub</a>	<a href="#">Caragana arborescens</a>
<a href="#">Silver Buffaloberry</a>	<a href="#">Shepherdia argentea</a>
<a href="#">Silver Fountain Butterfly Bush</a>	<a href="#">Buddleia alternifolia 'Argentea'</a>
<a href="#">Smooth Sumac</a>	<a href="#">Rhus glabra</a>
<a href="#">Soapweed</a>	<a href="#">Yucca glauca</a>
<a href="#">Spanish Gold Broom</a>	<a href="#">Cytisus purgans</a>
<a href="#">Staghorn Sumac</a>	<a href="#">Rhus typhina</a>
<a href="#">Stansbury's Cliffrose</a>	<a href="#">Purshia stansburyana</a>
<a href="#">Summer Wine Ninebark</a>	<a href="#">Physocarpus opulifolius 'Seward'</a>
<a href="#">Tall Rabbitbrush</a>	<a href="#">Ericameria nauseosa var. nauseosa</a>
<a href="#">Tam Juniper</a>	<a href="#">Juniperus sabina 'Tamariscifolia'</a>
<a href="#">Texas sotol</a>	<a href="#">Dasylirion texanum</a>
<a href="#">Threeleaf Sumac</a>	<a href="#">Rhus trilobata</a>
<a href="#">Valley Cushion Dwarf</a>	<a href="#">Mugo Pine <i>Pinus mugo</i> 'Valley Cushion'</a>
<a href="#">Van Houtte Spirea</a>	<a href="#">Spiraea x vanhouttei</a>

<a href="#">Variegated Dogwood</a>	<a href="#">Cornus alba 'Argenteo-marginata'</a>
<a href="#">Waldbrunn Spruce</a>	<a href="#">Picea pungens 'Waldbrunn'</a>
<a href="#">Wavyleaf Oak</a>	<a href="#">Quercus x undulata</a>
<a href="#">Waxflower</a>	<a href="#">Jamesia americana</a>
<a href="#">Wayfaring Tree</a>	<a href="#">Viburnum lantana</a>
<a href="#">Western Sagebrush</a>	<a href="#">Artemisia tridentata ssp. Tridentata</a>
<a href="#">Western Snowberry</a>	<a href="#">Symphoricarpos occidentalis</a>
<a href="#">William Baffin Rose</a>	<a href="#">Rosa 'William Baffin'</a>
<a href="#">Wine and Roses Weigela</a>	<a href="#">Weigela florida 'Alexandra'</a>
<a href="#">Winter Jasmine</a>	<a href="#">Jasminum nudiflorum</a>
<a href="#">Yellow Twig Dogwood</a>	<a href="#">Cornus sericea 'Flaviramea'</a>

<b>Grasses</b>	
<a href="#">Alkali Sacaton</a>	<a href="#">Sporobolus airoides</a>
<a href="#">Arizona Fescue</a>	<a href="#">Festuca arizonica</a>
<a href="#">Big Bluestem</a>	<a href="#">Andropogon gerardii</a>
<a href="#">Blonde Ambition Blue Grama Grass</a>	<a href="#">Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambition'</a>
<a href="#">Blue Fescue</a>	<a href="#">Festuca ovina glauca</a>
<a href="#">Blue Grama</a>	<a href="#">Bouteloua gracilis</a>
<a href="#">Blue Heaven Little Bluestem</a>	<a href="#">Schizachyrium scoparium 'MinnBlueA'</a>
<a href="#">Blue Oat Grass</a>	<a href="#">Helictotrichon sempervirens</a>
<a href="#">Buffalograss</a>	<a href="#">Bouteloua dactyloides</a>
<a href="#">Compact Maiden Grass</a>	<a href="#">Miscanthus sinensis 'Adagio'</a>
<a href="#">Feather Reed Grass</a>	<a href="#">Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'</a>
<a href="#">Giant Sacaton</a>	<a href="#">Sporobolus wrightii</a>
<a href="#">Heavy Metal Switchgrass</a>	<a href="#">Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal'</a>
<a href="#">Indian Grass</a>	<a href="#">Sorghastrum nutans</a>
<a href="#">Japanese Blood Grass</a>	<a href="#">Imperata cylindrica 'Red Baron'</a>
<a href="#">Korean Feather Reed Grass</a>	<a href="#">Calamagrostis brachytricha</a>
<a href="#">Maiden Grass</a>	<a href="#">Miscanthus sinensis 'Gracillimus'</a>
<a href="#">Overdam Feather Reed Grass</a>	<a href="#">Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Overdam'</a>
<a href="#">Prairie Dropseed</a>	<a href="#">Sporobolus heterolepis</a>
<a href="#">Prairie Sky Switchgrass</a>	<a href="#">Panicum virgatum 'Prairie Sky'</a>
<a href="#">Sheep Fescue</a>	<a href="#">Festuca ovina</a>
<a href="#">Shenandoah Switchgrass</a>	<a href="#">Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'</a>
<a href="#">Sideoats Grama</a>	<a href="#">Bouteloua curtipendula</a>
<a href="#">The Blues Little Bluestem</a>	<a href="#">Schizachyrium scoparium 'The Blues'</a>
<a href="#">Turf-type Tall Fescue</a>	<a href="#">Festuca arundinacea</a>
<a href="#">Undaunted Ruby Muhly</a>	<a href="#">Muhlenbergia reverchonii</a>
<a href="#">Variegated Maiden Grass</a>	<a href="#">Miscanthus sinensis 'Variegatus'</a>
<a href="#">Zebra Grass</a>	<a href="#">Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus'</a>

<b>Not Recommended/Restriction Recommended Plantings</b>	
<a href="#">Elm</a>	<a href="#">Ulmus genus (Dutch Elm Disease resistant acceptable)</a>
<a href="#">Box Elder (25ft ROW setback restriction)</a>	<a href="#">Acer negundo</a>
<a href="#">All Salix and Populus genus (Except Aspen) (25ft-ROW Restriction)</a>	
<a href="#">Autumn Purple Ash</a>	<a href="#">Fraxinus americana 'Autumn Purple'</a>
<a href="#">Green Ash</a>	<a href="#">Fraxinus pennsylvanica</a>
<a href="#">Common Sea Buckthorn</a>	<a href="#">Hippophae rhamnoides</a>
<a href="#">Mexican Feather Grass</a>	<a href="#">Nassella tenuissima</a>
<a href="#">Kentucky Bluegrass</a>	<a href="#">Poa pratensis</a>

**Low Water, Native, Front Range Plantings Resource:**

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/native/FrontRange.pdf>

**Native Trees for Colorado Landscapes:**

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/garden/07421.pdf>

**Native Shrubs for Colorado Landscapes:**

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/garden/07422.pdf>

**Colorado Springs Utilities - Plant Selector**

<https://www.waterwiseplants.org/find-a-plant/>

**Sources**

Colorado Springs Utilities <https://www.csu.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Colorado State University Extension <https://extension.colostate.edu/>

Colorado Native Plant Society [www.conps.org](http://www.conps.org)

**APPENDIX A LDC LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS**

This Appendix contains all applicable landscape provisions from the LDC. Please note that other setback setbacks, performance standards and design standards of the LDC could affect the placement and design of landscaping. The fence, wall and hedge provisions have been included since when required fencing and buffering requirements directly impact landscape design.

**6.2. DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR ANCILLARY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES**

**6.2.1. Fences, Walls, and Hedges**

**(A) Applicability**

This Section is applicable to any fence, wall, or hedge established after the date of adoption of this Section unless superseded by a specific development standard in a PUD zoning district or within a Rural Land Use Plan.

**(B) Exemptions**

This Section is not applicable to agricultural fences, except as otherwise provided by this Section, or to the installation of noise barriers required by this Code, the ECM or constructed and installed in accordance with federal requirements.

**(C) General Standards Applicable to Fences, Walls, or Hedges**

The following standards are applicable to fences, walls, or hedges, including agricultural fences.

**(1) 100-Year Floodplain**

Fences and walls within a 100 year floodplain shall comply with the requirements of the Floodplain Regulations.

**(2) No Obstruction of View of Vehicle Operators**

No fence, wall, or hedge may obstruct the view of motor vehicle operators entering or leaving any parking area, service drive, driveway, road, alley, or other thoroughfare. Fences, walls and hedges are subject to the sight distance standards in Chapter 2 of the ECM.

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(3) **Fencing Materials**

(a) **Use of Tires for Fence**

The use of tires for a fence or wall, whether whole or baled, shall be allowed only on the granting of a beneficial use agreement with El Paso County, and shall only occur in conformance with the requirements of this Code and CDPHE regulations.

(b) **Corrugated Metal Not Approved as Fencing Material**

Corrugated metal is not considered an acceptable fencing material in perimeter fencing if visible from outside the fenced lot or parcel.

(4) **Measuring the Height of a Fence**

The height of fences, walls, and hedges shall be measured from the final ~~grade of the lot, parcel, or tract at the location~~ of the fence, wall, or hedge to the top of the fence, wall, or hedge. The top of a fence, wall, or hedge is the highest component of the fence, wall, or hedge, not including columns or posts. The depth of drainage channels under a fence, wall, or hedge shall not be included in the height measurement. The height of a fence, wall, or hedge built on berms or retaining walls shall include the height of the berm or wall.

(5) **Fencing Maintained**

Fences, walls or hedges shall be maintained in good structural or living condition. The owner is responsible for the repair or removal of a fence, wall or hedge, which constitutes a safety hazard, by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence or abandonment, or which constitutes a zoning violation.

(D) **Height and Location Standards**

The following requirements are applicable to all fences and walls except agricultural fences:

(1) **Building Permit Required for Fences and Walls Over 6 feet in Height**

A fence or wall over 6 feet in height requires a building permit from the Building Department.

(2) **Fences and Walls 6 Feet in Height Considered Accessory Structure**

A fence or wall over 6 feet in height is considered an accessory structure, and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements of this Code. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are applicable.

(3) **Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Drainage**

The fence and wall shall not be established where it would impede the drainage established by an approved drainage plan.

(4) **Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Use of Easement**

The fence or wall shall not be established within an easement in a manner where the use of the easement is unnecessarily impeded.

(E) **Specific Fence Standards for Residential Uses**

The following requirements are applicable to fences associated with residential uses.

(1) **Opaque Fence Height Limited in Front Yard Setback Area**

Fences or walls more than 25% opaque shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within the front setback area.

(2) **Opaque Fence Height Limited in Sight Triangle**

An opaque fence, wall or hedge shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(F) **Specific Fence Standards for Non-Residential Uses**

The following requirements are applicable to fences associated with non-residential uses:

(1) **6 Feet High Fences Allowed**

Fences not exceeding 6 feet in height may be placed anywhere on the lot or parcel except no fence, wall or hedge shall exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(2) **Security Fencing**

Security fencing may include 3 strands of wire on top of the fence. The wires are not included in the height measurement.

(3) **Subject to Parking, Landscaping, and Screening Standards**

Walls and fences shall conform to the parking, landscaping, and screening standards of this Code.

(G) **Noise Barrier Fencing or Walls**

Noise barrier fencing or walls shall be constructed in accordance with the provisions for noise barrier fencing in Chapter 8 and the ECM.

(H) **Development Perimeter Fencing**

If fencing is proposed around the perimeter of a subdivision or development, any fencing adjacent to a County road or State or federal highway shall be compatible with the existing land uses, topography, and landscaping in the immediate vicinity. Subdivision perimeter fencing shall be consistent in design and materials when established along or adjacent to common boundaries where other perimeter fencing exists.

(I) **Retaining Wall Standards**

(1) **Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Retaining Surcharge**

A building permit is required for a retaining wall that retains a surcharge.

(2) **Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Over 4 Feet High**

A building permit is required for a retaining wall greater than 4 feet in height.

(3) **Retaining Walls 6 Feet High Considered Accessory Structure**

A retaining wall over 6 feet in height is considered an accessory structure and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are applicable.

(4) **Established Prior to Principal use**

A retaining wall, when necessary for development, may be established prior to the principal use.

**6.2.2. Landscape Requirements**

(A) **General**

(1) **Purpose**

The landscape requirements are intended to provide uniform standards for the development and maintenance of the landscaping of private property and public rights-of-way to achieve a balance between the individual right to develop and the general benefit and welfare of the community. The benefits to be achieved and the overall purposes of the landscaping required by this Section are: (1) to create a positive image and visual appeal both along the road which is highly visible and internal properties which provide a working, shopping and living environment; (2) to decrease the scale of parking lots, provide shade, and reduce heat, glare and noise; (3) to separate circulation systems; to soften and reduce the mass of buildings; to screen and buffer lower intensity uses from higher intensity uses and protect residential privacy; and (4) to create an overall pleasant and attractive surrounding.

(2) **Applicability**

(a) **Applies to All Land Uses**

The requirements of this Section shall apply to all uses except single-family or duplex dwellings and associated accessory uses.

(b) **Applies to Change in Use**

The requirements of this Section shall apply when a use is established that requires a change of occupancy to be approved by the Building Department or by the DSD.

(c) **Applies to New Construction and Additions**

The requirements of this Section shall apply to existing buildings where the new construction of or addition to a building's floor area exceeds 50% of the existing building's gross floor area.

(3) **Requirements of Section Supplemented**

The requirements of this Section are supplemented by the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

(4) **Authority of Director to Accept Alternative Landscape Designs**

The DSD Director may approve landscaping that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section provided the proposed landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the DSD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section.

(B) **Roadway Landscaping Requirements**

Roadway landscaping areas are required. A roadway landscaping area is located along the lot, parcel or tract frontage between the road right-of-way, easement, or tract boundary lines and any building or use.

(1) **Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area**

Table 6-1 lists the depth and number of trees required to be provided along any road in roadway landscaping area. Where the required setback is narrower than the depth of the required landscape area, the roadway landscaping area depth shall control.

**Table 6-1. Roadway Landscaping Required by Roadway Classification.**

Road Classification	Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area	Required Trees (Trees/Linear Foot of Frontage)
Expressway, Principal Arterial	25 feet	1 per 20 feet
Urban Interchange/Intersection	25 feet	NA
Minor Arterial	20 feet	1 per 25 feet
Non-Arterial	10 feet	1 per 30 feet

<sup>1</sup>The required depth of the roadway landscape area shall be increased to 15 feet along a non-arterial road or public alley where the road or alley separates a non-residential use from a residential zoning district. The number of required trees shall be increased to 1 per 15 feet of linear frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

(2) **Location and Type of Trees in Roadway Landscaping Area**

(a) **Clustering Allowed**

The roadway landscaping trees may be clustered along a road frontage. The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in

areas where the winter shade will cause unsafe conditions on an adjacent road.

**(b) Type of Tree Limited**

The types of roadway landscaping trees utilized shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and listed in the Landscape and Water Conservation.

**(c) Exceeding Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping**

The roadway landscaping trees shall be located within 50 feet of the road right-of-way, easement or tract boundary line and any building or use.

**(d) Allowed in Right-of-Way if Approved**

The roadway landscaping trees may be placed in a right-of-way if the right-of-way owner approves the placement and no conflicts exist, or will exist, with utility easements or any provider of utilities. Generally, trees are not allowed to be placed within any County right-of-way. Placing of the required roadway landscaping trees within the right-of-way shall not negate the requirement for the required roadway landscape area.

**(3) Walls and Fences in Roadway Landscape Area**

Walls and fences which are 25% or more opaque shall not exceed 3 feet in height when located within a required roadway landscaping area. Opaque walls and fences higher than 3 feet (such as noise barriers) shall be located outside of the roadway landscaping area to maintain a landscaped appearance along the road.

**(C) Parking Lot Landscape Requirements**

**(1) Required Trees**

A tree of a type suitable for parking lots shall be provided for every 15 parking spaces in parking lots with 15 or more parking spaces. The required trees may be clustered and shall be located in a manner which will divide and break up expanses of paving and long rows of parking and create a canopy effect over the parking lot.

**(2) Parking Lot Islands**

The most common method to satisfy the parking lot tree requirement is through the utilization of plant islands, fingers (areas open to the parking on three sides), and corners (open to the parking on two sides). Islands, fingers, and corners are required to be incorporated into all parking lots of 15 parking spaces or more in area. One island shall be provided for every 15 spaces. An island, finger or corner that is the same size as a parking space counts as a required island. An island the size of two spaces counts as two islands. Pedestrian entry spaces also count as an

island, including the ramp. Parking lots containing fewer than 25 spaces shall not be required to provide islands.

Islands should be located at the end of center rows and at entry locations to direct traffic and minimize cutovers. Islands should generally be used and located to organize and enhance circulation, breakup continuous parking areas, and capture and direct stormwater. Islands protect vegetation from damage.

Small parking lots may utilize the perimeter area of the parking lot to satisfy the parking lot tree location requirement when there are not more than 2 rows of parking spaces and a single drive aisle. Where a parking lot is not required to be paved, no islands shall be required.

The tree types, minimum planter sizes and utilization of perimeter tree placement shall be consistent with the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

**(3) Protection of Trees from Damage**

Parking lot trees shall be protected from vehicle damage by curbs, planters or other barriers.

**(4) Storm Drainage for Irrigation Encouraged**

Parking lots designs that allow runoff to enter landscaped areas for irrigation and controlling non-point source pollution are encouraged.

**(5) Required Parking Lot Screening**

Parking lots shall be screened from view from adjacent roads and properties with differing land uses. The minimum height of the screening shall be 3 feet and may be accomplished by using berms and plantings. A minimum of ⅓ of the road frontage or common lot, parcel, or tract boundary, not counting intersecting driveways, shall be provided with the required screening. The maximum spacing of plants to achieve an acceptable screen and the maximum acceptable grades for screening areas, such as grass berms and plantings beds, should be consistent with the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

Decorative walls or fences may be approved if the DSD Director finds that:

- The wall or fence avoids a blank and monotonous appearance by architectural articulation and the planting of vines, shrubs or trees; or
- The total use of berms or plantings is not physically feasible, or
- The wall or fence attractively compliments the use of berms or plantings.

(D) **Required Buffer and Screen Areas**

(1) **Buffer Between Non-Residential and Residential Districts Separated by a Non-Arterial Road or Public Alley**

(a) **Where Required**

A buffer is required along the road-side lot, parcel, or tract line of any non-residential use where the use is separated from a residential zoning district by a non-arterial road or public alley.

(b) **Depth and Planting Standards**

The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be one tree for every 15 feet of the road frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

~~(c) **Opaque Fence or Wall Required**~~

~~An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the inside edge of the required buffer when the area immediately adjacent to the 15 foot buffer is used as a service corridor for loading, maneuvering or storage. If the area is used for parking, the required parking lot screening shall be applicable.~~

(d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required**

The required buffer area shall require a ground cover at maturity with a minimum of 75% living plant materials. Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved living ground cover material shall be covered in a approved non-living ground cover.

(2) **Buffer Between Non-Residential, Multifamily Residential and Single-Family/Duplex Uses**

(a) **Where Required**

A buffer is required in the following situations:

- Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the non-residential use property between the non-residential use and a residential zoning district.
- Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the multifamily use property between the multifamily use and a single-family or duplex zoning district.

(b) **Depth and Planting Standards**

The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be one tree for every

25 feet of common lot, parcel, or tract line. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

(c) **Opaque Fencing or Wall Required**

An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the lot, parcel, or tract line except where the adjacent single-family or duplex residential zoning district or use abuts a required roadway landscaping area.

(d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required**

Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved non-living ground cover ~~material shall be covered in a living plant material.~~

(E) **Internal Landscaping**

The following internal landscaping is required:

(1) **Requirements for Multifamily Uses**

The following internal landscaping is required for multifamily uses:

(a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area**

A minimum of 15% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.

(b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area**

A minimum of one tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.

(2) **Requirements for Non-Residential Uses**

The following internal landscaping is required for non-residential uses.

(a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area**

A minimum of 5% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.

(b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area**

A minimum of one tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.

(c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs**

A maximum of 1/2 of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs adjacent to retail store fronts where the view of wall signs may be obstructed. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

(3) **Standards for Required Internal Landscape Area**

(a) **Intent of Internal Landscaping**

The intent of the internal landscape area is to provide relief from structures and hard surfaces through the use of plantings.

(b) **Location of Internal Landscape Areas**

The required internal landscape areas shall be located in accordance with the following standards:

- Adjacent to those building elevations which form the major public views of the building from adjacent roads and properties and to the users of the project; or
- At all pedestrian entrances, except service-only entries; or
- ~~Within a plaza or courtyard~~ Within a plaza or courtyard between buildings or portions of buildings, (plaza/courtyard is to have at least one side open); or
- In an area provided to separate building areas from parking areas; or
- In a similar location which substantially conforms to the purpose of the required internal landscape area.

(c) **Area Calculation**

The entire lot, parcel or tract area shall be used as the basis for calculating required the internal landscape area. In instances where an entire lot, parcel, or tract is not used for the proposed development, the area used to calculate the required internal landscape area may be reduced by the DSD Director based on the area of the lot, parcel or tract actually being developed or used. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area determined by the DSD Director to be developed or used. However, even if reductions in the lot area are approved, the DSD Director may require that additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is provided at the first stage of a larger project to mitigate environmental impacts or meet the intent of the landscaping provisions of the LDC .

(d) **Paved Areas within an Internal Landscaped Area**

Sidewalks which provide basic pedestrian circulation shall not count toward meeting the internal landscape area requirement. Paved plazas may be credited to a maximum of 50% of required internal landscaping area if such plazas have trees and other pedestrian-only amenities (benches, sculpture, decorative paving, etc.), are not vehicular, and provide visual relief to those

building elevations which form the major public views of the project.

(F) **Minimum Plant Sizes and Percentage of Live Ground Cover**

(1) **Landscape Material Specifications**

Plant installation sizes and characteristics shall meet the following minimum requirements.

(a) **Deciduous Shade Trees**

Deciduous shade trees shall be 1½ inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.

(b) **Deciduous Ornamental Trees**

Deciduous ornamental trees shall be 1 inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.

(c) **Evergreen Trees**

Evergreen trees shall be 6 feet in height above ground, balled and burlapped, except Pinon Pine and upright junipers which shall be a minimum 4 feet in height.

(d) **Evergreen and Deciduous Shrubs**

Evergreen and deciduous shrubs, where required, shall be 5 gallon size.

(e) **Ground Cover and Vines**

Ground cover and vines shall be 1 size.

(2) **Required Live Material Ground Cover**

Unless otherwise allowed, required landscape areas shall include a minimum of 75% ground cover by living grass or other living plant materials at maturity. The remaining 25% of the required landscape area may be covered with bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other landscape materials or may be designed as hard-surfaced pedestrian areas. The foliage crown of trees shall not be counted in meeting the ground cover requirement.

(G) **Other Required Landscape Areas**

(1) **Other Areas to be Landscaped or Screened**

(a) **Zoning District Boundary Trees**

A minimum of one tree shall be provided for every 30 feet of lot, parcel, or tract line coincident with a zoning district boundary line except if otherwise required to meet the buffering requirements between a non-residential use or multifamily use and residential zoning district.

(b) **Refuse Areas Screened**

Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, shall be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by an opaque wall or fence, architectural elements, dense evergreen plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet, or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet.

(c) **Loading Docks and Other Vehicle Areas Screened**

Loading docks, vehicle repair bays, and vehicle fueling areas shall be screened from view from adjacent roads by the use of plantings, berms, walls, fences, or other architectural elements.

(d) **Landscaping Required Between Lot and Curb**

Landscaping is required between the lot, parcel, or tract line and the curb line. The landscaping shall meet the ground cover standards for the required roadway landscaping area. Although this landscape area is located within the right-of-way, easement or tract, the adjacent lot, parcel or tract owner shall be responsible for maintenance. Xeric plantings shall be used in order to avoid the need to install an irrigation system within the right-of-way, easement or tract. Xeric plants may require supplemental irrigation to get them established or in times of extreme drought. Installation of an irrigation system requires approval of DOT or owner or right-of-way, easement or tract. Installation of plant materials may also require approval of the DOT or owner or right-of-way, easement or tract.

(e) **Transmission Tower, Water Storage Tank, and Utility Facilities Landscape Requirements**

(i) **Site-Specific Landscaping Required**

DSD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for transmission tower, water storage tank, and utility facilities. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior putting a transmission tower, water storage tank, or utility facility into operation. The site-specific landscaping is subject to the following standards:

- Rural and Remote Areas: In rural and remote areas landscaping, screening and erosion control measures shall be tailored to the nature and character of the area and the type of facility or structure contemplated. Site-specific landscaping shall, at a minimum, include

revegetation of disturbed areas with materials indigenous to the site or otherwise adaptable.

- Urbanized and Developed Areas: In urbanized and developed areas, the site-specific landscaping shall address specific issues such as screening and visual impacts.

(f) **Outside Storage Area Landscaping Requirements**

(i) Site-Specific Landscaping Required

DSD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for establishing an outside storage area. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to utilizing an outside storage area.

(ii) Site-Specific Landscaping Standards

The site-specific landscaping shall reflect a combination of berms, shrubs, trees, fences or walls which will provide, at maturity, a minimum 6 foot high, 100% opaque screening for the outside storage area.

(2) **Miscellaneous Requirements**

(a) **Flexibility in Design Allowed**

The owner may select the types of and the planting spaces between the required trees. The types of trees selected shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and should be a type listed in the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

(b) **Minimum Cover of Internal Landscape Area**

The internal landscape area shall consist of a minimum of 50% ground cover by living plant materials. The Landscape and Water Conservation Manual provides guidance for planting near foundations.

(c) **Plant Spacing**

The planting spacing should accommodate the growth characteristics of the trees without adversely impacting structures, walks, or drives.

(d) **Minimum Planting Size of Trees**

The minimum planting size of trees shall comply with this Section and should comply with any additional specifications established in the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

**(e) Existing Vegetation**

Existing vegetation which meets the plant type requirements of the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual may be counted toward the internal landscape requirement.

**(f) Limitations on Landscape Placement**

**(i) No Conflicts with Traffic or Sight Distance**

Landscaping shall not conflict with traffic. Sight distance shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2 of the ECM.

**(ii) No Interference with Utilities and Fire Equipment**

Landscaping shall not interfere with the general function, safety or acceptability of any gas, electric, water, sewer, telephone, or other utility easement or conflict with criteria established or adopted by a fire department. Landscaping shall not exceed 8 inches in height within 3 feet of a fire hydrant or other applicable fire department criteria.

**(g) Limitations on Landscape Materials**

**(i) No Artificial Landscape Materials**

The use of artificial vines, turf, or groundcovers as landscape material may be allowed on a case-by-case basis where live landscaping materials may be at risk or inappropriate due to land use, water availability, or location..

**(ii) Elm Trees Prohibited**

Trees of the *Ulmus* genus (elm) are prohibited in meeting the landscape requirements of this Code unless demonstrated to be Dutch Elm Disease resistant.

**(iii) Use of Box Elder, Salix, and Populus Limited**

Box Elder (*Acer negundo*) and all trees of the *Salix* and *Populus* genus, except Aspen (*Populus Tremuloides*), shall not be planted within 25 feet of a right-of-way.

**(h) Calculating the Required Number of Plants**

**(i) Fractional Numbers Rounded to Closest Whole Number**

Where a requirement results in a fractional number, the applicable requirement shall be the closest whole number (5.0 to 5.49 = 5; 5.5 to 5.9 = 6).

- (ii) **Greatest Landscape Standard Applies**  
Where more than one landscape requirements applies to the same use and landscape area, the greater requirements shall be met.
- (iii) **Landscaping Only Fulfills One Requirement**  
Landscaping necessary to fulfill one requirement shall not be counted in fulfilling a different landscape requirement.
- (iv) **Clumping Forms of Trees Encouraged**  
Clumps of tree, such as Hawthorn (*Craetagus* sp.) , are encouraged instead of single-trunk trees. However, a clump of 3 or fewer trees shall be credited as only one of the required trees.

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(i) **Approval of Certificate of Occupancy**

All required landscaping shall be completed, and then inspected and approved by the DSD prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the Building Department or establishment of the use, except when surety acceptable to the DSD Director guaranteeing the completion of the landscaping is provided. Plant substitutions require approval before issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Any request for a Certificate of Occupancy prior to the completion of the required landscaping shall include a written request explaining the circumstances why the landscaping cannot be installed, a cost estimate prepared by a qualified party, a landscape completion agreement signed by the owner, and surety acceptable to the DSD Director. Inspection and certification by a landscape architect of compliance with this Section may be accepted at the discretion of the DSD Director.

(j) **Compliance with Plans**

The completed landscaping shall comply with the approved landscape plan and shall include the quantities, locations, species and sizes of plants and other landscape materials as represented on the approved landscape plan. Seeded landscape areas shall have no bare areas larger than 6 square inches after germination.

(k) **Maintenance**

(i) **Owner Responsible**

The owner is responsible for all regular and normal maintenance of required landscaping including weeding, irrigation, fertilizing, pruning and mowing.

- (ii) Replacement of Dead or Damaged Materials  
Replacement of dead, diseased or substantially ~~damaged plant materials~~ shall occur within 6 months from when the plant material died, or when the inspection determined the plant material was dead or damaged. Replacement shall be of the same or similar type as originally approved. An alternative type of species shall require approval by the DSD Director.
- (iii) Maintenance Inspections  
Maintenance inspections may be performed periodically. Failure to maintain the landscaping in compliance with the approval is considered a zoning violation.

## **6.2. - DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR ANCILLARY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **6.2.1. Fences, Walls, and Hedges**

**(A) Applicability.** This Section is applicable to any fence, wall, or hedge established after the date of adoption of this Section unless superseded by a specific development standard in a PUD zoning district or within a Rural Land Use Plan.

**(B) Exemptions.** This Section is not applicable to agricultural fences, except as otherwise provided by this Section, or to the installation of noise barriers required by this Code, the ECM or constructed and installed in accordance with federal requirements.

**(C) General Standards Applicable to Fences, Walls, or Hedges.** The following standards are applicable to fences, walls, or hedges, including agricultural fences.

(1) **100-Year Floodplain.** Fences and walls within a 100-year floodplain shall comply with the requirements of the Floodplain Regulations.

(2) **No Obstruction of View of Vehicle Operators.** No fence, wall, or hedge may obstruct the view of vehicle operators entering or leaving any parking area, service drive, driveway, road, alley, or other thoroughfare. Fences, walls and hedges are subject to the sight distance standards in Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(a) **Corrugated Metal Not Approved as Fencing Material.** Corrugated metal is not considered an acceptable fencing material in perimeter fencing if visible from outside the fenced lot or parcel.

(3) **Measuring the Height of a Fence.** The height of fences, walls, and hedges shall be measured from the final grade of the lot, parcel, or tract at the location of the fence, wall, or hedge to the top of the fence, wall, or hedge. The top of a fence, wall, or hedge is the highest component of the fence, wall, or hedge, not including columns or posts. The depth of drainage channels under a fence, wall, or hedge shall not be included in the height measurement. The height of a fence, wall, or hedge built on berms or retaining walls shall include the height of the berm or wall.

(4) **Fencing Maintained.** Fences, walls or hedges shall be maintained in good structural or living condition. The owner is responsible for the repair or removal of a fence, wall or hedge, which constitutes a safety hazard, by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence or abandonment, or which constitutes a zoning violation.

**(D) Height and Location Standards.** The following requirements are applicable to all fences and walls except agricultural fences:

(1) **Building Permit Required for Fences and Walls Over 7 feet in Height.** A fence or wall over 7 feet in height requires a building permit from the Building Department.

(2) **Fences and Walls 7 Feet in Height Considered Accessory Structure.** A fence or wall over 7 feet in height is considered an accessory structure and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements of this Code. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are

applicable.

(3) Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Drainage. The fence and wall shall not be established where it would impede the drainage established by an approved drainage plan.

(4) Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Use of Easement. The fence or wall shall not be established within an easement in a manner where the use of the easement is unnecessarily impeded.

(E) Specific Fence Standards for Residential Zoning Districts. The following requirements are applicable to fences within residential zoning districts.

(1) Opaque Fence Height Limited in Front Yard Setback Area. Fences or walls more than 25% opaque shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within any front setback area.

(2) Corner Lots. Any side of a property from which driveway access from the road is gained shall be considered a front setback area.

(3) Opaque Fence Height Limited in Sight Triangle. An opaque fence, wall or hedge shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(F) Specific Fence Standards for Non-Residential Zoning Districts. The following requirements are applicable to fences within non-residential zoning districts:

(1) 7 Feet High Fences Allowed. Fences not exceeding 7 feet in height may be placed anywhere on the lot or parcel except no fence, wall or hedge shall exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(2) Security Fencing. Security fencing may include 3 strands of wire on top of the fence. The wires are not included in the height measurement.

(3) Subject to Parking, Landscaping, and Screening Standards. Walls and fences shall conform to the parking, landscaping, and screening standards of this Code.

(G) Noise Barrier Fencing or Walls. Noise barrier fencing or walls shall be constructed in accordance with the provisions for noise barrier fencing in Chapter 8 and the ECM. The Development Services Director may authorize the placement of noise barrier fencing, or walls that exceed 7 feet in height adjacent to expressways, arterials, or railroads, provided such fence or wall is facing and adjacent to the roadway for which the noise barrier is being provided.

(H) Development Perimeter Fencing. If fencing is proposed around the perimeter of a subdivision or development, any fencing adjacent to a County Road or State or federal highway shall be compatible with the existing land uses, topography, and landscaping in the immediate vicinity. Subdivision perimeter fencing shall be consistent in design and materials when established along or adjacent to common boundaries where other perimeter fencing exists.

(I) Retaining Wall Standards.

(1) Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Retaining Surcharge. A building permit is required for a

retaining wall that retains a surcharge.

(2) **Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Over 4 Feet High.** A building permit is required for a retaining wall greater than 4 feet in height.

(3) **Retaining Walls 7 Feet High Considered Accessory Structure.** A retaining wall over 7 feet in height is considered an accessory structure and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are applicable.

(4) **Established Prior to Principal use.** A retaining wall, when necessary for development, may be established prior to the principal use.

### **6.2.2. Landscape Requirements**

#### **(A) General.**

- (1) **Purpose.** The landscape requirements are intended to provide uniform standards for the development and maintenance of the landscaping of private property and public rights-of-way to achieve a balance between the individual right to develop and the general benefit and welfare of the community. The benefits to be achieved and the overall purposes of the landscaping required by this Section are: (1) to create a positive image and visual appeal both along the road which is highly visible and internal properties which provide a working, shopping and living environment; (2) to decrease the scale of parking lots, provide shade, and reduce heat, glare and noise; (3) to separate circulation systems; to soften and reduce the mass of buildings; to screen and buffer lower intensity uses from higher intensity uses and protect residential privacy; and (4) to create an overall pleasant and attractive surrounding.
- (2) **Applicability.**
  - (a) **Applies to All Land Uses.** The requirements of this Section shall apply to all uses. PUD's may have their requirements modified subject to the individual PUD.
  - (b) **New Use Established or Use Changed.** Landscaping areas shall conform to this Section for a new building or use of previously vacant land, uses in an enlarged building, and all uses in a building when any use is changed that requires a change of occupancy to be approved by the Building Department or by the PCD.
  - (c) **Effect of Increase in Building Area.** A single or cumulative building addition (floor area) which exceeds 50% of the existing building's gross floor area shall require the entire building landscaping to comply with this Section. The existing building shall be considered the building as it existed on the effective date of this Section.
- (3) **Requirements of Section Supplemented by Manual.** The requirements of this Section are supplemented by the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (4) **Authority of Director to Approve Substitute Landscape Designs.** The PCD Director may approve landscaping that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section provided the proposed landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the Landscaping and Planting Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the PCD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section.

(B) **Roadway Landscaping Requirements.** Roadway landscaping areas are required. A roadway landscaping area is located along the lot, parcel or tract frontage between the road right-of-way, easement, or tract boundary lines and any building or use.

(1) **Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area.** Table 6-1 lists the depth and number of trees required to be provided along any road in roadway landscaping area. Where the required setback is narrower than the depth of the required landscape area, the roadway landscaping area depth shall control. Unless otherwise approved by the ECM Administrator, the depth of roadway landscaping shall be measured from the property line. Where a roadway easement has been provided, the measurement shall be from the ROW or roadway easement. Where future ROW has been identified, the measurement should begin at the future ROW line in order avoid subsequent impairment of the landscaping.

**Table 6-1. Roadway Landscaping Required by Roadway Classification**

Road Classification	Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area	Required Trees (Trees/ Linear Foot of Frontage)
Expressway, Principal Arterial	25 feet	1 per 20 feet
Urban Interchange/Intersection	25 feet	1 per 20 feet (Substitute shrubs for visibility)
Minor Arterial	20 feet	1 per 25 feet
Non-Arterial <sup>1</sup>	10 feet	1 per 30 feet

<sup>1</sup> The required depth of the roadway landscape area shall be increased to 15 feet along a non-arterial road or public alley where the road or alley separates a non-residential use from a residential zoning district. The number of required trees shall be increased to 1 per 15 feet of linear frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

(2) **Location and Type of Trees in Roadway Landscaping Area.**

- (a) **Clustering Allowed.** The roadway landscaping trees may be clustered along a road frontage. The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in areas where the winter shade will cause unsafe conditions on an adjacent road. Clustering shall not be permitted when shade from clustering would be detrimental to adjacent road due to potential winter conditions as determined by the PCD Director or designee.
- (b) **Type of Tree Limited.** The types of roadway landscaping trees utilized shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and listed in the Landscape/Water Efficiency Manual and Water Wise Planting List.
- (c) **Exceeding Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping.** The roadway landscaping trees shall be located within 50 feet of the road right-of-way, easement or tract boundary line and any building or use.
- (d) **Allowed in Right-of-Way if Approved.** The roadway landscaping trees may be placed in a right-of-way if the right-of-way owner approves the placement and no conflicts exist, or will exist, with utility easements or any provider of utilities, establishment of landscaping along private roads must include appropriate maintenance agreement between parties. Generally, trees are not allowed to be placed within any County right-of-way. Placing of the required roadway landscaping trees within the right-of-way shall not negate the requirement for the required roadway landscape area. All landscaping placed within County Right-of-way shall install appropriate safeguards for roadway and/or sidewalks to include "Tree root guards" where appropriate. Permission must be granted for all landscaping within the County Right-of-way through the Department of Public Works.

(e) **Single-Family PUD Roadway Landscaping.** Roadway landscaping along local residential roadways (non-arterials) within a residential PUD is subject to the individual PUD.

(3) **Walls and Fences in Roadway Landscape Area.** Walls and fences which are 25% or more opaque shall not exceed 3 feet in height when located within a required roadway landscaping area. Opaque walls and fences higher than 3 feet (such as noise barriers) shall be located outside of the roadway landscaping area to maintain a landscaped appearance along the road.

(C) **Parking Lot Landscape Requirements.**

(1) **Required Trees.** A tree of a type suitable for parking lots shall be provided for every 15 parking spaces in parking lots with 15 or more parking spaces. The required trees may be clustered and shall be located in a manner which will divide and break up expanses of paving and long rows of parking and create a canopy effect over the parking lot. See Landscaping and Planting Manual for island details.

(2) **Parking Lot Islands.** The most common method to satisfy the parking lot tree requirement is through the utilization of plant islands, fingers (areas open to the parking on 3 sides), and corners (open to the parking on 2 sides). Islands, fingers, and corners are required to be incorporated into all parking lots of 15 parking spaces or more in area. 1 island shall be provided for every 15 spaces. An island, finger or corner must be a minimum of two parking spaces in size (18' x 18' or 9' x 36' in order to qualify as a required island, finger, or corner. Parking lots containing fewer than 15 spaces shall not be required to provide islands but must include some other form such as a finger or corner plantings to satisfy the requirement.

Islands should be located at the end of center rows and at entry locations to direct traffic and minimize cutovers. Islands should generally be used and located to organize and enhance circulation, breakup continuous parking areas, and capture and direct stormwater. Islands protect vegetation from damage. See Landscaping and Planting Manual.

Small parking lots may utilize the perimeter area of the parking lot to satisfy the parking lot tree location requirement when there are not more than 2 rows of parking spaces and a single drive aisle. Where a parking lot is not required to be paved, no islands shall be required.

The tree types, minimum planter sizes and utilization of perimeter tree placement shall be consistent with the Landscaping and Planting Manual.

Parking lot island landscaping may also be counted towards Internal Landscape requirements provided any portion of the island is within 20 feet of a building elevation.

(3) **Protection of Trees from Damage.** Parking lot trees shall be protected from vehicle damage by curbs, planters or other barriers.

(4) **Storm Drainage for Irrigation Encouraged.** Parking lots designs that allow runoff to enter landscaped areas for irrigation and controlling non-point source pollution are encouraged.

(5) **Required Parking Lot Screening.** Parking lots shall be screened from view from adjacent roads and properties with differing land uses. The minimum height of the screening shall be 3 feet and may be accomplished by using berms and plantings. A minimum of ¾ of the road frontage or common lot, parcel, or tract boundary, not counting intersecting driveways, shall be provided with the required screening. The maximum spacing of plants to achieve an acceptable screen and the maximum acceptable grades for screening areas, such as grass berms and plantings beds, should be consistent with the Landscaping and Planting Manual.

Decorative walls or fences may be approved if the Director finds that:

- The wall or fence avoids a blank and monotonous appearance by architectural articulation and the planting of vines, shrubs, or trees.
- The total use of berms or plantings is not physically feasible; or
- The wall or fence attractively compliments the use of berms or plantings.

**(D) Required Buffer and Screen Areas.**

**(1) Buffer Between Non-Residential and Residential Districts Separated by a Non-Arterial Road or Public Alley.**

- (a) **Where Required.** A buffer is required along the road-side lot, parcel, or tract line of any non-residential use where the use is separated from a residential zoning district by a non-arterial road or public alley.
- (b) **Depth and Planting Standards.** The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 15 feet of the road frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.
- (c) **Opaque Fence or Wall Required.** An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the inside edge of the required buffer when the area immediately adjacent to the 15-foot buffer is used as a service corridor for loading, maneuvering or storage. If the area is used for parking, the required parking lot screening shall be applicable.
- (d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required.** The required buffer area shall require a ground cover at maturity with a minimum of 75% living plant materials. Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved living ground cover material shall be covered in an approved non-living ground cover.

**(2) Buffer Between Non-Residential, Multifamily Residential and Single-Family/Duplex Uses.**

- (a) **Where Required.** A buffer is required in the following situations:
  - (i) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the non-residential use property between the non-residential use and a residential zoning district.
  - (ii) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the multifamily use property between the multifamily use and a single-family or duplex zoning district.
  - (iii) On the residential side of the project when use to use compatibility is a concern.
- (b) **Depth and Planting Standards.** The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 25 feet of common lot, parcel, or tract line. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.
- (c) **Opaque Fencing or Wall Required.** An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the lot, parcel, or tract line except where the adjacent single-family or duplex residential zoning district or use abuts a required roadway landscaping area.
- (d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required.** Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural/synthetic landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved non-living ground cover material shall be covered in a living plant material.

**(E) Internal Landscaping.** The following internal landscaping is required:

**(1) Requirements for Multifamily Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for multifamily uses:

- (a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 15% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.
- (b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.
- (c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs.** A maximum of 1/2 of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

(2) **Requirements for Non-Residential Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for non-residential uses.

- (a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 5% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.
- (b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.
- (c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs.** A maximum of ½ of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs adjacent to retail store fronts where the view of wall signs may be obstructed. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

(3) **Standards for Required Internal Landscape Area.**

- (a) **Intent of Internal Landscaping.** The intent of the internal landscape area is to provide relief from structures and hard surfaces through the use of plantings.
- (b) **Location of Internal Landscape Areas.** The required internal landscape areas shall be located in accordance with the following standards:
  - (i) Adjacent to those building elevations which form the major public views of the building from adjacent roads and properties and to the users of the project; or
  - (ii) At all pedestrian entrances, except service-only entries; or
  - (iii) Within a plaza or courtyard between buildings or portions of buildings, (plaza/courtyard is to have at least 1 side open); or
  - (iv) In an area provided to separate building areas from parking areas; or
  - (v) In a similar location which substantially conforms to the purpose of the required internal landscape area.
- (c) **Area Calculation.** The entire lot, parcel or tract area shall be used as the basis for calculating required the internal landscape area. In instances where an entire lot, parcel, or tract is not used for the proposed development, the area used to calculate the required internal landscape area may be reduced by the PCD Director based on the area of the lot, parcel or tract actually being developed or used. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area determined by the PCD Director to be developed or used. However, even if reductions in the lot area are approved, the PCD Director may require that additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is provided at the first stage of a larger project to mitigate environmental impacts or meet the intent of the landscaping provisions of the LDC.
- (d) **Paved Areas within an Internal Landscaped Area.** Sidewalks which provide basic pedestrian circulation shall not count toward meeting the internal landscape area requirement. Paved plazas may be credited to a maximum of 50% of required internal landscaping area if such plazas have trees and other pedestrian-only amenities (benches, sculpture, decorative paving, etc.), are not vehicular, and provide visual relief to those building elevations which form the major public views of the project.

(F) **Minimum Plant Sizes and Percentage of Live Ground Cover.**

- (1) **Landscape Material Specifications.** Plant installation sizes and characteristics shall meet the following minimum requirements.
  - (a) **Deciduous Shade Trees.** Deciduous shade trees shall be 1½ inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.
  - (b) **Deciduous Ornamental Trees.** Deciduous ornamental trees shall be 1 inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.

(c) Evergreen Trees. Evergreen trees shall be 6 feet in height above ground, balled and burlapped, except Pinon Pine and upright junipers which shall be a minimum 4 feet in height.

(d) Evergreen and Deciduous Shrubs. Evergreen and deciduous shrubs, where required, shall be 5-gallon size.

(e) Ground Cover and Vines. Ground cover and vines shall be 1 size.

(2) Required Ground Cover. Unless utilizing the principles of xeriscaping, required landscape areas shall include a minimum of 30% ground cover by living or synthetic grass or other living plant materials at maturity. The remaining 70% of the required landscape area may be covered with bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other landscape materials. No other areas within required landscape areas shall remain bare. The foliage crown of trees shall not be counted in meeting the ground cover requirement.

(G) Other Required Landscape Areas.

(1) Other Areas to be Landscaped or Screened.

(a) Zoning District Boundary Trees. A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 30 feet of lot, parcel, or tract line coincident with a zoning district boundary line except if otherwise required to meet the buffering requirements between a non-residential use or multifamily use and residential zoning district.

(b) Refuse Areas Screened. Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, shall be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by an opaque wall or fence, architectural elements, dense evergreen plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet, or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet.

(c) Loading Docks and Other Vehicle Areas Screened. Loading docks, vehicle repair bays, and vehicle fueling areas shall be screened from view from adjacent roads by the use of plantings, berms, walls, fences, or other architectural elements.

(d) Water Storage Tank and Utility Facilities Landscape Requirements.

(i) Site-Specific Landscaping Required. PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for a water storage tank and utility facilities. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to putting a water storage tank or utility facility into operation. The site-specific landscaping is subject to the following standards:

- Rural and Remote Areas: In rural and remote areas landscaping, screening and erosion control measures shall be tailored to the nature and character of the area and the type of facility or structure contemplated. Site-specific landscaping shall, at a minimum, include revegetation of disturbed areas with materials indigenous to the site or otherwise adaptable.

- Urbanized and Developed Areas: In urbanized and developed areas, the site-specific landscaping shall address specific issues such as screening and visual impacts.

(e) Outside Storage Area Landscaping Requirements.

(i) Site-Specific Landscaping Required. PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for establishing an outside storage area. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to utilizing an outside storage area.

(ii) Site-Specific Landscaping Standards. The site-specific landscaping shall reflect a combination of berms, shrubs, trees, fences or walls which will provide, at maturity, a minimum 6 foot high, 100% opaque screening for the outside storage area.

(2) Miscellaneous Requirements.

- (a) **Flexibility in Design Allowed.** The owner may select the types of and the planting spaces between the required trees. The types of trees selected shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and should be a type listed in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (b) **Minimum Cover of Internal Landscape Area.** The internal landscape area shall consist of a minimum of 50% ground cover by living or synthetic (grass only) plant materials, xeriscape may be included for a reduction to 30%. The Landscaping and Planting Manual provides guidance for planting near foundations.
- (c) **Plant Spacing.** The planting spacing should accommodate the growth characteristics of the trees without adversely impacting structures, walks, or drives.
- (d) **Minimum Planting Size of Trees.** The minimum planting size of trees shall comply with this Section and should comply with any additional specifications established in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (e) **Existing Vegetation.** Existing vegetation which meets the plant type requirements of the Landscaping and Planting Manual may be counted toward the internal landscape requirement.
- (f) **Limitations on Landscape Placement.**
  - (i) **No Conflicts with Traffic or Sight Distance.** Landscaping shall not conflict with traffic. Sight distance shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2 of the ECM.
  - (ii) **No Interference with Utilities and Fire Equipment.** Landscaping shall not interfere with the general function, safety, or acceptability of any gas, electric, water, sewer, telephone, or other utility easement or conflict with criteria established or adopted by a fire department. Landscaping shall not exceed 8 inches in height within 3 feet of a fire hydrant or other applicable fire department criteria.
- (g) **Limitations on Landscape Materials.**
  - (i) The use of artificial vines, turf, or groundcovers as landscape material may be allowed on a case-by-case basis where live landscaping materials may be at risk or inappropriate due to land use, water availability, or location.
  - (ii) Prohibited/Noxious planting list is included in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (h) **Calculating the Required Number of Plants.**
  - (i) **Fractional Numbers Rounded to Closest Whole Number.** Where a requirement results in a fractional number, the applicable requirement shall be the closest whole number (5.0 to 5.49 = 5; 5.5 to 5.9 = 6).
  - (ii) **Greatest Landscape Standard Applies.** Where more than 1 landscape requirement applies to the same use and landscape area, the greater requirements shall be met.
  - (iii) **Landscaping Only Fulfills 1 Requirement.** Landscaping necessary to fulfill 1 requirement shall not be counted in fulfilling a different landscape requirement, unless otherwise stipulated in this Code.
  - (iv) **Clumping Forms of Trees Encouraged.** Clumps of trees, such as Hawthorn (*Craetagus* sp.), are encouraged instead of single-trunk trees. Smaller caliper trees to meet the minimum caliper are accepted, however, a clump of 3 or fewer trees shall be credited as only 1 of the required trees.
- (i) **Approval of Certificate of Occupancy or Use.** All required landscaping shall be completed, and then inspected and approved by the PCD prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the Building Department or establishment of the use, except when financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director guaranteeing the completion of the landscaping is provided. Plant substitutions require approval before issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Any request

for a Certificate of Occupancy prior to the completion of the required landscaping shall include a written request explaining the circumstances why the landscaping cannot be installed, a cost estimate prepared by a qualified party, a landscape completion agreement signed by the owner, and financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director. Inspection and certification by a landscape architect of compliance with this Section may be accepted at the discretion of the PCD Director.

(j) **Compliance with Plans.** The completed landscaping shall comply with the approved landscape plan and shall include the quantities, locations, species and sizes of plants and other landscape materials as represented on the approved landscape plan. Seeded landscape areas shall have no bare areas larger than 6 square inches after germination.

(k) **Maintenance.**

(i) Owner Responsible. The owner is responsible for all regular and normal maintenance of required landscaping including weeding, irrigation, fertilizing, pruning, mowing, and replacement in the care of artificial turf.

(ii) Replacement of Dead or Damaged Materials. Replacement of dead, diseased or substantially damaged plant materials shall occur within 6 months from when the plant material died, or when the inspection determined the plant material was dead or damaged. Replacement shall be of the same or similar type as originally approved. An alternative type of species shall require approval by the PCD Director.

(iii) Maintenance Inspections. Maintenance inspections may be performed periodically. Failure to maintain the landscaping in compliance with the approval is considered a zoning violation.

**APPENDIX B**                      **RECOMMENDED LANDSCAPING MATERIALS**

Found within this Appendix are plant materials that are xeric and especially recommended for El Paso County's challenging climate. More water-intensive plants are not listed and are not encouraged. The utilization and thoughtful selection of drought-resistant/drought-tolerant plant materials ~~is~~are emphasized, along with appropriately designed irrigation systems, redirection of natural moisture, and reduced reliance on high-water-use turf in favor of other ground cover, for all areas of the County.

\*This is not a complete list of appropriate plant materials. The ~~DSDPCD~~ staff will consider ~~for~~ approval of other species, based on proven or anticipated survival.

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Ohio Buckeye Aesculus glabra	X	
Rocky Mountain Serviceberry (single stem) Amelanchier alnifolia	X	X
New Mexico Privet Foresteira neomexicana	X	X
New Mexico Locust Robinia neomexicana	X	X
Crabapple Malus sp.	X	X
Tatarian Maple Acer tataricum	X	X
Cherries, plums, chokecherries Prunus sp.	X	X
<b>EVERGREEN TREES</b>		
Pine, Austrian Pinus nigra	X	

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TREES	Suitable for Streetscapes, Buffers, Internal Landscaping Areas	Suitable under Power Lines
Pine, Pinon Pinus edulis	X	X
Pine, Ponderosa Pinus ponderosa	X	
Pine, Scotch Pinus sylvestris	X	
Foxtail Pine Pinus aristata		
<b>UPRIGHT EVERGREENS</b>		
Upright Junipers Juniperus scopulorum	X	X
Rocky Mountain Juniper Juniperus monosperma	X	X
One-Seed Juniper Juniperus virginiana	X	X
Red Cedar Thuja plicata		

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Fountain Grass Pennisetum alopecuroides		2'
Purple Fountain Grass Pennisetum setaceum "Rubrum"		2'
<b>MEDIUM - 4' TO 6' MATURE HEIGHT</b>		
Karl Foerster Grass Calamagrostis acutiflora		3'
Scotch Broom Cytisus scoparius "Moonlight"	X	5'
Juniper, Pfitzer Juniperus chinensis pfitzeriana	X	5'
Juniper, Pfitzer Compact Juniperus chinensis kelleyi	X	4'
Juniper, Pfitzer Gold Tip Juniperus chinensis pfitzeriara aurea	X	4'
Curl-leaf Mountain mahogany Cercocarpus ledifolius	X	5'
Fernbush Chamaebatiaria millefoium	X	4'

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Appendix B

Wayfaring Tree Viburnum lantana	X	8'
Spirea, Vanhoutte Spiraea vanhouttei	X	6'

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**Recommended Groundcovers for El Paso County**

<b>GROUND COVERS (less than 24" at maturity)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Creeping and Spreading Junipers Juniperus horizontalis varieties	Will provide four season interest and prevent erosion year-round
Snow in Summer Cerastium tomentosum	Spring/summer interest only
Blue Fescue Festuca ovina glauca	Spring/summer interest; erosion prevention qualities
Hens and Chicks Sempervivum sp.	Four season interest; will spread and prevent erosion
Creeping Hollygrape Mahonia repens	Four season interest; should be protected from winter wind; will grow in shade
Kinnikinnick Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Four season interest; will grow in shade
Rock Cotoneaster Cotoneaster horizontalis	Four season interest; should be protected from winter wind; will grow in shade
Silver Mound, Wormwood Artemesia	Spring/summer interest; erosion prevention qualities
Stonecrops, Goldmoss, Dragonblood Sedum sp.	Spring/summer interest; erosion prevention qualities

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Chrysothamnus nauseosus	and greater screening
▲ Apache Plume Fallugia paradoxa	
▲ Potentilla Potentilla furticosa	
▲ Yucca Yucca species	Sharp leaves: don't use where pedestrians might want to walk

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**LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

**Other Recommended Plants for El Paso County**

**Habitat Plants**

- Chokecherry, Plums, Cherries (Prunus sp.)
- Chokeberry (Aronia sp.)
- Current/Gooseberry (Ribes sp.)
- Serviceberry (Amelanchier sp.)
- Three leaf Sumac (Rhus trilobata)
- Alder
- Cottonwood (Populus grandidentatum)
- Current (Ribes odoratum "Crandall")

**Turf Grasses**

**Non-Irrigated Areas**

(Depends entirely on natural precipitation)

- Crested Wheatgrass Agropyron cristatum
- Buffalograss Buchloe dactyloides
- Blue Gramma Bouteloua gracilis

**Planting References**

- Colorado Nurserymen's Association, Colorado Nursery Plant Guide, 1982.
- Kelly, George, Rocky Mountain Horticulture, 1967.
- Sunset Books, New Western Garden Book, 1979.
- Xeriscape Plan Guide, Denver Water, American Water Works Association, 1996.
- [www.xratedgardening.com](http://www.xratedgardening.com)
- Sunset Western Garden Book, Kathleen Brenzel, Editor, 2001.  
R, Andrew Hough, Douglas County Community Development Department, 2006.

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LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL

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APPENDIX C Noxious Weeds

\*Please see "Noxious Weeds and Control Methods" by EPC Community Services Department, Environmental Division  
<https://epc-assets.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/Environmental-Division-Picture/Noxious-Weeds/Noxious-Weed-Control-Book.pdf>

Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) Classification of Noxious Weeds

<b>List A:</b> <i>Rare noxious weeds that must be eradicated statewide</i>
<a href="#">Cypress spurge</a>
<a href="#">Dyer's woad</a>
<a href="#">Knotweeds: Giant, Japanese &amp; Bohemian</a>
<a href="#">Myrtle spurge</a>
<a href="#">Orange hawkweed</a>
<a href="#">Purple loosestrife</a>

<b>List B:</b> <i>Discretely distributed noxious weeds that must be eradicated, contained, or suppressed, depending on their location, to stop their continued spread.</i>
<a href="#">Absinth wormwood</a>
<a href="#">Bouncingbet</a>
<a href="#">Bull thistle</a>
<a href="#">Canada thistle</a>
<a href="#">Chinese clematis</a>
<a href="#">Common teasel</a>
<a href="#">Dalmatian toadflax</a>
<a href="#">Diffuse knapweed</a>
<a href="#">Hoary cress (whitetop)</a>
<a href="#">Houndstongue</a>
<a href="#">Leafy spurge</a>
<a href="#">Musk thistle</a>
<a href="#">Perennial pepperweed</a>
<a href="#">Russian knapweed</a>
<a href="#">Russian olive</a>
<a href="#">Scentless chamomile</a>
<a href="#">Scotch thistle</a>

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**LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

<a href="#">Spotted knapweed</a>
<a href="#">Tamarisk (Salt cedar)</a>
<a href="#">Yellow toadflax</a>

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<b>List C:</b> <i>Widespread and well-established noxious weeds in Colorado; control is recommended by the state and may be required by local government</i>
<a href="#">Common mullein</a>
<a href="#">Downy brome / Cheatgrass</a>
<a href="#">Field bindweed</a>
<a href="#">Poison hemlock</a>

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**PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**TO:** El Paso County Planning Commission  
Thomas Bailey, Chair

**FROM:** Justin Kilgore, Planning Manager  
Meggan Herington, AICP, Executive Director

**RE:** LDC233, Land Development Code Amendment - Landscape Code Amendments to Chapter 6 of the El Paso County Land Development Code (as amended)

**Commissioner District:** All

Planning Commission Hearing Date	01/18/2024
Board of County Commissioners Hearing Date	02/08/2024

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A request by the El Paso County Planning and Community Development Department to amend Chapter 6, Development Standards for Ancillary Facilities and Activities, of the El Paso County Land Development Code (as amended) to revise the regulations for clarification of the requirements, increase options for landscaping materials, and provide a Landscaping and Planting Manual for reference. The Landscaping and Planting Manual provides planting details and recommendations, as well as lists detailing appropriate plantings for El Paso County, "Water-wise" plantings, and the Noxious Weed List.

**A. APPLICABLE RESOLUTION**

See attached resolution.

**B. REQUEST**

A request by the El Paso County Planning and Community Development Department to revise Chapter 6 of the El Paso County Land Development Code (as amended) to include:

- o Amending the Section to reference "Planning and Community Development" or "PCD" rather than "Development Services";

- Amending the Section to allow for modification of landscaping requirements subject to a “PUD” zoning;
- Removing the requirement of an “Alternative Landscaping Plan” and allowing for more options in creating effective landscape design;
- Amending the Section to provide for clarification of Landscaping along County roads and sidewalks, and provide for the installation of appropriate safeguards for such Plantings;
- Amending the Section to provide for details and recommendations of Landscaping, Plantings, and Xeriscaping with the Landscaping and Planting Manual;
  - Adopting the Landscaping and Planting Manual
  - Adding Noxious Weed list and recommended planting lists to Manual
  - Providing recommendations within the Manual to be more consistent with local jurisdictions
  - Adding definitions within the Manual
- Amending the Section to provide for Xeriscaping and artificial Landscaping materials;

Staff is also requesting authority to make all other conforming amendments necessary to carry out the intent of the Board of County Commissioners.

**C. BACKGROUND**

The El Paso County Land Development Code is routinely amended to respond to current land use trends, recurring issues, changes in legislation, and errors/oversights. The Planning and Community Development Department staff maintains a running list of necessary and recommended revisions to the Code as issues arise. Requests identified by the industry and applicants, as well as leadership, partner departments, and staff contributed to this update. This amendment was previously heard as an informational item at the January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Planning Commission Meeting.

This amendment to the Code was made possible through the recommendations of forty-three review agencies; the CSU Extension, EPC Parks Department, EPC Environmental Services, EPC Stormwater, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the review team at the Housing and Building Association, and many others provided invaluable expert advice. Recommendations from the review have allowed for an update to the Code that provides appropriate plantings for El Paso County, allows for xeric or low-water design options in landscape plans, and provides more details and instructions to landscaping in El Paso County. A “Water-wise” planting list (Trees, Shrubs, and Grasses) for appropriate plantings along the



Front Range has been included within the Landscaping and Planting Manual, as well as a recommended planting list that provides appropriate plantings within El Paso County.

El Paso County is a statutory County, which requires the County regulations to align with those rules and regulations included within the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S). The C.R.S, in most instances, is flexible enough to allow each jurisdiction the ability to customize their rules and regulations in ways that best suit the needs of the local community as well as those challenges present in each community.

The Planning and Community Development Department has prepared the recommended amendments to the Land Development Code in an effort to comply with the Your El Paso Master Plan (2021).

#### **D. MASTER PLAN**

*“The County’s Land Development Code governs the use and development of property and provides a legal framework for implementing the Master Plan’s recommendations. The purpose of the County’s Land Development Code is to preserve and improve the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens and businesses of El Paso County, and to:*

- *Implement the Master Plan and related elements.*
- *Promote predictability, consistency and efficiency in the land development process for residents, neighborhoods, businesses, agricultural and development interests.*
- *Ensure appropriate opportunities for participation and involvement in the development process by all affected parties.*
- *Be fair to all by ensuring due consideration is given to protecting private property rights, the rights of individuals and the rights of the community as a whole.*
- *Guide the future growth and development of the County in accordance with the Master Plan.*
- *Guide public and private policy and action in order to provide adequate and efficient transportation, water, sewage, schools, parks, playgrounds, recreation, and other public requirements and facilities.*



- *Establish reasonable standards of design and procedures for subdivision and resubdivision in order to further the orderly layout and use of land and to ensure proper legal descriptions and monumenting of subdivided land.*
- *Ensure that public facilities and services are available concurrent with development and will have a sufficient capacity to serve the proposed subdivision, and, in so doing, ensure that current residents will be required to bear no more than their fair share of the cost of providing the facilities and services by requiring the developer to pay fees, furnish land, or establish mitigation measures to cover the development's fair share of the capital facilities needs generated by the development.*
- *Prevent the pollution of air, streams, and ponds; assure the adequacy of drainage facilities; and encourage the wise use and management of natural and biological resources throughout the County in order to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the community and the value of the land."*

More specifically the Master Plan identifies the need for periodic amendments to El Paso County's Land Development Code as stated below:

*"Code Amendments and Updates*

*Your El Paso Master Plan establishes the overall vision for the character and intensity of land use and development throughout the County, as well as the policies and goals related to infrastructure, transportation, facilities and services, the natural environment, and much more. To ensure the Land Development Code remains an effective tool for Master Plan implementation it should be reviewed and amended as necessary, particularly the zoning and development standards, to ensure consistency and alignment with the principles, goals, and recommendations of the Master Plan."*

**E. APPROVAL CRITERIA**

The statutory role of the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners is identified below:

**30-28-116. Regulations may be amended.**

*From time to time the board of county commissioners may amend the number, shape, boundaries, or area of any district, or any regulation of or within such district, or any other provisions of the zoning resolution. Any such amendment shall not be made or become*



*effective unless the same has been proposed by or is first submitted for the approval, disapproval, or suggestions of the county planning commission. If disapproved by such commission within thirty days after such submission, such amendment to become effective, shall receive the favorable vote of not less than a majority of the entire membership of the board of county commissioners. Before finally adopting any such amendment, the board of county commissioners shall hold a public hearing thereon, and at least fourteen days' notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be given by at least one publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.*

**F. PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE**

A “redlined” version of the proposed Code amendments and Landscaping and Planting Manual are available in “EDARP” under file number LDC233. The members of the Housing and Building Association Land Use Committee helped draft language to make this document current and agreeable with other jurisdictions. A letter of support from the HBA is included in this packet. Notice of the Board of County Commissioners public hearing will be published in *The Gazette* on 1/13/2024 pursuant to C.R.S. § 30-28-116 and the affidavit of publication will be included in the final packet presented before the Board.

**G. ATTACHMENTS**

- Proposed Amendments to the Land Development Code (as amended) (redline version)
- Proposed Amendments to the Landscaping and Planting Manual (redline version)
- Final “Clean” Draft of Landscape Code
- Final “Clean” Draft of Landscaping and Planting Manual
- HBA Letter of Support (01/10/2024)
- Draft Planning Commission Resolution









- (b) **New Use Established or Use Changed.** Landscaping areas shall conform to this Section for a new building or use of previously vacant land, uses in an enlarged building, and all uses in a building when any use is changed that requires a change of occupancy to be approved by the Building Department or by the PCD.
- (c) **Effect of Increase in Building Area.** A single or cumulative building addition (floor area) which exceeds 50% of the existing building's gross floor area shall require the entire building landscaping to comply with this Section. The existing building shall be considered the building as it existed on the effective date of this Section.
- (3) **Requirements of Section Supplemented by Manual.** The requirements of this Section are supplemented by the ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation~~ ~~Planting~~ Manual.
- (4) **Authority of Director to Approve ~~Alternative~~ ~~Substitute~~ Landscape Designs.** The PCD Director may approve landscaping that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section provided the proposed landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation~~ ~~Planting~~ Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the PCD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section.

(B) **Roadway Landscaping Requirements.** Roadway landscaping areas are required. A roadway landscaping area is located along the lot, parcel or tract frontage between the road right-of-way, easement, or tract boundary lines and any building or use.

- (1) **Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area.** Table 6-1 lists the depth and number of trees required to be provided along any road in roadway landscaping area. Where the required setback is narrower than the depth of the required landscape area, the roadway landscaping area depth shall control. Unless otherwise approved by the ECM Administrator, the depth of roadway landscaping shall be measured from the property line. Where a roadway easement has been provided, the measurement shall be from the ROW or roadway easement. Where future ROW has been identified, the measurement should begin at the future ROW line in order avoid subsequent impairment of the landscaping.

**Table 6-1. Roadway Landscaping Required by Roadway Classification**

Road Classification	Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area	Required Trees (Trees/ Linear Foot of Frontage)
Expressway, Principal Arterial	25 feet	1 per 20 feet
Urban Interchange/Intersection	25 feet	<del>NA-1 per 20 feet (Substitute shrubs for visibility)</del>
Minor Arterial	20 feet	1 per 25 feet
Non-Arterial <sup>1</sup>	10 feet	1 per 30 feet

<sup>1</sup> The required depth of the roadway landscape area shall be increased to 15 feet along a non-arterial road or public alley where the road or alley separates a non-residential use from a residential zoning district. The number of required trees shall be increased to 1 per 15 feet of linear frontage. A minimum of ¼ of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

- (2) **Location and Type of Trees in Roadway Landscaping Area.**
  - (a) **Clustering Allowed.** The roadway landscaping trees may be clustered along a road frontage. The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in areas where the winter

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shade will cause unsafe conditions on an adjacent road. ~~Clustering shall not be permitted when shade from clustering would be detrimental to adjacent road due to potential winter conditions as determined by the PCD Director or designee.~~

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(b) **Type of Tree Limited.** The types of roadway landscaping trees utilized shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and listed in the Landscape ~~Water Efficiency Manual~~ and Water ~~Conservation~~ Wise Planting List.

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(c) **Exceeding Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping.** The roadway landscaping trees shall be located within 50 feet of the road right-of-way, easement or tract boundary line and any building or use.

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(d) **Allowed in Right-of-Way if Approved.** The roadway landscaping trees may be placed in a right-of-way if the right-of-way owner approves the placement and no conflicts exist, or will exist, with utility easements or any provider of utilities. ~~establishment of landscaping along private roads must include appropriate maintenance agreement between parties.~~ Generally, trees are not allowed to be placed within any County right-of-way. Placing of the required roadway landscaping trees within the right-of-way shall not negate the requirement for the required roadway landscape area. All landscaping placed within County Right-of-way shall install appropriate safeguards for roadway and/or sidewalks to include "Tree root guards" where appropriate. Permission must be granted for all landscaping within the County Right-of-way through the Department of Public Works.

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(e) **Single-Family PUD Roadway Landscaping.** Roadway landscaping ~~is not required~~ along local residential roadways (non-arterials) within a residential PUD. ~~is subject to the individual PUD.~~

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(3) **Walls and Fences in Roadway Landscape Area.** Walls and fences which are 25% or more opaque shall not exceed 3 feet in height when located within a required roadway landscaping area. Opaque walls and fences higher than 3 feet (such as noise barriers) shall be located outside of the roadway landscaping area to maintain a landscaped appearance along the road.

(C) **Parking Lot Landscape Requirements.**

(1) **Required Trees.** A tree of a type suitable for parking lots shall be provided for every 15 parking spaces in parking lots with 15 or more parking spaces. The required trees may be clustered and shall be located in a manner which will divide and break up expanses of paving and long rows of parking and create a canopy effect over the parking lot. See Landscaping and Planting Manual for island details.

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(2) **Parking Lot Islands.** The most common method to satisfy the parking lot tree requirement is through the utilization of plant islands, fingers (areas open to the parking on 3 sides), and corners (open to the parking on 2 sides). Islands, fingers, and corners are required to be incorporated into all parking lots of 15 parking spaces or more in area. 1 island shall be provided for every 15 spaces. An island, finger or corner ~~that is the same size as must be a minimum of two parking space counts~~ spaces in size (18' x 18' or 9' x 36' in order to qualify as a required island. ~~An island the size of 2 spaces counts as 2 islands. Pedestrian entry spaces also count as an island, including the ramp, finger, or corner.~~ Parking lots containing fewer than ~~25~~ 15 spaces shall not be required to provide islands but must include some other form such as a finger or corner plantings to satisfy the requirement.

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Islands should be located at the end of center rows and at entry locations to direct traffic and minimize cutovers. Islands should generally be used and located to organize and enhance circulation, breakup continuous parking areas, and capture and direct stormwater. Islands protect vegetation from damage. See [Landscaping and Planting Manual](#).

Small parking lots may utilize the perimeter area of the parking lot to satisfy the parking lot tree location requirement when there are not more than 2 rows of parking spaces and a single drive aisle. Where a parking lot is not required to be paved, no islands shall be required.

The tree types, minimum planter sizes and utilization of perimeter tree placement shall be consistent with the [Landscape Landscaping](#) and [Water Conservation Planting](#) Manual.

[Parking lot island landscaping may also be counted towards Internal Landscape requirements provided any portion of the island is within 20 feet of a building elevation.](#)

(3) **Protection of Trees from Damage.** Parking lot trees shall be protected from vehicle damage by curbs, planters or other barriers.

(4) **Storm Drainage for Irrigation Encouraged.** Parking lots designs that allow runoff to enter landscaped areas for irrigation and controlling non-point source pollution are encouraged.

(5) **Required Parking Lot Screening.** Parking lots shall be screened from view from adjacent roads and properties with differing land uses. The minimum height of the screening shall be 3 feet and may be accomplished by using berms and plantings. A minimum of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the road frontage or common lot, parcel, or tract boundary, not counting intersecting driveways, shall be provided with the required screening. The maximum spacing of plants to achieve an acceptable screen and the maximum acceptable grades for screening areas, such as grass berms and plantings beds, should be consistent with the [Landscape Landscaping](#) and [Water Conservation Planting](#) Manual.

Decorative walls or fences may be approved if the Director finds that:

- The wall or fence avoids a blank and monotonous appearance by architectural articulation and the planting of vines, shrubs, or trees;
- The total use of berms or plantings is not physically feasible; or
- The wall or fence attractively complements the use of berms or plantings.

(D) **Required Buffer and Screen Areas.**

(1) **Buffer Between Non-Residential and Residential Districts Separated by a Non-Arterial Road or Public Alley.**

(a) **Where Required.** A buffer is required along the road-side lot, parcel, or tract line of any non-residential use where the use is separated from a residential zoning district by a non-arterial road or public alley.

(b) **Depth and Planting Standards.** The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 15 feet of the road frontage. A minimum of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

(c) **Opaque Fence or Wall Required.** An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the inside edge of the required buffer when the area immediately adjacent to the 15-foot buffer is used as a service corridor for loading, maneuvering or storage. If the area is used for parking, the required parking lot screening shall be applicable.

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(d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required.** The required buffer area shall require a ground cover at maturity with a minimum of 75% living plant materials. Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved living ground cover material shall be covered in an approved non-living ground cover.

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(2) **Buffer Between Non-Residential, Multifamily Residential and Single-Family/Duplex Uses.**

(a) **Where Required.** A buffer is required in the following situations:

- (i) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the non-residential use property between the non-residential use and a residential zoning district.
- (ii) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the multifamily use property between the multifamily use and a single-family or duplex zoning district.
- (iii) On the residential side of the project when use to use compatibility is a concern.

(b) **Depth and Planting Standards.** The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 25 feet of common lot, parcel, or tract line. A minimum of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

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(c) **Opaque Fencing or Wall Required.** An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the lot, parcel, or tract line except where the adjacent single-family or duplex residential zoning district or use abuts a required roadway landscaping area.

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(d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required.** Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural/synthetic landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved non-living ground cover material shall be covered in a living plant material.

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(E) **Internal Landscaping.** The following internal landscaping is required:

(1) **Requirements for Multifamily Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for multifamily uses:

(a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 15% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.

(b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.

(c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs.** A maximum of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

(2) **Requirements for Non-Residential Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for non-residential uses.

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(a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 5% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.

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(b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.

(c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs.** A maximum of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs adjacent to retail store fronts where the view of wall signs may be obstructed. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

(3) **Standards for Required Internal Landscape Area.**

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- (a) **Intent of Internal Landscaping.** The intent of the internal landscape area is to provide relief from structures and hard surfaces through the use of plantings.
  - (b) **Location of Internal Landscape Areas.** The required internal landscape areas shall be located in accordance with the following standards:
    - (i) Adjacent to those building elevations which form the major public views of the building from adjacent roads and properties and to the users of the project; or
    - (ii) At all pedestrian entrances, except service-only entries; or
    - (iii) Within a plaza or courtyard between buildings or portions of buildings, ~~the~~ plaza/courtyard is to have at least 1 side open; or
    - (iv) In an area provided to separate building areas from parking areas; or
    - (v) In a similar location which substantially conforms to the purpose of the required internal landscape area.
  - (c) **Area Calculation.** The entire lot, parcel or tract area shall be used as the basis for calculating required the internal landscape area. In instances where an entire lot, parcel, or tract is not used for the proposed development, the area used to calculate the required internal landscape area may be reduced by the PCD Director based on the area of the lot, parcel or tract actually being developed or used. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area determined by the PCD Director to be developed or used. However, even if reductions in the lot area are approved, the PCD Director may require that additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is provided at the first stage of a larger project to mitigate environmental impacts or meet the intent of the landscaping provisions of the LDC.
  - (d) **Paved Areas within an Internal Landscaped Area.** Sidewalks which provide basic pedestrian circulation shall not count toward meeting the internal landscape area requirement. Paved plazas may be credited to a maximum of 50% of required internal landscaping area if such plazas have trees and other pedestrian-only amenities (benches, sculpture, decorative paving, etc.), are not vehicular, and provide visual relief to those building elevations which form the major public views of the project.
- (F) **Minimum Plant Sizes and Percentage of Live Ground Cover.**
- (1) **Landscape Material Specifications.** Plant installation sizes and characteristics shall meet the following minimum requirements.
    - (a) **Deciduous Shade Trees.** Deciduous shade trees shall be 1½ inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.
    - (b) **Deciduous Ornamental Trees.** Deciduous ornamental trees shall be 1 inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.
    - (c) **Evergreen Trees.** Evergreen trees shall be 6 feet in height above ground, balled and burlapped, except Pinon Pine and upright junipers which shall be a minimum 4 feet in height.
    - (d) **Evergreen and Deciduous Shrubs.** Evergreen and deciduous shrubs, where required, shall be 5-gallon size.
    - (e) **Ground Cover and Vines.** Ground cover and vines shall be 1 size.
  - (2) **Required Live Material Ground Cover.** Unless ~~otherwise allowed~~ utilizing the principles of xeriscaping, required landscape areas shall include a minimum of ~~75~~30% ground cover by

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living ~~or synthetic~~ grass or other living plant materials at maturity. The remaining ~~25~~70% of the required landscape area may be covered with bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other landscape materials ~~or may be designed as hard surfaced pedestrian areas. No other areas within required landscape areas shall remain bare.~~ The foliage crown of trees shall not be counted in meeting the ground cover requirement.

(G) **Other Required Landscape Areas.**

(1) **Other Areas to be Landscaped or Screened.**

- (a) **Zoning District Boundary Trees.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 30 feet of lot, parcel, or tract line coincident with a zoning district boundary line except if otherwise required to meet the buffering requirements between a non-residential use or multifamily use and residential zoning district.
- (b) **Refuse Areas Screened.** Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, shall be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by an opaque wall or fence, architectural elements, dense evergreen plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet, or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet.
- (c) **Loading Docks and Other Vehicle Areas Screened.** Loading docks, vehicle repair bays, and vehicle fueling areas shall be screened from view from adjacent roads by the use of plantings, berms, walls, fences, or other architectural elements.
- (d) **Landscaping Required Between Lot and Curb.** Landscaping is required between the lot, parcel, or tract line and the required roadway landscaping area. Although this landscape area is located within the right-of-way, easement or tract, the adjacent lot, parcel or tract owner shall be responsible for maintenance. Xeric plantings shall be used in order to avoid the need to install an irrigation system within the right-of-way, easement or tract. Xeric plants may require supplemental irrigation to get them established or in times of extreme drought. Installation of an irrigation system requires approval of EPCDPW or owner or right-of-way, easement or tract. Installation of plant materials may also require approval of the EPCDPW or owner or right-of-way, easement or tract.

~~(e)~~(d) **Water Storage Tank and Utility Facilities Landscape Requirements.**

- (i) Site-Specific Landscaping Required. PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for a water storage tank and utility facilities. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to putting a water storage tank or utility facility into operation. The site-specific landscaping is subject to the following standards:
  - Rural and Remote Areas: In rural and remote areas landscaping, screening and erosion control measures shall be tailored to the nature and character of the area and the type of facility or structure contemplated. Site-specific landscaping shall, at a minimum, include revegetation of disturbed areas with materials indigenous to the site or otherwise adaptable.
  - Urbanized and Developed Areas: In urbanized and developed areas, the site-specific landscaping shall address specific issues such as screening and visual impacts.

~~(f)~~(e) **Outside Storage Area Landscaping Requirements.**

- (i) Site-Specific Landscaping Required. PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for establishing an outside storage area. Installation of

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approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to utilizing an outside storage area.

- (ii) Site-Specific Landscaping Standards. The site-specific landscaping shall reflect a combination of berms, shrubs, trees, fences or walls which will provide, at maturity, a minimum 6 foot high, 100% opaque screening for the outside storage area.

(2) **Miscellaneous Requirements.**

(a) **Flexibility in Design Allowed.** The owner may select the types of and the planting spaces between the required trees. The types of trees selected shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and should be a type listed in the ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation Planting~~ Manual.

(b) **Minimum Cover of Internal Landscape Area.** The internal landscape area shall consist of a minimum of 50% ground cover by living ~~or synthetic (grass only)~~ plant materials. ~~xeriscape may be included for a reduction to 30%.~~ The ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation Planting~~ Manual provides guidance for planting near foundations.

(c) **Plant Spacing.** The planting spacing should accommodate the growth characteristics of the trees without adversely impacting structures, walks, or drives.

(d) **Minimum Planting Size of Trees.** The minimum planting size of trees shall comply with this Section and should comply with any additional specifications established in the ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation Planting~~ Manual.

(e) **Existing Vegetation.** Existing vegetation which meets the plant type requirements of the ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation Planting~~ Manual may be counted toward the internal landscape requirement.

(f) **Limitations on Landscape Placement.**

(i) **No Conflicts with Traffic or Sight Distance.** Landscaping shall not conflict with traffic. Sight distance shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(ii) **No Interference with Utilities and Fire Equipment.** Landscaping shall not interfere with the general function, safety, or acceptability of any gas, electric, water, sewer, telephone, or other utility easement or conflict with criteria established or adopted by a fire department. Landscaping shall not exceed 8 inches in height within 3 feet of a fire hydrant or other applicable fire department criteria.

(g) **Limitations on Landscape Materials.**

~~(i) No Artificial Landscape Materials.~~ (i) The use of artificial vines, turf, or groundcovers as landscape material may be allowed on a case-by-case basis where live landscaping materials may be at risk or inappropriate due to land use, water availability, or location.

~~(ii) Elm Trees Prohibited. Trees of the Ulmus genus (elm) are prohibited in meeting the landscape requirements of this Code unless demonstrated to be Dutch Elm Disease resistant.~~

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~~(iii) Use of Box Elder, Salix, and Populus Limited. Box Elder (Acer negundo) and all trees of the Salix and Populus genus, except Aspen (Populus Tremuloides), shall not be planted within 25 feet of a right-of-way.~~

~~(ii) Prohibited/Noxious planting list is included in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.~~

**(h) Calculating the Required Number of Plants.**

(i) Fractional Numbers Rounded to Closest Whole Number. Where a requirement results in a fractional number, the applicable requirement shall be the closest whole number (5.0 to 5.49 = 5; 5.5 to 5.9 = 6).

(ii) Greatest Landscape Standard Applies. Where more than 1 landscape requirements requirement applies to the same use and landscape area, the greater requirements shall be met.

(iii) Landscaping Only Fulfills 1 Requirement. Landscaping necessary to fulfill 1 requirement shall not be counted in fulfilling a different landscape requirement, unless otherwise stipulated in this Code.

(iv) Clumping Forms of Trees Encouraged. Clumps of tree trees, such as Hawthorn (Craetagus sp.), are encouraged instead of single-trunk trees. However smaller caliper trees to meet the minimum caliper are accepted, however, a clump of 3 or fewer trees shall be credited as only 1 of the required trees.

(i) **Approval of Certificate of Occupancy or Use.** All required landscaping shall be completed, and then inspected and approved by the PCD prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the Building Department or establishment of the use, except when financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director guaranteeing the completion of the landscaping is provided. Plant substitutions require approval before issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Any request for a Certificate of Occupancy prior to the completion of the required landscaping shall include a written request explaining the circumstances why the landscaping cannot be installed, a cost estimate prepared by a qualified party, a landscape completion agreement signed by the owner, and financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director. Inspection and certification by a landscape architect of compliance with this Section may be accepted at the discretion of the PCD Director.

(j) **Compliance with Plans.** The completed landscaping shall comply with the approved landscape plan and shall include the quantities, locations, species and sizes of plants and other landscape materials as represented on the approved landscape plan. Seeded landscape areas shall have no bare areas larger than 6 square inches after germination.

**(k) Maintenance.**

(i) Owner Responsible. The owner is responsible for all regular and normal maintenance of required landscaping including weeding, irrigation, fertilizing, pruning and mowing, mowing, and replacement in the care of artificial turf.

(ii) Replacement of Dead or Damaged Materials. Replacement of dead, diseased or substantially damaged plant materials shall occur within 6 months from when the plant material died, or when the inspection determined the plant

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material was dead or damaged. Replacement shall be of the same or similar type as originally approved. An alternative type of species shall require approval by the PCD Director.

- (iii) Maintenance Inspections. Maintenance inspections may be performed periodically. Failure to maintain the landscaping in compliance with the approval is considered a zoning violation.

~~(Res. No. 16-164, 5-17-2016; Res. No. 17-374, Exh. A, 12-12-2017; Res. No. 19-62, Exh. A, 2-26-2019)~~

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# Landscape and Water Conservation Manual



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Issue Date: 10/20/06  
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Colorado Springs, CO-80910

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#### 4.1. BASIS FOR LANDSCAPING PLANS

##### 4.1.1. Purpose of this Manual

This Landscaping and ~~Water Conservation~~ Planting Manual (~~Manual~~), supplements the landscaping, buffering, and screening requirements established by the El Paso County Land Development Code (LDC). This Manual includes policies, explanations, examples and illustrations of methods that can be used to help an owner comply with the requirements of the LDC.

This Manual provides information concerning the development and maintenance of landscaping for both private property and public rights-of-way whether required by the LDC or otherwise proposed as part of a development. This Manual also provides information to help ensure appropriate buffering and screening is provided between differing land uses to enhance compatibility.

It is the intent of El Paso County that the information presented in this Manual will help ensure landscaping will:

- have an increased survival rate;
- require minimal maintenance;
- provide the greatest benefit for the dollars spent; and
- work with and compliment the natural environment; and
- encourage water conservation.

##### 4.1.2. Applicability and Relationship to the LDC

This Manual supplements the requirements of the LDC and provides suggestions concerning the best practices to implement the provisions of the LDC. The LDC is the regulatory document that defines the minimum requirements for landscaping with respect to landscape area, size and types of plantings, number of plants, and location of landscape areas. The provisions of the LDC specifically applicable to landscaping have been included in Appendix A to assist the user of this Manual.

##### 4.1.3. Property Rights and the Value of Landscaping

El Paso County recognizes that landscaping can be a significant expense to ~~business people~~ businesspeople and residents. At the same time, vegetation enhances property values, and attracts customers to businesses; provides a quality environment for tourists and residents; reduces stormwater runoff rates and volumes and mitigates water quality concerns in accordance with State and Federal requirements; and controls dust in support of Federal and local requirements. Landscaping also improves the livability of residential neighborhoods, improves the compatibility of adjacent uses, screens undesirable views, contributes to the image and appeal of the overall community, and can reduce noise pollution. Landscaping also supports ecological systems and helps to protect critical species (pollinators, etc.). Landscaping reduces pollution and serves to lessen the effects of urban heat sink effect in dense urban residential areas. The intent of this Manual is to achieve a reasonable balance between the right of individuals to develop and maintain their property in a manner they prefer and the rights of residents of the community to live, work, shop, and recreate in pleasant and attractive surroundings.

##### 4.1.4. Water Resources and Landscaping

El Paso County is in a semi-arid, high plains and foothills environment, which dictates the use of water-conserving, hardy, or indigenous plants. Regardless of the type of plant

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**1.2. GENERAL GUIDELINES**

The following general guidelines should be considered in all situations where landscaping is required by the LDC.

**1.2.1. Vegetation**

**(A) Mimic Nature**

Plants that mimic and blend with the surrounding natural landscape should be used. For example, the Black Forest should emphasize conifers, while the High Plains should emphasize rolling ~~land forms~~ and shrubs.

**(B) Consider All Four Seasons**

Four season effectiveness (evergreens, persistent seed heads or berries, and dense forms) should be included in every landscape design.

**(C) Locate Plants with Similar Needs Together**

Plants with similar water needs should be located next to each other.

**(D) Accommodate the Growth Habit of Each Plant**

Plants should be placed in locations that are appropriate for their growth habit: shade vs. sun, height and spread vs. available space, etc.

**(E) Use Xeric Vegetation**

Xeric vegetation should be used in order to conserve water, minimize maintenance costs, and enhance survival. Appendix B provides a list of suggested drought-tolerant and drought-resistant plants. Other species may be acceptable if they meet xeric principals and are proven to thrive in El Paso County's climate. High water use plants should be minimized or eliminated.

Whenever possible, group plants by water, soil, and sun needs.

**(F) Preserve Existing Vegetation**

Native vegetation or other vegetation that generally conforms to the requirements of the LDC and the guidelines provided in this document should be preserved whenever possible, and may be used, in whole or part, to meet landscaping required by the LDC, depending on the effectiveness of the existing landscaping in achieving the County's landscape goals and its ability to be protected and maintained.

**(G) Avoid Clustering of Evergreens Under Certain Conditions**

The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in instances where their location (south side of a road) would cause unsafe conditions such as ice or snow build-up due to winter shading and lack of sun exposure. In this instance, the use of shrubs may be most appropriate.

**(H) Spacing of Trees**

The minimum number of trees required in any circumstance is not meant to force specific plant spacing on an "on-center" basis. The owner has flexibility to group or cluster trees and is encouraged to vary the spacing and distance between trees and shrubs. Trees and tall shrubs should be clustered in locations where they can provide

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the greatest mitigation for land uses, enhance views, or create points of interest.

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**1.2.2. Irrigation and Soil Preparation**

**(A) Irrigation Systems**

Irrigation systems should use the most current water-saving technology. Drip irrigation should be used whenever possible. ~~Over-spray~~ ~~Overspray~~ from sprinkler systems onto paved surfaces should be avoided. Irrigation maintenance budgets should be prepared to ensure optimal water use for plant survival.

**(B) Soil Preparation**

Soil should be amended to increase water retention and organic content for plant health and vigorous growth.

**1.2.3. Retaining Walls and Slopes**

Retaining walls higher than 4 feet may be appropriate in areas where special grading conditions exist. Retaining walls should be visually softened by the planting of trees and shrubs to avoid a continuous, monotonous effect and should also be "stepped" in four-foot maximum height increments to slow water runoff and provide planting areas. Except where necessary to convey stormwater as part of an overall site design, slopes should not generally exceed 3:1. ~~Appropriate safeguards and appropriate trees should be selected in order to prevent the undermining of the retaining walls. Root guards are required for trees.~~

**1.2.4. Determining Project Area**

In instances where an entire parcel or lot is not used for the proposed development, the project area may be determined to be less by the ~~DSDPCD~~ Director. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area; however, if additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is necessary due to certain circumstances, the ~~DSDPCD~~ Director may require that landscaping.

**1.2.5. Buffering/Screening**

**(A) Buffers to Reflect Character of Site**

Buffer design should reflect the unique site and land use situation for ~~each project~~. In any case, four-season effectiveness should be achieved for all buffering and screening ~~areas~~.

**(B) Required Opaque Structures**

Any required opaque structure, including dumpster screening, should be integrated with the overall project architecture. For example, if the main building is stucco, the screening walls should be stucco to match.

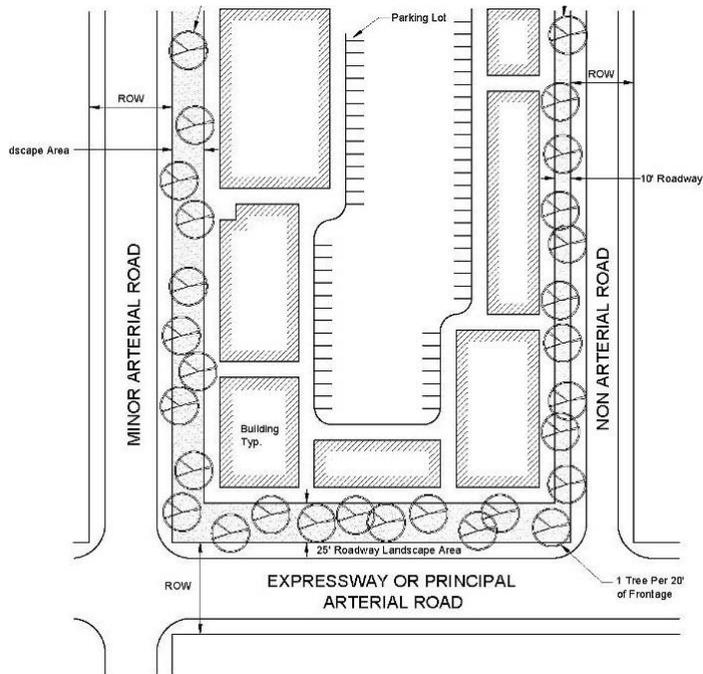
**(C) Screening Fence Design**

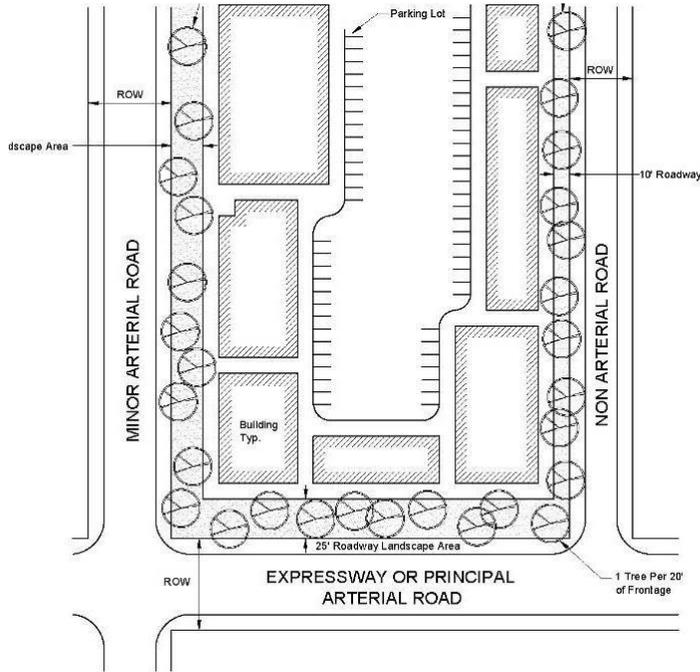
Fences should provide texture or design, ~~such as offsets or changes in materials~~, to avoid a monotonous appearance. ~~Chain link fencing with slats or tennis court fabric is acceptable only in industrial zone districts. Fence~~ ~~Fences~~ should be soundly constructed and maintained.

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**1.3.3. Roadway Landscaping Guidelines for Rural Areas**

**(A) Tall Shrubs and Landforms as Opposed to Trees**

Consider using tall shrubs and landforms for specific areas that require buffering (present or future) in rural areas. The LDC allows the replacement of trees with shrubs.

**(B) Bluegrass Discouraged**

Bluegrass sod is discouraged in rural areas; native grasses or other xeric turfgrasses, including grasses listed on the [Water Wise Planting List](#), are more appropriate. See [Water Wise Planting List](#) for additional details.

**(C) Landscaping Options for Roadway Landscaping Area in Rural Areas**

Berms and native shrubs in a design that creates visual interest are encouraged. A minimum of 75% of the length of the road should incorporate either berms (3' minimum height) or shrubs (5'-3' mature height minimum), with 50% of the length having shrubs. Trees are recommended only as an accent.

Where the required minimum roadway landscape area is only 10' in width, the width may undulate to accommodate the use of berms and the maximum allowable 3:1 berm slope.

**1.3.4. Location of Landscaping Materials within Roadway Landscaping Area**

The required roadway landscape materials may be clustered along the frontage. Design should be determined by screening needs, preservation and enhancement of views, or project impacts.

**1.3.5. Policies and Explanations**

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**(A) Meandering Sidewalks**

Public sidewalks may be allowed to "meander" within a roadway landscape area provided they are approved by the ECM Administrator and an easement approved by the OCA Office of the County Attorney is provided to El Paso County.

**(B) Landscaping in ROW**

Landscaping shall be provided in the road right-of-way to the curb line. Landscaping shall be similar to the groundcover treatment within the required roadway landscape area.

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#### 1.4. PARKING AREA SCREENING AND LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS

##### 1.4.1. Recommended Material Types

The lowest-water use vegetation and durable materials are highly encouraged due to the harshness of parking area environments. Materials should be chosen that are contextually appropriate: boulders and conifers in mountainous areas; berms and conifers in the Black Forest; berms and native shrubs in the High Plains. A combination of low, decorative walls and street trees may be most appropriate in urban areas.

##### 1.4.2. Design of Parking Area Landscaping

Parking areas should incorporate landscape features to break up and dilute the expanses of paving. Vegetation can also improve water quality, and parking area islands can serve as detention or water quality areas. Landscaping and buffering can be utilized to increase site aesthetics, property values, and attractiveness to customers; to visually decrease the scale of the parking areas; to provide shade for the pedestrian and parked vehicles; to reduce glare and heat; to separate and organize circulation systems; to provide openings in impervious surfaces for drainage and infiltration of ground water; to reduce glare from headlights; and to separate and screen uses.

##### 1.4.3. Parking Area Islands

The following standards generally apply to the use, placement, and landscaping of parking area islands. Parking lot islands, ~~and~~ corners, ~~and~~ fingers, are all considered parking area islands.

- One parking area island/peninsula ~~should shall~~ be provided for every 15 parking stallspaces.
- Each island should be a minimum of two parking stallspaces, in size (18' x 18' or 9' x 36') ~~and~~
- Each island should have a minimum of two low-water trees and ten low-water shrubs.

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less than 36" tall, plus mulch. ~~However, only 1 tree is required for every 15 parking spaces and groundcover is required to meet the general groundcover standards within an island. All shrubs are optional.~~

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▪▪ Appropriate mulch ~~is (e.g., bark or rock)~~ should be used in areas not covered by living groundcover.

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▪▪ Large boulders (3' max. height x 4' minimum length) may be substituted for some of the recommended shrubs. ~~(No more than 50% replacement allowed.)~~

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▪▪ ~~Sod Bluegrass sod or turfgrass is non-xeric turfgrasses are~~ discouraged.

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▪ Tall (greater than 18") ornamental grasses that persist through winter are ~~acceptable and count as considered shrubs when shrubs are used instead of trees as allowed by the LDC.~~

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▪▪ ~~Parking area islands will only be counted as islands if they are at least 9' x 18'.~~

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▪▪ Parking area islands should be utilized at the end of parking rows both as a means to contain parking area trees and other landscape materials and to provide separation and delineation between drive aisles and parking stalls.

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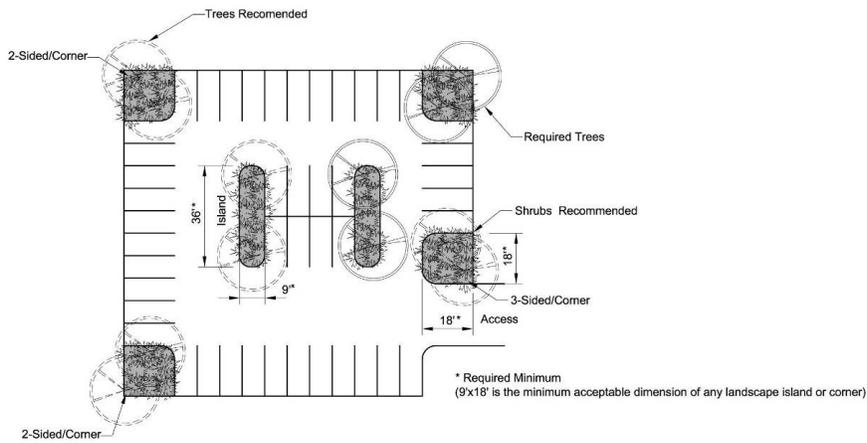
The figure below provides some ~~recommendation~~ recommendations concerning the use of islands and plantings.

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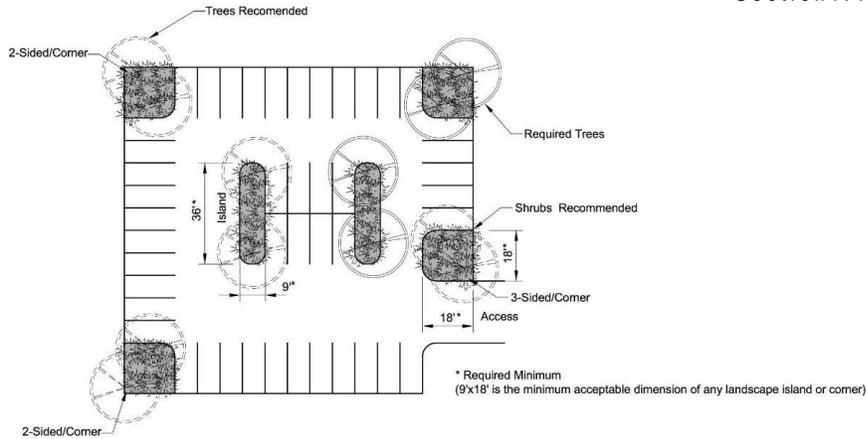
Islands and corners should be used to guide traffic, break up large expanses of paving, or control stormwater.

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**Typical Landscaping and Placement of Parking Area Islands**



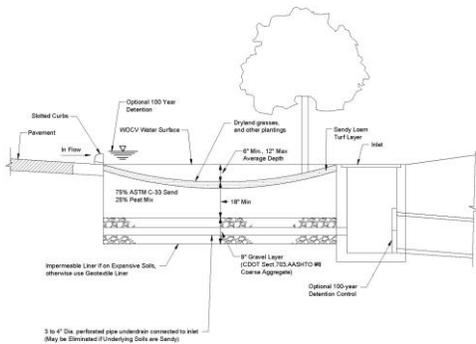
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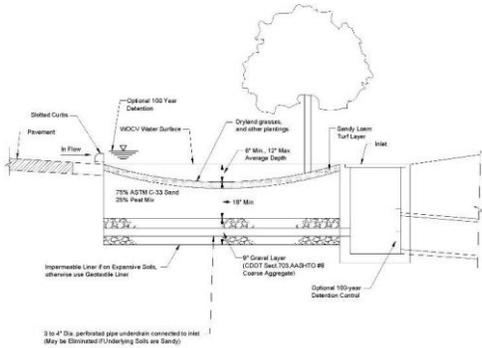
**1.4.4. Depressed Parking Area Islands**

Depressed islands are acceptable and encouraged, and can be used as a tool to manage and improve stormwater quality and control peak discharges. The grade of the surface of the landscaping should be slightly below the adjacent pavement to allow runoff to flow into the landscaped area, as opposed to elevating the landscaping and surrounding it with a curb. The figure shows how a depressed island is designed to provide these benefits while meeting the requirements to provide parking area islands.

**Depressed Landscaped Parking Area Island**



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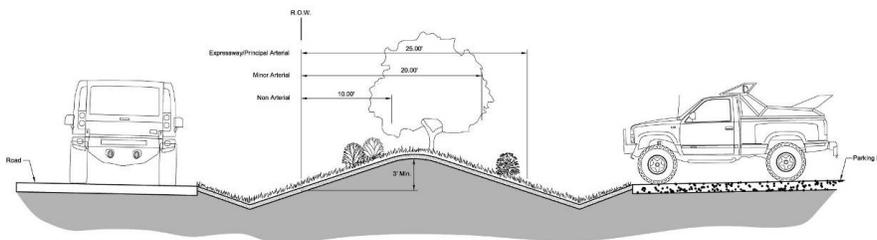
**1.4.5. Parking Area Screening**

Parking area screening may incorporate a wide variety of techniques, including: earthforms/berms, built features/walls, and plant materials. Techniques may be combined to create unique and site-specific designs.

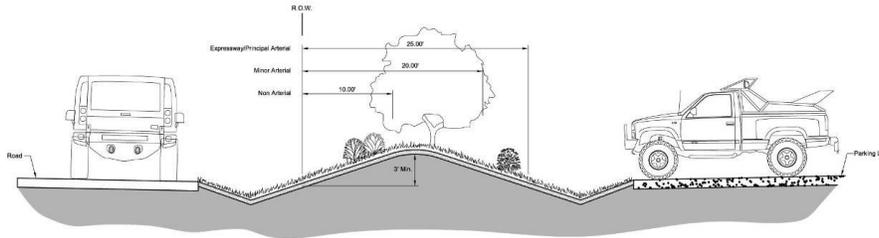
**(A) Rural Screening along Road Frontage**

A variety of options are available to meet the parking area screening requirements of the LDC. The figure below presents the most typical scenario in rural areas. When combined with the roadway landscape area requirements, trees are generally required between the parking area and ROW line. However, in accordance with the LDC and this manual, shrubs are encouraged as an alternative to substitute for trees. In addition, parking area setbacks may be greater than anticipated due to the depth of the required roadway landscape area. The following diagram provides an example of how berms and plantings should be used to meet the requirements of both the roadway landscape area and parking area screening in a rural area. Some of the urban screening options presented in the next section may also be applicable in some rural areas.

**Rural Parking Area Screening Using Berms to Achieve 3 Foot Screen**



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**(B) Urban Screening along Road Frontage**

A variety of options are available to meet the parking area screening requirements of the LDC. The figures below present several combinations of landscaping, berms, and walls that could be applied in urban areas. The roadway landscape area covers the same area as the parking area screening. As a result, the roadway landscape area depth, and the requirement to provide trees exceed the minimum parking area screening requirements when a parking area is located adjacent to a road in most cases.

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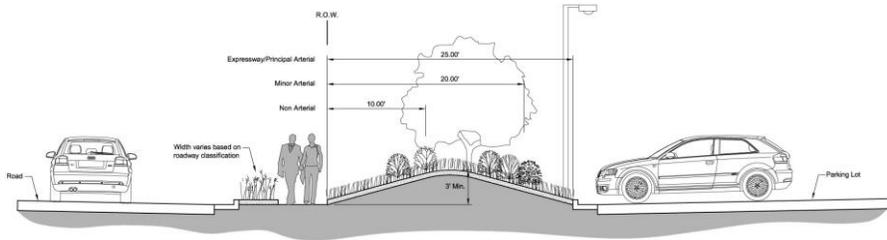
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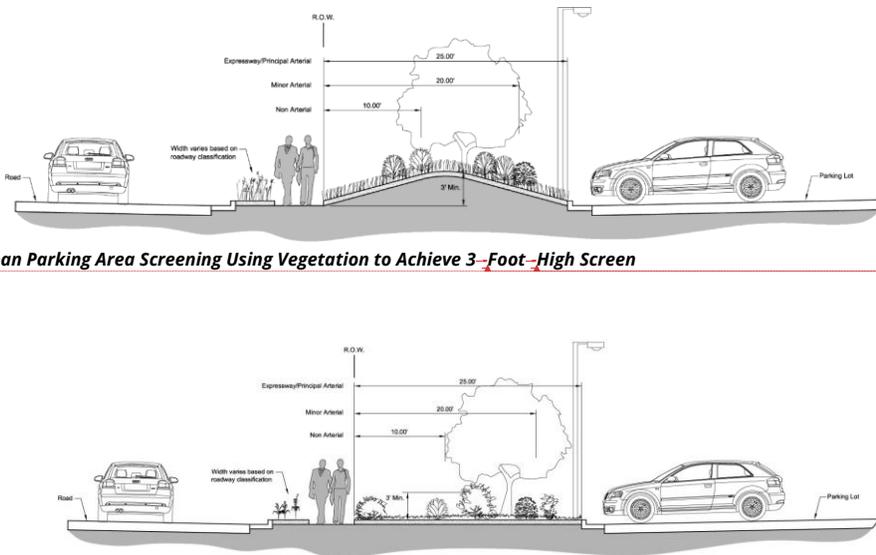
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**Urban Parking Area Screening Using Berms to Achieve 3 Foot Screen**



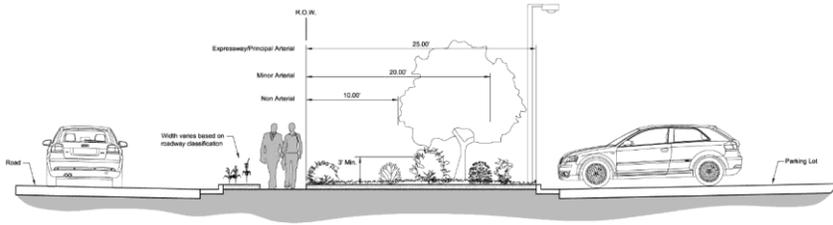
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**Urban Parking Area Screening Using Vegetation to Achieve 3-Foot-High Screen**

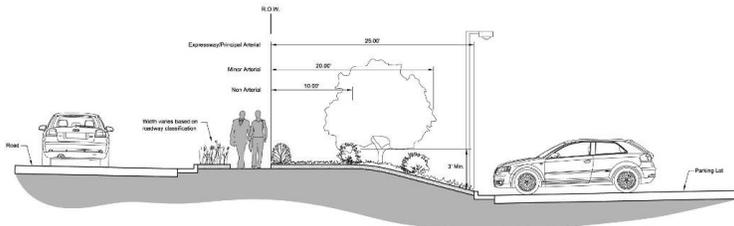


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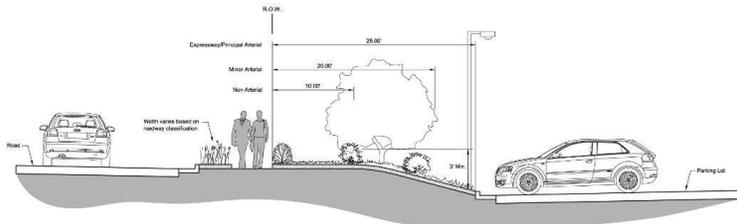
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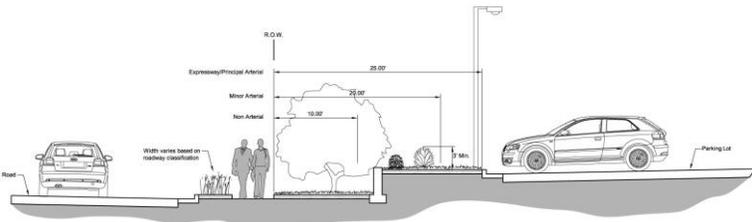
**Urban Parking Area Screening Using Slope to Achieve 3-Foot-High Screen**



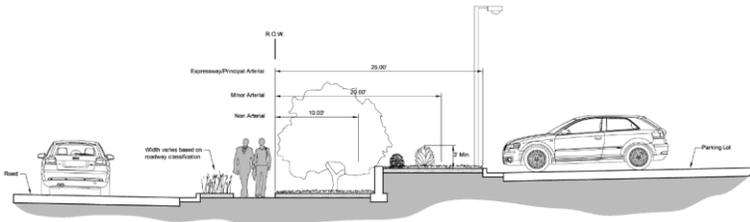
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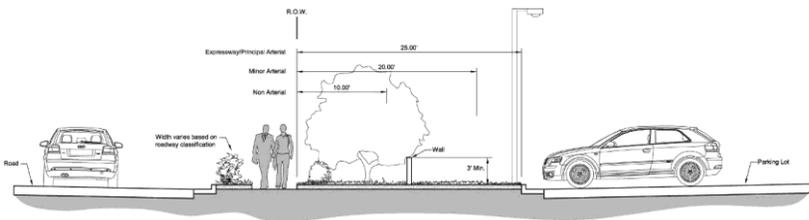
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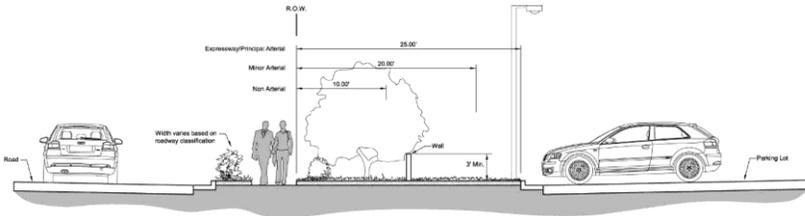
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**Urban Parking Area Screening Using Wall to Achieve 3-Foot-High Screen**



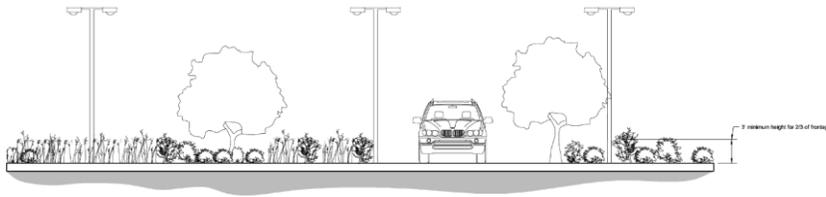
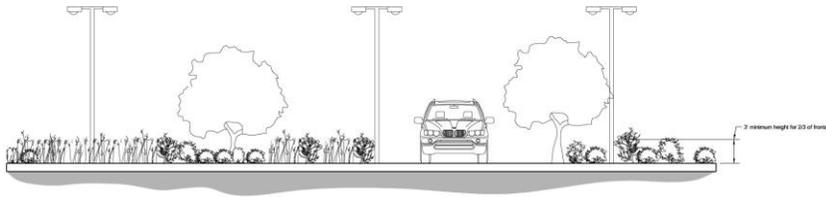
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**(C) Parking Area Frontage**

All parking areas shall be screened to a height of 3' by vegetation, walls, and berms for at least 2/3 the length as **showingshown**, in the figure below. This means that some areas may not have any screening while all other areas will have a minimum of 3' tall screen.

**Parking Area Screened to a Height of 3' for at Least 2/3 of the Length.**



**1.4.6. Parking Area Landscaping Policies and Explanations**

**(A) Visual Character**

The visual character of parking areas should be enhanced by planted islands, intensive shade trees or ornamental plantings. Large impervious areas are to be broken up with functional landscape medians and islands that can organize vehicular traffic and provide pedestrian pathways.

**(B) Other Plant Types**

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The DSDPCD recognizes that other species in addition to those identified in Appendix B may be approved in a parking area if special conditions exist. For example:

- The scale and overall design achieves the goals/intent.
- Coniferous evergreen trees may be approved if such trees are planted in areas which exceed the minimum recommended planter size and if visibility is not a problem.
- Existing vegetation may be used, regardless of species. Larger islands may be required to accommodate larger, established root systems.

**(C) Reference Elevation for Screen**

In general, the reference elevation for the base of the required screen shall be the surface of the parking area space that is to be screened.

**(D) Screening Applies Where Parking Area is Visible**

Parking area landscape requirements will apply to any type of parking area where it can be seen from a public or private road.

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**(E) Reductions in Parking Area Screening or Islands**

Reductions in the amount of parking area screening and islands can be considered where the parking area is located a considerable distance from the road (200-300 feet-) or within the street perimeter buffer. The distance from the road and topography are primary considerations in allowing a reduction in the screening and island criteria, as well as the effectiveness of existing or proposed perimeter screening.

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**4.5. BUFFER AND SCREEN AREAS BETWEEN DIFFERING USES OR ZONE DISTRICTS**

**4.5.1. Purpose**

Buffering and screening is used to block displeasing views; reduce noise, odors, glare, and dust; mitigate traffic; protect residential privacy; and reduce trespassing. Buffering and screening can also make uses more compatible, such as with Special Uses. Between similar uses, buffering and screening (perimeter landscaping) can help identify parking areas and property boundaries.

**4.5.2. Water Conservation**

Water conservation can be incorporated into buffer and screen areas. Swales can be used to direct water to planted areas to minimize irrigation needs and detention pond volumes, the use of appropriate plant materials can conserve water and minimize maintenance costs, and the creative use of a variety of plants will provide four-season interest and effectiveness.

**4.5.3. Required Buffers/Screens**

Circumstances for each site and use are unique, and additional buffering/screening may be required to accomplish appropriate design. Of special concern are sites adjacent to residential areas or environmentally sensitive areas, areas with significant view corridors, industrial uses, or uses that are visible from highly-traveled roads.

**(A) Buffer/Screen Between Non-Residential and Residential Uses Separated by a Non-Arterial Road**

Along the ~~road-side~~ roadside property line in any non-residential project in any zone district

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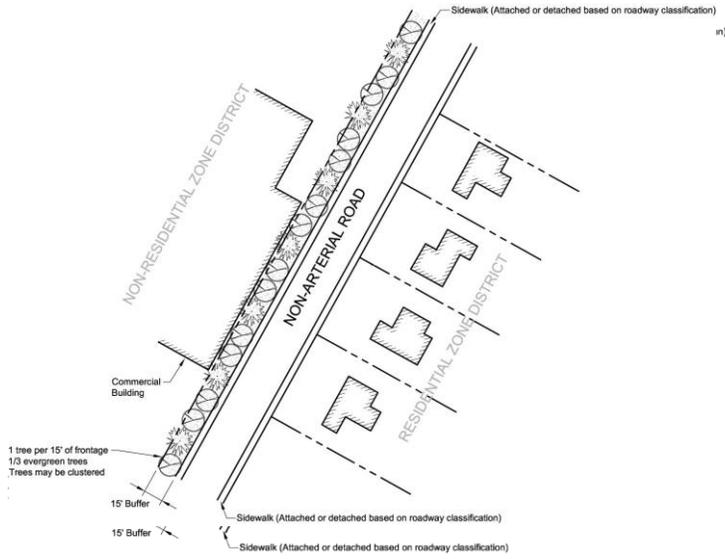
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where the project is separated from a residential use by a non-arterial street, a buffer meeting the requirements of the LDC is required. Non-arterial streets are those not designated as arterial streets or above on the County's Functional Classification Map, as amended. Private streets and ~~any~~ alleys are also considered non-arterial roads. The figures below provide two examples of how the standards can be met. Note that the parking area screening requirements ~~resulting result~~ in more landscaping being required within the use buffer area when a parking area abuts the roadway.

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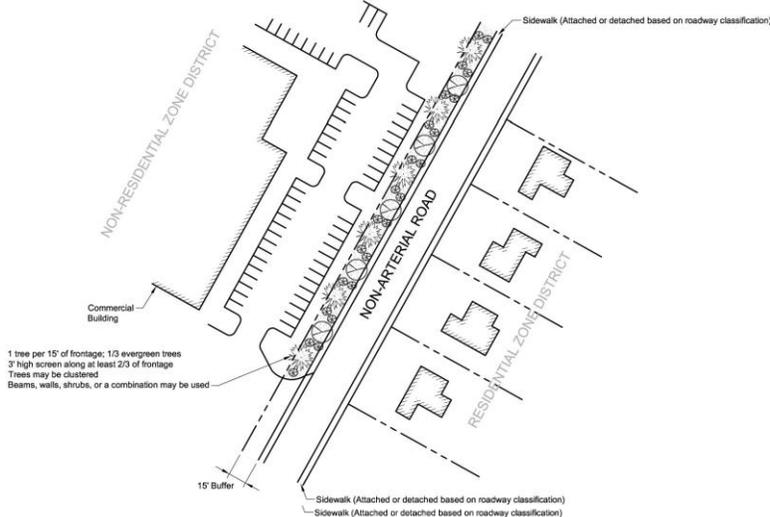
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**Example of 15' Buffer Standard between Non-Residential Zone District and Residential Zone District**



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**Example of 15' Buffer Standards between Non-Residential Zone District and Residential Zone District when Parking Area Abuts Road Frontage**



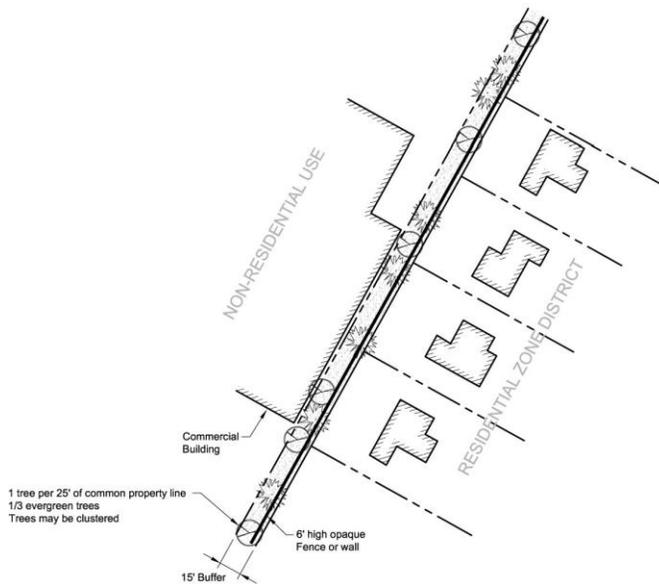
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**(B) Buffer/Screen Between: Adjacent Non-Residential and Residential Projects, and Adjacent Multifamily Residential and Single-Family/Two-Family Residential Projects**

Along the common property line in any non-residential project in any zone district where the project is adjacent to any residential zone district and along the property line in any multifamily project where the project is adjacent to a one-family or two-family use, a buffer meeting the requirements of the LDC is required. The figure below provides an example of how the standards can be met.



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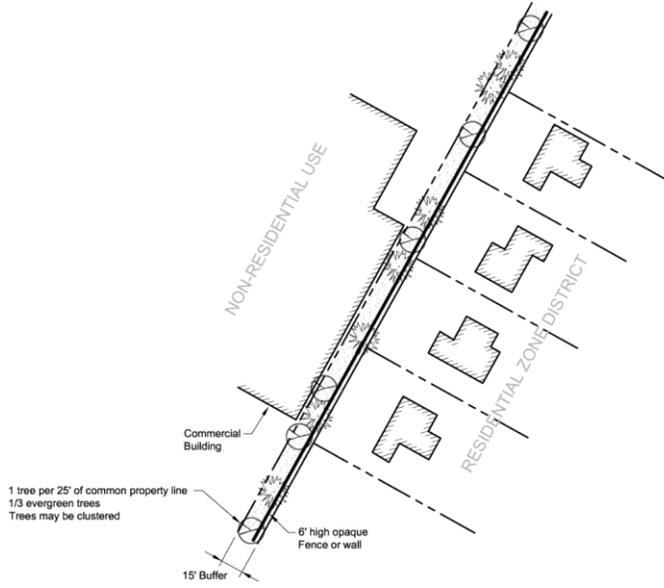
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**Example of 15' Buffer Standards between Non-Residential Use and Residential Zone District**



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**1.5.4. Trash Collection Areas**

Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, are required to be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by the use of an opaque wall or fence, other architectural elements, or dense evergreens. Walls/fences should be of a durable material, such as masonry, and should match the overall project architecture. Wood or chain link are discouraged. Gates should be metal.

**(A) Rural Areas**

In rural areas, dense evergreen, or four-season plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet are appropriate.

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**1.5.5. Policies and Explanations**

**(A) Design for Effectiveness from Time of Installation**

Buffers and screening shall be designed in a manner that appropriately provides the required effect at the time of installation, as well as in the future.

**(B) Restoration Efforts**

Restoration/conservation/preservation efforts on portions of a site that are part of larger natural areas, such as wildlife habitat conservation areas, habitat corridors, or wildlife movement corridors, etc. may count toward the buffering/screening requirements, with approval from the DSD/PCD Director.

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4.7. **LANDSCAPING AND GRADING IN UTILITY EASEMENTS OR RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

Utility providers, as a matter of general policy, will not normally permit use of their easements/rights of way by other parties. These criteria are general guidelines only and should not be construed as the complete and only conditions for such exceptions. Each case will be evaluated on an individual basis and must be approved by the utility provider.

- Changes in grades and elevations along the rights of way ~~should~~shall not reduce safe ground clearances of overhead wires.
- Safety clearance distances between overhead and underground wires and any improvements/structures should be maintained as applicable.
- Working space clearances as applicable should be maintained around line structures.
- Excavations ~~should~~shall not reduce support strength of overhead line structures.
- Excavations ~~should~~shall not reduce the depth of burial of underground cables.
- Low level landscaping, with a maximum height of ~~45~~25 feet or less, may be allowed within the easement/right of way provided all other applicable requirements of this document are met and permission is expressly granted by the easement/ROW holder.
- The party or owner installing and planting landscaping will be responsible for maintenance of the landscaping.
- Future power line installations may necessitate the relocation of vegetation. The removal/relocation and replacement will be at the owner's expense if located in an easement or Right-of-Way.

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## 1.8. MULCH

Mulch, organic or inorganic groundcover, prevents the growth of weeds, prevents erosion and dust, retains moisture in the soil, provides shade for plant roots, and presents an attractive and finished appearance for landscapes. Mulch is required on all landscaping projects, in areas other than turfgrass.

### 1.8.1. Specifications

Acceptable mulch materials include but are not limited to the following examples: bark and pole peelings, river rock, washed gravel of  $4\frac{3}{8}$ " diameter or greater, (should be limited in areas prone to washout), or other similar materials that may be approved by the DSDPCD. Avoid very light or dark colors, as these can adversely affect soil and ambient temperatures. Non-water/low water using turf or plant species are encouraged (See Water Wise Planting List).

### 1.8.2. Mulch Installation

Mulch should be installed over breathable fabric underlayment, pinned at intervals of not less than 24".

### 1.8.3. Mulch Depth

Mulch should be installed at the following minimum depths:

- Bark and pole peeling mulch shall be installed at a depth of not less than 4".
- Rock mulch shall be installed at a depth of not less than 3".

Mulch shall be maintained in a manner so that the minimum required depths are achieved throughout the life of the project. In no case shall underlayment fabric be visible.

### 1.8.4. Steel Edging

Steel edging of at least 1/8" thickness and 6" depth should be used to define all mulch beds, unless a bed is

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defined by curbing or other constructed edge.

**4.9. IRRIGATION**

**4.9.1. Recommended Conservation Techniques**

Drip irrigation is highly recommended for all trees and shrubs in order to conserve water. Drip irrigation may be required for certain species to allow for establishment and/or maintenance. Sprinkler systems may be used but are discouraged. Additionally, moisture sensors are also recommended to avoid watering during or after rain. In areas where outdoor irrigation is not allowed due to well permit restrictions, plants that are most drought-tolerant ~~shall~~ should be installed.

**4.9.2. Policies**

Statements regarding the proposed type of irrigation or watering method should be similar to those outlined in the following table.

**Types of Recommended Irrigation**

Type of Planting	Irrigation Required	Possible Solutions
Native grass seed or drought tolerant turf grass seed.	May germinate with normal precipitation if planted in late fall or early spring.	<del>insure</del> <u>Ensure</u> sufficient moisture by temporary overhead or agricultural system; add soil amendments/surfactants to soil to aid in moisture retention

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Xeric ground covers, shrubs, and trees per approved plant list, or as approved by <del>the DSP/PCD</del>	Drip irrigation for one or two growing seasons until established; on as-needed basis after that.	1. Small accessible areas may be hand watered. 2. Drip irrigation system, plants gradually weaned off system. 3. Overhead temporary system.
Water intensive ground covers, shrubs, <del>grasses</del> , and trees not native to the Rocky Mountain Region NOT RECOMMENDED, unless limited to a designated high-water use area, <del>as allowed herein</del>	Spring through Fall and intermittent winter.	1. Drip irrigation system. 2. Permanent/Sprinkler irrigation system.
<del>Bluegrass sod. RECOMMENDED IN URBAN AREAS ONLY and limited to a designated high water use area, as allowed herein</del>	<del>Spring through Fall and intermittent winter.</del>	<del>Permanent irrigation system.</del>

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**4.10. DEFINITIONS**

Words used in this manual have their dictionary meaning unless they are specifically defined in this manual, the LDC, or the ECM. Words defined within this manual shall have the specific meaning assigned, unless the context clearly indicates another meaning.

**Substitute Landscape Plan**

A landscape plan that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section. The PCD Director may approve a substitute landscape plan provided the proposed landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the Landscape and Planting Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the PCD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section. (LDC 6.2.2(A)(4))

**Berm:-**

A mound of soil, either natural or manmade, used to obstruct views, attenuate noise, or direct the flow of stormwater.

**Buffering:-**

The installation of plant materials, fencing, or landforms (or a combination of these measures), between 2 or more lots or parcels which inhibits visibility or mitigates the transmission of noise, dust, smoke, lights, and other nuisances from one lot or parcel to another, or provides for future public improvements or additional open space.

**Canopy:-**

The upper vegetative cover of a tree or plant grouping; dripline of a tree or plant grouping.

**Context:-**

The surrounding environment or character of an environment; trees or landforms that naturally exist on a site or surrounding sites.

**Coniferous:-**

Evergreen plant; keeps its leaves/needles all year.-

**Deciduous:-**

A plant with foliage that is shed annually.

**Drought Tolerant**

A plant that will survive in the typical or somewhat less than typical amount of rainfall in El Paso County.

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landscaping and other bulk items or public roads and rights-of-way. The term parking area includes parking lots and parking structures.

**Plant Community:-**

A natural association of vegetation that is dominated by one or more prominent species, or a characteristic physical attribute; see also "context".

**Right-of-Way:-**

The entire dedicated tract or strip of land that is to be used by the public for various purposes or intended to be occupied by a road, crosswalk, railroad, electric transmission line, oil or gas pipeline, water main, sanitary or storm sewer main or for another similar use.

**Roadway Landscape Area:-**

A minimum required landscaping area on a private property which is adjacent to a lot or parcel boundary line common to a right-of-way or another lot or parcel. Driveways and sidewalks to  
Driveways and sidewalks to afford limited access may be allowed to interrupt this required area; however, structures, buildings and parking are not allowed within the roadway landscape area.

**Rural**

For purposes of this Code, the zoning, use and development of land in zoning districts or areas which allow lot sizes that are 2.5 acres in size or greater, characterized by dispersed residential development, agricultural uses and activities, or vacant land.

**Screening:-**

A method of visually shielding or obscuring a structure or use from view by fencing, walls, trees, or densely planted vegetation. Screening provides a complete, opaque, year-round visual separation between differing land uses.

**Semi-Arid Climate:-**

A climate characterized by 10" to 20" of annual precipitation.

**Shade Tree:-**

A deciduous tree planted primarily for its high crown of foliage or overhead canopy. A major shade tree at maturity reaches a height of at least fifty feet.

**Shrub:-**

A self-supporting woody perennial plant of low to medium height characterized by multiple stems and branches continuous from the base, usually not more than 12' in height at its maturity. May be evergreen or deciduous.

**Soil Amendment:-**

Organic and inorganic materials added to soil to improve texture, nutrients, moisture holding capacity, and infiltration rates.

**Tree:-**

A large, woody plant having one or several self-supporting stems or trunks and numerous branches.

**Turfgrass:-**

Continuous plant coverage consisting of hybridized grasses that, when regularly mowed, form a dense growth of leaf blades and roots.

**Urban**

Land development of higher density and intensity which is characteristically provided with services of an urban nature (i.e. central water and sewer, fire hydrants, paved roads often with curb and gutter, and shorter emergency service response times). This category of development ordinarily includes most commercial, office and industrial uses and residential uses with densities of more than 1 dwelling unit

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per 2.5 acres.

**Vegetation:-**

Plants in general or the sum total of plant life in an area.-

**Verge:-**

The landscaped area between a sidewalk and the back of curb.-

**Xeric:-**

Plants or landscapes that embody xeriscape principals.

**Xeriscape:-**

The use of water conserving, indigenous plants appropriate to the surrounding environment. The goal of xeriscaping is to conserve water, minimize maintenance efforts and costs, and ensure survivability.

**Xeriscape Principals:-**

Methods of professional landscaping that include: planning and design, soil analysis, efficient irrigation, appropriate plant selection, practical turf areas, use of mulches, and proper maintenance.

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**"Water Wise" Trees, Shrubs, & Grasses**  
**\*See also: Appendix B**

<b><u>Trees</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>American Plum</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Prunus americana</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Amur Maple</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Acer ginnala</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Arizona Cypress</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Callitropsis arizonica</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Austrian Pine</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pinus nigra</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Baby Blue Eyes Spruce</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Picea pungens 'Baby Blue Eyes'</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Bosnian Pine</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pinus heldreichii</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Bristlecone Pine</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pinus aristate</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Bur Oak</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Quercus macrocarpa</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Caddo Maple</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Acer saccharum 'Caddo'</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Cockspur Hawthorn</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Crataegus crus-galli</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Crabapple</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Crabapple Malus</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Goldenrain Tree</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Koelreuteria paniculata</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Gray Gleam Juniper</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Juniperus scopulorum 'Gray Gleam'</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Hackberry</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Celtis occidentalis</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Hot Wings Tatarian Maple</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Acer tataricum 'GarAnn'</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Kentucky Coffeetree</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Gymnocladus dioicus</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Lacebark Pine</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pinus bungeana</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Maidenhair Tree</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ginkgo biloba</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Mugo Pine</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pinus mugo</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Northern Red Oak</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Quercus rubra</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>One-seed Juniper</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Juniperus monosperma</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Pinyon Pine</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pinus edulis</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Ponderosa Pine</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pinus ponderosa</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Red Maple</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Acer rubrum</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Rocky Mountain Juniper</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Juniperus scopulorum</u></a>

<a href="#">Russian Hawthorn</a>	<a href="#">Crataegus ambigua</a>
<a href="#">Seven-Son Flower</a>	<a href="#">Heptacodium miconioides</a>
<a href="#">Tatarian Maple</a>	<a href="#">Acer tataricum</a>
<a href="#">Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn</a>	<a href="#">Crataegus crus-galli var. inermis</a>
<a href="#">Thornless Honeylocust</a>	<a href="#">Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis</a>
<a href="#">Turkish Filbert</a>	<a href="#">Turkish Filbert <i>Corylus colurna</i></a>
<a href="#">Vanderwolf's Pyramid Limber</a>	<a href="#">Pinus flexilis 'Vanderwolf's Pyramid'</a>
<a href="#">Weeping Norway Spruce</a>	<a href="#">Picea abies 'Pendula'</a>
<a href="#">Weeping White Spruce</a>	<a href="#">Picea glauca 'Pendula'</a>
<a href="#">Western Catalpa</a>	<a href="#">Catalpa speciosa</a>

<b>Shrubs</b>	
<a href="#">Common Ninebark</a>	<a href="#">Physocarpus opulifolius</a>
<a href="#">Common Snowberry</a>	<a href="#">Symphoricarpos albus</a>
<a href="#">Cranberry Cotoneaster</a>	<a href="#">Cotoneaster apiculatus</a>
<a href="#">Creeping Barberry</a>	<a href="#">Berberis amplexans</a>
<a href="#">Creeping Three-Leaf Sumac</a>	<a href="#">Rhus trilobata 'Autumn Amber'</a>
<a href="#">Crimson Pygmy Barberry</a>	<a href="#">Berberis thunbergii var. atropurpurea 'Crimson Pygmy'</a>
<a href="#">Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany</a>	<a href="#">Cercocarpus ledifolius</a>
<a href="#">Cutleaf Smooth Sumac</a>	<a href="#">Rhus glabra 'Laciniata'</a>
<a href="#">Dark Knight Spirea</a>	<a href="#">Caryopteris x clandonensis 'Dark Knight'</a>
<a href="#">Diablo Ninebark</a>	<a href="#">Physocarpus opulifolius 'Monlo'</a>
<a href="#">Dwarf Blue Rabbitbrush</a>	<a href="#">Ericameria nauseosa ssp. nauseosa var. nauseosa</a>
<a href="#">Dwarf Creeping Juniper</a>	<a href="#">Juniperus procumbens 'Nana'</a>
<a href="#">Dwarf Globe Blue Spruce</a>	<a href="#">Picea pungens 'Glauca Globosa'</a>
<a href="#">Dwarf Korean Lilac</a>	<a href="#">Syringa meyeri 'Palibin'</a>
<a href="#">False Indigo Bush</a>	<a href="#">Amorpha fruticosa</a>
<a href="#">Fernbush</a>	<a href="#">Chamaebatiaria millefolium</a>
<a href="#">Gentry's Gem Spruce</a>	<a href="#">Picea pungens 'Gentry's Gem'</a>
<a href="#">Golden Elder</a>	<a href="#">Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis 'Aurea'</a>
<a href="#">Golden Sword Yucca</a>	<a href="#">Yucca filamentosa 'Golden Sword'</a>
<a href="#">Green Mound Alpine Currant</a>	<a href="#">Ribes alpinum 'Green Mound'</a>
<a href="#">Gro-Low Sumac</a>	<a href="#">Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low'</a>
<a href="#">Hancock Coralberry</a>	<a href="#">Symphoricarpos x chenaultii 'Hancock'</a>
<a href="#">Havard's Century Plant</a>	<a href="#">Agave havardiana</a>
<a href="#">Hillside Creeper Pine</a>	<a href="#">Pinus sylvestris 'Hillside Creeper'</a>
<a href="#">Japanese Barberry</a>	<a href="#">Berberis thunbergii</a>
<a href="#">Judd Viburnum</a>	<a href="#">Viburnum x juddii</a>
<a href="#">Kinnikinnick</a>	<a href="#">Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</a>
<a href="#">Leadplant</a>	<a href="#">Amorpha canescens</a>
<a href="#">Littleleaf Mountain Mahogany</a>	<a href="#">Cercocarpus intricatus</a>
<a href="#">Mesa Verde Spruce</a>	<a href="#">Picea pungens 'Mesa Verde'</a>
<a href="#">Miss Kim Dwarf Lilac</a>	<a href="#">Syringa pubescens subsp. patula 'Miss Kim'</a>

<a href="#">Mock Bearberry</a>	<a href="#">Manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos x coloradoensis</i></a>
<a href="#">Mohican Wayfaring Tree</a>	<a href="#">Viburnum lantana 'Mohican'</a>
<a href="#">Montgomery</a>	<a href="#">Picea pungens 'Montgomery'</a>
<a href="#">Mops Dwarf Mugo Pine</a>	<a href="#">Pinus mugo 'Mops'</a>
<a href="#">Mountain Mahogany</a>	<a href="#">Cercocarpus montanus</a>
<a href="#">Nanking Cherry</a>	<a href="#">Prunus tomentosa</a>
<a href="#">Nearly Wild Rose</a>	<a href="#">Rosa 'Nearly Wild'</a>
<a href="#">Oregon Grape</a>	<a href="#">Berberis aquifolium</a>
<a href="#">Panchito Manzanita</a>	<a href="#">Arctostaphylos x coloradoensis 'Panchito'</a>
<a href="#">Pawnee Buttes Sand Cherry</a>	<a href="#">Prunus besseyi 'P011S'</a>
<a href="#">Peking Cotoneaster</a>	<a href="#">Cotoneaster acutifolius</a>
<a href="#">Persian Lilac</a>	<a href="#">Syringa x persica</a>
<a href="#">New Mexican Privet</a>	<a href="#">Forestiera pubescens var. pubescens</a>
<a href="#">Purple Smoketree</a>	<a href="#">Cotinus coggygria 'Royal Purple'</a>

<a href="#">Pyracantha</a>	<a href="#">Pyracantha coccinea 'Gnome'</a>
<a href="#">Red Twig Dogwood</a>	<a href="#">Cornus sericea</a>
<a href="#">Redleaf Rose</a>	<a href="#">Rosa glauca</a>
<a href="#">Rock Spirea</a>	<a href="#">Holodiscus dumosus</a>
<a href="#">Rocky Mountain Sumac</a>	<a href="#">Rhus glabra var. cismontana</a>
<a href="#">Rose Glow Japanese Barberry</a>	<a href="#">Berberis thunbergii var. atropurpurea 'Rose Glow'</a>
<a href="#">Russian Sage</a>	<a href="#">Perovskia atriplicifolia</a>
<a href="#">Saltbush</a>	<a href="#">Atriplex canescens</a>
<a href="#">Sand Sagebrush</a>	<a href="#">Artemisia filifolia</a>
<a href="#">Saskatoon Serviceberry</a>	<a href="#">Amelanchier alnifolia</a>
<a href="#">Scrub Oak</a>	<a href="#">Quercus gambelii</a>
<a href="#">Shadblow Serviceberry</a>	<a href="#">Amelanchier canadensis</a>
<a href="#">Siberian Peashrub</a>	<a href="#">Caragana arborescens</a>
<a href="#">Silver Buffaloberry</a>	<a href="#">Shepherdia argentea</a>
<a href="#">Silver Fountain Butterfly Bush</a>	<a href="#">Buddleia alternifolia 'Argentea'</a>
<a href="#">Smooth Sumac</a>	<a href="#">Rhus glabra</a>
<a href="#">Soapweed</a>	<a href="#">Yucca glauca</a>
<a href="#">Spanish Gold Broom</a>	<a href="#">Cytisus purgans</a>
<a href="#">Staghorn Sumac</a>	<a href="#">Rhus typhina</a>
<a href="#">Stansbury's Cliffrose</a>	<a href="#">Purshia stansburyana</a>
<a href="#">Summer Wine Ninebark</a>	<a href="#">Physocarpus opulifolius 'Seward'</a>
<a href="#">Tall Rabbitbrush</a>	<a href="#">Ericameria nauseosa var. nauseosa</a>
<a href="#">Tam Juniper</a>	<a href="#">Juniperus sabina 'Tamariscifolia'</a>
<a href="#">Texas sotol</a>	<a href="#">Dasylirion texanum</a>
<a href="#">Threeleaf Sumac</a>	<a href="#">Rhus trilobata</a>
<a href="#">Valley Cushion Dwarf</a>	<a href="#">Mugo Pine <i>Pinus mugo</i> 'Valley Cushion'</a>
<a href="#">Van Houtte Spirea</a>	<a href="#">Spiraea x vanhouttei</a>

<a href="#">Variegated Dogwood</a>	<a href="#">Cornus alba 'Argenteo-marginata'</a>
<a href="#">Waldbrunn Spruce</a>	<a href="#">Picea pungens 'Waldbrunn'</a>
<a href="#">Wavyleaf Oak</a>	<a href="#">Quercus x undulata</a>
<a href="#">Waxflower</a>	<a href="#">Jamesia americana</a>
<a href="#">Wayfaring Tree</a>	<a href="#">Viburnum lantana</a>
<a href="#">Western Sagebrush</a>	<a href="#">Artemisia tridentata ssp. Tridentata</a>
<a href="#">Western Snowberry</a>	<a href="#">Symphoricarpos occidentalis</a>
<a href="#">William Baffin Rose</a>	<a href="#">Rosa 'William Baffin'</a>
<a href="#">Wine and Roses Weigela</a>	<a href="#">Weigela florida 'Alexandra'</a>
<a href="#">Winter Jasmine</a>	<a href="#">Jasminum nudiflorum</a>
<a href="#">Yellow Twig Dogwood</a>	<a href="#">Cornus sericea 'Flaviramea'</a>

<b>Grasses</b>	
<a href="#">Alkali Sacaton</a>	<a href="#">Sporobolus airoides</a>
<a href="#">Arizona Fescue</a>	<a href="#">Festuca arizonica</a>
<a href="#">Big Bluestem</a>	<a href="#">Andropogon gerardii</a>
<a href="#">Blonde Ambition Blue Grama Grass</a>	<a href="#">Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambition'</a>
<a href="#">Blue Fescue</a>	<a href="#">Festuca ovina glauca</a>
<a href="#">Blue Grama</a>	<a href="#">Bouteloua gracilis</a>
<a href="#">Blue Heaven Little Bluestem</a>	<a href="#">Schizachyrium scoparium 'MinnBlueA'</a>
<a href="#">Blue Oat Grass</a>	<a href="#">Helictotrichon sempervirens</a>
<a href="#">Buffalograss</a>	<a href="#">Bouteloua dactyloides</a>
<a href="#">Compact Maiden Grass</a>	<a href="#">Miscanthus sinensis 'Adagio'</a>
<a href="#">Feather Reed Grass</a>	<a href="#">Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'</a>
<a href="#">Giant Sacaton</a>	<a href="#">Sporobolus wrightii</a>
<a href="#">Heavy Metal Switchgrass</a>	<a href="#">Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal'</a>
<a href="#">Indian Grass</a>	<a href="#">Sorghastrum nutans</a>
<a href="#">Japanese Blood Grass</a>	<a href="#">Imperata cylindrica 'Red Baron'</a>
<a href="#">Korean Feather Reed Grass</a>	<a href="#">Calamagrostis brachytricha</a>
<a href="#">Maiden Grass</a>	<a href="#">Miscanthus sinensis 'Gracillimus'</a>
<a href="#">Overdam Feather Reed Grass</a>	<a href="#">Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Overdam'</a>
<a href="#">Prairie Dropseed</a>	<a href="#">Sporobolus heterolepis</a>
<a href="#">Prairie Sky Switchgrass</a>	<a href="#">Panicum virgatum 'Prairie Sky'</a>
<a href="#">Sheep Fescue</a>	<a href="#">Festuca ovina</a>
<a href="#">Shenandoah Switchgrass</a>	<a href="#">Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'</a>
<a href="#">Sideoats Grama</a>	<a href="#">Bouteloua curtipendula</a>
<a href="#">The Blues Little Bluestem</a>	<a href="#">Schizachyrium scoparium 'The Blues'</a>
<a href="#">Turf-type Tall Fescue</a>	<a href="#">Festuca arundinacea</a>
<a href="#">Undaunted Ruby Muhly</a>	<a href="#">Muhlenbergia reverchonii</a>
<a href="#">Variegated Maiden Grass</a>	<a href="#">Miscanthus sinensis 'Variegatus'</a>
<a href="#">Zebra Grass</a>	<a href="#">Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus'</a>

<b>Not Recommended/Restriction Recommended Plantings</b>	
<a href="#">Elm</a>	<a href="#">Ulmus genus (Dutch Elm Disease resistant acceptable)</a>
<a href="#">Box Elder (25ft ROW setback restriction)</a>	<a href="#">Acer negundo</a>
<a href="#">All Salix and Populus genus (Except Aspen) (25ft-ROW Restriction)</a>	
<a href="#">Autumn Purple Ash</a>	<a href="#">Fraxinus americana 'Autumn Purple'</a>
<a href="#">Green Ash</a>	<a href="#">Fraxinus pennsylvanica</a>
<a href="#">Common Sea Buckthorn</a>	<a href="#">Hippophae rhamnoides</a>
<a href="#">Mexican Feather Grass</a>	<a href="#">Nassella tenuissima</a>
<a href="#">Kentucky Bluegrass</a>	<a href="#">Poa pratensis</a>

**Low Water, Native, Front Range Plantings Resource:**

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/native/FrontRange.pdf>

**Native Trees for Colorado Landscapes:**

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/garden/07421.pdf>

**Native Shrubs for Colorado Landscapes:**

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/garden/07422.pdf>

**Colorado Springs Utilities - Plant Selector**

<https://www.waterwiseplants.org/find-a-plant/>

**Sources**

Colorado Springs Utilities <https://www.csu.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Colorado State University Extension <https://extension.colostate.edu/>

Colorado Native Plant Society [www.conps.org](http://www.conps.org)

**APPENDIX A LDC LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS**

This Appendix contains all applicable landscape provisions from the LDC. Please note that other ~~setback~~ setbacks, performance standards and design standards of the LDC could affect the placement and design of landscaping. The fence, wall and hedge provisions have been included since when required fencing and buffering requirements directly impact landscape design.

**6.2. DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR ANCILLARY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES**

**6.2.1. Fences, Walls, and Hedges**

**(A) Applicability**

This Section is applicable to any fence, wall, or hedge established after the date of adoption of this Section unless superseded by a specific development standard in a PUD zoning district or within a Rural Land Use Plan.

**(B) Exemptions**

This Section is not applicable to agricultural fences, except as otherwise provided by this Section, or to the installation of noise barriers required by this Code, the ECM or constructed and installed in accordance with federal requirements.

**(C) General Standards Applicable to Fences, Walls, or Hedges**

The following standards are applicable to fences, walls, or hedges, including agricultural fences.

**(1) 100-Year Floodplain**

Fences and walls within a 100 year floodplain shall comply with the requirements of the Floodplain Regulations.

**(2) No Obstruction of View of Vehicle Operators**

No fence, wall, or hedge may obstruct the view of motor vehicle operators entering or leaving any parking area, service drive, driveway, road, alley, or other thoroughfare. Fences, walls and hedges are subject to the sight distance standards in Chapter 2 of the ECM.

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(3) **Fencing Materials**

(a) **Use of Tires for Fence**

The use of tires for a fence or wall, whether whole or baled, shall be allowed only on the granting of a beneficial use agreement with El Paso County, and shall only occur in conformance with the requirements of this Code and CDPHE regulations.

(b) **Corrugated Metal Not Approved as Fencing Material**

Corrugated metal is not considered an acceptable fencing material in perimeter fencing if visible from outside the fenced lot or parcel.

(4) **Measuring the Height of a Fence**

The height of fences, walls, and hedges shall be measured from the final ~~grade of the lot, parcel, or tract at the location~~ of the fence, wall, or hedge to the top of the fence, wall, or hedge. The top of a fence, wall, or hedge is the highest component of the fence, wall, or hedge, not including columns or posts. The depth of drainage channels under a fence, wall, or hedge shall not be included in the height measurement. The height of a fence, wall, or hedge built on berms or retaining walls shall include the height of the berm or wall.

(5) **Fencing Maintained**

Fences, walls or hedges shall be maintained in good structural or living condition. The owner is responsible for the repair or removal of a fence, wall or hedge, which constitutes a safety hazard, by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence or abandonment, or which constitutes a zoning violation.

(D) **Height and Location Standards**

The following requirements are applicable to all fences and walls except agricultural fences:

(1) **Building Permit Required for Fences and Walls Over 6 feet in Height**

A fence or wall over 6 feet in height requires a building permit from the Building Department.

(2) **Fences and Walls 6 Feet in Height Considered Accessory Structure**

A fence or wall over 6 feet in height is considered an accessory structure, and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements of this Code. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are applicable.

(3) **Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Drainage**

The fence and wall shall not be established where it would impede the drainage established by an approved drainage plan.

(4) **Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Use of Easement**

The fence or wall shall not be established within an easement in a manner where the use of the easement is unnecessarily impeded.

(E) **Specific Fence Standards for Residential Uses**

The following requirements are applicable to fences associated with residential uses.

(1) **Opaque Fence Height Limited in Front Yard Setback Area**

Fences or walls more than 25% opaque shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within the front setback area.

(2) **Opaque Fence Height Limited in Sight Triangle**

An opaque fence, wall or hedge shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(F) **Specific Fence Standards for Non-Residential Uses**

The following requirements are applicable to fences associated with non-residential uses:

(1) **6 Feet High Fences Allowed**

Fences not exceeding 6 feet in height may be placed anywhere on the lot or parcel except no fence, wall or hedge shall exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(2) **Security Fencing**

Security fencing may include 3 strands of wire on top of the fence. The wires are not included in the height measurement.

(3) **Subject to Parking, Landscaping, and Screening Standards**

Walls and fences shall conform to the parking, landscaping, and screening standards of this Code.

(G) **Noise Barrier Fencing or Walls**

Noise barrier fencing or walls shall be constructed in accordance with the provisions for noise barrier fencing in Chapter 8 and the ECM.

(H) **Development Perimeter Fencing**

If fencing is proposed around the perimeter of a subdivision or development, any fencing adjacent to a County road or State or federal highway shall be compatible with the existing land uses, topography, and landscaping in the immediate vicinity. Subdivision perimeter fencing shall be consistent in design and materials when established along or adjacent to common boundaries where other perimeter fencing exists.

(I) **Retaining Wall Standards**

(1) **Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Retaining Surcharge**

A building permit is required for a retaining wall that retains a surcharge.

(2) **Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Over 4 Feet High**

A building permit is required for a retaining wall greater than 4 feet in height.

(3) **Retaining Walls 6 Feet High Considered Accessory Structure**

A retaining wall over 6 feet in height is considered an accessory structure and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are applicable.

(4) **Established Prior to Principal use**

A retaining wall, when necessary for development, may be established prior to the principal use.

**6.2.2. Landscape Requirements**

(A) **General**

(1) **Purpose**

The landscape requirements are intended to provide uniform standards for the development and maintenance of the landscaping of private property and public rights-of-way to achieve a balance between the individual right to develop and the general benefit and welfare of the community. The benefits to be achieved and the overall purposes of the landscaping required by this Section are: (1) to create a positive image and visual appeal both along the road which is highly visible and internal properties which provide a working, shopping and living environment; (2) to decrease the scale of parking lots, provide shade, and reduce heat, glare and noise; (3) to separate circulation systems; to soften and reduce the mass of buildings; to screen and buffer lower intensity uses from higher intensity uses and protect residential privacy; and (4) to create an overall pleasant and attractive surrounding.

(2) **Applicability**

(a) **Applies to All Land Uses**

The requirements of this Section shall apply to all uses except single-family or duplex dwellings and associated accessory uses.

(b) **Applies to Change in Use**

The requirements of this Section shall apply when a use is established that requires a change of occupancy to be approved by the Building Department or by the DSD.

(c) **Applies to New Construction and Additions**

The requirements of this Section shall apply to existing buildings where the new construction of or addition to a building's floor area exceeds 50% of the existing building's gross floor area.

(3) **Requirements of Section Supplemented**

The requirements of this Section are supplemented by the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

(4) **Authority of Director to Accept Alternative Landscape Designs**

The DSD Director may approve landscaping that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section provided the proposed landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the DSD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section.

(B) **Roadway Landscaping Requirements**

Roadway landscaping areas are required. A roadway landscaping area is located along the lot, parcel or tract frontage between the road right-of-way, easement, or tract boundary lines and any building or use.

(1) **Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area**

Table 6-1 lists the depth and number of trees required to be provided along any road in roadway landscaping area. Where the required setback is narrower than the depth of the required landscape area, the roadway landscaping area depth shall control.

**Table 6-1. Roadway Landscaping Required by Roadway Classification.**

Road Classification	Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area	Required Trees (Trees/Linear Foot of Frontage)
Expressway, Principal Arterial	25 feet	1 per 20 feet
Urban Interchange/Intersection	25 feet	NA
Minor Arterial	20 feet	1 per 25 feet
Non-Arterial	10 feet	1 per 30 feet

<sup>1</sup>The required depth of the roadway landscape area shall be increased to 15 feet along a non-arterial road or public alley where the road or alley separates a non-residential use from a residential zoning district. The number of required trees shall be increased to 1 per 15 feet of linear frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

(2) **Location and Type of Trees in Roadway Landscaping Area**

(a) **Clustering Allowed**

The roadway landscaping trees may be clustered along a road frontage. The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in

areas where the winter shade will cause unsafe conditions on an adjacent road.

**(b) Type of Tree Limited**

The types of roadway landscaping trees utilized shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and listed in the Landscape and Water Conservation.

**(c) Exceeding Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping**

The roadway landscaping trees shall be located within 50 feet of the road right-of-way, easement or tract boundary line and any building or use.

**(d) Allowed in Right-of-Way if Approved**

The roadway landscaping trees may be placed in a right-of-way if the right-of-way owner approves the placement and no conflicts exist, or will exist, with utility easements or any provider of utilities. Generally, trees are not allowed to be placed within any County right-of-way. Placing of the required roadway landscaping trees within the right-of-way shall not negate the requirement for the required roadway landscape area.

**(3) Walls and Fences in Roadway Landscape Area**

Walls and fences which are 25% or more opaque shall not exceed 3 feet in height when located within a required roadway landscaping area. Opaque walls and fences higher than 3 feet (such as noise barriers) shall be located outside of the roadway landscaping area to maintain a landscaped appearance along the road.

**(C) Parking Lot Landscape Requirements**

**(1) Required Trees**

A tree of a type suitable for parking lots shall be provided for every 15 parking spaces in parking lots with 15 or more parking spaces. The required trees may be clustered and shall be located in a manner which will divide and break up expanses of paving and long rows of parking and create a canopy effect over the parking lot.

**(2) Parking Lot Islands**

The most common method to satisfy the parking lot tree requirement is through the utilization of plant islands, fingers (areas open to the parking on three sides), and corners (open to the parking on two sides). Islands, fingers, and corners are required to be incorporated into all parking lots of 15 parking spaces or more in area. One island shall be provided for every 15 spaces. An island, finger or corner that is the same size as a parking space counts as a required island. An island the size of two spaces counts as two islands. Pedestrian entry spaces also count as an

island, including the ramp. Parking lots containing fewer than 25 spaces shall not be required to provide islands.

Islands should be located at the end of center rows and at entry locations to direct traffic and minimize cutovers. Islands should generally be used and located to organize and enhance circulation, breakup continuous parking areas, and capture and direct stormwater. Islands protect vegetation from damage.

Small parking lots may utilize the perimeter area of the parking lot to satisfy the parking lot tree location requirement when there are not more than 2 rows of parking spaces and a single drive aisle. Where a parking lot is not required to be paved, no islands shall be required.

The tree types, minimum planter sizes and utilization of perimeter tree placement shall be consistent with the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

**(3) Protection of Trees from Damage**

Parking lot trees shall be protected from vehicle damage by curbs, planters or other barriers.

**(4) Storm Drainage for Irrigation Encouraged**

Parking lots designs that allow runoff to enter landscaped areas for irrigation and controlling non-point source pollution are encouraged.

**(5) Required Parking Lot Screening**

Parking lots shall be screened from view from adjacent roads and properties with differing land uses. The minimum height of the screening shall be 3 feet and may be accomplished by using berms and plantings. A minimum of ⅓ of the road frontage or common lot, parcel, or tract boundary, not counting intersecting driveways, shall be provided with the required screening. The maximum spacing of plants to achieve an acceptable screen and the maximum acceptable grades for screening areas, such as grass berms and plantings beds, should be consistent with the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

Decorative walls or fences may be approved if the DSD Director finds that:

- The wall or fence avoids a blank and monotonous appearance by architectural articulation and the planting of vines, shrubs or trees; or
- The total use of berms or plantings is not physically feasible, or
- The wall or fence attractively compliments the use of berms or plantings.

(D) **Required Buffer and Screen Areas**

(1) **Buffer Between Non-Residential and Residential Districts Separated by a Non-Arterial Road or Public Alley**

(a) **Where Required**

A buffer is required along the road-side lot, parcel, or tract line of any non-residential use where the use is separated from a residential zoning district by a non-arterial road or public alley.

(b) **Depth and Planting Standards**

The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be one tree for every 15 feet of the road frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

~~(c) **Opaque Fence or Wall Required**~~

~~An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the inside edge of the required buffer when the area immediately adjacent to the 15 foot buffer is used as a service corridor for loading, maneuvering or storage. If the area is used for parking, the required parking lot screening shall be applicable.~~

(d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required**

The required buffer area shall require a ground cover at maturity with a minimum of 75% living plant materials. Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved living ground cover material shall be covered in a approved non-living ground cover.

(2) **Buffer Between Non-Residential, Multifamily Residential and Single-Family/Duplex Uses**

(a) **Where Required**

A buffer is required in the following situations:

- Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the non-residential use property between the non-residential use and a residential zoning district.
- Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the multifamily use property between the multifamily use and a single-family or duplex zoning district.

(b) **Depth and Planting Standards**

The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be one tree for every

25 feet of common lot, parcel, or tract line. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

(c) **Opaque Fencing or Wall Required**

An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the lot, parcel, or tract line except where the adjacent single-family or duplex residential zoning district or use abuts a required roadway landscaping area.

(d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required**

Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved non-living ground cover material shall be covered in a living plant material.

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(E) **Internal Landscaping**

The following internal landscaping is required:

(1) **Requirements for Multifamily Uses**

The following internal landscaping is required for multifamily uses:

(a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area**

A minimum of 15% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.

(b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area**

A minimum of one tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.

(2) **Requirements for Non-Residential Uses**

The following internal landscaping is required for non-residential uses.

(a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area**

A minimum of 5% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.

(b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area**

A minimum of one tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.

(c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs**

A maximum of 1/2 of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs adjacent to retail store fronts where the view of wall signs may be obstructed. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

(3) **Standards for Required Internal Landscape Area**

(a) **Intent of Internal Landscaping**

The intent of the internal landscape area is to provide relief from structures and hard surfaces through the use of plantings.

(b) **Location of Internal Landscape Areas**

The required internal landscape areas shall be located in accordance with the following standards:

- Adjacent to those building elevations which form the major public views of the building from adjacent roads and properties and to the users of the project; or
- At all pedestrian entrances, except service-only entries; or
- ~~Within a plaza or courtyard~~ Within a plaza or courtyard between buildings or portions of buildings, (plaza/courtyard is to have at least one side open); or
- In an area provided to separate building areas from parking areas; or
- In a similar location which substantially conforms to the purpose of the required internal landscape area.

(c) **Area Calculation**

The entire lot, parcel or tract area shall be used as the basis for calculating required the internal landscape area. In instances where an entire lot, parcel, or tract is not used for the proposed development, the area used to calculate the required internal landscape area may be reduced by the DSD Director based on the area of the lot, parcel or tract actually being developed or used. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area determined by the DSD Director to be developed or used. However, even if reductions in the lot area are approved, the DSD Director may require that additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is provided at the first stage of a larger project to mitigate environmental impacts or meet the intent of the landscaping provisions of the LDC .

(d) **Paved Areas within an Internal Landscaped Area**

Sidewalks which provide basic pedestrian circulation shall not count toward meeting the internal landscape area requirement. Paved plazas may be credited to a maximum of 50% of required internal landscaping area if such plazas have trees and other pedestrian-only amenities (benches, sculpture, decorative paving, etc.), are not vehicular, and provide visual relief to those

building elevations which form the major public views of the project.

(F) **Minimum Plant Sizes and Percentage of Live Ground Cover**

(1) **Landscape Material Specifications**

Plant installation sizes and characteristics shall meet the following minimum requirements.

(a) **Deciduous Shade Trees**

Deciduous shade trees shall be 1½ inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.

(b) **Deciduous Ornamental Trees**

Deciduous ornamental trees shall be 1 inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.

(c) **Evergreen Trees**

Evergreen trees shall be 6 feet in height above ground, balled and burlapped, except Pinon Pine and upright junipers which shall be a minimum 4 feet in height.

(d) **Evergreen and Deciduous Shrubs**

Evergreen and deciduous shrubs, where required, shall be 5 gallon size.

(e) **Ground Cover and Vines**

Ground cover and vines shall be 1 size.

(2) **Required Live Material Ground Cover**

Unless otherwise allowed, required landscape areas shall include a minimum of 75% ground cover by living grass or other living plant materials at maturity. The remaining 25% of the required landscape area may be covered with bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other landscape materials or may be designed as hard-surfaced pedestrian areas. The foliage crown of trees shall not be counted in meeting the ground cover requirement.

(G) **Other Required Landscape Areas**

(1) **Other Areas to be Landscaped or Screened**

(a) **Zoning District Boundary Trees**

A minimum of one tree shall be provided for every 30 feet of lot, parcel, or tract line coincident with a zoning district boundary line except if otherwise required to meet the buffering requirements between a non-residential use or multifamily use and residential zoning district.

(b) **Refuse Areas Screened**

Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, shall be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by an opaque wall or fence, architectural elements, dense evergreen plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet, or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet.

(c) **Loading Docks and Other Vehicle Areas Screened**

Loading docks, vehicle repair bays, and vehicle fueling areas shall be screened from view from adjacent roads by the use of plantings, berms, walls, fences, or other architectural elements.

(d) **Landscaping Required Between Lot and Curb**

Landscaping is required between the lot, parcel, or tract line and the curb line. The landscaping shall meet the ground cover standards for the required roadway landscaping area. Although this landscape area is located within the right-of-way, easement or tract, the adjacent lot, parcel or tract owner shall be responsible for maintenance. Xeric plantings shall be used in order to avoid the need to install an irrigation system within the right-of-way, easement or tract. Xeric plants may require supplemental irrigation to get them established or in times of extreme drought. Installation of an irrigation system requires approval of DOT or owner or right-of-way, easement or tract. Installation of plant materials may also require approval of the DOT or owner or right-of-way, easement or tract.

(e) **Transmission Tower, Water Storage Tank, and Utility Facilities Landscape Requirements**

(i) **Site-Specific Landscaping Required**

DSD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for transmission tower, water storage tank, and utility facilities. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior putting a transmission tower, water storage tank, or utility facility into operation. The site-specific landscaping is subject to the following standards:

- Rural and Remote Areas: In rural and remote areas landscaping, screening and erosion control measures shall be tailored to the nature and character of the area and the type of facility or structure contemplated. Site-specific landscaping shall, at a minimum, include

revegetation of disturbed areas with materials indigenous to the site or otherwise adaptable.

- Urbanized and Developed Areas: In urbanized and developed areas, the site-specific landscaping shall address specific issues such as screening and visual impacts.

**(f) Outside Storage Area Landscaping Requirements**

**(i) Site-Specific Landscaping Required**

DSD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for establishing an outside storage area. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to utilizing an outside storage area.

**(ii) Site-Specific Landscaping Standards**

The site-specific landscaping shall reflect a combination of berms, shrubs, trees, fences or walls which will provide, at maturity, a minimum 6 foot high, 100% opaque screening for the outside storage area.

**(2) Miscellaneous Requirements**

**(a) Flexibility in Design Allowed**

The owner may select the types of and the planting spaces between the required trees. The types of trees selected shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and should be a type listed in the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

**(b) Minimum Cover of Internal Landscape Area**

The internal landscape area shall consist of a minimum of 50% ground cover by living plant materials. The Landscape and Water Conservation Manual provides guidance for planting near foundations.

**(c) Plant Spacing**

The planting spacing should accommodate the growth characteristics of the trees without adversely impacting structures, walks, or drives.

**(d) Minimum Planting Size of Trees**

The minimum planting size of trees shall comply with this Section and should comply with any additional specifications established in the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

**(e) Existing Vegetation**

Existing vegetation which meets the plant type requirements of the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual may be counted toward the internal landscape requirement.

**(f) Limitations on Landscape Placement**

**(i) No Conflicts with Traffic or Sight Distance**

Landscaping shall not conflict with traffic. Sight distance shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2 of the ECM.

**(ii) No Interference with Utilities and Fire Equipment**

Landscaping shall not interfere with the general function, safety or acceptability of any gas, electric, water, sewer, telephone, or other utility easement or conflict with criteria established or adopted by a fire department. Landscaping shall not exceed 8 inches in height within 3 feet of a fire hydrant or other applicable fire department criteria.

**(g) Limitations on Landscape Materials**

**(i) No Artificial Landscape Materials**

The use of artificial vines, turf, or groundcovers as landscape material may be allowed on a case-by-case basis where live landscaping materials may be at risk or inappropriate due to land use, water availability, or location..

**(ii) Elm Trees Prohibited**

Trees of the Ulmus genus (elm) are prohibited in meeting the landscape requirements of this Code unless demonstrated to be Dutch Elm Disease resistant.

**(iii) Use of Box Elder, Salix, and Populus Limited**

Box Elder (*Acer negundo*) and all trees of the *Salix* and *Populus* genus, except Aspen (*Populus Tremuloides*), shall not be planted within 25 feet of a right-of-way.

**(h) Calculating the Required Number of Plants**

**(i) Fractional Numbers Rounded to Closest Whole Number**

Where a requirement results in a fractional number, the applicable requirement shall be the closest whole number (5.0 to 5.49 = 5; 5.5 to 5.9 = 6).

- (ii) **Greatest Landscape Standard Applies**  
Where more than one landscape requirements applies to the same use and landscape area, the greater requirements shall be met.
- (iii) **Landscaping Only Fulfills One Requirement**  
Landscaping necessary to fulfill one requirement shall not be counted in fulfilling a different landscape requirement.
- (iv) **Clumping Forms of Trees Encouraged**  
Clumps of tree, such as Hawthorn (*Craetagus* sp.) , are encouraged instead of single-trunk trees. However, a clump of 3 or fewer trees shall be credited as only one of the required trees.

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(i) **Approval of Certificate of Occupancy**

All required landscaping shall be completed, and then inspected and approved by the DSD prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the Building Department or establishment of the use, except when surety acceptable to the DSD Director guaranteeing the completion of the landscaping is provided. Plant substitutions require approval before issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Any request for a Certificate of Occupancy prior to the completion of the required landscaping shall include a written request explaining the circumstances why the landscaping cannot be installed, a cost estimate prepared by a qualified party, a landscape completion agreement signed by the owner, and surety acceptable to the DSD Director. Inspection and certification by a landscape architect of compliance with this Section may be accepted at the discretion of the DSD Director.

(j) **Compliance with Plans**

The completed landscaping shall comply with the approved landscape plan and shall include the quantities, locations, species and sizes of plants and other landscape materials as represented on the approved landscape plan. Seeded landscape areas shall have no bare areas larger than 6 square inches after germination.

(k) **Maintenance**

(i) **Owner Responsible**

The owner is responsible for all regular and normal maintenance of required landscaping including weeding, irrigation, fertilizing, pruning and mowing.

(ii) Replacement of Dead or Damaged Materials

Replacement of dead, diseased or substantially ~~damaged plant materials~~ shall occur within 6 months from when the plant material died, or when the inspection determined the plant material was dead or damaged. Replacement shall be of the same or similar type as originally approved. An alternative type of species shall require approval by the DSD Director.

(iii) Maintenance Inspections

Maintenance inspections may be performed periodically. Failure to maintain the landscaping in compliance with the approval is considered a zoning violation.

## **6.2. - DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR ANCILLARY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **6.2.1. Fences, Walls, and Hedges**

**(A) Applicability.** This Section is applicable to any fence, wall, or hedge established after the date of adoption of this Section unless superseded by a specific development standard in a PUD zoning district or within a Rural Land Use Plan.

**(B) Exemptions.** This Section is not applicable to agricultural fences, except as otherwise provided by this Section, or to the installation of noise barriers required by this Code, the ECM or constructed and installed in accordance with federal requirements.

**(C) General Standards Applicable to Fences, Walls, or Hedges.** The following standards are applicable to fences, walls, or hedges, including agricultural fences.

**(1) 100-Year Floodplain.** Fences and walls within a 100-year floodplain shall comply with the requirements of the Floodplain Regulations.

**(2) No Obstruction of View of Vehicle Operators.** No fence, wall, or hedge may obstruct the view of vehicle operators entering or leaving any parking area, service drive, driveway, road, alley, or other thoroughfare. Fences, walls and hedges are subject to the sight distance standards in Chapter 2 of the ECM.

**(a) Corrugated Metal Not Approved as Fencing Material.** Corrugated metal is not considered an acceptable fencing material in perimeter fencing if visible from outside the fenced lot or parcel.

**(3) Measuring the Height of a Fence.** The height of fences, walls, and hedges shall be measured from the final grade of the lot, parcel, or tract at the location of the fence, wall, or hedge to the top of the fence, wall, or hedge. The top of a fence, wall, or hedge is the highest component of the fence, wall, or hedge, not including columns or posts. The depth of drainage channels under a fence, wall, or hedge shall not be included in the height measurement. The height of a fence, wall, or hedge built on berms or retaining walls shall include the height of the berm or wall.

**(4) Fencing Maintained.** Fences, walls or hedges shall be maintained in good structural or living condition. The owner is responsible for the repair or removal of a fence, wall or hedge, which constitutes a safety hazard, by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence or abandonment, or which constitutes a zoning violation.

**(D) Height and Location Standards.** The following requirements are applicable to all fences and walls except agricultural fences:

**(1) Building Permit Required for Fences and Walls Over 7 feet in Height.** A fence or wall over 7 feet in height requires a building permit from the Building Department.

**(2) Fences and Walls 7 Feet in Height Considered Accessory Structure.** A fence or wall over 7 feet in height is considered an accessory structure and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements of this Code. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are

applicable.

(3) Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Drainage. The fence and wall shall not be established where it would impede the drainage established by an approved drainage plan.

(4) Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Use of Easement. The fence or wall shall not be established within an easement in a manner where the use of the easement is unnecessarily impeded.

(E) Specific Fence Standards for Residential Zoning Districts. The following requirements are applicable to fences within residential zoning districts.

(1) Opaque Fence Height Limited in Front Yard Setback Area. Fences or walls more than 25% opaque shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within any front setback area.

(2) Corner Lots. Any side of a property from which driveway access from the road is gained shall be considered a front setback area.

(3) Opaque Fence Height Limited in Sight Triangle. An opaque fence, wall or hedge shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(F) Specific Fence Standards for Non-Residential Zoning Districts. The following requirements are applicable to fences within non-residential zoning districts:

(1) 7 Feet High Fences Allowed. Fences not exceeding 7 feet in height may be placed anywhere on the lot or parcel except no fence, wall or hedge shall exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(2) Security Fencing. Security fencing may include 3 strands of wire on top of the fence. The wires are not included in the height measurement.

(3) Subject to Parking, Landscaping, and Screening Standards. Walls and fences shall conform to the parking, landscaping, and screening standards of this Code.

(G) Noise Barrier Fencing or Walls. Noise barrier fencing or walls shall be constructed in accordance with the provisions for noise barrier fencing in Chapter 8 and the ECM. The Development Services Director may authorize the placement of noise barrier fencing, or walls that exceed 7 feet in height adjacent to expressways, arterials, or railroads, provided such fence or wall is facing and adjacent to the roadway for which the noise barrier is being provided.

(H) Development Perimeter Fencing. If fencing is proposed around the perimeter of a subdivision or development, any fencing adjacent to a County Road or State or federal highway shall be compatible with the existing land uses, topography, and landscaping in the immediate vicinity. Subdivision perimeter fencing shall be consistent in design and materials when established along or adjacent to common boundaries where other perimeter fencing exists.

(I) Retaining Wall Standards.

(1) Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Retaining Surcharge. A building permit is required for a

retaining wall that retains a surcharge.

(2) **Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Over 4 Feet High.** A building permit is required for a retaining wall greater than 4 feet in height.

(3) **Retaining Walls 7 Feet High Considered Accessory Structure.** A retaining wall over 7 feet in height is considered an accessory structure and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are applicable.

(4) **Established Prior to Principal use.** A retaining wall, when necessary for development, may be established prior to the principal use.

### **6.2.2. Landscape Requirements**

#### **(A) General.**

- (1) **Purpose.** The landscape requirements are intended to provide uniform standards for the development and maintenance of the landscaping of private property and public rights-of-way to achieve a balance between the individual right to develop and the general benefit and welfare of the community. The benefits to be achieved and the overall purposes of the landscaping required by this Section are: (1) to create a positive image and visual appeal both along the road which is highly visible and internal properties which provide a working, shopping and living environment; (2) to decrease the scale of parking lots, provide shade, and reduce heat, glare and noise; (3) to separate circulation systems; to soften and reduce the mass of buildings; to screen and buffer lower intensity uses from higher intensity uses and protect residential privacy; and (4) to create an overall pleasant and attractive surrounding.
- (2) **Applicability.**
  - (a) **Applies to All Land Uses.** The requirements of this Section shall apply to all uses. PUD's may have their requirements modified subject to the individual PUD.
  - (b) **New Use Established or Use Changed.** Landscaping areas shall conform to this Section for a new building or use of previously vacant land, uses in an enlarged building, and all uses in a building when any use is changed that requires a change of occupancy to be approved by the Building Department or by the PCD.
  - (c) **Effect of Increase in Building Area.** A single or cumulative building addition (floor area) which exceeds 50% of the existing building's gross floor area shall require the entire building landscaping to comply with this Section. The existing building shall be considered the building as it existed on the effective date of this Section.
- (3) **Requirements of Section Supplemented by Manual.** The requirements of this Section are supplemented by the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (4) **Authority of Director to Approve Substitute Landscape Designs.** The PCD Director may approve landscaping that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section provided the proposed landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the Landscaping and Planting Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the PCD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section.

(B) **Roadway Landscaping Requirements.** Roadway landscaping areas are required. A roadway landscaping area is located along the lot, parcel or tract frontage between the road right-of-way, easement, or tract boundary lines and any building or use.

(1) **Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area.** Table 6-1 lists the depth and number of trees required to be provided along any road in roadway landscaping area. Where the required setback is narrower than the depth of the required landscape area, the roadway landscaping area depth shall control. Unless otherwise approved by the ECM Administrator, the depth of roadway landscaping shall be measured from the property line. Where a roadway easement has been provided, the measurement shall be from the ROW or roadway easement. Where future ROW has been identified, the measurement should begin at the future ROW line in order avoid subsequent impairment of the landscaping.

**Table 6-1. Roadway Landscaping Required by Roadway Classification**

Road Classification	Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area	Required Trees (Trees/ Linear Foot of Frontage)
Expressway, Principal Arterial	25 feet	1 per 20 feet
Urban Interchange/Intersection	25 feet	1 per 20 feet (Substitute shrubs for visibility)
Minor Arterial	20 feet	1 per 25 feet
Non-Arterial <sup>1</sup>	10 feet	1 per 30 feet

<sup>1</sup> The required depth of the roadway landscape area shall be increased to 15 feet along a non-arterial road or public alley where the road or alley separates a non-residential use from a residential zoning district. The number of required trees shall be increased to 1 per 15 feet of linear frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

(2) **Location and Type of Trees in Roadway Landscaping Area.**

- (a) **Clustering Allowed.** The roadway landscaping trees may be clustered along a road frontage. The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in areas where the winter shade will cause unsafe conditions on an adjacent road. Clustering shall not be permitted when shade from clustering would be detrimental to adjacent road due to potential winter conditions as determined by the PCD Director or designee.
- (b) **Type of Tree Limited.** The types of roadway landscaping trees utilized shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and listed in the Landscape/Water Efficiency Manual and Water Wise Planting List.
- (c) **Exceeding Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping.** The roadway landscaping trees shall be located within 50 feet of the road right-of-way, easement or tract boundary line and any building or use.
- (d) **Allowed in Right-of-Way if Approved.** The roadway landscaping trees may be placed in a right-of-way if the right-of-way owner approves the placement and no conflicts exist, or will exist, with utility easements or any provider of utilities, establishment of landscaping along private roads must include appropriate maintenance agreement between parties. Generally, trees are not allowed to be placed within any County right-of-way. Placing of the required roadway landscaping trees within the right-of-way shall not negate the requirement for the required roadway landscape area. All landscaping placed within County Right-of-way shall install appropriate safeguards for roadway and/or sidewalks to include "Tree root guards" where appropriate. Permission must be granted for all landscaping within the County Right-of-way through the Department of Public Works.

(e) **Single-Family PUD Roadway Landscaping.** Roadway landscaping along local residential roadways (non-arterials) within a residential PUD is subject to the individual PUD.

(3) **Walls and Fences in Roadway Landscape Area.** Walls and fences which are 25% or more opaque shall not exceed 3 feet in height when located within a required roadway landscaping area. Opaque walls and fences higher than 3 feet (such as noise barriers) shall be located outside of the roadway landscaping area to maintain a landscaped appearance along the road.

(C) **Parking Lot Landscape Requirements.**

(1) **Required Trees.** A tree of a type suitable for parking lots shall be provided for every 15 parking spaces in parking lots with 15 or more parking spaces. The required trees may be clustered and shall be located in a manner which will divide and break up expanses of paving and long rows of parking and create a canopy effect over the parking lot. See Landscaping and Planting Manual for island details.

(2) **Parking Lot Islands.** The most common method to satisfy the parking lot tree requirement is through the utilization of plant islands, fingers (areas open to the parking on 3 sides), and corners (open to the parking on 2 sides). Islands, fingers, and corners are required to be incorporated into all parking lots of 15 parking spaces or more in area. 1 island shall be provided for every 15 spaces. An island, finger or corner must be a minimum of two parking spaces in size (18' x 18' or 9' x 36' in order to qualify as a required island, finger, or corner. Parking lots containing fewer than 15 spaces shall not be required to provide islands but must include some other form such as a finger or corner plantings to satisfy the requirement.

Islands should be located at the end of center rows and at entry locations to direct traffic and minimize cutovers. Islands should generally be used and located to organize and enhance circulation, breakup continuous parking areas, and capture and direct stormwater. Islands protect vegetation from damage. See Landscaping and Planting Manual.

Small parking lots may utilize the perimeter area of the parking lot to satisfy the parking lot tree location requirement when there are not more than 2 rows of parking spaces and a single drive aisle. Where a parking lot is not required to be paved, no islands shall be required.

The tree types, minimum planter sizes and utilization of perimeter tree placement shall be consistent with the Landscaping and Planting Manual.

Parking lot island landscaping may also be counted towards Internal Landscape requirements provided any portion of the island is within 20 feet of a building elevation.

(3) **Protection of Trees from Damage.** Parking lot trees shall be protected from vehicle damage by curbs, planters or other barriers.

(4) **Storm Drainage for Irrigation Encouraged.** Parking lots designs that allow runoff to enter landscaped areas for irrigation and controlling non-point source pollution are encouraged.

(5) **Required Parking Lot Screening.** Parking lots shall be screened from view from adjacent roads and properties with differing land uses. The minimum height of the screening shall be 3 feet and may be accomplished by using berms and plantings. A minimum of ¾ of the road frontage or common lot, parcel, or tract boundary, not counting intersecting driveways, shall be provided with the required screening. The maximum spacing of plants to achieve an acceptable screen and the maximum acceptable grades for screening areas, such as grass berms and plantings beds, should be consistent with the Landscaping and Planting Manual.

Decorative walls or fences may be approved if the Director finds that:

- The wall or fence avoids a blank and monotonous appearance by architectural articulation and the planting of vines, shrubs, or trees.
- The total use of berms or plantings is not physically feasible; or
- The wall or fence attractively compliments the use of berms or plantings.

**(D) Required Buffer and Screen Areas.**

**(1) Buffer Between Non-Residential and Residential Districts Separated by a Non-Arterial Road or Public Alley.**

- (a) **Where Required.** A buffer is required along the road-side lot, parcel, or tract line of any non-residential use where the use is separated from a residential zoning district by a non-arterial road or public alley.
- (b) **Depth and Planting Standards.** The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 15 feet of the road frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.
- (c) **Opaque Fence or Wall Required.** An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the inside edge of the required buffer when the area immediately adjacent to the 15-foot buffer is used as a service corridor for loading, maneuvering or storage. If the area is used for parking, the required parking lot screening shall be applicable.
- (d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required.** The required buffer area shall require a ground cover at maturity with a minimum of 75% living plant materials. Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved living ground cover material shall be covered in an approved non-living ground cover.

**(2) Buffer Between Non-Residential, Multifamily Residential and Single-Family/Duplex Uses.**

- (a) **Where Required.** A buffer is required in the following situations:
  - (i) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the non-residential use property between the non-residential use and a residential zoning district.
  - (ii) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the multifamily use property between the multifamily use and a single-family or duplex zoning district.
  - (iii) On the residential side of the project when use to use compatibility is a concern.
- (b) **Depth and Planting Standards.** The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 25 feet of common lot, parcel, or tract line. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.
- (c) **Opaque Fencing or Wall Required.** An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the lot, parcel, or tract line except where the adjacent single-family or duplex residential zoning district or use abuts a required roadway landscaping area.
- (d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required.** Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural/synthetic landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved non-living ground cover material shall be covered in a living plant material.

**(E) Internal Landscaping.** The following internal landscaping is required:

**(1) Requirements for Multifamily Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for multifamily uses:

- (a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 15% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.
- (b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.
- (c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs.** A maximum of 1/2 of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

(2) **Requirements for Non-Residential Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for non-residential uses.

- (a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 5% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.
- (b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.
- (c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs.** A maximum of ½ of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs adjacent to retail store fronts where the view of wall signs may be obstructed. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

(3) **Standards for Required Internal Landscape Area.**

- (a) **Intent of Internal Landscaping.** The intent of the internal landscape area is to provide relief from structures and hard surfaces through the use of plantings.
- (b) **Location of Internal Landscape Areas.** The required internal landscape areas shall be located in accordance with the following standards:
  - (i) Adjacent to those building elevations which form the major public views of the building from adjacent roads and properties and to the users of the project; or
  - (ii) At all pedestrian entrances, except service-only entries; or
  - (iii) Within a plaza or courtyard between buildings or portions of buildings, (plaza/courtyard is to have at least 1 side open); or
  - (iv) In an area provided to separate building areas from parking areas; or
  - (v) In a similar location which substantially conforms to the purpose of the required internal landscape area.
- (c) **Area Calculation.** The entire lot, parcel or tract area shall be used as the basis for calculating required the internal landscape area. In instances where an entire lot, parcel, or tract is not used for the proposed development, the area used to calculate the required internal landscape area may be reduced by the PCD Director based on the area of the lot, parcel or tract actually being developed or used. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area determined by the PCD Director to be developed or used. However, even if reductions in the lot area are approved, the PCD Director may require that additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is provided at the first stage of a larger project to mitigate environmental impacts or meet the intent of the landscaping provisions of the LDC.
- (d) **Paved Areas within an Internal Landscaped Area.** Sidewalks which provide basic pedestrian circulation shall not count toward meeting the internal landscape area requirement. Paved plazas may be credited to a maximum of 50% of required internal landscaping area if such plazas have trees and other pedestrian-only amenities (benches, sculpture, decorative paving, etc.), are not vehicular, and provide visual relief to those building elevations which form the major public views of the project.

(F) **Minimum Plant Sizes and Percentage of Live Ground Cover.**

- (1) **Landscape Material Specifications.** Plant installation sizes and characteristics shall meet the following minimum requirements.
  - (a) **Deciduous Shade Trees.** Deciduous shade trees shall be 1½ inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.
  - (b) **Deciduous Ornamental Trees.** Deciduous ornamental trees shall be 1 inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.

(c) Evergreen Trees. Evergreen trees shall be 6 feet in height above ground, balled and burlapped, except Pinon Pine and upright junipers which shall be a minimum 4 feet in height.

(d) Evergreen and Deciduous Shrubs. Evergreen and deciduous shrubs, where required, shall be 5-gallon size.

(e) Ground Cover and Vines. Ground cover and vines shall be 1 size.

(2) Required Ground Cover. Unless utilizing the principles of xeriscaping, required landscape areas shall include a minimum of 30% ground cover by living or synthetic grass or other living plant materials at maturity. The remaining 70% of the required landscape area may be covered with bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other landscape materials. No other areas within required landscape areas shall remain bare. The foliage crown of trees shall not be counted in meeting the ground cover requirement.

(G) Other Required Landscape Areas.

(1) Other Areas to be Landscaped or Screened.

(a) Zoning District Boundary Trees. A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 30 feet of lot, parcel, or tract line coincident with a zoning district boundary line except if otherwise required to meet the buffering requirements between a non-residential use or multifamily use and residential zoning district.

(b) Refuse Areas Screened. Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, shall be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by an opaque wall or fence, architectural elements, dense evergreen plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet, or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet.

(c) Loading Docks and Other Vehicle Areas Screened. Loading docks, vehicle repair bays, and vehicle fueling areas shall be screened from view from adjacent roads by the use of plantings, berms, walls, fences, or other architectural elements.

(d) Water Storage Tank and Utility Facilities Landscape Requirements.

(i) Site-Specific Landscaping Required. PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for a water storage tank and utility facilities. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to putting a water storage tank or utility facility into operation. The site-specific landscaping is subject to the following standards:

- Rural and Remote Areas: In rural and remote areas landscaping, screening and erosion control measures shall be tailored to the nature and character of the area and the type of facility or structure contemplated. Site-specific landscaping shall, at a minimum, include revegetation of disturbed areas with materials indigenous to the site or otherwise adaptable.

- Urbanized and Developed Areas: In urbanized and developed areas, the site-specific landscaping shall address specific issues such as screening and visual impacts.

(e) Outside Storage Area Landscaping Requirements.

(i) Site-Specific Landscaping Required. PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for establishing an outside storage area. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to utilizing an outside storage area.

(ii) Site-Specific Landscaping Standards. The site-specific landscaping shall reflect a combination of berms, shrubs, trees, fences or walls which will provide, at maturity, a minimum 6 foot high, 100% opaque screening for the outside storage area.

(2) Miscellaneous Requirements.

- (a) **Flexibility in Design Allowed.** The owner may select the types of and the planting spaces between the required trees. The types of trees selected shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and should be a type listed in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (b) **Minimum Cover of Internal Landscape Area.** The internal landscape area shall consist of a minimum of 50% ground cover by living or synthetic (grass only) plant materials, xeriscape may be included for a reduction to 30%. The Landscaping and Planting Manual provides guidance for planting near foundations.
- (c) **Plant Spacing.** The planting spacing should accommodate the growth characteristics of the trees without adversely impacting structures, walks, or drives.
- (d) **Minimum Planting Size of Trees.** The minimum planting size of trees shall comply with this Section and should comply with any additional specifications established in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (e) **Existing Vegetation.** Existing vegetation which meets the plant type requirements of the Landscaping and Planting Manual may be counted toward the internal landscape requirement.
- (f) **Limitations on Landscape Placement.**
  - (i) **No Conflicts with Traffic or Sight Distance.** Landscaping shall not conflict with traffic. Sight distance shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2 of the ECM.
  - (ii) **No Interference with Utilities and Fire Equipment.** Landscaping shall not interfere with the general function, safety, or acceptability of any gas, electric, water, sewer, telephone, or other utility easement or conflict with criteria established or adopted by a fire department. Landscaping shall not exceed 8 inches in height within 3 feet of a fire hydrant or other applicable fire department criteria.
- (g) **Limitations on Landscape Materials.**
  - (i) The use of artificial vines, turf, or groundcovers as landscape material may be allowed on a case-by-case basis where live landscaping materials may be at risk or inappropriate due to land use, water availability, or location.
  - (ii) Prohibited/Noxious planting list is included in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (h) **Calculating the Required Number of Plants.**
  - (i) **Fractional Numbers Rounded to Closest Whole Number.** Where a requirement results in a fractional number, the applicable requirement shall be the closest whole number (5.0 to 5.49 = 5; 5.5 to 5.9 = 6).
  - (ii) **Greatest Landscape Standard Applies.** Where more than 1 landscape requirement applies to the same use and landscape area, the greater requirements shall be met.
  - (iii) **Landscaping Only Fulfills 1 Requirement.** Landscaping necessary to fulfill 1 requirement shall not be counted in fulfilling a different landscape requirement, unless otherwise stipulated in this Code.
  - (iv) **Clumping Forms of Trees Encouraged.** Clumps of trees, such as Hawthorn (*Craetagus* sp.), are encouraged instead of single-trunk trees. Smaller caliper trees to meet the minimum caliper are accepted, however, a clump of 3 or fewer trees shall be credited as only 1 of the required trees.
- (i) **Approval of Certificate of Occupancy or Use.** All required landscaping shall be completed, and then inspected and approved by the PCD prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the Building Department or establishment of the use, except when financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director guaranteeing the completion of the landscaping is provided. Plant substitutions require approval before issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Any request

for a Certificate of Occupancy prior to the completion of the required landscaping shall include a written request explaining the circumstances why the landscaping cannot be installed, a cost estimate prepared by a qualified party, a landscape completion agreement signed by the owner, and financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director. Inspection and certification by a landscape architect of compliance with this Section may be accepted at the discretion of the PCD Director.

(j) **Compliance with Plans.** The completed landscaping shall comply with the approved landscape plan and shall include the quantities, locations, species and sizes of plants and other landscape materials as represented on the approved landscape plan. Seeded landscape areas shall have no bare areas larger than 6 square inches after germination.

(k) **Maintenance.**

(i) Owner Responsible. The owner is responsible for all regular and normal maintenance of required landscaping including weeding, irrigation, fertilizing, pruning, mowing, and replacement in the care of artificial turf.

(ii) Replacement of Dead or Damaged Materials. Replacement of dead, diseased or substantially damaged plant materials shall occur within 6 months from when the plant material died, or when the inspection determined the plant material was dead or damaged. Replacement shall be of the same or similar type as originally approved. An alternative type of species shall require approval by the PCD Director.

(iii) Maintenance Inspections. Maintenance inspections may be performed periodically. Failure to maintain the landscaping in compliance with the approval is considered a zoning violation.

**APPENDIX B**                      **RECOMMENDED LANDSCAPING MATERIALS**

Found within this Appendix are plant materials that are xeric and especially recommended for El Paso County's challenging climate. More water-intensive plants are not listed and are not encouraged. The utilization and thoughtful selection of drought-resistant/drought-tolerant plant materials ~~is~~are emphasized, along with appropriately designed irrigation systems, redirection of natural moisture, and reduced reliance on high-water-use turf in favor of other ground cover, for all areas of the County.

\*This is not a complete list of appropriate plant materials. The ~~DSDPCD~~ staff will consider ~~for~~ approval of other species, based on proven or anticipated survival.

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Ohio Buckeye Aesculus glabra	X	
Rocky Mountain Serviceberry (single stem) Amelanchier alnifolia	X	X
New Mexico Privet Foresteira neomexicana	X	X
New Mexico Locust Robinia neomexicana	X	X
Crabapple Malus sp.	X	X
Tatarian Maple Acer tataricum	X	X
Cherries, plums, chokecherries Prunus sp.	X	X
<b>EVERGREEN TREES</b>		
Pine, Austrian Pinus nigra	X	

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TREES	Suitable for Streetscapes, Buffers, Internal Landscaping Areas	Suitable under Power Lines
Pine, Pinon Pinus edulis	X	X
Pine, Ponderosa Pinus ponderosa	X	
Pine, Scotch Pinus sylvestris	X	
Foxtail Pine Pinus aristata		
<b>UPRIGHT EVERGREENS</b>		
Upright Junipers Juniperus scopulorum	X	X
Rocky Mountain Juniper Juniperus monosperma	X	X
One-Seed Juniper Juniperus virginiana	X	X
Red Cedar Thuja plicata		

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Fountain Grass Pennisetum alopecuroides		2'
Purple Fountain Grass Pennisetum setaceum "Rubrum"		2'
<b>MEDIUM - 4' TO 6' MATURE HEIGHT</b>		
Karl Foerster Grass Calamagrostis acutiflora		3'
Scotch Broom Cytisus scoparius "Moonlight"	X	5'
Juniper, Pfitzer Juniperus chinensis pfitzeriana	X	5'
Juniper, Pfitzer Compact Juniperus chinensis kelleyi	X	4'
Juniper, Pfitzer Gold Tip Juniperus chinensis pfitzeriara aurea	X	4'
Curl-leaf Mountain mahogany Cercocarpus ledifolius	X	5'
Fernbush Chamaebatiaria millefoium	X	4'

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Issue Date: 10/20/06  
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Appendix B

Wayfaring Tree Viburnum lantana	X	8'
Spirea, Vanhoutte Spiraea vanhouttei	X	6'

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**Recommended Groundcovers for El Paso County**

<b>GROUND COVERS (less than 24" at maturity)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Creeping and Spreading Junipers Juniperus horizontalis varieties	Will provide four season interest and prevent erosion year-round
Snow in Summer Cerastium tomentosum	Spring/summer interest only
Blue Fescue Festuca ovina glauca	Spring/summer interest; erosion prevention qualities
Hens and Chicks Sempervivum sp.	Four season interest; will spread and prevent erosion
Creeping Hollygrape Mahonia repens	Four season interest; should be protected from winter wind; will grow in shade
Kinnikinnick Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Four season interest; will grow in shade
Rock Cotoneaster Cotoneaster horizontalis	Four season interest; should be protected from winter wind; will grow in shade
Silver Mound, Wormwood Artemesia	Spring/summer interest; erosion prevention qualities
Stonecrops, Goldmoss, Dragonblood Sedum sp.	Spring/summer interest; erosion prevention qualities

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Chrysothamnus nauseosus	and greater screening
▲ Apache Plume Fallugia paradoxa	
▲ Potentilla Potentilla furticosa	
▲ Yucca Yucca species	Sharp leaves: don't use where pedestrians might want to walk

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**LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

**Other Recommended Plants for El Paso County**

**Habitat Plants**

- Chokecherry, Plums, Cherries (Prunus sp.)
- Chokeberry (Aronia sp.)
- Current/Gooseberry (Ribes sp.)
- Serviceberry (Amelanchier sp.)
- Three leaf Sumac (Rhus trilobata)
- Alder
- Cottonwood (Populus grandidentatum)
- Current (Ribes odoratum "Crandall")

**Turf Grasses**

**Non-Irrigated Areas**

(Depends entirely on natural precipitation)

- Crested Wheatgrass Agropyron cristatum
- Buffalograss Buchloe dactyloides
- Blue Gramma Bouteloua gracilis

**Planting References**

- Colorado Nurserymen's Association, Colorado Nursery Plant Guide, 1982.
- Kelly, George, Rocky Mountain Horticulture, 1967.
- Sunset Books, New Western Garden Book, 1979.
- Xeriscape Plan Guide, Denver Water, American Water Works Association, 1996.
- [www.xratedgardening.com](http://www.xratedgardening.com)
- Sunset Western Garden Book, Kathleen Brenzel, Editor, 2001.  
R, Andrew Hough, Douglas County Community Development Department, 2006.

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APPENDIX C Noxious Weeds

\*Please see "Noxious Weeds and Control Methods" by EPC Community Services Department, Environmental Division  
<https://epc-assets.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/Environmental-Division-Picture/Noxious-Weeds/Noxious-Weed-Control-Book.pdf>

Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) Classification of Noxious Weeds

<b>List A:</b> <i>Rare noxious weeds that must be eradicated statewide</i>
<a href="#">Cypress spurge</a>
<a href="#">Dyer's woad</a>
<a href="#">Knotweeds: Giant, Japanese &amp; Bohemian</a>
<a href="#">Myrtle spurge</a>
<a href="#">Orange hawkweed</a>
<a href="#">Purple loosestrife</a>

<b>List B:</b> <i>Discretely distributed noxious weeds that must be eradicated, contained, or suppressed, depending on their location, to stop their continued spread.</i>
<a href="#">Absinth wormwood</a>
<a href="#">Bouncingbet</a>
<a href="#">Bull thistle</a>
<a href="#">Canada thistle</a>
<a href="#">Chinese clematis</a>
<a href="#">Common teasel</a>
<a href="#">Dalmatian toadflax</a>
<a href="#">Diffuse knapweed</a>
<a href="#">Hoary cress (whitetop)</a>
<a href="#">Houndstongue</a>
<a href="#">Leafy spurge</a>
<a href="#">Musk thistle</a>
<a href="#">Perennial pepperweed</a>
<a href="#">Russian knapweed</a>
<a href="#">Russian olive</a>
<a href="#">Scentless chamomile</a>
<a href="#">Scotch thistle</a>

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**LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

<u>Spotted knapweed</u>
<u>Tamarisk (Salt cedar)</u>
<u>Yellow toadflax</u>

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<b>List C:</b> <i>Widespread and well-established noxious weeds in Colorado; control is recommended by the state and may be required by local government</i>
<u>Common mullein</u>
<u>Downy brome / Cheatgrass</u>
<u>Field bindweed</u>
<u>Poison hemlock</u>

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## 6.2. - DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR ANCILLARY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

### 6.2.1. Fences, Walls, and Hedges

(A) **Applicability.** This Section is applicable to any fence, wall, or hedge established after the date of adoption of this Section unless superseded by a specific development standard in a PUD zoning district or within a Rural Land Use Plan.

(B) **Exemptions.** This Section is not applicable to agricultural fences, except as otherwise provided by this Section, or to the installation of noise barriers required by this Code, the ECM or constructed and installed in accordance with federal requirements.

(C) **General Standards Applicable to Fences, Walls, or Hedges.** The following standards are applicable to fences, walls, or hedges, including agricultural fences.

(1) **100-Year Floodplain.** Fences and walls within a 100-year floodplain shall comply with the requirements of the Floodplain Regulations.

(2) **No Obstruction of View of Vehicle Operators.** No fence, wall, or hedge may obstruct the view of vehicle operators entering or leaving any parking area, service drive, driveway, road, alley, or other thoroughfare. Fences, walls and hedges are subject to the sight distance standards in Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(a) **Corrugated Metal Not Approved as Fencing Material.** Corrugated metal is not considered an acceptable fencing material in perimeter fencing if visible from outside the fenced lot or parcel.

(3) **Measuring the Height of a Fence.** The height of fences, walls, and hedges shall be measured from the final grade of the lot, parcel, or tract at the location of the fence, wall, or hedge to the top of the fence, wall, or hedge. The top of a fence, wall, or hedge is the highest component of the fence, wall, or hedge, not including columns or posts. The depth of drainage channels under a fence, wall, or hedge shall not be included in the height measurement. The height of a fence, wall, or hedge built on berms or retaining walls shall include the height of the berm or wall.

(4) **Fencing Maintained.** Fences, walls or hedges shall be maintained in good structural or living condition. The owner is responsible for the repair or removal of a fence, wall or hedge, which constitutes a safety hazard, by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence or abandonment, or which constitutes a zoning violation.

(D) **Height and Location Standards.** The following requirements are applicable to all fences and walls except agricultural fences:

(1) **Building Permit Required for Fences and Walls Over 7 feet in Height.** A fence or wall over 7 feet in height requires a building permit from the Building Department.

(2) **Fences and Walls 7 Feet in Height Considered Accessory Structure.** A fence or wall over 7 feet in

height is considered an accessory structure and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements of this Code. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are applicable.

(3) **Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Drainage.** The fence and wall shall not be established where it would impede the drainage established by an approved drainage plan.

(4) **Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Use of Easement.** The fence or wall shall not be established within an easement in a manner where the use of the easement is unnecessarily impeded.

(E) **Specific Fence Standards for Residential Zoning Districts.** The following requirements are applicable to fences within residential zoning districts.

(1) **Opaque Fence Height Limited in Front Yard Setback Area.** Fences or walls more than 25% opaque shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within any front setback area.

(2) **Corner Lots.** Any side of a property from which driveway access from the road is gained shall be considered a front setback area.

(3) **Opaque Fence Height Limited in Sight Triangle.** An opaque fence, wall or hedge shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(F) **Specific Fence Standards for Non-Residential Zoning Districts.** The following requirements are applicable to fences within non-residential zoning districts:

(1) **7 Feet High Fences Allowed.** Fences not exceeding 7 feet in height may be placed anywhere on the lot or parcel except no fence, wall or hedge shall exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(2) **Security Fencing.** Security fencing may include 3 strands of wire on top of the fence. The wires are not included in the height measurement.

(3) **Subject to Parking, Landscaping, and Screening Standards.** Walls and fences shall conform to the parking, landscaping, and screening standards of this Code.

(G) **Noise Barrier Fencing or Walls.** Noise barrier fencing or walls shall be constructed in accordance with the provisions for noise barrier fencing in Chapter 8 and the ECM. The Development Services Director may authorize the placement of noise barrier fencing, or walls that exceed 7 feet in height adjacent to expressways, arterials, or railroads, provided such fence or wall is facing and adjacent to the roadway for which the noise barrier is being provided.

(H) **Development Perimeter Fencing.** If fencing is proposed around the perimeter of a subdivision or development, any fencing adjacent to a County Road or State or federal highway shall be compatible with the existing land uses, topography, and landscaping in the immediate vicinity. Subdivision perimeter fencing shall be consistent in design and materials when established along or adjacent to common boundaries where other

perimeter fencing exists.

**(l) Retaining Wall Standards.**

(1) **Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Retaining Surcharge.** A building permit is required for a retaining wall that retains a surcharge.

(2) **Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Over 4 Feet High.** A building permit is required for a retaining wall greater than 4 feet in height.

(3) **Retaining Walls 7 Feet High Considered Accessory Structure.** A retaining wall over 7 feet in height is considered an accessory structure and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are applicable.

(4) **Established Prior to Principal use.** A retaining wall, when necessary for development, may be established prior to the principal use.

**6.2.2. Landscape Requirements**

**(A) General.**

(1) **Purpose.** The landscape requirements are intended to provide uniform standards for the development and maintenance of the landscaping of private property and public rights-of-way to achieve a balance between the individual right to develop and the general benefit and welfare of the community. The benefits to be achieved and the overall purposes of the landscaping required by this Section are: (1) to create a positive image and visual appeal both along the road which is highly visible and internal properties which provide a working, shopping and living environment; (2) to decrease the scale of parking lots, provide shade, and reduce heat, glare and noise; (3) to separate circulation systems; to soften and reduce the mass of buildings; to screen and buffer lower intensity uses from higher intensity uses and protect residential privacy; and (4) to create an overall pleasant and attractive surrounding.

(2) **Applicability.**

(a) **Applies to All Land Uses.** The requirements of this Section shall apply to all uses. PUD's may have their requirements modified subject to the individual PUD.

(b) **New Use Established or Use Changed.** Landscaping areas shall conform to this Section for a new building or use of previously vacant land, uses in an enlarged building, and all uses in a building when any use is changed that requires a change of occupancy to be approved by the Building Department or by the PCD.

(c) **Effect of Increase in Building Area.** A single or cumulative building addition (floor area) which exceeds 50% of the existing building's gross floor area shall require the entire building landscaping to comply with this Section. The existing building shall be considered the building as it existed on the effective date of this Section.

(3) **Requirements of Section Supplemented by Manual.** The requirements of this Section are supplemented by the Landscaping and Planting Manual.

(4) **Authority of Director to Approve Substitute Landscape Designs.** The PCD Director may approve landscaping that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section provided the

proposed landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the Landscaping and Planting Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the PCD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section.

- (B) **Roadway Landscaping Requirements.** Roadway landscaping areas are required. A roadway landscaping area is located along the lot, parcel or tract frontage between the road right-of-way, easement, or tract boundary lines and any building or use.
  - (1) **Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area.** Table 6-1 lists the depth and number of trees required to be provided along any road in roadway landscaping area. Where the required setback is narrower than the depth of the required landscape area, the roadway landscaping area depth shall control. Unless otherwise approved by the ECM Administrator, the depth of roadway landscaping shall be measured from the property line. Where a roadway easement has been provided, the measurement shall be from the ROW or roadway easement. Where future ROW has been identified, the measurement should begin at the future ROW line in order avoid subsequent impairment of the landscaping.

**Table 6-1. Roadway Landscaping Required by Roadway Classification**

Road Classification	Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area	Required Trees (Trees/ Linear Foot of Frontage)
Expressway, Principal Arterial	25 feet	1 per 20 feet
Urban Interchange/Intersection	25 feet	1 per 20 feet (Substitute shrubs for visibility)
Minor Arterial	20 feet	1 per 25 feet
Non-Arterial <sup>1</sup>	10 feet	1 per 30 feet

<sup>1</sup>The required depth of the roadway landscape area shall be increased to 15 feet along a non-arterial road or public alley where the road or alley separates a non-residential use from a residential zoning district. The number of required trees shall be increased to 1 per 15 feet of linear frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

- (2) **Location and Type of Trees in Roadway Landscaping Area.**
  - (a) **Clustering Allowed.** The roadway landscaping trees may be clustered along a road frontage. The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in areas where the winter shade will cause unsafe conditions on an adjacent road. Clustering shall not be permitted when shade from clustering would be detrimental to adjacent road due to potential winter conditions as determined by the PCD Director or designee.
  - (b) **Type of Tree Limited.** The types of roadway landscaping trees utilized shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and listed in the Landscape/Water Efficiency Manual and Water Wise Planting List.
  - (c) **Exceeding Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping.** The roadway landscaping trees shall be located within 50 feet of the road right-of-way, easement or tract boundary line and any building or use.
  - (d) **Allowed in Right-of-Way if Approved.** The roadway landscaping trees may be placed in a right-of-way if the right-of-way owner approves the placement and no conflicts exist, or will exist, with utility easements or any provider of utilities, establishment of landscaping along private roads must include appropriate maintenance agreement between parties. Generally, trees are not allowed to be placed within any County right-of-way. Placing of the required roadway landscaping trees within the right-of-way shall not negate the

requirement for the required roadway landscape area. All landscaping placed within County Right-of-way shall install appropriate safeguards for roadway and/or sidewalks to include "Tree root guards" where appropriate. Permission must be granted for all landscaping within the County Right-of-way through the Department of Public Works.

- (e) **Single-Family PUD Roadway Landscaping.** Roadway landscaping along local residential roadways (non-arterials) within a residential PUD is subject to the individual PUD.
- (3) **Walls and Fences in Roadway Landscape Area.** Walls and fences which are 25% or more opaque shall not exceed 3 feet in height when located within a required roadway landscaping area. Opaque walls and fences higher than 3 feet (such as noise barriers) shall be located outside of the roadway landscaping area to maintain a landscaped appearance along the road.
- (C) **Parking Lot Landscape Requirements.**
  - (1) **Required Trees.** A tree of a type suitable for parking lots shall be provided for every 15 parking spaces in parking lots with 15 or more parking spaces. The required trees may be clustered and shall be located in a manner which will divide and break up expanses of paving and long rows of parking and create a canopy effect over the parking lot. See Landscaping and Planting Manual for island details.
  - (2) **Parking Lot Islands.** The most common method to satisfy the parking lot tree requirement is through the utilization of plant islands, fingers (areas open to the parking on 3 sides), and corners (open to the parking on 2 sides). Islands, fingers, and corners are required to be incorporated into all parking lots of 15 parking spaces or more in area. 1 island shall be provided for every 15 spaces. An island, finger or corner must be a minimum of two parking spaces in size (18' x 18' or 9' x 36' in order to qualify as a required island, finger, or corner. Parking lots containing fewer than 15 spaces shall not be required to provide islands but must include some other form such as a finger or corner plantings to satisfy the requirement.  
Islands should be located at the end of center rows and at entry locations to direct traffic and minimize cutovers. Islands should generally be used and located to organize and enhance circulation, breakup continuous parking areas, and capture and direct stormwater. Islands protect vegetation from damage. See Landscaping and Planting Manual.  
Small parking lots may utilize the perimeter area of the parking lot to satisfy the parking lot tree location requirement when there are not more than 2 rows of parking spaces and a single drive aisle. Where a parking lot is not required to be paved, no islands shall be required.  
The tree types, minimum planter sizes and utilization of perimeter tree placement shall be consistent with the Landscaping and Planting Manual.  
Parking lot island landscaping may also be counted towards Internal Landscape requirements provided any portion of the island is within 20 feet of a building elevation.
  - (3) **Protection of Trees from Damage.** Parking lot trees shall be protected from vehicle damage by curbs, planters or other barriers.
  - (4) **Storm Drainage for Irrigation Encouraged.** Parking lots designs that allow runoff to enter landscaped areas for irrigation and controlling non-point source pollution are encouraged.
  - (5) **Required Parking Lot Screening.** Parking lots shall be screened from view from adjacent roads and properties with differing land uses. The minimum height of the screening shall be 3 feet and may be accomplished by using berms and plantings. A minimum of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the road frontage or common lot, parcel, or tract boundary, not counting intersecting driveways, shall be provided with the required screening. The maximum spacing of plants to achieve an acceptable screen and the maximum acceptable grades for screening areas, such as grass berms and plantings beds, should be consistent with the Landscaping and Planting Manual.

Decorative walls or fences may be approved if the Director finds that:

- The wall or fence avoids a blank and monotonous appearance by architectural articulation and the planting of vines, shrubs, or trees.
- The total use of berms or plantings is not physically feasible; or
- The wall or fence attractively compliments the use of berms or plantings.

(D) **Required Buffer and Screen Areas.**

(1) **Buffer Between Non-Residential and Residential Districts Separated by a Non-Arterial Road or Public Alley.**

- (a) **Where Required.** A buffer is required along the road-side lot, parcel, or tract line of any non-residential use where the use is separated from a residential zoning district by a non-arterial road or public alley.
- (b) **Depth and Planting Standards.** The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 15 feet of the road frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.
- (c) **Opaque Fence or Wall Required.** An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the inside edge of the required buffer when the area immediately adjacent to the 15-foot buffer is used as a service corridor for loading, maneuvering or storage. If the area is used for parking, the required parking lot screening shall be applicable.
- (d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required.** The required buffer area shall require a ground cover at maturity with a minimum of 75% living plant materials. Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved living ground cover material shall be covered in an approved non-living ground cover.

(2) **Buffer Between Non-Residential, Multifamily Residential and Single-Family/Duplex Uses.**

- (a) **Where Required.** A buffer is required in the following situations:
  - (i) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the non-residential use property between the non-residential use and a residential zoning district.
  - (ii) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the multifamily use property between the multifamily use and a single-family or duplex zoning district.
  - (iii) On the residential side of the project when use to use compatibility is a concern.
- (b) **Depth and Planting Standards.** The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 25 feet of common lot, parcel, or tract line. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.
- (c) **Opaque Fencing or Wall Required.** An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the lot, parcel, or tract line except where the adjacent single-family or duplex residential zoning district or use abuts a required roadway landscaping area.
- (d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required.** Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural/synthetic landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved non-living ground cover material shall be covered in a living plant material.

(E) **Internal Landscaping.** The following internal landscaping is required:

- (1) **Requirements for Multifamily Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for multifamily uses:

- (a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 15% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.
  - (b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.
  - (c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs.** A maximum of ½ of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.
- (2) **Requirements for Non-Residential Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for non-residential uses.
- (a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 5% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.
  - (b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.
  - (c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs.** A maximum of ½ of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs adjacent to retail store fronts where the view of wall signs may be obstructed. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.
- (3) **Standards for Required Internal Landscape Area.**
- (a) **Intent of Internal Landscaping.** The intent of the internal landscape area is to provide relief from structures and hard surfaces through the use of plantings.
  - (b) **Location of Internal Landscape Areas.** The required internal landscape areas shall be located in accordance with the following standards:
    - (i) Adjacent to those building elevations which form the major public views of the building from adjacent roads and properties and to the users of the project; or
    - (ii) At all pedestrian entrances, except service-only entries; or
    - (iii) Within a plaza or courtyard between buildings or portions of buildings, (plaza/courtyard is to have at least 1 side open); or
    - (iv) In an area provided to separate building areas from parking areas; or
    - (v) In a similar location which substantially conforms to the purpose of the required internal landscape area.
  - (c) **Area Calculation.** The entire lot, parcel or tract area shall be used as the basis for calculating required the internal landscape area. In instances where an entire lot, parcel, or tract is not used for the proposed development, the area used to calculate the required internal landscape area may be reduced by the PCD Director based on the area of the lot, parcel or tract actually being developed or used. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area determined by the PCD Director to be developed or used. However, even if reductions in the lot area are approved, the PCD Director may require that additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is provided at the first stage of a larger project to mitigate environmental impacts or meet the intent of the landscaping provisions of the LDC.
  - (d) **Paved Areas within an Internal Landscaped Area.** Sidewalks which provide basic pedestrian circulation shall not count toward meeting the internal landscape area requirement. Paved plazas may be credited to a maximum of 50% of required internal landscaping area if such plazas have trees and other pedestrian-only amenities (benches, sculpture, decorative paving, etc.), are not vehicular, and provide visual relief to those building elevations which form the major public views of the project.

- (F) **Minimum Plant Sizes and Percentage of Live Ground Cover.**
- (1) **Landscape Material Specifications.** Plant installation sizes and characteristics shall meet the following minimum requirements.
- (a) **Deciduous Shade Trees.** Deciduous shade trees shall be 1½ inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.
  - (b) **Deciduous Ornamental Trees.** Deciduous ornamental trees shall be 1 inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.
  - (c) **Evergreen Trees.** Evergreen trees shall be 6 feet in height above ground, balled and burlapped, except Pinon Pine and upright junipers which shall be a minimum 4 feet in height.
  - (d) **Evergreen and Deciduous Shrubs.** Evergreen and deciduous shrubs, where required, shall be 5-gallon size.
  - (e) **Ground Cover and Vines.** Ground cover and vines shall be 1 size.
- (2) **Required Ground Cover.** Unless utilizing the principles of xeriscaping, required landscape areas shall include a minimum of 30% ground cover by living or synthetic grass or other living plant materials at maturity. The remaining 70% of the required landscape area may be covered with bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other landscape materials. No other areas within required landscape areas shall remain bare. The foliage crown of trees shall not be counted in meeting the ground cover requirement.
- (G) **Other Required Landscape Areas.**
- (1) **Other Areas to be Landscaped or Screened.**
- (a) **Zoning District Boundary Trees.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 30 feet of lot, parcel, or tract line coincident with a zoning district boundary line except if otherwise required to meet the buffering requirements between a non-residential use or multifamily use and residential zoning district.
  - (b) **Refuse Areas Screened.** Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, shall be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by an opaque wall or fence, architectural elements, dense evergreen plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet, or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet.
  - (c) **Loading Docks and Other Vehicle Areas Screened.** Loading docks, vehicle repair bays, and vehicle fueling areas shall be screened from view from adjacent roads by the use of plantings, berms, walls, fences, or other architectural elements.
  - (d) **Water Storage Tank and Utility Facilities Landscape Requirements.**
    - (i) **Site-Specific Landscaping Required.** PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for a water storage tank and utility facilities. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to putting a water storage tank or utility facility into operation. The site-specific landscaping is subject to the following standards:
      - **Rural and Remote Areas:** In rural and remote areas landscaping, screening and erosion control measures shall be tailored to the nature and character of the area and the type of facility or structure contemplated. Site-specific landscaping shall, at a minimum, include revegetation of disturbed areas with materials indigenous to the site or otherwise adaptable.
      - **Urbanized and Developed Areas:** In urbanized and developed areas, the site-specific landscaping shall address specific issues such as screening and visual impacts.

- (e) **Outside Storage Area Landscaping Requirements.**
  - (i) Site-Specific Landscaping Required. PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for establishing an outside storage area. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to utilizing an outside storage area.
  - (ii) Site-Specific Landscaping Standards. The site-specific landscaping shall reflect a combination of berms, shrubs, trees, fences or walls which will provide, at maturity, a minimum 6 foot high, 100% opaque screening for the outside storage area.
- (2) **Miscellaneous Requirements.**
  - (a) **Flexibility in Design Allowed.** The owner may select the types of and the planting spaces between the required trees. The types of trees selected shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and should be a type listed in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
  - (b) **Minimum Cover of Internal Landscape Area.** The internal landscape area shall consist of a minimum of 50% ground cover by living or synthetic (grass only) plant materials, xeriscape may be included for a reduction to 30%. The Landscaping and Planting Manual provides guidance for planting near foundations.
  - (c) **Plant Spacing.** The planting spacing should accommodate the growth characteristics of the trees without adversely impacting structures, walks, or drives.
  - (d) **Minimum Planting Size of Trees.** The minimum planting size of trees shall comply with this Section and should comply with any additional specifications established in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
  - (e) **Existing Vegetation.** Existing vegetation which meets the plant type requirements of the Landscaping and Planting Manual may be counted toward the internal landscape requirement.
  - (f) **Limitations on Landscape Placement.**
    - (i) No Conflicts with Traffic or Sight Distance. Landscaping shall not conflict with traffic. Sight distance shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2 of the ECM.
    - (ii) No Interference with Utilities and Fire Equipment. Landscaping shall not interfere with the general function, safety, or acceptability of any gas, electric, water, sewer, telephone, or other utility easement or conflict with criteria established or adopted by a fire department. Landscaping shall not exceed 8 inches in height within 3 feet of a fire hydrant or other applicable fire department criteria.
  - (g) **Limitations on Landscape Materials.**
    - (i) The use of artificial vines, turf, or groundcovers as landscape material may be allowed on a case-by-case basis where live landscaping materials may be at risk or inappropriate due to land use, water availability, or location.
    - (ii) Prohibited/Noxious planting list is included in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
  - (h) **Calculating the Required Number of Plants.**
    - (i) Fractional Numbers Rounded to Closest Whole Number. Where a requirement results in a fractional number, the applicable requirement shall be the closest whole number (5.0 to 5.49 = 5; 5.5 to 5.9 = 6).

- (ii) Greatest Landscape Standard Applies. Where more than 1 landscape requirement applies to the same use and landscape area, the greater requirements shall be met.
  - (iii) Landscaping Only Fulfills 1 Requirement. Landscaping necessary to fulfill 1 requirement shall not be counted in fulfilling a different landscape requirement, unless otherwise stipulated in this Code.
  - (iv) Clumping Forms of Trees Encouraged. Clumps of trees, such as Hawthorn (*Craetagus* sp.), are encouraged instead of single-trunk trees. Smaller caliper trees to meet the minimum caliper are accepted, however, a clump of 3 or fewer trees shall be credited as only 1 of the required trees.
- (i) **Approval of Certificate of Occupancy or Use.** All required landscaping shall be completed, and then inspected and approved by the PCD prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the Building Department or establishment of the use, except when financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director guaranteeing the completion of the landscaping is provided. Plant substitutions require approval before issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Any request for a Certificate of Occupancy prior to the completion of the required landscaping shall include a written request explaining the circumstances why the landscaping cannot be installed, a cost estimate prepared by a qualified party, a landscape completion agreement signed by the owner, and financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director. Inspection and certification by a landscape architect of compliance with this Section may be accepted at the discretion of the PCD Director.
- (j) **Compliance with Plans.** The completed landscaping shall comply with the approved landscape plan and shall include the quantities, locations, species and sizes of plants and other landscape materials as represented on the approved landscape plan. Seeded landscape areas shall have no bare areas larger than 6 square inches after germination.
- (k) **Maintenance.**
- (i) Owner Responsible. The owner is responsible for all regular and normal maintenance of required landscaping including weeding, irrigation, fertilizing, pruning, mowing, and replacement in the care of artificial turf.
  - (ii) Replacement of Dead or Damaged Materials. Replacement of dead, diseased or substantially damaged plant materials shall occur within 6 months from when the plant material died, or when the inspection determined the plant material was dead or damaged. Replacement shall be of the same or similar type as originally approved. An alternative type of species shall require approval by the PCD Director.
  - (iii) Maintenance Inspections. Maintenance inspections may be performed periodically. Failure to maintain the landscaping in compliance with the approval is considered a zoning violation.

## **LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

### **BASIS FOR LANDSCAPING PLANS**

#### **Purpose of this Manual**

This Landscaping and Planting Manual supplements the landscaping, buffering, and screening requirements established by the El Paso County Land Development Code (LDC). This Manual includes policies, explanations, examples and illustrations of methods that can be used to help an owner comply with the requirements of the LDC.

This Manual provides information concerning the development and maintenance of landscaping for both private property and public rights-of-way whether required by the LDC or otherwise proposed as part of a development. This Manual also provides information to help ensure appropriate buffering and screening is provided between differing land uses to enhance compatibility.

It is the intent of El Paso County that the information presented in this Manual will help ensure landscaping will:

- have an increased survival rate;
- require minimal maintenance;
- provide the greatest benefit for the dollars spent;
- work with and compliment the natural environment; and
- encourage water conservation.

#### **Applicability and Relationship to the LDC**

This Manual supplements the requirements of the LDC and provides suggestions concerning the best practices to implement the provisions of the LDC. The LDC is the regulatory document that defines the minimum requirements for landscaping with respect to landscape area, size and types of plantings, number of plants, and location of landscape areas. The provisions of the LDC specifically applicable to landscaping have been included in Appendix A to assist the user of this Manual.

#### **Property Rights and the Value of Landscaping**

El Paso County recognizes that landscaping can be a significant expense to businesspeople and residents. At the same time, vegetation enhances property values, and attracts customers to businesses; provides a quality environment for tourists and residents; reduces stormwater runoff rates and volumes and mitigates water quality concerns in accordance with State and Federal requirements; and controls dust in support of Federal and local requirements. Landscaping also improves the livability of residential neighborhoods, improves the compatibility of adjacent uses, screens undesirable views, contributes to the image and appeal of the overall community, and can reduce noise pollution. Landscaping also supports ecological systems and helps to protect critical species (pollinators, etc.). Landscaping reduces pollution and serves to lessen the effects of urban heat sink effect in dense urban residential areas. The intent of this Manual is to achieve a reasonable balance between the right of individuals to develop and maintain their property in a manner they prefer and the rights of residents of the community to live, work, shop, and recreate in pleasant and attractive surroundings.

#### **Water Resources and Landscaping**

El Paso County is in a semi-arid, high plains and foothills environment, which dictates the use of water-conserving, hardy, or indigenous plants. Regardless of the type of plant materials used, nearly all landscaping in El Paso County requires supplemental water to survive, particularly while it is being established. However, the appropriate selection of plants can minimize the need for supplemental watering. It is even possible to install landscaping that can be

## **LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

maintained during times of drought, during watering restrictions, or where irrigation is not allowed. Drought resistant and drought-tolerant plants, plus other water, soil, and conservation techniques identified in this Manual, provide the opportunity for decreased development and maintenance costs, while achieving the intent of the County's landscape requirements.

### **Stormwater and Landscaping**

This Manual encourages the use of required landscape areas to manage stormwater. New and innovative techniques to blend stormwater management and landscape areas are encouraged and could result in the approval of modifications in the placement of landscape materials.

### **Goals and Implementation**

The goal of this Manual is to allow owners to take advantage of realistic and sensible design options in complying with the landscaping provisions of the LDC. In furtherance of this goal, this Manual provides flexibility in landscape design and establishes a program whereby an owner can get credit for:

- the retention of existing vegetation;
- habitat conservation in riparian areas or other native areas; and
- paved pedestrian plazas that meet certain design criteria.

This Manual also recognizes the difficulties associated with landscaping industrial areas or small lots by allowing off-site landscaping.

### **Updates of this Manual**

This Manual is maintained as a resource document by the Planning and Community Development Department (PCD). This Manual was endorsed by the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on \_\_\_\_\_. The BoCC in its endorsement has authorized the PCD to maintain, update and enhance the Manual from time to time to assist owners in preparing landscape plans that conform to the requirements of the LDC.

### **Additional Information**

Additional information concerning these standards can be obtained by contacting the PCD. Additional information on xeriscape principals can be found at:

- [www.xratedgardening.com](http://www.xratedgardening.com)
- [www.denverwater.org](http://www.denverwater.org)
- [www.csu.org/xeriscape](http://www.csu.org/xeriscape)
- [www.xeriscape.org](http://www.xeriscape.org)

### **When Landscaping is Required**

The LDC identifies when, where, and how much landscaping is required in commercial, office, industrial, and residential projects. Appendix A includes the applicable landscape provisions of the LDC.

### **Engineering Criteria Manual Landscape Provisions**

The Engineering Criteria Manual (ECM) contains construction and post-construction soil stabilization and water quality protection requirements that may be more prohibitive than the landscaping requirements contained in the LDC.

## **LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

The following general guidelines should be considered in all situations where landscaping is required by the LDC.

#### **Vegetation**

##### **Mimic Nature**

Plants that mimic and blend with the surrounding natural landscape should be used. For example, the Black Forest should emphasize conifers, while the High Plains should emphasize rolling landforms and shrubs.

##### **Consider All Four Seasons**

Four season effectiveness (evergreens, persistent seed heads or berries, and dense forms) should be included in every landscape design.

##### **Locate Plants with Similar Needs Together**

Plants with similar water needs should be located next to each other.

##### **Accommodate the Growth Habit of Each Plant**

Plants should be placed in locations that are appropriate for their growth habit: shade vs. sun, height and spread vs. available space, etc.

##### **Use Xeric Vegetation**

Xeric vegetation should be used in order to conserve water, minimize maintenance costs, and enhance survival. Appendix B provides a list of suggested drought-tolerant and drought-resistant plants. Other species may be acceptable if they meet xeric principals and are proven to thrive in El Paso County's climate. High water use plants should be minimized or eliminated.

Whenever possible, group plants by water, soil, and sun needs.

##### **Preserve Existing Vegetation**

Native vegetation or other vegetation that generally conforms to the requirements of the LDC and the guidelines provided in this document should be preserved whenever possible, and may be used, in whole or part, to meet landscaping required by the LDC, depending on the effectiveness of the existing landscaping in achieving the County's landscape goals and its ability to be protected and maintained.

##### **Avoid Clustering of Evergreens Under Certain Conditions**

The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in instances where their location (south side of a road) would cause unsafe conditions such as ice or snow build-up due to winter shading and lack of sun exposure. In this instance, the use of shrubs may be most appropriate.

##### **Spacing of Trees**

The minimum number of trees required in any circumstance is not meant to force specific plant spacing on an "on-center" basis. The owner has flexibility to group or cluster trees and is encouraged to vary the spacing and distance between trees and shrubs. Trees and tall shrubs should be clustered in locations where they can provide the greatest mitigation for land uses, enhance views, or create points of interest.

##### **Wildflowers Discouraged as Groundcover**

Wildflowers are not recommended as ground covering due to the relatively high chance of bare areas.

##### **Native Grasses or Xeric Turfgrasses Encouraged for Rural Areas**

Native grasses or xeric turfgrasses are encouraged in rural areas, rather than bluegrass sod.

## **LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

### **Planting Space**

All planting areas should be designed such that the plant species selected have adequate area for growth.

### **Conflicts with Sight Distance and Sight Triangles**

The ECM provides standards for landscaping to maintain sight distances. Generally, landscaping within a sight distance triangle should not exceed 24 inches in height. Trees that are limbed up to 6 feet above the ground are also generally acceptable. Check with the Department of Public Works - Development Services to propose shrubs or trees in a sight distance triangle.

### **Noxious or Invasive Species Not Allowed**

Noxious or invasive species are not allowed. A list of noxious or invasive species is provided in Appendix C. An updated list is available from the Community Services Department, Environmental Division.

### **Species of Trees Limited In or Near ROW**

The planting of *Acer negundo*, *Salix* sp., and most *Populus* sp. trees in or near rights-of-way should be limited because of their invasive roots which cause problems with utilities and roads; and due to their weak branches.

### **Clumps of Trees for Screening Encouraged**

Clumps of trees are encouraged for screening purposes, instead of single-trunk trees. However, each clump will be counted as only one of the trees required by the LDC, unless determined otherwise by the PCD Director smaller caliper trees may be used for clumping purposes.

### **Avoid Interference with Utilities and Hydrants**

Landscaping should not interfere with the general function, safety, or acceptability of any gas, electric, water, sewer, telephone, or other utility easement or conflict with criteria established or adopted by a fire department. Advice should be sought from the Fire Authority before installing landscaping adjacent to fire hydrants. Landscaping exceeding eight inches in height within three feet of a hydrant is prohibited by the LDC.

### **Avoid Interference with Sidewalks and Roads**

The location and spacing of trees and plant materials should allow for the growth characteristics of the plants without adversely affecting the maintenance of structures, walks, drives, or vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

## **Irrigation and Soil Preparation**

### **Irrigation Systems**

Irrigation systems should use the most current water-saving technology. Drip irrigation should be used whenever possible. Overspray from sprinkler systems onto paved surfaces should be avoided. Irrigation maintenance budgets should be prepared to ensure optimal water use for plant survival.

### **Soil Preparation**

Soil should be amended to increase water retention and organic content for plant health and vigorous growth.

## **Retaining Walls and Slopes**

Retaining walls higher than 4 feet may be appropriate in areas where special grading conditions exist. Retaining walls should be visually softened by the planting of trees and shrubs to avoid a continuous, monotonous effect and should also be "stepped" in four-foot maximum height increments to slow water runoff and provide planting areas. Except where necessary to convey

## LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL

stormwater as part of an overall site design, slopes should not generally exceed 3:1. Appropriate safeguards and appropriate trees should be selected in order to prevent the undermining of the retaining walls. Root guards are required for trees.

### **Determining Project Area**

In instances where an entire parcel or lot is not used for the proposed development, the project area may be determined to be less by the PCD Director. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area; however, if additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is necessary due to certain circumstances, the PCD Director may require that landscaping.

### **Buffering/Screening**

#### **Buffers to Reflect Character of Site**

Buffer design should reflect the unique site and land use situation for each project. In any case, four-season effectiveness should be achieved for all buffering and screening areas.

#### **Required Opaque Structures**

Any required opaque structure, including dumpster screening, should be integrated with the overall project architecture. For example, if the main building is stucco, the screening walls should be stucco to match.

#### **Screening Fence Design**

Fences should provide texture or design, such as offsets or changes in materials, to avoid a monotonous appearance. Fences should be soundly constructed and maintained.

## LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL

### ROADWAY LANDSCAPING

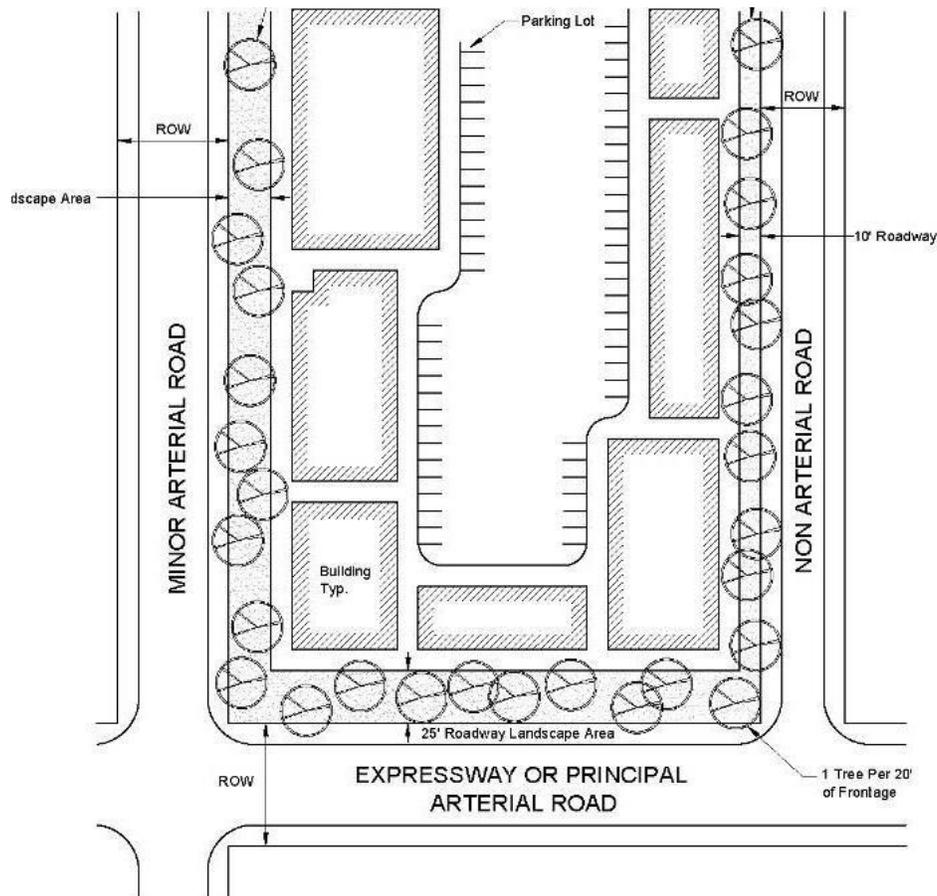
#### Purpose

Sites adjacent to roads are highly visible. Landscaping contributes to a positive image and the visual appeal of the County, provides noise and glare mitigation, summer cooling and shade, enhances water quality, and provides compatibility with adjacent properties. A strong emphasis should be placed on the landscape treatment along the road, especially emphasizing water conservation and surrounding landscape context, to afford pleasant visual experiences from these corridors.

#### Minimum Roadway Landscaping Areas

The minimum roadway landscaping areas are identified in the LDC. Urban grade-separated intersections, as identified on any adopted maps or plans including the MTCP (Powers Boulevard, Marksheffel Boulevard, etc.) should accommodate the required 25-foot roadway landscaping area beyond the area to be reserved for an urban interchange. The timing of the interchange is not a factor in determining the location/need for the roadway landscape area.

#### *Roadway Landscaping Area Depths Vary Based on Roadway Classification*



#### Roadway Landscaping Guidelines for Rural Areas

##### Tall Shrubs and Landforms as Opposed to Trees

Consider using tall shrubs and landforms for specific areas that require buffering (present or future) in rural areas. The LDC allows the replacement of trees with shrubs.

## **LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

### **Bluegrass Discouraged**

Bluegrass sod is discouraged in rural areas; native grasses or other xeric turfgrasses, including grasses listed on the Water Wise Planting List are more appropriate. See Water Wise Planting List for additional details.

### **Landscaping Options for Roadway Landscaping Area in Rural Areas**

Berms and native shrubs in a design that creates visual interest are encouraged. A minimum of 75% of the length of the road should incorporate either berms (3' minimum height) or shrubs (3' mature height minimum), with 50% of the length having shrubs. Trees are recommended only as an accent.

Where the required minimum roadway landscape area is only 10' in width, the width may undulate to accommodate the use of berms and the maximum allowable 3:1 berm slope.

### **Location of Landscaping Materials within Roadway Landscaping Area**

The required roadway landscape materials may be clustered along the frontage. Design should be determined by screening needs, preservation and enhancement of views, or project impacts.

### **Policies and Explanations**

#### **Meandering Sidewalks**

Public sidewalks may be allowed to "meander" within a roadway landscape area provided they are approved by the ECM Administrator and an easement approved by the Office of the County Attorney is provided to El Paso County.

#### **Landscaping in ROW**

Landscaping shall be provided in the road right-of-way to the curb line. Landscaping shall be similar to the groundcover treatment within the required roadway landscape area.

## **LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

### **PARKING AREA SCREENING AND LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Recommended Material Types**

The lowest water use vegetation and durable materials are highly encouraged due to the harshness of parking area environments. Materials should be chosen that are contextually appropriate: boulders and conifers in mountainous areas; berms and conifers in the Black Forest; berms and native shrubs in the High Plains. A combination of low, decorative walls and street trees may be most appropriate in urban areas.

#### **Design of Parking Area Landscaping**

Parking areas should incorporate landscape features to break up and dilute the expanses of paving. Vegetation can also improve water quality, and parking area islands can serve as detention or water quality areas. Landscaping and buffering can be utilized to increase site aesthetics, property values, and attractiveness to customers; to visually decrease the scale of the parking areas; to provide shade for the pedestrian and parked vehicles; to reduce glare and heat; to separate and organize circulation systems; to provide openings in impervious surfaces for drainage and infiltration of ground water; to reduce glare from headlights; and to separate and screen uses.

#### **Parking Area Islands**

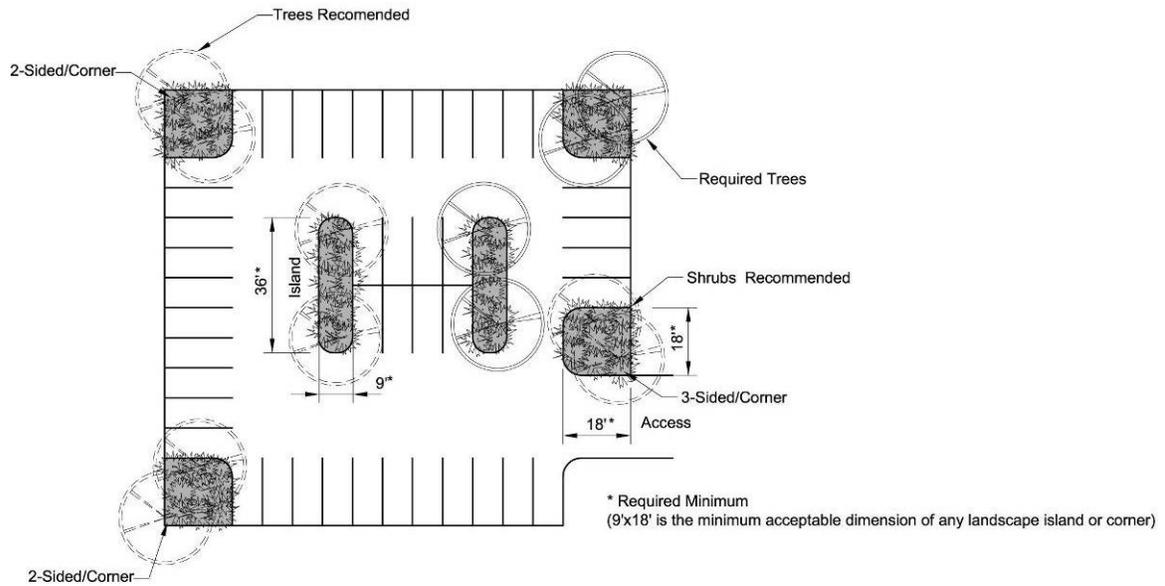
The following standards generally apply to the use, placement, and landscaping of parking area islands. Parking lot islands, corners, and fingers are all considered parking area islands.

- One parking area island shall be provided for every 15 parking spaces.
- Each island should be a minimum of two parking spaces in size (18' x 18' or 9' x 36')
- Each island should have a minimum of two low-water trees and ten low-water shrubs less than 36" tall, plus mulch.
- Appropriate mulch (e.g., bark or rock) should be used in areas not covered by living groundcover.
- Large boulders (3' max. height x 4' minimum length) may be substituted for some of the recommended shrubs. (No more than 50% replacement allowed.)
- Bluegrass sod or non-xeric turfgrasses are discouraged.
- Tall (greater than 18") ornamental grasses that persist through winter are considered shrubs.
- Parking area islands should be utilized at the end of parking rows both as a means to contain parking area trees and other landscape materials and to provide separation and delineation between drive aisles and parking stalls.

The figure below provides some recommendations concerning the use of islands and plantings. Islands and corners should be used to guide traffic, break up large expanses of paving, or control stormwater.

**LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

**Typical Landscaping and Placement of Parking Area Islands**



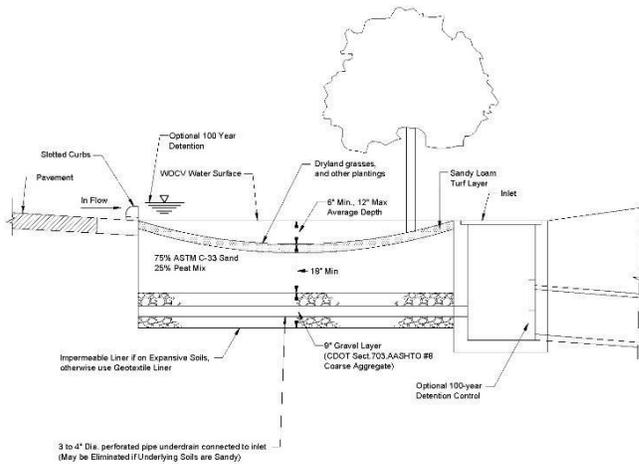
**Depressed Parking Area Islands**

Depressed islands are encouraged and can be used as a tool to manage and improve stormwater quality and control peak discharges. The grade of the surface of the landscaping should be slightly below the adjacent pavement to allow runoff to flow into the landscaped area, as opposed to elevating the landscaping and surrounding it with a curb. The figure shows how a depressed island is designed to provide these benefits while meeting the requirements to provide parking area islands.

**Depressed Landscaped Parking Area Island**



## LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL



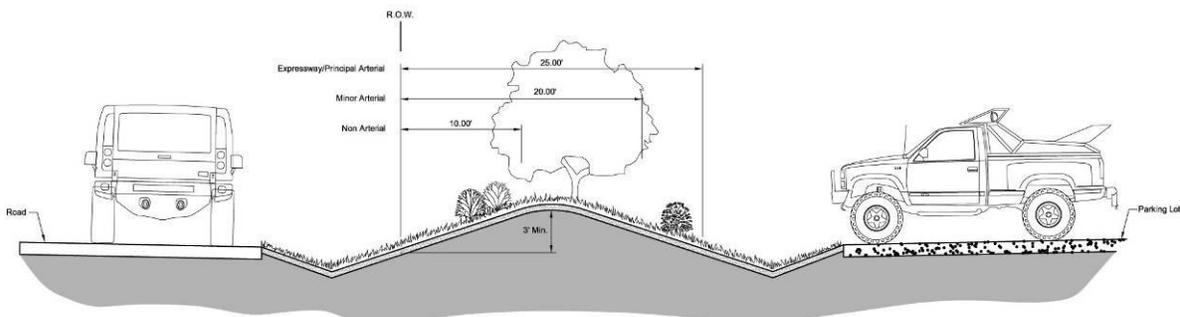
### Parking Area Screening

Parking area screening may incorporate a wide variety of techniques, including: earth forms/berms, built features/walls, and plant materials. Techniques may be combined to create unique and site-specific designs.

#### Rural Screening along Road Frontage

A variety of options are available to meet the parking area screening requirements of the LDC. The figure below presents the most typical scenario in rural areas. When combined with the roadway landscape area requirements, trees are generally required between the parking area and ROW line. However, in accordance with the LDC and this manual, shrubs are encouraged as a substitute for trees. In addition, parking area setbacks may be greater than anticipated due to the depth of the required roadway landscape area. The following diagram provides an example of how berms and plantings should be used to meet the requirements of both the roadway landscape area and parking area screening in a rural area. Some of the urban screening options presented in the next section may also be applicable in some rural areas.

#### Rural Parking Area Screening Using Berms to Achieve 3 Foot Screen

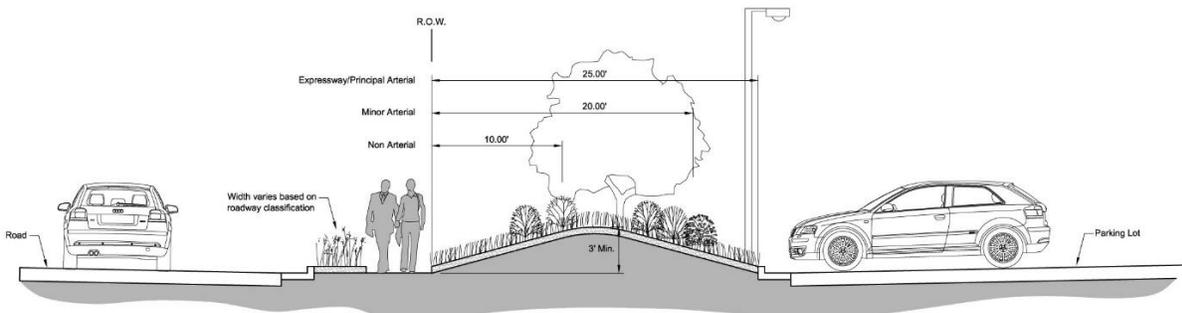


## LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL

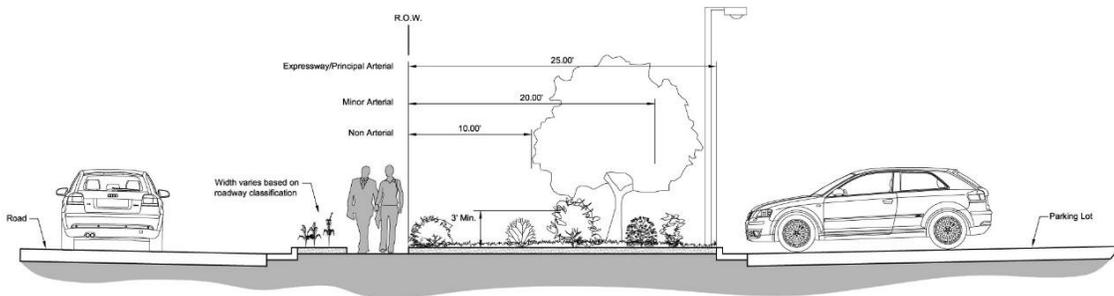
### Urban Screening along Road Frontage

A variety of options are available to meet the parking area screening requirements of the LDC. The figures below present several combinations of landscaping, berms, and walls that could be applied in urban areas. The roadway landscape area covers the same area as the parking area screening. As a result, the roadway landscape area depth, and the requirement to provide trees exceed the minimum parking area screening requirements when a parking area is located adjacent to a road in most cases.

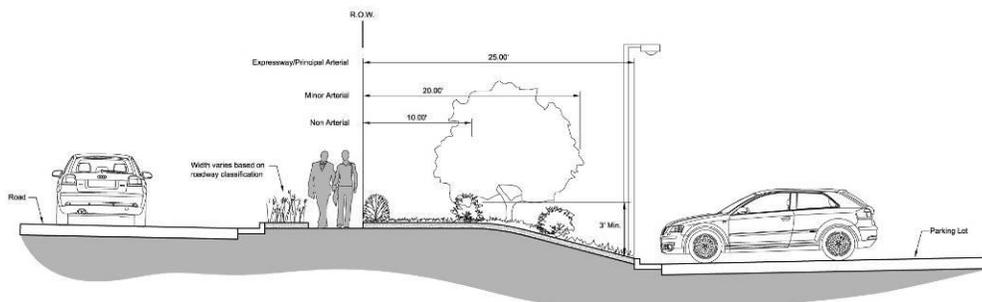
#### Urban Parking Area Screening Using Berms to Achieve 3 Foot Screen



#### Urban Parking Area Screening Using Vegetation to Achieve 3-Foot-High Screen

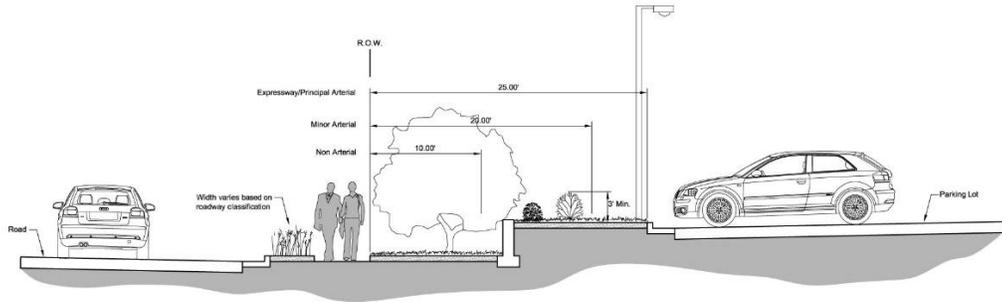


#### Urban Parking Area Screening Using Slope to Achieve 3-Foot-High Screen

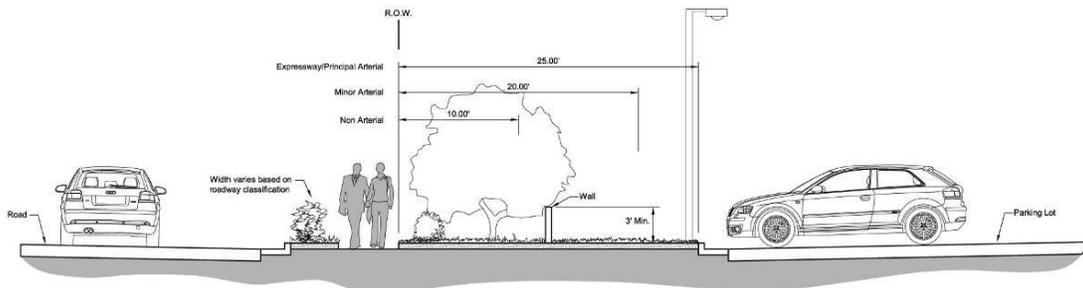


#### Urban Parking Area Screening Using Vegetation to Achieve 3-Foot-High Screen

**LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**



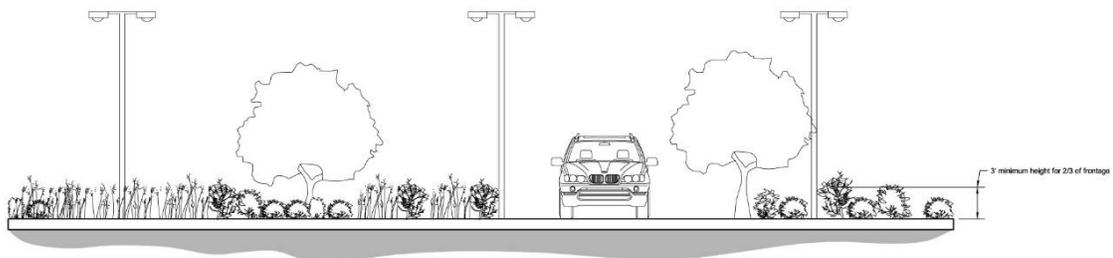
**Urban Parking Area Screening Using Wall to Achieve 3-Foot-High Screen**



**Parking Area Frontage**

All parking areas shall be screened to a height of 3' by vegetation, walls, and berms for at least 2/3 the length as shown in the figure below. This means that some areas may not have any screening while all other areas will have a minimum of 3' tall screen.

**Parking Area Screened to a Height of 3' for at Least 2/3 of the Length.**



**Parking Area Landscaping Policies and Explanations**

**Visual Character**

The visual character of parking areas should be enhanced by planted islands, intensive shade trees or ornamental plantings. Large impervious areas are to be broken up with functional landscape medians and islands that can organize vehicular traffic and provide pedestrian pathways.

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### Other Plant Types

The PCD recognizes that other species in addition to those identified in Appendix B may be approved in a parking area if special conditions exist. For example:

- The scale and overall design achieves the goals/intent.
- Coniferous evergreen trees may be approved if such trees are planted in areas which exceed the minimum recommended planter size and if visibility is not a problem.
- Existing vegetation may be used, regardless of species. Larger islands may be required to accommodate larger, established root systems.

### Reference Elevation for Screen

In general, the reference elevation for the base of the required screen shall be the surface of the parking area space that is to be screened.

### Screening Applies Where Parking Area is Visible

Parking area landscape requirements will apply to any type of parking area where it can be seen from a public or private road.

### Reductions in Parking Area Screening or Islands

Reductions in the amount of parking area screening and islands can be considered where the parking area is located a considerable distance from the road (200-300 feet) or within the street perimeter buffer. The distance from the road and topography are primary considerations in allowing a reduction in the screening and island criteria, as well as the effectiveness of existing or proposed perimeter screening.

**LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

**BUFFER AND SCREEN AREAS BETWEEN DIFFERING USES OR ZONE DISTRICTS**

**Purpose**

Buffering and screening is used to block displeasing views; reduce noise, odors, glare, and dust; mitigate traffic; protect residential privacy; and reduce trespassing. Buffering and screening can also make uses more compatible, such as with Special Uses.

Between similar uses, buffering and screening (perimeter landscaping) can help identify parking areas and property boundaries.

**Water Conservation**

Water conservation can be incorporated into buffer and screen areas. Swales can be used to direct water to planted areas to minimize irrigation needs and detention pond volumes, the use of appropriate plant materials can conserve water and minimize maintenance costs, and the creative use of a variety of plants will provide four-season interest and effectiveness.

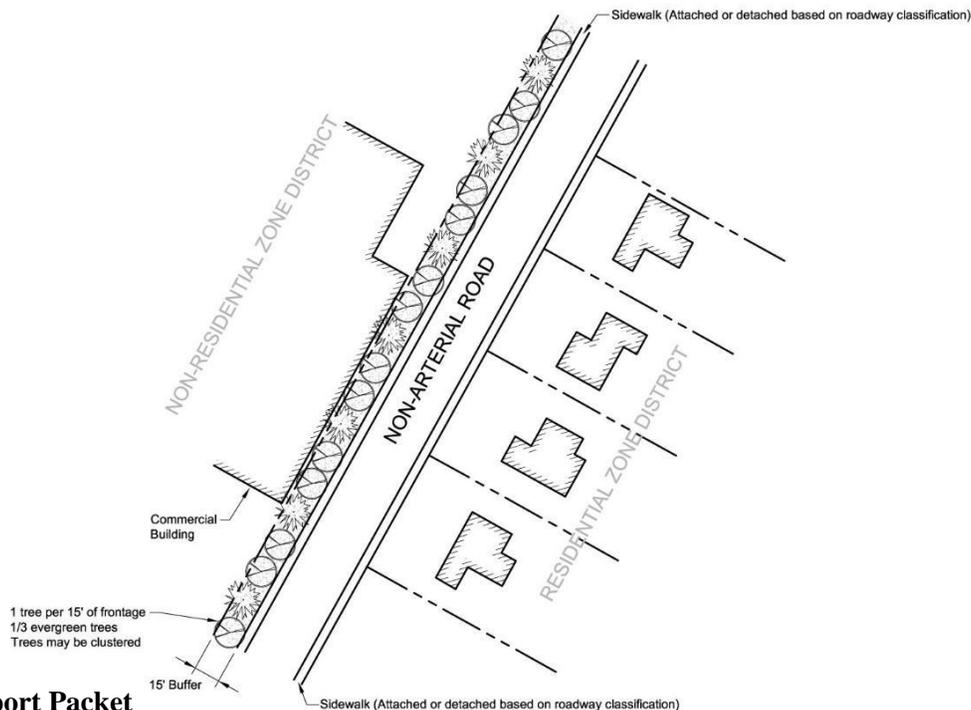
**Required Buffers/Screens**

Circumstances for each site and use are unique, and additional buffering/screening may be required to accomplish appropriate design. Of special concern are sites adjacent to residential areas or environmentally sensitive areas, areas with significant view corridors, industrial uses, or uses that are visible from highly traveled roads.

**Buffer/Screen Between Non-Residential and Residential Uses Separated by a Non-Arterial Road**

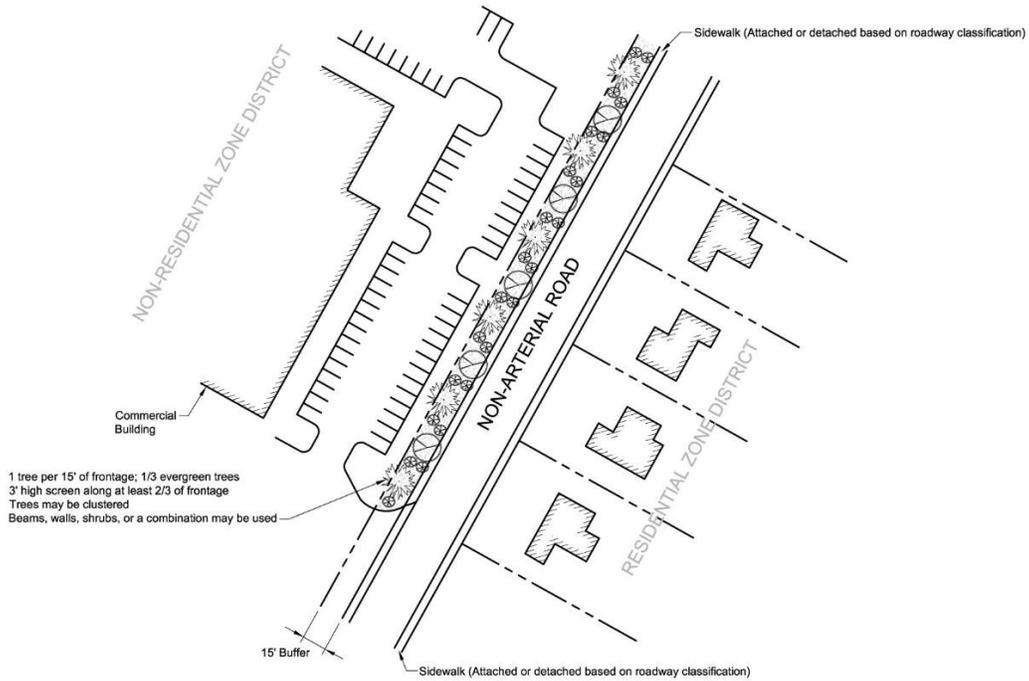
Along the roadside property line in any non-residential project in any zone district where the project is separated from a residential use by a non-arterial street, a buffer meeting the requirements of the LDC is required. Non-arterial streets are those not designated as arterial streets or above on the County's Functional Classification Map, as amended. Private streets and alleys are also considered non-arterial roads. The figures below provide two examples of how the standards can be met. Note that the parking area screening requirements result in more landscaping being required within the use buffer area when a parking area abuts the roadway.

**Example of 15' Buffer Standard between Non-Residential Zone District and Residential Zone District**



**LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

**Example of 15' Buffer Standards between Non-Residential Zone District and Residential Zone District when Parking Area Abuts Road Frontage**

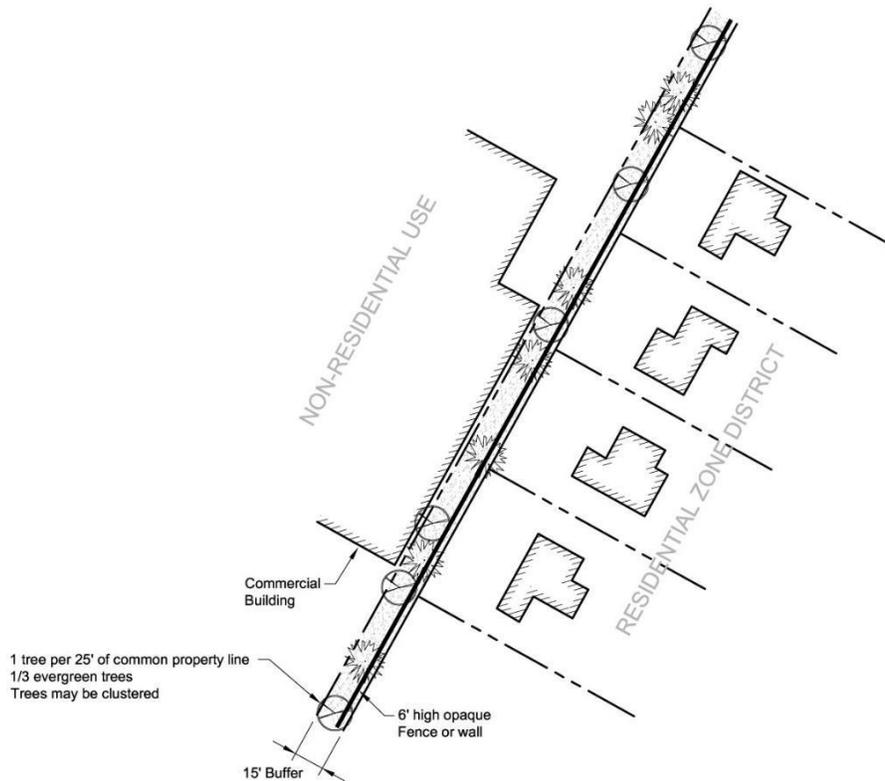


**Buffer/Screen Between: Adjacent Non-Residential and Residential Projects, and Adjacent Multifamily Residential and Single- Family/Two-Family Residential Projects**

Along the common property line in any non-residential project in any zone district where the project is adjacent to any residential zone district and along the property line in any multifamily project where the project is adjacent to a one- family or two-family use, a buffer meeting the requirements of the LDC is required. The figure below provides an example of how the standards can be met.

## LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL

### *Example of 15' Buffer Standards between Non-Residential Use and Residential Zone District*



#### **Trash Collection Areas**

Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, are required to be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by the use of an opaque wall or fence, other architectural elements, or dense evergreens. Walls/fences should be of a durable material, such as masonry, and should match the overall project architecture. Wood or chain link are discouraged. Gates should be metal.

#### **Rural Areas**

In rural areas, dense evergreen, or four-season plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet are appropriate.

#### **Policies and Explanations**

##### **Design for Effectiveness from Time of Installation**

Buffers and screening shall be designed in a manner that appropriately provides the required effect at the time of installation, as well as in the future.

##### **Restoration Efforts**

Restoration/conservation/preservation efforts on portions of a site that are part of larger natural areas, such as wildlife habitat conservation areas, habitat corridors, or wildlife movement corridors, etc. may count toward the buffering/screening requirements, with approval from the PCD Director.

## **LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

### **INTERNAL LANDSCAPING**

#### **Purpose**

Internal landscaping requirements are intended to augment the streetscape, screening/buffer and parking area landscaping requirements, while conserving water resources. The purpose of internal landscaping is to visually soften the mass of buildings, enhance the visual appearance, and to visually separate building areas from parking areas, and create a welcoming appearance to building customers and users.

#### **Minimum Area and Planting Requirements**

The minimum internal landscaping area required by the LDC, and number of plantings shall be met by all projects.

#### **Design Standards**

##### **Plantings Near Foundations**

Lowest water usage plants are especially encouraged next to building foundations, where irrigation should be limited.

##### **Low Water Use Plants Encouraged**

As always, xeric and hardy species are strongly encouraged to minimize maintenance costs and enhance survival. Should bluegrass sod or other high-water use plants be desired for a certain look, it is encouraged to meet the following criteria:

- No more than 20% of the internal landscape area should be allowed for high water use plants.
- Each high water use area should be on a separate irrigation zone for customized watering.
- Each high water use area should be confined to main building entrances.

#### **Minimum Plant Material Sizes/ Percentage of Live Material Ground Cover**

##### **Landscape Material Specifications**

The minimum planting/installation size and characteristics of plant materials shall meet the requirements of the LDC.

##### **Required Live Material Ground Cover**

The minimum groundcover requirements of the LDC shall be met.

## **LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

### **LANDSCAPING AND GRADING IN UTILITY EASEMENTS OR RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

Utility providers, as a matter of general policy, will not normally permit use of their easements/rights of way by other parties. These criteria are general guidelines only and should not be construed as the complete and only conditions for such exceptions. Each case will be evaluated on an individual basis and must be approved by the utility provider.

- Changes in grades and elevations along the rights of way shall not reduce safe ground clearances of overhead wires.
- Safety clearance distances between overhead and underground wires and any improvements/structures should be maintained as applicable.
- Working space clearances as applicable should be maintained around line structures.
- Excavations shall not reduce support strength of overhead line structures.
- Excavations shall not reduce the depth of burial of underground cables.
- Low level landscaping, with a maximum height of 25 feet or less, may be allowed within the easement/right of way provided all other applicable requirements of this document are met and permission is expressly granted by the easement/ROW holder.
- The party or owner installing and planting landscaping will be responsible for maintenance of the landscaping.
- Future power line installations may necessitate the relocation of vegetation. The removal/relocation and replacement will be at the owner's expense if located in an easement or Right-of-Way.

## LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL

### MULCH

Mulch, organic or inorganic groundcover, prevents the growth of weeds, prevents erosion and dust, retains moisture in the soil, provides shade for plant roots, and presents an attractive and finished appearance for landscapes. Mulch is required on all landscaping projects, in areas other than turfgrass.

#### Specifications

Acceptable mulch materials include but are not limited to the following examples: bark and pole peelings, river rock, washed gravel of 3/8" diameter or greater (should be limited in areas prone to washout), or other similar materials that may be approved by PCD. Avoid very light or dark colors, as these can adversely affect soil and ambient temperatures. Non-water/low water using turf or plant species are encouraged (See Water Wise Planting List)

#### Mulch Installation

Mulch should be installed over breathable fabric underlayment, pinned at intervals of not less than 24".

#### Mulch Depth

Mulch should be installed at the following minimum depths:

- Bark and pole peeling mulch shall be installed at a depth of not less than 4".
- Rock mulch shall be installed at a depth of not less than 3".

Mulch shall be maintained in a manner so that the minimum required depths are achieved throughout the life of the project. In no case shall underlayment fabric be visible.

#### Steel Edging

Steel edging of at least 1/8" thickness and 6" depth should be used to define all mulch beds, unless a bed is defined by curbing or other constructed edge.

**LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

**IRRIGATION**

**Recommended Conservation Techniques**

Drip irrigation is highly recommended for all trees and shrubs in order to conserve water. Drip irrigation may be required for certain species to allow for establishment and/or maintenance. Sprinkler systems may be used but are discouraged. Additionally, moisture sensors are also recommended to avoid watering during or after rain. In areas where outdoor irrigation is not allowed due to well permit restrictions, plants that are most drought-tolerant should be installed.

**Policies**

Statements regarding the proposed type of irrigation or watering method should be similar to those outlined in the following table.

***Types of Recommended Irrigation***

<b>Type of Planting</b>	<b>Irrigation Required</b>	<b>Possible Solutions</b>
Native grass seed or drought tolerant turf grass seed.	May germinate with normal precipitation if planted in late fall or early spring.	Ensure sufficient moisture by temporary overhead or agricultural system; add soil amendments/surfactants to soil to aid in moisture retention
Xeric ground covers, shrubs, and trees per approved plant list, or as approved by PCD.	Drip irrigation for one or two growing seasons until established; on as-needed basis after that.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Small accessible areas may be hand watered.</li> <li>2. Drip irrigation system, plants gradually weaned off system.</li> <li>3. Overhead temporary system.</li> </ol>
Water intensive ground covers, shrubs, grasses, and trees not native to the Rocky Mountain Region NOT RECOMMENDED, unless limited to a designated high-water use area.	Spring through Fall and intermittent winter.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Drip irrigation system.</li> <li>2. Permanent/Sprinkler irrigation system.</li> </ol>

## LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL

### DEFINITIONS

Words used in this manual have their dictionary meaning unless they are specifically defined in this manual, the LDC, or the ECM. Words defined within this manual shall have the specific meaning assigned unless the context clearly indicates another meaning.

#### **Substitute Landscape Plan**

A landscape plan that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section. The PCD Director may approve a substitute landscape plan provided the proposed landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the Landscape and Planting Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the PCD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section. (LDC 6.2.2(A)(4))

#### **Berm**

A mound of soil, either natural or manmade, used to obstruct views, attenuate noise, or direct the flow of stormwater.

#### **Buffering**

The installation of plant materials, fencing, or landforms (or a combination of these measures), between 2 or more lots or parcels which inhibits visibility or mitigates the transmission of noise, dust, smoke, lights, and other nuisances from one lot or parcel to another or provides for future public improvements or additional open space.

#### **Canopy**

The upper vegetative cover of a tree or plant grouping; dripline of a tree or plant grouping.

#### **Context**

The surrounding environment or character of an environment; trees or landforms that naturally exist on a site or surrounding sites.

#### **Coniferous**

Evergreen plant: keeps its leaves/needles all year.

#### **Deciduous**

A plant with foliage that is shed annually.

#### **Drought Tolerant**

A plant that will survive in the typical or somewhat less than typical amount of rainfall in El Paso County.

#### **High-Water Use Plants**

Plants that require more than one inch of water per week to thrive, including bluegrass sod and many non-native species.

#### **Indigenous**

A plant naturally found in the El Paso County environment; the local, native plant community.

#### **Irrigation System**

A permanent, artificial watering system designed to transport and distribute water to landscape plants.

#### **Landscaping**

Any combination of living plants, such as trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, flowers, or grass; natural features such as rock, stone, bark chips or shavings; and structural features, including but not limited to, fountains, reflecting pools, outdoor artwork, screen walls, fences or benches.

Landscaping shall also include irrigation systems, mulches, topsoil use, soil preparation, revegetation or the preservation, protection, and replacement of existing trees.

#### **Landscape Plan**

A plan drawn to scale that shows the layout of all landscape components and their specifications for a

## LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL

Site Development Plan.

### **Moisture Sensor**

A device connected to an irrigation controller that over-rides scheduled irrigation when significant precipitation has been detected.

### **Mulch**

Nonliving organic and synthetic materials customarily used in landscape design to reduce erosion and retain moisture, and that provide a protective covering around plants to reduce weed growth and to maintain even temperatures around plant roots.

### **Native Plant**

A species that is indigenous within El Paso County and naturally occurring in one or more plant communities.

### **Ornamental Tree**

A tree planted primarily for its decorative value, or for screening, and that typically does not exceed a height of 30' in El Paso County.

### **Parking Area**

Parking areas and spaces designed, used, required, or intended to be used for the parking, storage, maintenance, service, repair, display or operation of motor vehicles, including driveways or access ways in and to these areas, but not including any outdoor storage area used principally as a recreational vehicle, boat or truck storage use, storage areas for landscaping and other bulk items or public roads and rights-of-way. The term parking area includes parking lots and parking structures.

### **Plant Community**

A natural association of vegetation that is dominated by one or more prominent species, or a characteristic physical attribute; see also "context".

### **Right-of-Way**

The entire dedicated tract or strip of land that is to be used by the public for various purposes or intended to be occupied by a road, crosswalk, railroad, electric transmission line, oil or gas pipeline, water main, sanitary or storm sewer main or for another similar use.

### **Roadway Landscape Area**

A minimum required landscaping area on a private property which is adjacent to a lot or parcel boundary line common to a right-of-way or another lot or parcel. Driveways and sidewalks to afford limited access may be allowed to interrupt this required area; however, structures, buildings and parking are not allowed within the roadway landscape area.

### **Rural**

For purposes of this Code, the zoning, use and development of land in zoning districts or areas which allow lot sizes that are 2.5 acres in size or greater, characterized by dispersed residential development, agricultural uses and activities, or vacant land.

### **Screening**

A method of visually shielding or obscuring a structure or use from view by fencing, walls, trees, or densely planted vegetation. Screening provides a complete, opaque, year-round visual separation between differing land uses.

### **Semi-Arid Climate**

A climate characterized by 10" to 20" of annual precipitation.

### **Shade Tree**

A deciduous tree planted primarily for its high crown of foliage or overhead canopy. A major shade tree at maturity reaches a height of at least fifty feet.

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### **Shrub**

A self-supporting woody perennial plant of low to medium height characterized by multiple stems and branches continuous from the base, usually not more than 12' in height at its maturity. May be evergreen or deciduous.

### **Soil Amendment**

Organic and inorganic materials added to soil to improve texture, nutrients, moisture holding capacity, and infiltration rates.

### **Tree**

A large, woody plant having one or several self-supporting stems or trunks and numerous branches.

### **Turfgrass**

Continuous plant coverage consisting of hybridized grasses that, when regularly mowed, form a dense growth of leaf blades and roots.

### **Urban**

Land development of higher density and intensity which is characteristically provided with services of an urban nature (i.e. central water and sewer, fire hydrants, paved roads often with curb and gutter, and shorter emergency service response times). This category of development ordinarily includes most commercial, office and industrial uses and residential uses with densities of more than 1 dwelling unit per 2.5 acres.

### **Vegetation**

Plants in general or the sum total of plant life in an area.

### **Verge**

The landscaped area between a sidewalk and the back of curb.

### **Xeric**

Plants or landscapes that embody xeriscape principals.

### **Xeriscape**

The use of water conserving, indigenous plants appropriate to the surrounding environment. The goal of xeriscaping is to conserve water, minimize maintenance efforts and costs, and ensure survivability.

### **Xeriscape Principals**

Methods of professional landscaping that include: planning and design, soil analysis, efficient irrigation, appropriate plant selection, practical turf areas, use of mulches, and proper maintenance.

**LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL****"Water Wise" Trees, Shrubs, & Grasses****\*See also: Appendix B**

<b>Trees</b>	
American Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>
Amur Maple	<i>Acer ginnala</i>
Arizona Cypress	<i>Callitropsis arizonica</i>
Austrian Pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>
Baby Blue Eyes Spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Baby Blue Eyes'
Bosnian Pine	<i>Pinus heldreichii</i>
Bristlecone Pine	<i>Pinus aristate</i>
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Caddo Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i> 'Caddo'
Cockspur Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>
Crabapple	Crabapple <i>Malus</i>
Goldenrain Tree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>
Gray Gleam Juniper	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> 'Gray Gleam'
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
Hot Wings Tatarian Maple	<i>Acer tataricum</i> 'GarAnn'
Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>
Lacebark Pine	<i>Pinus bungeana</i>
Maidenhair Tree	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
Mugo Pine	<i>Pinus mugo</i>
Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
One-seed Juniper	<i>Juniperus monosperma</i>
Pinyon Pine	<i>Pinus edulis</i>
Ponderosa Pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Rocky Mountain Juniper	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>
Russian Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus ambigua</i>
Seven-Son Flower	<i>Heptacodium miconioides</i>
Tatarian Maple	<i>Acer tataricum</i>
Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> var. <i>inermis</i>
Thornless Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i>
Turkish Filbert	Turkish Filbert <i>Corylus colurna</i>
Vanderwolf's Pyramid Limber	<i>Pinus flexilis</i> 'Vanderwolf's Pyramid'
Weeping Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i> 'Pendula'
Weeping White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i> 'Pendula'
Western Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>

<b>Shrubs</b>	
Common Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>
Common Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
Cranberry Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster apiculatus</i>

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Creeping Barberry	Berberis amplexans
Creeping Three-Leaf Sumac	Rhus trilobata 'Autumn Amber'
Crimson Pygmy Barberry	Berberis thunbergii var. atropurpurea 'Crimson Pygmy'
Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany	Cercocarpus ledifolius
Cutleaf Smooth Sumac	Rhus glabra 'Laciniata'
Dark Knight Spirea	Caryopteris x clandonensis 'Dark Knight'
Diablo Ninebark	Physocarpus opulifolius 'Monlo'
Dwarf Blue Rabbitbrush	Ericameria nauseosa ssp. nauseosa var. nauseosa
Dwarf Creeping Juniper	Juniperus procumbens 'Nana'
Dwarf Globe Blue Spruce	Picea pungens 'Glauca Globosa'
Dwarf Korean Lilac	Syringa meyeri 'Palibin'
False Indigo Bush	Amorpha fruticosa
Fernbush	Chamaebatiaria millefolium
Gentry's Gem Spruce	Picea pungens 'Gentry's Gem'
Golden Elder	Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis 'Aurea'
Golden Sword Yucca	Yucca filamentosa 'Golden Sword'
Green Mound Alpine Currant	Ribes alpinum 'Green Mound'
Gro-Low Sumac	Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low'
Hancock Coralberry	Symphoricarpos x chenaultii 'Hancock'
Havard's Century Plant	Agave havardiana
Hillside Creeper Pine	Pinus sylvestris 'Hillside Creeper'
Japanese Barberry	Berberis thunbergii
Judd Viburnum	Viburnum x juddii
Kinnikinnick	Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
Leadplant	Amorpha canescens
Littleleaf Mountain Mahogany	Cercocarpus intricatus
Mesa Verde Spruce	Picea pungens 'Mesa Verde'
Miss Kim Dwarf Lilac	Syringa pubescens subsp. patula 'Miss Kim'
Mock Bearberry	Manzanita Arctostaphylos x coloradoensis
Mohican Wayfaring Tree	Viburnum lantana 'Mohican'
Montgomery	Picea pungens 'Montgomery'
Mops Dwarf Mugo Pine	Pinus mugo 'Mops'
Mountain Mahogany	Cercocarpus montanus
Nanking Cherry	Prunus tomentosa
Nearly Wild Rose	Rosa 'Nearly Wild'
Oregon Grape	Berberis aquifolium
Panchito Manzanita	Arctostaphylos x coloradoensis 'Panchito'
Pawnee Buttes Sand Cherry	Prunus besseyi 'P011S'
Peking Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster acutifolius
Persian Lilac	Syringa x persica
New Mexican Privet	Forestiera pubescens var. pubescens
Purple Smoketree	Cotinus coggygria 'Royal Purple'

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Pyracantha	Pyracantha coccinea 'Gnome'
Red Twig Dogwood	Cornus sericea
Redleaf Rose	Rosa glauca
Rock Spirea	Holodiscus dumosus
Rocky Mountain Sumac	Rhus glabra var. cismontana
Rose Glow Japanese Barberry	Berberis thunbergii var. atropurpurea 'Rose Glow'
Russian Sage	Perovskia atriplicifolia
Saltbush	Atriplex canescens
Sand Sagebrush	Artemisia filifolia
Saskatoon Serviceberry	Amelanchier alnifolia
Scrub Oak	Quercus gambelii
Shadblow Serviceberry	Amelanchier canadensis
Siberian Peashrub	Caragana arborescens
Silver Buffaloberry	Shepherdia argentea
Silver Fountain Butterfly Bush	Buddleia alternifolia 'Argentea'
Smooth Sumac	Rhus glabra
Soapweed	Yucca glauca
Spanish Gold Broom	Cytisus purgans
Staghorn Sumac	Rhus typhina
Stansbury's Cliffrose	Purshia stansburyana
Summer Wine Ninebark	Physocarpus opulifolius 'Seward'
Tall Rabbitbrush	Ericameria nauseosa var. nauseosa
Tam Juniper	Juniperus sabina 'Tamariscifolia'
Texas sotol	Dasyilirion texanum
Threeleaf Sumac	Rhus trilobata
Valley Cushion Dwarf	Mugo Pine Pinus mugo 'Valley Cushion'
Van Houtte Spirea	Spiraea x vanhouttei
Variegated Dogwood	Cornus alba 'Argenteo-marginata'
Waldbrunn Spruce	Picea pungens 'Waldbrunn'
Wavyleaf Oak	Quercus x undulata
Waxflower	Jamesia americana
Wayfaring Tree	Viburnum lantana
Western Sagebrush	Artemisia tridentata ssp. Tridentata
Western Snowberry	Symphoricarpos occidentalis
William Baffin Rose	Rosa 'William Baffin'
Wine and Roses Weigela	Weigela florida 'Alexandra'
Winter Jasmine	Jasminum nudiflorum
Yellow Twig Dogwood	Cornus sericea 'Flaviramea'

<b>Grasses</b>	
Alkali Sacaton	Sporobolus airoides
Arizona Fescue	Festuca arizonica

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Big Bluestem	Andropogon gerardii
Blonde Ambition Blue Grama Grass	Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambition'
Blue Fescue	Festuca ovina glauca
Blue Grama	Bouteloua gracilis
Blue Heaven Little Bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium 'MinnBlueA'
Blue Oat Grass	Helictotrichon sempervirens
Buffalograss	Bouteloua dactyloides
Compact Maiden Grass	Miscanthus sinensis 'Adagio'
Feather Reed Grass	Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'
Giant Sacaton	Sporobolus wrightii
Heavy Metal Switchgrass	Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal'
Indian Grass	Sorghastrum nutans
Japanese Blood Grass	Imperata cylindrica 'Red Baron'
Korean Feather Reed Grass	Calamagrostis brachytricha
Maiden Grass	Miscanthus sinensis 'Gracillimus'
Overdam Feather Reed Grass	Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Overdam'
Prairie Dropseed	Sporobolus heterolepis
Prairie Sky Switchgrass	Panicum virgatum 'Prairie Sky'
Sheep Fescue	Festuca ovina
Shenandoah Switchgrass	Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'
Sideoats Grama	Bouteloua curtipendula
The Blues Little Bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium 'The Blues'
Turf-type Tall Fescue	Festuca arundinacea
Undaunted Ruby Muhly	Muhlenbergia reverchonii
Variiegated Maiden Grass	Miscanthus sinensis 'Variegatus'
Zebra Grass	Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus'

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<b>Not Recommended/Restriction Recommended Plantings</b>	
Elm	Ulmus genus (Dutch Elm Disease resistant acceptable)
Box Elder (25ft ROW setback restriction)	Acer negundo
All Salix and Populus genus (Except Aspen) (25ft-ROW Restriction)	
Autumn Purple Ash	Fraxinus americana 'Autumn Purple'
Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Common Sea Buckthorn	Hippophae rhamnoides
Mexican Feather Grass	Nassella tenuissima
Kentucky Bluegrass	Poa pratensis

**Low Water, Native, Front Range Plantings Resource:**

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/native/FrontRange.pdf>

**Native Trees for Colorado Landscapes:**

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/garden/07421.pdf>

**Native Shrubs for Colorado Landscapes:**

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/garden/07422.pdf>

**Colorado Springs Utilities – Plant Selector**

<https://www.waterwiseplants.org/find-a-plant/>

**Sources**

Colorado Springs Utilities <https://www.csu.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Colorado State University Extension <https://extension.colostate.edu/>

Colorado Native Plant Society [www.conps.org](http://www.conps.org)

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### APPENDIX A LDC LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS

This Appendix contains all applicable landscape provisions from the LDC. Please note that other setbacks, performance standards and design standards of the LDC could affect the placement and design of landscaping. The fence, wall and hedge provisions have been included since when required fencing and buffering requirements directly impact landscape design.

#### 6.2. - DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR ANCILLARY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

##### 6.2.1. Fences, Walls, and Hedges

(A) **Applicability.** This Section is applicable to any fence, wall, or hedge established after the date of adoption of this Section unless superseded by a specific development standard in a PUD zoning district or within a Rural Land Use Plan.

(B) **Exemptions.** This Section is not applicable to agricultural fences, except as otherwise provided by this Section, or to the installation of noise barriers required by this Code, the ECM or constructed and installed in accordance with federal requirements.

(C) **General Standards Applicable to Fences, Walls, or Hedges.** The following standards are applicable to fences, walls, or hedges, including agricultural fences.

(1) **100-Year Floodplain.** Fences and walls within a 100-year floodplain shall comply with the requirements of the Floodplain Regulations.

(2) **No Obstruction of View of Vehicle Operators.** No fence, wall, or hedge may obstruct the view of vehicle operators entering or leaving any parking area, service drive, driveway, road, alley, or other thoroughfare. Fences, walls and hedges are subject to the sight distance standards in Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(a) **Corrugated Metal Not Approved as Fencing Material.** Corrugated metal is not considered an acceptable fencing material in perimeter fencing if visible from outside the fenced lot or parcel.

(3) **Measuring the Height of a Fence.** The height of fences, walls, and hedges shall be measured from the final grade of the lot, parcel, or tract at the location of the fence, wall, or hedge to the top of the fence, wall, or hedge. The top of a fence, wall, or hedge is the highest component of the fence, wall, or hedge, not including columns or posts. The depth of drainage channels under a fence, wall, or hedge shall not be included in the height measurement. The height of a fence, wall, or hedge built on berms or retaining walls shall include the height of the berm or wall.

(4) **Fencing Maintained.** Fences, walls or hedges shall be maintained in good structural or living condition. The owner is responsible for the repair or removal of a fence, wall or hedge, which constitutes a safety hazard, by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence or abandonment, or which constitutes a zoning violation.

(D) **Height and Location Standards.** The following requirements are applicable to all fences and walls except agricultural fences:

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(1) **Building Permit Required for Fences and Walls Over 7 feet in Height.** A fence or wall over 7 feet in height requires a building permit from the Building Department.

(2) **Fences and Walls 7 Feet in Height Considered Accessory Structure.** A fence or wall over 7 feet in height is considered an accessory structure and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements of this Code. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are applicable.

(3) **Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Drainage.** The fence and wall shall not be established where it would impede the drainage established by an approved drainage plan.

(4) **Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Use of Easement.** The fence or wall shall not be established within an easement in a manner where the use of the easement is unnecessarily impeded.

(E) **Specific Fence Standards for Residential Zoning Districts.** The following requirements are applicable to fences within residential zoning districts.

(1) **Opaque Fence Height Limited in Front Yard Setback Area.** Fences or walls more than 25% opaque shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within any front setback area.

(2) **Corner Lots.** Any side of a property from which driveway access from the road is gained shall be considered a front setback area.

(3) **Opaque Fence Height Limited in Sight Triangle.** An opaque fence, wall or hedge shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(F) **Specific Fence Standards for Non-Residential Zoning Districts.** The following requirements are applicable to fences within non-residential zoning districts:

(1) **7 Feet High Fences Allowed.** Fences not exceeding 7 feet in height may be placed anywhere on the lot or parcel except no fence, wall or hedge shall exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(2) **Security Fencing.** Security fencing may include 3 strands of wire on top of the fence. The wires are not included in the height measurement.

(3) **Subject to Parking, Landscaping, and Screening Standards.** Walls and fences shall conform to the parking, landscaping, and screening standards of this Code.

(G) **Noise Barrier Fencing or Walls.** Noise barrier fencing or walls shall be constructed in accordance with the provisions for noise barrier fencing in Chapter 8 and the ECM. The Development Services Director may authorize the placement of noise barrier fencing, or walls that exceed 7 feet in height adjacent to expressways, arterials, or railroads, provided such fence or wall is facing and adjacent to the roadway for which the noise barrier is being provided.

(H) **Development Perimeter Fencing.** If fencing is proposed around the perimeter of a subdivision or development, any fencing adjacent to a County Road or State or federal highway shall be compatible with the existing land uses,

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topography, and landscaping in the immediate vicinity. Subdivision perimeter fencing shall be consistent in design and materials when established along or adjacent to common boundaries where other perimeter fencing exists.

### (I) Retaining Wall Standards.

(1) **Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Retaining Surcharge.** A building permit is required for a retaining wall that retains a surcharge.

(2) **Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Over 4 Feet High.** A building permit is required for a retaining wall greater than 4 feet in height.

(3) **Retaining Walls 7 Feet High Considered Accessory Structure.** A retaining wall over 7 feet in height is considered an accessory structure and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are applicable.

(4) **Established Prior to Principal use.** A retaining wall, when necessary for development, may be established prior to the principal use.

### 6.2.2. Landscape Requirements

#### (A) General.

- (1) **Purpose.** The landscape requirements are intended to provide uniform standards for the development and maintenance of the landscaping of private property and public rights-of-way to achieve a balance between the individual right to develop and the general benefit and welfare of the community. The benefits to be achieved and the overall purposes of the landscaping required by this Section are: (1) to create a positive image and visual appeal both along the road which is highly visible and internal properties which provide a working, shopping and living environment; (2) to decrease the scale of parking lots, provide shade, and reduce heat, glare and noise; (3) to separate circulation systems; to soften and reduce the mass of buildings; to screen and buffer lower intensity uses from higher intensity uses and protect residential privacy; and (4) to create an overall pleasant and attractive surrounding.
- (2) **Applicability.**
  - (a) **Applies to All Land Uses.** The requirements of this Section shall apply to all uses. PUD's may have their requirements modified subject to the individual PUD.
  - (b) **New Use Established or Use Changed.** Landscaping areas shall conform to this Section for a new building or use of previously vacant land, uses in an enlarged building, and all uses in a building when any use is changed that requires a change of occupancy to be approved by the Building Department or by the PCD.
  - (c) **Effect of Increase in Building Area.** A single or cumulative building addition (floor area) which exceeds 50% of the existing building's gross floor area shall require the entire building landscaping to comply with this Section. The existing building shall be considered the building as it existed on the effective date of this Section.
- (3) **Requirements of Section Supplemented by Manual.** The requirements of this Section are supplemented by the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (4) **Authority of Director to Approve Substitute Landscape Designs.** The PCD Director may approve landscaping that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section provided the proposed

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landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the Landscaping and Planting Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the PCD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section.

(B) **Roadway Landscaping Requirements.** Roadway landscaping areas are required. A roadway landscaping area is located along the lot, parcel or tract frontage between the road right-of-way, easement, or tract boundary lines and any building or use.

(1) **Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area.** Table 6-1 lists the depth and number of trees required to be provided along any road in roadway landscaping area. Where the required setback is narrower than the depth of the required landscape area, the roadway landscaping area depth shall control. Unless otherwise approved by the ECM Administrator, the depth of roadway landscaping shall be measured from the property line. Where a roadway easement has been provided, the measurement shall be from the ROW or roadway easement. Where future ROW has been identified, the measurement should begin at the future ROW line in order avoid subsequent impairment of the landscaping.

**Table 6-1. Roadway Landscaping Required by Roadway Classification**

Road Classification	Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area	Required Trees (Trees/ Linear Foot of Frontage)
Expressway, Principal Arterial	25 feet	1 per 20 feet
Urban Interchange/Intersection	25 feet	1 per 20 feet (Substitute shrubs for visibility)
Minor Arterial	20 feet	1 per 25 feet
Non-Arterial <sup>1</sup>	10 feet	1 per 30 feet
<sup>1</sup> The required depth of the roadway landscape area shall be increased to 15 feet along a non-arterial road or public alley where the road or alley separates a non-residential use from a residential zoning district. The number of required trees shall be increased to 1 per 15 feet of linear frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.		

(2) **Location and Type of Trees in Roadway Landscaping Area.**

- (a) **Clustering Allowed.** The roadway landscaping trees may be clustered along a road frontage. The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in areas where the winter shade will cause unsafe conditions on an adjacent road. Clustering shall not be permitted when shade from clustering would be detrimental to adjacent road due to potential winter conditions as determined by the PCD Director or designee.
- (b) **Type of Tree Limited.** The types of roadway landscaping trees utilized shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and listed in the Landscape/Water Efficiency Manual and Water Wise Planting List.
- (c) **Exceeding Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping.** The roadway landscaping trees shall be located within 50 feet of the road right-of-way, easement or tract boundary line and any building or use.
- (d) **Allowed in Right-of-Way if Approved.** The roadway landscaping trees may be placed in a right-of-way if the right-of-way owner approves the placement and no conflicts exist, or will exist, with utility easements or any provider of utilities, establishment of landscaping along private roads must include appropriate maintenance agreement between parties. Generally, trees are not allowed to be placed within any County right-of-way. Placing of the required roadway landscaping trees within the right-of-way shall not negate the requirement for the

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required roadway landscape area. All landscaping placed within County Right-of-way shall install appropriate safeguards for roadway and/or sidewalks to include "Tree root guards" where appropriate. Permission must be granted for all landscaping within the County Right-of-way through the Department of Public Works.

- (e) **Single-Family PUD Roadway Landscaping.** Roadway landscaping along local residential roadways (non-arterials) within a residential PUD is subject to the individual PUD.
  - (3) **Walls and Fences in Roadway Landscape Area.** Walls and fences which are 25% or more opaque shall not exceed 3 feet in height when located within a required roadway landscaping area. Opaque walls and fences higher than 3 feet (such as noise barriers) shall be located outside of the roadway landscaping area to maintain a landscaped appearance along the road.
- (C) **Parking Lot Landscape Requirements.**
- (1) **Required Trees.** A tree of a type suitable for parking lots shall be provided for every 15 parking spaces in parking lots with 15 or more parking spaces. The required trees may be clustered and shall be located in a manner which will divide and break up expanses of paving and long rows of parking and create a canopy effect over the parking lot. See Landscaping and Planting Manual for island details.
  - (2) **Parking Lot Islands.** The most common method to satisfy the parking lot tree requirement is through the utilization of plant islands, fingers (areas open to the parking on 3 sides), and corners (open to the parking on 2 sides). Islands, fingers, and corners are required to be incorporated into all parking lots of 15 parking spaces or more in area. 1 island shall be provided for every 15 spaces. An island, finger or corner must be a minimum of two parking spaces in size (18' x 18' or 9' x 36' in order to qualify as a required island, finger, or corner. Parking lots containing fewer than 15 spaces shall not be required to provide islands but must include some other form such as a finger or corner plantings to satisfy the requirement.  
 Islands should be located at the end of center rows and at entry locations to direct traffic and minimize cutovers. Islands should generally be used and located to organize and enhance circulation, breakup continuous parking areas, and capture and direct stormwater. Islands protect vegetation from damage. See Landscaping and Planting Manual.  
 Small parking lots may utilize the perimeter area of the parking lot to satisfy the parking lot tree location requirement when there are not more than 2 rows of parking spaces and a single drive aisle. Where a parking lot is not required to be paved, no islands shall be required.  
 The tree types, minimum planter sizes and utilization of perimeter tree placement shall be consistent with the Landscaping and Planting Manual.  
 Parking lot island landscaping may also be counted towards Internal Landscape requirements provided any portion of the island is within 20 feet of a building elevation.
  - (3) **Protection of Trees from Damage.** Parking lot trees shall be protected from vehicle damage by curbs, planters or other barriers.
  - (4) **Storm Drainage for Irrigation Encouraged.** Parking lots designs that allow runoff to enter landscaped areas for irrigation and controlling non-point source pollution are encouraged.
  - (5) **Required Parking Lot Screening.** Parking lots shall be screened from view from adjacent roads and properties with differing land uses. The minimum height of the screening shall be 3 feet and may be accomplished by using berms and plantings. A minimum of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the road frontage or common lot, parcel, or tract boundary, not counting intersecting driveways, shall be provided with the required screening. The maximum spacing of plants to achieve an acceptable screen and the maximum acceptable grades for screening areas, such as grass berms and plantings beds, should be consistent with the Landscaping and Planting Manual.

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Decorative walls or fences may be approved if the Director finds that:

- The wall or fence avoids a blank and monotonous appearance by architectural articulation and the planting of vines, shrubs, or trees.
- The total use of berms or plantings is not physically feasible; or
- The wall or fence attractively compliments the use of berms or plantings.

(D) **Required Buffer and Screen Areas.**

(1) **Buffer Between Non-Residential and Residential Districts Separated by a Non-Arterial Road or Public Alley.**

- (a) **Where Required.** A buffer is required along the road-side lot, parcel, or tract line of any non-residential use where the use is separated from a residential zoning district by a non-arterial road or public alley.
- (b) **Depth and Planting Standards.** The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 15 feet of the road frontage. A minimum of  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the trees shall be evergreen trees.
- (c) **Opaque Fence or Wall Required.** An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the inside edge of the required buffer when the area immediately adjacent to the 15-foot buffer is used as a service corridor for loading, maneuvering or storage. If the area is used for parking, the required parking lot screening shall be applicable.
- (d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required.** The required buffer area shall require a ground cover at maturity with a minimum of 75% living plant materials. Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved living ground cover material shall be covered in an approved non-living ground cover.

(2) **Buffer Between Non-Residential, Multifamily Residential and Single-Family/Duplex Uses.**

- (a) **Where Required.** A buffer is required in the following situations:
  - (i) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the non-residential use property between the non-residential use and a residential zoning district.
  - (ii) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the multifamily use property between the multifamily use and a single-family or duplex zoning district.
  - (iii) On the residential side of the project when use to use compatibility is a concern.
- (b) **Depth and Planting Standards.** The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 25 feet of common lot, parcel, or tract line. A minimum of  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the trees shall be evergreen trees.
- (c) **Opaque Fencing or Wall Required.** An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the lot, parcel, or tract line except where the adjacent single-family or duplex residential zoning district or use abuts a required roadway landscaping area.
- (d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required.** Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural/synthetic landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved non-living ground cover material shall be covered in a living plant material.

(E) **Internal Landscaping.** The following internal landscaping is required:

(1) **Requirements for Multifamily Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for multifamily uses:

- (a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 15% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.

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- (b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.
  - (c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs.** A maximum of ½ of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.
- (2) **Requirements for Non-Residential Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for non-residential uses.
- (a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 5% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.
  - (b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.
  - (c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs.** A maximum of ½ of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs adjacent to retail store fronts where the view of wall signs may be obstructed. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.
- (3) **Standards for Required Internal Landscape Area.**
- (a) **Intent of Internal Landscaping.** The intent of the internal landscape area is to provide relief from structures and hard surfaces through the use of plantings.
  - (b) **Location of Internal Landscape Areas.** The required internal landscape areas shall be located in accordance with the following standards:
    - (i) Adjacent to those building elevations which form the major public views of the building from adjacent roads and properties and to the users of the project; or
    - (ii) At all pedestrian entrances, except service-only entries; or
    - (iii) Within a plaza or courtyard between buildings or portions of buildings, (plaza/courtyard is to have at least 1 side open); or
    - (iv) In an area provided to separate building areas from parking areas; or
    - (v) In a similar location which substantially conforms to the purpose of the required internal landscape area.
  - (c) **Area Calculation.** The entire lot, parcel or tract area shall be used as the basis for calculating required the internal landscape area. In instances where an entire lot, parcel, or tract is not used for the proposed development, the area used to calculate the required internal landscape area may be reduced by the PCD Director based on the area of the lot, parcel or tract actually being developed or used. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area determined by the PCD Director to be developed or used. However, even if reductions in the lot area are approved, the PCD Director may require that additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is provided at the first stage of a larger project to mitigate environmental impacts or meet the intent of the landscaping provisions of the LDC.
  - (d) **Paved Areas within an Internal Landscaped Area.** Sidewalks which provide basic pedestrian circulation shall not count toward meeting the internal landscape area requirement. Paved plazas may be credited to a maximum of 50% of required internal landscaping area if such plazas have trees and other pedestrian-only amenities (benches, sculpture, decorative paving, etc.), are not vehicular, and provide visual relief to those building elevations which form the major public views of the project.
- (F) **Minimum Plant Sizes and Percentage of Live Ground Cover.**
- (1) **Landscape Material Specifications.** Plant installation sizes and characteristics shall meet the following minimum requirements.

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- (a) **Deciduous Shade Trees.** Deciduous shade trees shall be 1½ inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.
- (b) **Deciduous Ornamental Trees.** Deciduous ornamental trees shall be 1 inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.
- (c) **Evergreen Trees.** Evergreen trees shall be 6 feet in height above ground, balled and burlapped, except Pinon Pine and upright junipers which shall be a minimum 4 feet in height.
- (d) **Evergreen and Deciduous Shrubs.** Evergreen and deciduous shrubs, where required, shall be 5-gallon size.
- (e) **Ground Cover and Vines.** Ground cover and vines shall be 1 size.
- (2) **Required Ground Cover.** Unless utilizing the principles of xeriscaping, required landscape areas shall include a minimum of 30% ground cover by living or synthetic grass or other living plant materials at maturity. The remaining 70% of the required landscape area may be covered with bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other landscape materials. No other areas within required landscape areas shall remain bare. The foliage crown of trees shall not be counted in meeting the ground cover requirement.
- (G) **Other Required Landscape Areas.**
  - (1) **Other Areas to be Landscaped or Screened.**
    - (a) **Zoning District Boundary Trees.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 30 feet of lot, parcel, or tract line coincident with a zoning district boundary line except if otherwise required to meet the buffering requirements between a non-residential use or multifamily use and residential zoning district.
    - (b) **Refuse Areas Screened.** Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, shall be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by an opaque wall or fence, architectural elements, dense evergreen plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet, or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet.
    - (c) **Loading Docks and Other Vehicle Areas Screened.** Loading docks, vehicle repair bays, and vehicle fueling areas shall be screened from view from adjacent roads by the use of plantings, berms, walls, fences, or other architectural elements.
    - (d) **Landscaping Required Between Lot and Curb.** Landscaping is required between the lot, parcel, or tract line and the required roadway landscaping area. Although this landscape area is located within the right-of-way, easement or tract, the adjacent lot, parcel or tract owner shall be responsible for maintenance. Xeric plantings shall be used in order to avoid the need to install an irrigation system within the right-of-way, easement or tract. Xeric plants may require supplemental irrigation to get them established or in times of extreme drought. Installation of an irrigation system requires approval of EPCDPW or owner or right-of-way, easement or tract. Installation of plant materials may also require approval of the EPCDPW or owner or right-of-way, easement or tract.
    - (e) **Water Storage Tank and Utility Facilities Landscape Requirements.**
      - (i) **Site-Specific Landscaping Required.** PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for a water storage tank and utility facilities. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to putting a water storage tank or utility facility into operation. The site-specific landscaping is subject to the following standards:
        - Rural and Remote Areas: In rural and remote areas landscaping, screening and erosion control measures shall be tailored to the nature and character of the area and the type of facility or structure contemplated. Site-specific landscaping shall, at a

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minimum, include revegetation of disturbed areas with materials indigenous to the site or otherwise adaptable.

- Urbanized and Developed Areas: In urbanized and developed areas, the site-specific landscaping shall address specific issues such as screening and visual impacts.

(f) **Outside Storage Area Landscaping Requirements.**

- (i) **Site-Specific Landscaping Required.** PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for establishing an outside storage area. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to utilizing an outside storage area.
- (ii) **Site-Specific Landscaping Standards.** The site-specific landscaping shall reflect a combination of berms, shrubs, trees, fences or walls which will provide, at maturity, a minimum 6 foot high, 100% opaque screening for the outside storage area.

(2) **Miscellaneous Requirements.**

- (a) **Flexibility in Design Allowed.** The owner may select the types of and the planting spaces between the required trees. The types of trees selected shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and should be a type listed in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (b) **Minimum Cover of Internal Landscape Area.** The internal landscape area shall consist of a minimum of 50% ground cover by living or synthetic (grass only) plant materials, xeriscape may be included for a reduction to 30%. The Landscaping and Planting Manual provides guidance for planting near foundations.
- (c) **Plant Spacing.** The planting spacing should accommodate the growth characteristics of the trees without adversely impacting structures, walks, or drives.
- (d) **Minimum Planting Size of Trees.** The minimum planting size of trees shall comply with this Section and should comply with any additional specifications established in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (e) **Existing Vegetation.** Existing vegetation which meets the plant type requirements of the Landscaping and Planting Manual may be counted toward the internal landscape requirement.
- (f) **Limitations on Landscape Placement.**
  - (i) **No Conflicts with Traffic or Sight Distance.** Landscaping shall not conflict with traffic. Sight distance shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2 of the ECM.
  - (ii) **No Interference with Utilities and Fire Equipment.** Landscaping shall not interfere with the general function, safety, or acceptability of any gas, electric, water, sewer, telephone, or other utility easement or conflict with criteria established or adopted by a fire department. Landscaping shall not exceed 8 inches in height within 3 feet of a fire hydrant or other applicable fire department criteria.
- (g) **Limitations on Landscape Materials.**
  - (i) The use of artificial vines, turf, or groundcovers as landscape material may be allowed on a case-by-case basis where live landscaping materials may be at risk or inappropriate due to land use, water availability, or location.
  - (ii) Prohibited/Noxious planting list is included in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (h) **Calculating the Required Number of Plants.**
  - (i) **Fractional Numbers Rounded to Closest Whole Number.** Where a requirement results in a fractional number, the applicable requirement shall be the closest whole number (5.0 to 5.49 = 5; 5.5 to 5.9 = 6).

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- (ii) Greatest Landscape Standard Applies. Where more than 1 landscape requirement applies to the same use and landscape area, the greater requirements shall be met.
  - (iii) Landscaping Only Fulfills 1 Requirement. Landscaping necessary to fulfill 1 requirement shall not be counted in fulfilling a different landscape requirement, unless otherwise stipulated in this Code.
  - (iv) Clumping Forms of Trees Encouraged. Clumps of trees, such as Hawthorn (*Craetagus* sp.), are encouraged instead of single-trunk trees. Smaller caliper trees to meet the minimum caliper are accepted, however, a clump of 3 or fewer trees shall be credited as only 1 of the required trees.
- (i) **Approval of Certificate of Occupancy or Use.** All required landscaping shall be completed, and then inspected and approved by the PCD prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the Building Department or establishment of the use, except when financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director guaranteeing the completion of the landscaping is provided. Plant substitutions require approval before issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Any request for a Certificate of Occupancy prior to the completion of the required landscaping shall include a written request explaining the circumstances why the landscaping cannot be installed, a cost estimate prepared by a qualified party, a landscape completion agreement signed by the owner, and financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director. Inspection and certification by a landscape architect of compliance with this Section may be accepted at the discretion of the PCD Director.
- (j) **Compliance with Plans.** The completed landscaping shall comply with the approved landscape plan and shall include the quantities, locations, species and sizes of plants and other landscape materials as represented on the approved landscape plan. Seeded landscape areas shall have no bare areas larger than 6 square inches after germination.
- (k) **Maintenance.**
- (i) Owner Responsible. The owner is responsible for all regular and normal maintenance of required landscaping including weeding, irrigation, fertilizing, pruning, mowing, and replacement in the care of artificial turf.
  - (ii) Replacement of Dead or Damaged Materials. Replacement of dead, diseased or substantially damaged plant materials shall occur within 6 months from when the plant material died, or when the inspection determined the plant material was dead or damaged. Replacement shall be of the same or similar type as originally approved. An alternative type of species shall require approval by the PCD Director.
  - (iii) Maintenance Inspections. Maintenance inspections may be performed periodically. Failure to maintain the landscaping in compliance with the approval is considered a zoning violation.

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**APPENDIX B RECOMMENDED LANDSCAPING MATERIALS**

Found within this Appendix are plant materials that are xeric and especially recommended for El Paso County's challenging climate. More water-intensive plants are not listed and are not encouraged. The utilization and thoughtful selection of drought-resistant/drought-tolerant plant materials are emphasized, along with appropriately designed irrigation systems, redirection of natural moisture, and reduced reliance on high-water-use turf in favor of other ground cover, for all areas of the County.

\*This is not a complete list of appropriate plant materials. The PCD staff will consider approval of other species, based on proven or anticipated survival.

***Recommended Trees for El Paso County***

<b>TREES</b>	<b>Suitable for Streetscapes, Buffers, Internal Landscaping Areas</b>	<b>Suitable under Power Lines</b>
<b>DECIDUOUS - SHADE</b>		
Catalpa, Western Catalpa speciosa	X	
Hackberry Celtis occidentalis	X	
Honey locust varieties Gleditsia triacanthos sp.	X	
Burr Oak Quercus macrocarpa	X	
Kentucky Coffeetree Gymnocladus dioica	X	
Swamp White Oak Quercus bicolor	X	
Japanese Pagoda Tree Sophora japonica	X	
Goldenrain Tree Koelreuteria paniculata	X	X
Silver Linden Tilia tomentosa		
<b>DECIDUOUS - ORNAMENTAL</b>		
Hawthorn, Washington Crataegus crus-galli	X	X
Amur	X	X



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Upright Junipers Juniperus scopulorum	X	X
Rocky Mountain Juniper Juniperus monosperma	X	X
One-Seed Juniper Juniperus virginiana	X	X
Red Cedar Thuja plicata		

***Recommended Shrubs and Grasses for El Paso County***

<b>SHRUBS AND ORNAMENTAL GRASSES (Note: Low plants may need to be combined with berms/walls or other plants to achieve the required 3' height of the parking area screen.)</b>	<b>Suitable as a Parking area Screen</b>	<b>5-gallon spacing requirements</b>
<b>LOW - LESS THAN 4' MATURE HEIGHT</b>		
Spreading Cotoneaster Cotoneaster divaricatus	X	4'
Coralberry, Red-Indian Current Symphoricarpos orbiculatus	X	3'
Leadplant Amorpha canescens	X	4'
Fourwing Saltbush Atriplex canescens	X	4'
Blue Mist Spirea Caryopteris x clandonensis		3'
Winterfat Ceratoides lanata	X	4'
Rubber Rabbitbrush Chrysothamnus nauseosus	X	4'
Apache Plume Fallugia paradoxa		4'

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Potentilla Potentilla furticosa	X	3'
Yucca Yucca species	X	3'
Harison's Yellow Rose Rosa x harisonii	X	4'
Blue Avena Grass Helictotrichon sempervirens		2'
Indian Ricegrass Oryzopsis hymenoides		2'
Fountain Grass Pennisetum alopecuroides		2'
Purple Fountain Grass Pennisetum setaceum "Rubrum"		2'
<b>MEDIUM - 4' TO 6' MATURE HEIGHT</b>		
Karl Foerster Grass Calamagrostis acutiflora		3'
Scotch Broom Cytisus scoparius "Moonlight"	X	5'
Juniper, Pfitzer Juniperus chinensis pfitzeriana	X	5'
Juniper, Pfitzer Compact Juniperus chinensis kelleyi	X	4'
Juniper, Pfitzer Gold Tip Juniperus chinensis pfitzeriara aurea	X	4'
Curl-leaf Mountain mahogany Cercocarpus ledifolius	X	5'
Fernbush Chamaebatiaria millefoium	X	4'

<b>SHRUBS AND ORNAMENTAL GRASSES</b> (Note: Low plants may need to be combined with berms/walls or other plants to achieve the required 3' height of the parking area screen.)	<b>Suitable as a Parking area Screen</b>	<b>5-gallon spacing requirements</b>
Cliffrose Cowania mexicana	X	4'

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Western Sand Cherry Prunus besseyi	X	6'
Three Leaf Sumac Rhus trilobata	X	5'
Snowberry, White Symphoricarpos alba	X	5'
Spirea, Thunberg Spriaea thunbergi	X	4'
<b>TALL - OVER 6' MATURE HEIGHT</b>		
Rocky Mountain Serviceberry (shrub form) Amelanchier alnifolia	X	10'
Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany Cercocarpus ledifolius	X	8'
Rocky Mountain Juniper Juniperus scopulorum	X	6'
Beauty Bush Kolkwitzia amabilis	X	8'
Staghorn Sumac Rhus typhina	X	4'
Cotoneaster, Peking Cotoneaster acutifolia	X	6'
Honeysuckle, Zabels Lonicera korolkowi "zabeli"	X	8'
Lilac, Common Syringa vulgaris	X	8'
Wayfaring Tree Viburnum lantana	X	8'
Spirea, Vanhoutte Spiraea vanhouttei	X	6'

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***Recommended Groundcovers for El Paso County***

<b>GROUND COVERS (less than 24" at maturity)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Creeping and Spreading Junipers Juniperus horizontalis varieties	Will provide four season interest and prevent erosion year-round
Snow in Summer Cerastium tomentosum	Spring/summer interest only
Blue Fescue Festuca ovina glauca	Spring/summer interest; erosion prevention qualities
Hens and Chicks Sempervivum sp.	Four season interest; will spread and prevent erosion
Creeping Hollygrape Mahonia repens	Four season interest; should be protected from winter wind; will grow in shade
Kinnikinnick Arctostaphylos uva- ursi	Four season interest; will grow in shade
Rock Cotoneaster Cotoneaster horizontalis	Four season interest; should be protected from winter wind; will grow in shade
Silver Mound, Wormwood Artemesia	Spring/summer interest; erosion prevention qualities
Stonecrops, Goldmoss, Dragonblood Sedum sp.	Spring/summer interest; erosion prevention qualities

***Recommended Parking Island Vegetation for El Paso County***

<b>PARKING AREA ISLAND VEGETATION</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Western Catalpa Catalpa speciosa	Has seed pods
Hackberry Celtis occidentalis	
Honeylocus t Gleditsia sp.	Many varieties available
Kentucky Coffeetree Gymnocladus dioica	Has seed pods
Swamp White Oak Quercus bicolor	For use in water quality islands

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Japanese Pagoda Tree Sophora japonica	Smaller tree with interesting leaves
Golden Raintree Koereuteria paniculata	Smaller tree with yellow flowers
Crabapple varieties Malus sp.	Non-fruiting recommended for parking areas
Silver Linden Tilia tomentosa	
Ponderosa Pine Pinus ponderosa	If limbed up to 6'
Staghorn Sumac Rhus typhina	Will provide four-season interest; will spread via runners
Leadplant Amorpha canescens	
Fourwing Saltbush Atriplex canescens	
Winterfat Ceratoides lanata	
Rubber Rabbitbrush Chrysothamnus nauseosus	Leave seedheads on for four-season interest and greater screening
Apache Plume Fallugia paradoxa	
Potentilla Potentilla furticosa	
Yucca Yucca species	Sharp leaves: don't use where pedestrians might want to walk

**Other Recommended Plants for El Paso County****Habitat Plants**

- Chokecherry, Plums, Cherries (Prunus sp.)
- Chokeberry (Aronia sp.)
- Current/Gooseberry (Ribes sp.)
- Serviceberry (Amelanchier sp.)
- Three leaf Sumac (Rhus trilobata)
- Alder
- Cottonwood (Populus grandidentatum)

## LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL

- Current (*Ribes odoratum* "Crandall")

### **Turf Grasses**

#### **Non-Irrigated Areas**

(Depends entirely on natural precipitation)

- Crested Wheatgrass *Agropyron cristatum*
- Buffalograss *Buchloe dactyloides*
- Blue Gramma *Bouteloua gracilis*

### ***Planting References***

- Colorado Nurserymen's Association, Colorado Nursery Plant Guide, 1982.
- Kelly, George, Rocky Mountain Horticulture, 1967.
- Sunset Books, New Western Garden Book, 1979.
- Xeriscape Plan Guide, Denver Water, American Water Works Association, 1996.
- [www.xratedgardening.com](http://www.xratedgardening.com)
- Sunset Western Garden Book, Kathleen Brenzel, Editor, 2001.  
R, Andrew Hough, Douglas County Community Development

**LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL**

**APPENDIX C Noxious Weeds**

**\*Please see “Noxious Weeds and Control Methods” by EPC Community Services Department, Environmental Division**

**<https://epc-assets.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/Environmental-Division-Picture/Noxious-Weeds/Noxious-Weed-Control-Book.pdf>**

**Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) Classification of Noxious Weeds**

<b>List A:</b> <i>Rare noxious weeds that must be eradicated statewide</i>
Cypress spurge
Dyer’s woad
Knotweeds: Giant, Japanese & Bohemian
Myrtle spurge
Orange hawkweed
Purple loosestrife

<b>List B:</b> <i>Discretely distributed noxious weeds that must be eradicated, contained, or suppressed, depending on their location, to stop their continued spread</i>
Absinth wormwood
Bouncingbet
Bull thistle
Canada thistle
Chinese clematis
Common teasel
Dalmatian toadflax
Diffuse knapweed
Hoary cress (whitetop)
Houndstongue
Leafy spurge
Musk thistle
Perennial pepperweed
Russian knapweed
Russian olive
Scentless chamomile
Scotch thistle
Spotted knapweed
Tamarisk (Salt cedar)
Yellow toadflax

<b>List C:</b> <i>Widespread and well-established noxious weeds in Colorado; control is recommended by the state and may be required by local government</i>
Common mullein
Downy brome / Cheatgrass
Field bindweed
Poison hemlock



**To:** Justin Kilgore, Planning Review Manager - El Paso County Planning and Community Development  
**From:** Jon Romero, Land Use Chair  
**Date:** 01/10/24  
**Subject:** Final Landscape Code and Manual Update

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On behalf of the Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs (HBA) Land Use Committee, we would like to thank you for giving us both the time and opportunity to review the proposed changes to the El Paso County Landscape Code and Manual.

At this time, we have no further questions or concerns about the final draft. We offer our support for the proposed changes and value your commitment to a transparent stakeholder process. Your consideration of our input is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to working with your department through the implementation and next steps of the new code revisions. We are eager to maintain a cooperative partnership with the County staff in the future.

Thank you,

Jon Romero  
2023 HBA Land Use Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 24-

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY OF EL PASO

STATE OF COLORADO

APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE  
LANDSCAPE CODE UPDATE (LDC233)

WHEREAS, the Planning and Community Development Department of El Paso County requests approval of Amendments to the El Paso County Land Development Code Chapter 6, General Development Standards, Article 2, Development Standards for Ancillary Facilities and Activities, Section 1, Fences, Walls, and Hedges, and Section 2, Landscape Requirements related to standards for plantings, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held by the El Paso County Planning Commission on January 18, 2024, upon which date the Planning Commission did by formal resolution recommend approval of the proposed amendments, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held by this Board on February 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS, based on the evidence, testimony, exhibits, consideration of the master plan for the unincorporated area of the County, presentation and comments of the El Paso County Planning and Community Development Department and other County representatives, comments of public officials and agencies, comments from all interested persons, comments by the general public, comments by the El Paso County Planning Commission Members, and comments by the Board of County Commissioners during the hearing, this Board finds as follows:

1. The proposed amendments to the El Paso County Land Development Code were properly submitted for consideration by the Planning Commission.
2. Proper publication and public notice were provided as required by law for the hearing before the Planning Commission.
3. The hearing before the Planning Commission was extensive and complete, that all pertinent facts, matters and issues were submitted and that all interested persons were heard at that hearing.
4. All data, surveys, analyses, and studies, as are required by the State of Colorado and El Paso County have been submitted, reviewed, and were received into evidence and found to meet the intent of the Introductory Provisions of the Land Development Code.

5. For the above-stated and other reasons, the proposed Amendments are in the best interest of the health, safety, morals, convenience, order, prosperity and welfare of the citizens of El Paso County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners hereby approves the amendment(s) to the El Paso County Land Development Code Chapter 6, General Development Standards, Article 2, Development Standards for Ancillary Facilities and Activities, Section 1, Fences, Walls, and Hedges, and Section 2, Landscape Requirements, as represented in the attached Exhibit "A":

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the record and recommendations of the El Paso County Planning Commission be adopted, except as modified herein.

DONE THIS 8th day of February 2024 at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk & Recorder







(b) **New Use Established or Use Changed.** Landscaping areas shall conform to this Section for a new building or use of previously vacant land, uses in an enlarged building, and all uses in a building when any use is changed that requires a change of occupancy to be approved by the Building Department or by the PCD.

(c) **Effect of Increase in Building Area.** A single or cumulative building addition (floor area) which exceeds 50% of the existing building's gross floor area shall require the entire building landscaping to comply with this Section. The existing building shall be considered the building as it existed on the effective date of this Section.

(3) **Requirements of Section Supplemented by Manual.** The requirements of this Section are supplemented by the Landscaping and Water Conservation Planting Manual.

(4) **Authority of Director to Approve Alternative Substitute Landscape Designs.** The PCD Director may approve landscaping that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section provided the proposed landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the Landscaping and Water Conservation Planting Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the PCD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section.

(B) **Roadway Landscaping Requirements.** Roadway landscaping areas are required. A roadway landscaping area is located along the lot, parcel or tract frontage between the road right-of-way, easement, or tract boundary lines and any building or use.

(1) **Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area.** Table 6-1 lists the depth and number of trees required to be provided along any road in roadway landscaping area. Where the required setback is narrower than the depth of the required landscape area, the roadway landscaping area depth shall control. Unless otherwise approved by the ECM Administrator, the depth of roadway landscaping shall be measured from the property line. Where a roadway easement has been provided, the measurement shall be from the ROW or roadway easement. Where future ROW has been identified, the measurement should begin at the future ROW line in order avoid subsequent impairment of the landscaping.

**Table 6-1. Roadway Landscaping Required by Roadway Classification**

Road Classification	Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area	Required Trees (Trees/Linear Foot of Frontage)
Expressway, Principal Arterial	25 feet	1 per 20 feet
Urban Interchange/Intersection	25 feet	NA-1 per 20 feet (Substitute shrubs for visibility)
Minor Arterial	20 feet	1 per 25 feet
Non-Arterial <sup>1</sup>	10 feet	1 per 30 feet

<sup>1</sup>The required depth of the roadway landscape area shall be increased to 15 feet along a non-arterial road or public alley where the road or alley separates a non-residential use from a residential zoning district. The number of required trees shall be increased to 1 per 15 feet of linear frontage. A minimum of 1/4 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

(2) **Location and Type of Trees in Roadway Landscaping Area.**

(a) **Clustering Allowed.** The roadway landscaping trees may be clustered along a road frontage. The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in areas where the winter

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shade will cause unsafe conditions on an adjacent road. Clustering shall not be permitted when shade from clustering would be detrimental to adjacent road due to potential winter conditions as determined by the PCD Director or designee.

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(b) **Type of Tree Limited.** The types of roadway landscaping trees utilized shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and listed in the Landscape/Water Efficiency Manual and Water Conservation Wise Planting List.

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(c) **Exceeding Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping.** The roadway landscaping trees shall be located within 50 feet of the road right-of-way, easement or tract boundary line and any building or use.

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(d) **Allowed in Right-of-Way if Approved.** The roadway landscaping trees may be placed in a right-of-way if the right-of-way owner approves the placement and no conflicts exist, or will exist, with utility easements or any provider of utilities. establishment of landscaping along private roads must include appropriate maintenance agreement between parties. Generally, trees are not allowed to be placed within any County right-of-way. Placing of the required roadway landscaping trees within the right-of-way shall not negate the requirement for the required roadway landscape area. All landscaping placed within County Right-of-way shall install appropriate safeguards for roadway and/or sidewalks to include "Tree root guards" where appropriate. Permission must be granted for all landscaping within the County Right-of-way through the Department of Public Works.

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(e) **Single-Family PUD Roadway Landscaping.** Roadway landscaping is not required along local residential roadways (non-arterials) within a residential PUD. is subject to the individual PUD.

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(3) **Walls and Fences in Roadway Landscape Area.** Walls and fences which are 25% or more opaque shall not exceed 3 feet in height when located within a required roadway landscaping area. Opaque walls and fences higher than 3 feet (such as noise barriers) shall be located outside of the roadway landscaping area to maintain a landscaped appearance along the road.

(C) **Parking Lot Landscape Requirements.**

(1) **Required Trees.** A tree of a type suitable for parking lots shall be provided for every 15 parking spaces in parking lots with 15 or more parking spaces. The required trees may be clustered and shall be located in a manner which will divide and break up expanses of paving and long rows of parking and create a canopy effect over the parking lot. See Landscaping and Planting Manual for island details.

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(2) **Parking Lot Islands.** The most common method to satisfy the parking lot tree requirement is through the utilization of plant islands, fingers (areas open to the parking on 3 sides), and corners (open to the parking on 2 sides). Islands, fingers, and corners are required to be incorporated into all parking lots of 15 parking spaces or more in area. 1 island shall be provided for every 15 spaces. An island, finger or corner that is the same size as must be a minimum of two parking space counts spaces in size (18' x 18' or 9' x 36' in order to qualify as a required island. An island the size of 2 spaces counts as 2 islands. Pedestrian entry spaces also count as an island, including the ramp, finger, or corner. Parking lots containing fewer than 25 15 spaces shall not be required to provide islands but must include some other form such as a finger or corner plantings to satisfy the requirement.

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Islands should be located at the end of center rows and at entry locations to direct traffic and minimize cutovers. Islands should generally be used and located to organize and enhance circulation, breakup continuous parking areas, and capture and direct stormwater. Islands protect vegetation from damage. See [Landscaping and Planting Manual](#).

Small parking lots may utilize the perimeter area of the parking lot to satisfy the parking lot tree location requirement when there are not more than 2 rows of parking spaces and a single drive aisle. Where a parking lot is not required to be paved, no islands shall be required.

The tree types, minimum planter sizes and utilization of perimeter tree placement shall be consistent with the [Landscape Landscaping and Water Conservation Planting Manual](#).

[Parking lot island landscaping may also be counted towards Internal Landscape requirements provided any portion of the island is within 20 feet of a building elevation.](#)

(3) **Protection of Trees from Damage.** Parking lot trees shall be protected from vehicle damage by curbs, planters or other barriers.

(4) **Storm Drainage for Irrigation Encouraged.** Parking lots designs that allow runoff to enter landscaped areas for irrigation and controlling non-point source pollution are encouraged.

(5) **Required Parking Lot Screening.** Parking lots shall be screened from view from adjacent roads and properties with differing land uses. The minimum height of the screening shall be 3 feet and may be accomplished by using berms and plantings. A minimum of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the road frontage or common lot, parcel, or tract boundary, not counting intersecting driveways, shall be provided with the required screening. The maximum spacing of plants to achieve an acceptable screen and the maximum acceptable grades for screening areas, such as grass berms and plantings beds, should be consistent with the [Landscape Landscaping and Water Conservation Planting Manual](#).

Decorative walls or fences may be approved if the Director finds that:

- The wall or fence avoids a blank and monotonous appearance by architectural articulation and the planting of vines, shrubs, or trees;
- The total use of berms or plantings is not physically feasible; or
- The wall or fence attractively complements the use of berms or plantings.

(D) **Required Buffer and Screen Areas.**

(1) **Buffer Between Non-Residential and Residential Districts Separated by a Non-Arterial Road or Public Alley.**

(a) **Where Required.** A buffer is required along the road-side lot, parcel, or tract line of any non-residential use where the use is separated from a residential zoning district by a non-arterial road or public alley.

(b) **Depth and Planting Standards.** The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 15 feet of the road frontage. A minimum of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

(c) **Opaque Fence or Wall Required.** An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the inside edge of the required buffer when the area immediately adjacent to the 15-foot buffer is used as a service corridor for loading, maneuvering or storage. If the area is used for parking, the required parking lot screening shall be applicable.

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(d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required.** The required buffer area shall require a ground cover at maturity with a minimum of 75% living plant materials. Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved living ground cover material shall be covered in an approved non-living ground cover.

(2) **Buffer Between Non-Residential, Multifamily Residential and Single-Family/Duplex Uses.**

(a) **Where Required.** A buffer is required in the following situations:

- (i) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the non-residential use property between the non-residential use and a residential zoning district.
- (ii) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the multifamily use property between the multifamily use and a single-family or duplex zoning district.
- (iii) On the residential side of the project when use to use compatibility is a concern.

(b) **Depth and Planting Standards.** The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 25 feet of common lot, parcel, or tract line. A minimum of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

(c) **Opaque Fencing or Wall Required.** An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the lot, parcel, or tract line except where the adjacent single-family or duplex residential zoning district or use abuts a required roadway landscaping area.

(d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required.** Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural/synthetic landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved non-living ground cover material shall be covered in a living plant material.

(E) **Internal Landscaping.** The following internal landscaping is required:

(1) **Requirements for Multifamily Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for multifamily uses:

(a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 15% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.

(b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.

(c) Trees Replaced by Shrubs. A maximum of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

(2) **Requirements for Non-Residential Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for non-residential uses.

(a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 5% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.

(b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.

(c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs.** A maximum of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs adjacent to retail store fronts where the view of wall signs may be obstructed. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

(3) **Standards for Required Internal Landscape Area.**

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- (a) **Intent of Internal Landscaping.** The intent of the internal landscape area is to provide relief from structures and hard surfaces through the use of plantings.
- (b) **Location of Internal Landscape Areas.** The required internal landscape areas shall be located in accordance with the following standards:
  - (i) Adjacent to those building elevations which form the major public views of the building from adjacent roads and properties and to the users of the project; or
  - (ii) At all pedestrian entrances, except service-only entries; or
  - (iii) Within a plaza or courtyard between buildings or portions of buildings, (plaza/courtyard is to have at least 1 side open); or
  - (iv) In an area provided to separate building areas from parking areas; or
  - (v) In a similar location which substantially conforms to the purpose of the required internal landscape area.
- (c) **Area Calculation.** The entire lot, parcel or tract area shall be used as the basis for calculating required the internal landscape area. In instances where an entire lot, parcel, or tract is not used for the proposed development, the area used to calculate the required internal landscape area may be reduced by the PCD Director based on the area of the lot, parcel or tract actually being developed or used. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area determined by the PCD Director to be developed or used. However, even if reductions in the lot area are approved, the PCD Director may require that additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is provided at the first stage of a larger project to mitigate environmental impacts or meet the intent of the landscaping provisions of the LDC.
- (d) **Paved Areas within an Internal Landscaped Area.** Sidewalks which provide basic pedestrian circulation shall not count toward meeting the internal landscape area requirement. Paved plazas may be credited to a maximum of 50% of required internal landscaping area if such plazas have trees and other pedestrian-only amenities (benches, sculpture, decorative paving, etc.), are not vehicular, and provide visual relief to those building elevations which form the major public views of the project.

(F) **Minimum Plant Sizes and Percentage of Live Ground Cover.**

- (1) **Landscape Material Specifications.** Plant installation sizes and characteristics shall meet the following minimum requirements.
  - (a) **Deciduous Shade Trees.** Deciduous shade trees shall be 1½ inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.
  - (b) **Deciduous Ornamental Trees.** Deciduous ornamental trees shall be 1 inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.
  - (c) **Evergreen Trees.** Evergreen trees shall be 6 feet in height above ground, balled and burlapped, except Pinon Pine and upright junipers which shall be a minimum 4 feet in height.
  - (d) **Evergreen and Deciduous Shrubs.** Evergreen and deciduous shrubs, where required, shall be 5-gallon size.
  - (e) **Ground Cover and Vines.** Ground cover and vines shall be 1 size.
- (2) **Required Live Material Ground Cover.** Unless otherwise allowed utilizing the principles of xeriscaping, required landscape areas shall include a minimum of 75% ground cover by

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living ~~or synthetic~~ grass or other living plant materials at maturity. The remaining ~~25~~70% of the required landscape area may be covered with bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other landscape materials ~~or may be designed as hard-surfaced pedestrian areas. No other areas within required landscape areas shall remain bare.~~ The foliage crown of trees shall not be counted in meeting the ground cover requirement.

(G) **Other Required Landscape Areas.**

(1) **Other Areas to be Landscaped or Screened.**

- (a) **Zoning District Boundary Trees.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 30 feet of lot, parcel, or tract line coincident with a zoning district boundary line except if otherwise required to meet the buffering requirements between a non-residential use or multifamily use and residential zoning district.
- (b) **Refuse Areas Screened.** Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, shall be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by an opaque wall or fence, architectural elements, dense evergreen plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet, or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet.
- (c) **Loading Docks and Other Vehicle Areas Screened.** Loading docks, vehicle repair bays, and vehicle fueling areas shall be screened from view from adjacent roads by the use of plantings, berms, walls, fences, or other architectural elements.
- (d) **Landscaping Required Between Lot and Curb.** Landscaping is required between the lot, parcel, or tract line and the required roadway landscaping area. Although this landscape area is located within the right-of-way, easement or tract, the adjacent lot, parcel or tract owner shall be responsible for maintenance. Xeric plantings shall be used in order to avoid the need to install an irrigation system within the right-of-way, easement or tract. Xeric plants may require supplemental irrigation to get them established or in times of extreme drought. Installation of an irrigation system requires approval of EPCDPW or owner or right-of-way, easement or tract. Installation of plant materials may also require approval of the EPCDPW or owner or right-of-way, easement or tract.

~~(e)~~(d) **Water Storage Tank and Utility Facilities Landscape Requirements.**

- (i) Site-Specific Landscaping Required. PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for a water storage tank and utility facilities. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to putting a water storage tank or utility facility into operation. The site-specific landscaping is subject to the following standards:
  - Rural and Remote Areas: In rural and remote areas landscaping, screening and erosion control measures shall be tailored to the nature and character of the area and the type of facility or structure contemplated. Site-specific landscaping shall, at a minimum, include revegetation of disturbed areas with materials indigenous to the site or otherwise adaptable.
  - Urbanized and Developed Areas: In urbanized and developed areas, the site-specific landscaping shall address specific issues such as screening and visual impacts.

~~(f)~~(e) **Outside Storage Area Landscaping Requirements.**

- (i) Site-Specific Landscaping Required. PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for establishing an outside storage area. Installation of

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approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to utilizing an outside storage area.

- (ii) Site-Specific Landscaping Standards. The site-specific landscaping shall reflect a combination of berms, shrubs, trees, fences or walls which will provide, at maturity, a minimum 6 foot high, 100% opaque screening for the outside storage area.

(2) **Miscellaneous Requirements.**

(a) **Flexibility in Design Allowed.** The owner may select the types of and the planting spaces between the required trees. The types of trees selected shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and should be a type listed in the ~~Landscaping~~ ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation~~ ~~Planting~~ Manual.

(b) **Minimum Cover of Internal Landscape Area.** The internal landscape area shall consist of a minimum of 50% ground cover by living ~~or synthetic (grass only)~~ ~~plant materials~~. ~~xeriscape may be included for a reduction to 30%.~~ The ~~Landscaping~~ ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation~~ ~~Planting~~ Manual provides guidance for planting near foundations.

(c) **Plant Spacing.** The planting spacing should accommodate the growth characteristics of the trees without adversely impacting structures, walks, or drives.

(d) **Minimum Planting Size of Trees.** The minimum planting size of trees shall comply with this Section and should comply with any additional specifications established in the ~~Landscaping~~ ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation~~ ~~Planting~~ Manual.

(e) **Existing Vegetation.** Existing vegetation which meets the plant type requirements of the ~~Landscaping~~ ~~Landscaping~~ and ~~Water Conservation~~ ~~Planting~~ Manual may be counted toward the internal landscape requirement.

(f) **Limitations on Landscape Placement.**

- (i) No Conflicts with Traffic or Sight Distance. Landscaping shall not conflict with traffic. Sight distance shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2 of the ECM.
- (ii) No Interference with Utilities and Fire Equipment. Landscaping shall not interfere with the general function, safety, or acceptability of any gas, electric, water, sewer, telephone, or other utility easement or conflict with criteria established or adopted by a fire department. Landscaping shall not exceed 8 inches in height within 3 feet of a fire hydrant or other applicable fire department criteria.

(g) **Limitations on Landscape Materials.**

~~(i) No Artificial Landscape Materials.~~ (i) The use of artificial vines, turf, or groundcovers as landscape material may be allowed on a case-by-case basis where live landscaping materials may be at risk or inappropriate due to land use, water availability, or location.

~~(ii) Elm Trees Prohibited.~~ Trees of the Ulmus genus (elm) are prohibited in meeting the landscape requirements of this Code unless demonstrated to be Dutch Elm Disease resistant.

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~~(iii) Use of Box Elder, Salix, and Populus Limited. Box Elder (Acer negundo) and all trees of the Salix and Populus genus, except Aspen (Populus Tremuloides), shall not be planted within 25 feet of a right-of-way.~~

~~(ii) Prohibited/Noxious planting list is included in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.~~

**(h) Calculating the Required Number of Plants.**

(i) Fractional Numbers Rounded to Closest Whole Number. Where a requirement results in a fractional number, the applicable requirement shall be the closest whole number (5.0 to 5.49 = 5; 5.5 to 5.9 = 6).

(ii) Greatest Landscape Standard Applies. Where more than 1 landscape requirements requirement applies to the same use and landscape area, the greater requirements shall be met.

(iii) Landscaping Only Fulfills 1 Requirement. Landscaping necessary to fulfill 1 requirement shall not be counted in fulfilling a different landscape requirement, unless otherwise stipulated in this Code.

(iv) Clumping Forms of Trees Encouraged. Clumps of tree trees, such as Hawthorn (Craetagus sp.), are encouraged instead of single-trunk trees. However smaller caliper trees to meet the minimum caliper are accepted, however, a clump of 3 or fewer trees shall be credited as only 1 of the required trees.

(i) **Approval of Certificate of Occupancy or Use.** All required landscaping shall be completed, and then inspected and approved by the PCD prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the Building Department or establishment of the use, except when financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director guaranteeing the completion of the landscaping is provided. Plant substitutions require approval before issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Any request for a Certificate of Occupancy prior to the completion of the required landscaping shall include a written request explaining the circumstances why the landscaping cannot be installed, a cost estimate prepared by a qualified party, a landscape completion agreement signed by the owner, and financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director. Inspection and certification by a landscape architect of compliance with this Section may be accepted at the discretion of the PCD Director.

(j) **Compliance with Plans.** The completed landscaping shall comply with the approved landscape plan and shall include the quantities, locations, species and sizes of plants and other landscape materials as represented on the approved landscape plan. Seeded landscape areas shall have no bare areas larger than 6 square inches after germination.

**(k) Maintenance.**

(i) Owner Responsible. The owner is responsible for all regular and normal maintenance of required landscaping including weeding, irrigation, fertilizing, pruning and mowing, mowing, and replacement in the care of artificial turf.

(ii) Replacement of Dead or Damaged Materials. Replacement of dead, diseased or substantially damaged plant materials shall occur within 6 months from when the plant material died, or when the inspection determined the plant

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material was dead or damaged. Replacement shall be of the same or similar type as originally approved. An alternative type of species shall require approval by the PCD Director.

- (iii) Maintenance Inspections. Maintenance inspections may be performed periodically. Failure to maintain the landscaping in compliance with the approval is considered a zoning violation.

(Res. No. 16-164, 5-17-2016; Res. No. 17-374, Exh. A, 12-12-2017; Res. No. 19-62, Exh. A, 2-26-2019)

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# Landscape and Water Conservation Manual



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Development Services Department  
2280 International Circle  
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

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#### 4.1. BASIS FOR LANDSCAPING PLANS

##### 4.1.1. Purpose of this Manual

This Landscaping and ~~Water Conservation~~ Planting Manual (Manual), supplements the landscaping, buffering, and screening requirements established by the El Paso County Land Development Code (LDC). This Manual includes policies, explanations, examples and illustrations of methods that can be used to help an owner comply with the requirements of the LDC.

This Manual provides information concerning the development and maintenance of landscaping for both private property and public rights-of-way whether required by the LDC or otherwise proposed as part of a development. This Manual also provides information to help ensure appropriate buffering and screening is provided between differing land uses to enhance compatibility.

It is the intent of El Paso County that the information presented in this Manual will help ensure landscaping will:

- have an increased survival rate;
- require minimal maintenance;
- provide the greatest benefit for the dollars spent; and
- work with and compliment the natural environment; and
- encourage water conservation.

##### 4.1.2. Applicability and Relationship to the LDC

This Manual supplements the requirements of the LDC and provides suggestions concerning the best practices to implement the provisions of the LDC. The LDC is the regulatory document that defines the minimum requirements for landscaping with respect to landscape area, size and types of plantings, number of plants, and location of landscape areas. The provisions of the LDC specifically applicable to landscaping have been included in Appendix A to assist the user of this Manual.

##### 4.1.3. Property Rights and the Value of Landscaping

El Paso County recognizes that landscaping can be a significant expense to ~~business people~~ businesspeople and residents. At the same time, vegetation enhances property values, and attracts customers to businesses; provides a quality environment for tourists and residents; reduces stormwater runoff rates and volumes and mitigates water quality concerns in accordance with State and Federal requirements; and controls dust in support of Federal and local requirements. Landscaping also improves the livability of residential neighborhoods, improves the compatibility of adjacent uses, screens undesirable views, contributes to the image and appeal of the overall community, and can reduce noise pollution. Landscaping also supports ecological systems and helps to protect critical species (pollinators, etc.). Landscaping reduces pollution and serves to lessen the effects of urban heat sink effect in dense urban residential areas. The intent of this Manual is to achieve a reasonable balance between the right of individuals to develop and maintain their property in a manner they prefer and the rights of residents of the community to live, work, shop, and recreate in pleasant and attractive surroundings.

##### 4.1.4. Water Resources and Landscaping

El Paso County is in a semi-arid, high plains and foothills environment, which dictates the use of water-conserving, hardy, or indigenous plants. Regardless of the type of plant

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## 4.2. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The following general guidelines should be considered in all situations where landscaping is required by the LDC.

### 4.2.1. Vegetation

#### (A) Mimic Nature

Plants that mimic and blend with the surrounding natural landscape should be used. For example, the Black Forest should emphasize conifers, while the High Plains should emphasize rolling ~~land forms~~ landforms and shrubs.

#### (B) Consider All Four Seasons

Four season effectiveness (evergreens, persistent seed heads or berries, and dense forms) should be included in every landscape design.

#### (C) Locate Plants with Similar Needs Together

Plants with similar water needs should be located next to each other.

#### (D) Accommodate the Growth Habit of Each Plant

Plants should be placed in locations that are appropriate for their growth habit: shade vs. sun, height and spread vs. available space, etc.

#### (E) Use Xeric Vegetation

Xeric vegetation should be used in order to conserve water, minimize maintenance costs, and enhance survival. Appendix B provides a list of suggested drought-tolerant and drought-resistant plants. Other species may be acceptable if they meet xeric principals and are proven to thrive in El Paso County's climate. High water use plants should be minimized or eliminated.

Whenever possible, group plants by water, soil, and sun needs.

#### (F) Preserve Existing Vegetation

Native vegetation or other vegetation that generally conforms to the requirements of the LDC and the guidelines provided in this document should be preserved whenever possible, and may be used, in whole or part, to meet landscaping required by the LDC, depending on the effectiveness of the existing landscaping in achieving the County's landscape goals and its ability to be protected and maintained.

#### (G) Avoid Clustering of Evergreens Under Certain Conditions

The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in instances where their location (south side of a road) would cause unsafe conditions such as ice or snow build-up due to winter shading and lack of sun exposure. In this instance, the use of shrubs may be most appropriate.

#### (H) Spacing of Trees

The minimum number of trees required in any circumstance is not meant to force specific plant spacing on an "on-center" basis. The owner has flexibility to group or cluster trees and is encouraged to vary the spacing and distance between trees and shrubs. Trees and tall shrubs should be clustered in locations where they can provide

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the greatest mitigation for land uses, enhance views, or create points of interest.

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1.2.2. **Irrigation and Soil Preparation**

**(A) Irrigation Systems**

Irrigation systems should use the most current water-saving technology. Drip irrigation should be used whenever possible. ~~Over-spray~~~~Overspray~~ from sprinkler systems onto paved surfaces should be avoided. Irrigation maintenance budgets should be prepared to ensure optimal water use for plant survival.

**(B) Soil Preparation**

Soil should be amended to increase water retention and organic content for plant health and vigorous growth.

1.2.3. **Retaining Walls and Slopes**

Retaining walls higher than 4 feet may be appropriate in areas where special grading conditions exist. Retaining walls should be visually softened by the planting of trees and shrubs to avoid a continuous, monotonous effect and should also be "stepped" in four-foot maximum height increments to slow water runoff and provide planting areas. Except where necessary to convey stormwater as part of an overall site design, slopes should not generally exceed 3:1. Appropriate safeguards and appropriate trees should be selected in order to prevent the undermining of the retaining walls. Root guards are required for trees.

1.2.4. **Determining Project Area**

In instances where an entire parcel or lot is not used for the proposed development, the project area may be determined to be less by the ~~DSDPCD~~~~Director~~. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area; however, if additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is necessary due to certain circumstances, the ~~DSDPCD~~~~Director~~ may require that landscaping.

1.2.5. **Buffering/Screening**

**(A) Buffers to Reflect Character of Site**

Buffer design should reflect the unique site and land use situation for each project. In any case, four-season effectiveness should be achieved for all buffering and screening areas.

**(B) Required Opaque Structures**

Any required opaque structure, including dumpster screening, should be integrated with the overall project architecture. For example, if the main building is stucco, the screening walls should be stucco to match.

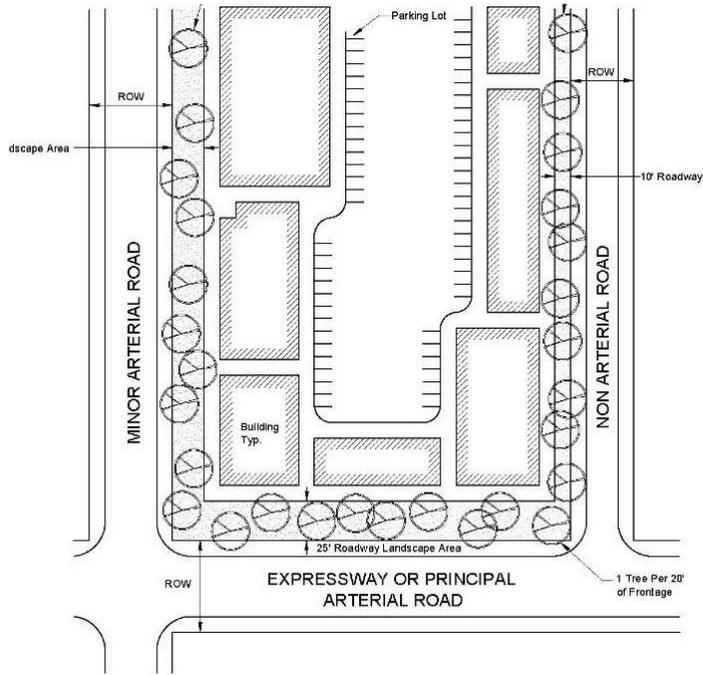
**(C) Screening Fence Design**

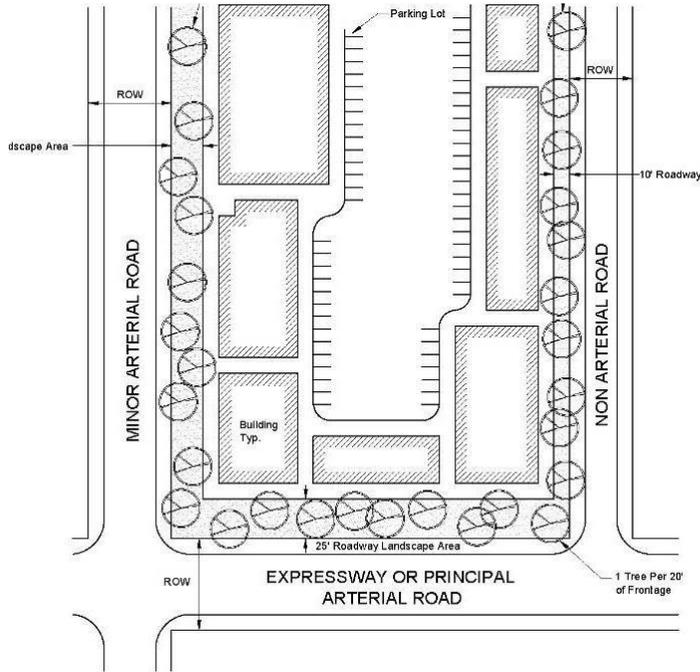
Fences should provide texture or design, such as offsets or changes in materials, to avoid a monotonous appearance. ~~Chain link fencing with slats or tennis court fabric is acceptable only in industrial zone districts.~~ Fences should be soundly constructed and maintained.

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**1.3.3. Roadway Landscaping Guidelines for Rural Areas**

**(A) Tall Shrubs and Landforms as Opposed to Trees**

Consider using tall shrubs and landforms for specific areas that require buffering (present or future) in rural areas. The LDC allows the replacement of trees with shrubs.

**(B) Bluegrass Discouraged**

Bluegrass sod is discouraged in rural areas; native grasses or other xeric turfgrasses, including grasses listed on the [Water Wise Planting List](#), are more appropriate. See [Water Wise Planting List](#) for additional details.

**(C) Landscaping Options for Roadway Landscaping Area in Rural Areas**

Berms and native shrubs in a design that creates visual interest are encouraged. A minimum of 75% of the length of the road should incorporate either berms (3' minimum height) or shrubs (5'-3' mature height minimum), with 50% of the length having shrubs. Trees are recommended only as an accent.

Where the required minimum roadway landscape area is only 10' in width, the width may undulate to accommodate the use of berms and the maximum allowable 3:1 berm slope.

**1.3.4. Location of Landscaping Materials within Roadway Landscaping Area**

The required roadway landscape materials may be clustered along the frontage. Design should be determined by screening needs, preservation and enhancement of views, or project impacts.

**1.3.5. Policies and Explanations**

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**(A) Meandering Sidewalks**

Public sidewalks may be allowed to "meander" within a roadway landscape area provided they are approved by the ECM Administrator and an easement approved by the ~~OCA~~ Office of the County Attorney is provided to El Paso County.

**(B) Landscaping in ROW**

Landscaping shall be provided in the road right-of-way to the curb line. Landscaping shall be similar to the groundcover treatment within the required roadway landscape area.

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#### 1.4. PARKING AREA SCREENING AND LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS

##### 1.4.1. Recommended Material Types

The lowest-water use vegetation and durable materials are highly encouraged due to the harshness of parking area environments. Materials should be chosen that are contextually appropriate: boulders and conifers in mountainous areas; berms and conifers in the Black Forest; berms and native shrubs in the High Plains. A combination of low, decorative walls and street trees may be most appropriate in urban areas.

##### 1.4.2. Design of Parking Area Landscaping

Parking areas should incorporate landscape features to break up and dilute the expanses of paving. Vegetation can also improve water quality, and parking area islands can serve as detention or water quality areas. Landscaping and buffering can be utilized to increase site aesthetics, property values, and attractiveness to customers; to visually decrease the scale of the parking areas; to provide shade for the pedestrian and parked vehicles; to reduce glare and heat; to separate and organize circulation systems; to provide openings in impervious surfaces for drainage and infiltration of ground water; to reduce glare from headlights; and to separate and screen uses.

##### 1.4.3. Parking Area Islands

The following standards generally apply to the use, placement, and landscaping of parking area islands. Parking lot islands and corners and fingers are all considered parking area islands.

- One parking area island/peninsula should shall be provided for every 15 parking stalls/spaces.
- Each island should be a minimum of two parking stalls/spaces in size (18' x 18' or 9' x 36') and
- Each island should have a minimum of two low-water trees and ten low-water shrubs.

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less than 36" tall, plus mulch. However, only 1 tree is required for every 15 parking spaces and groundcover is required to meet the general groundcover standards within an island. All shrubs are optional.

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- Appropriate mulch (e.g., bark or rock) should be used in areas not covered by living groundcover.

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- Large boulders (3' max. height x 4' minimum length) may be substituted for some of the recommended shrubs. (No more than 50% replacement allowed.)

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- Sod Bluegrass sod or turfgrass is non-xeric turfgrasses are discouraged.

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- Tall (greater than 18") ornamental grasses that persist through winter are acceptable and count as considered shrubs when shrubs are used instead of trees as allowed by the LDC.

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- Parking area islands will only be counted as islands if they are at least 9' x 18'.

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- Parking area islands should be utilized at the end of parking rows both as a means to contain parking area trees and other landscape materials and to provide separation and delineation between drive aisles and parking stalls.

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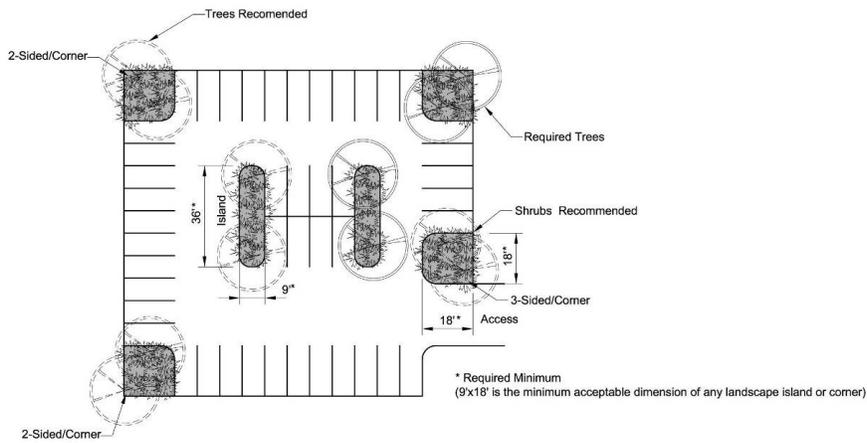
The figure below provides some ~~recommendation~~ recommendations concerning the use of islands and plantings.

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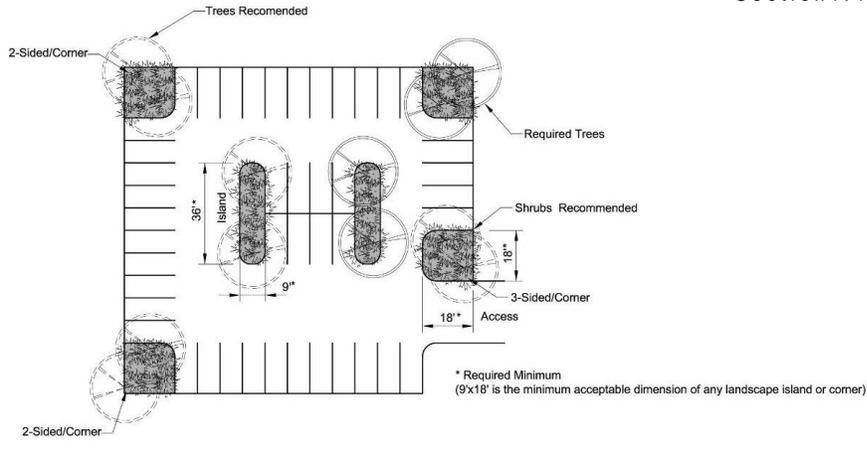
Islands and corners should be used to guide traffic, break up large expanses of paving, or control stormwater.

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**Typical Landscaping and Placement of Parking Area Islands**



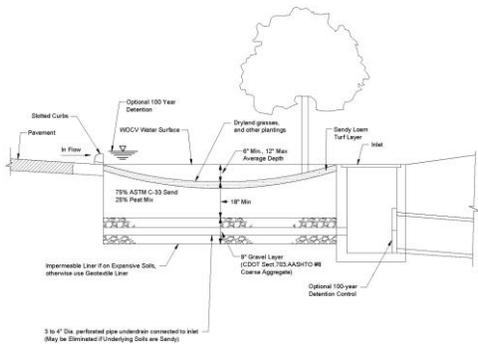
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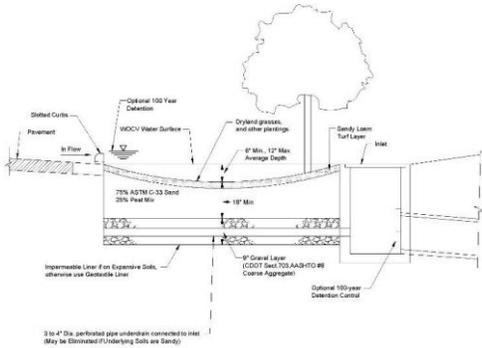
**1.4.4. Depressed Parking Area Islands**

Depressed islands are acceptable and can be used as a tool to manage and improve stormwater quality and control peak discharges. The grade of the surface of the landscaping should be slightly below the adjacent pavement to allow runoff to flow into the landscaped area, as opposed to elevating the landscaping and surrounding it with a curb. The figure shows how a depressed island is designed to provide these benefits while meeting the requirements to provide parking area islands.

**Depressed Landscaped Parking Area Island**



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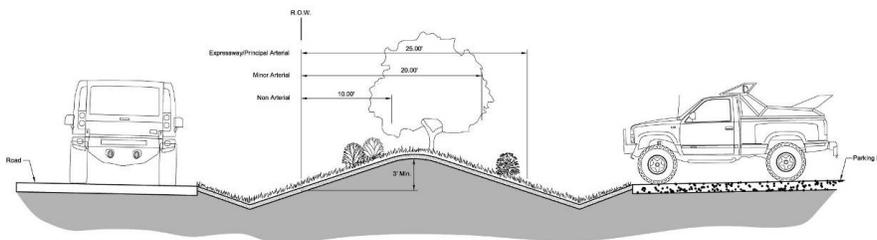
**1.4.5. Parking Area Screening**

Parking area screening may incorporate a wide variety of techniques, including: earth forms/berms, built features/walls, and plant materials. Techniques may be combined to create unique and site-specific designs.

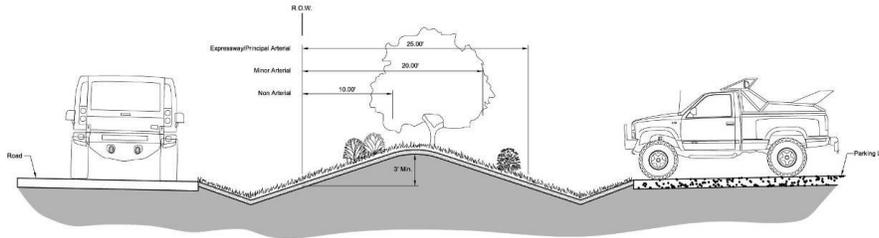
**(A) Rural Screening along Road Frontage**

A variety of options are available to meet the parking area screening requirements of the LDC. The figure below presents the most typical scenario in rural areas. When combined with the roadway landscape area requirements, trees are generally required between the parking area and ROW line. However, in accordance with the LDC and this manual, shrubs are encouraged as an alternative to substitute for trees. In addition, parking area setbacks may be greater than anticipated due to the depth of the required roadway landscape area. The following diagram provides an example of how berms and plantings should be used to meet the requirements of both the roadway landscape area and parking area screening in a rural area. Some of the urban screening options presented in the next section may also be applicable in some rural areas.

**Rural Parking Area Screening Using Berms to Achieve 3 Foot Screen**



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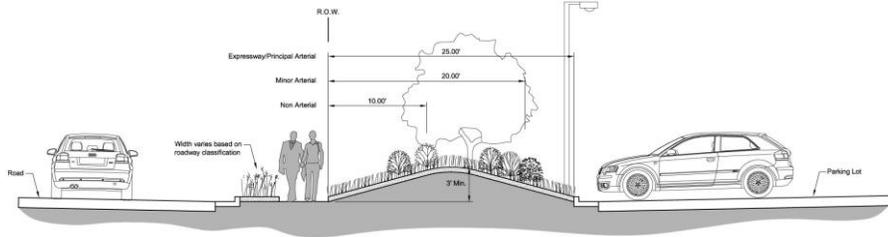


**(B) Urban Screening along Road Frontage**

A variety of options are available to meet the parking area screening requirements of the LDC. The figures below present several combinations of landscaping, berms, and walls that could be applied in urban areas. The roadway landscape area covers the same area as the parking area screening. As a result, the roadway landscape area depth and the requirement to provide trees exceed the minimum parking area screening requirements when a parking area is located adjacent to a road in most cases.

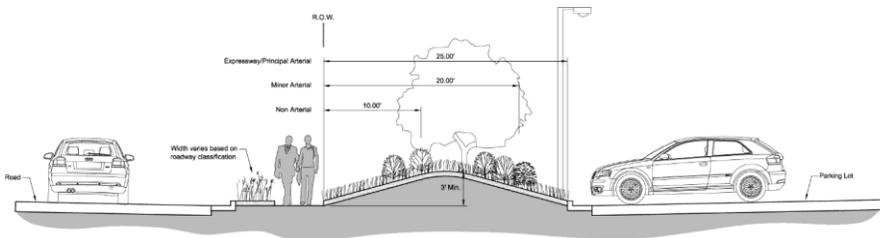
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**Urban Parking Area Screening Using Berms to Achieve 3 Foot Screen**



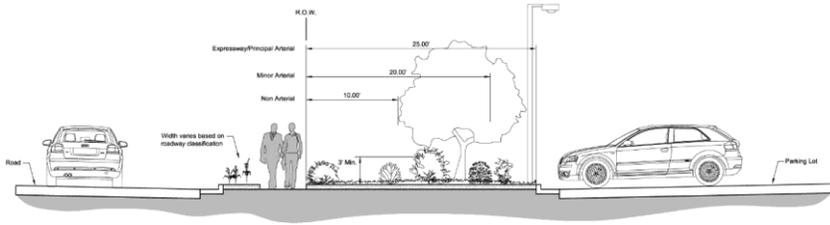
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**Urban Parking Area Screening Using Vegetation to Achieve 3-Foot-High Screen**

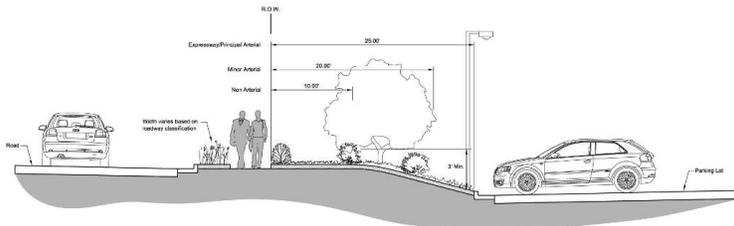


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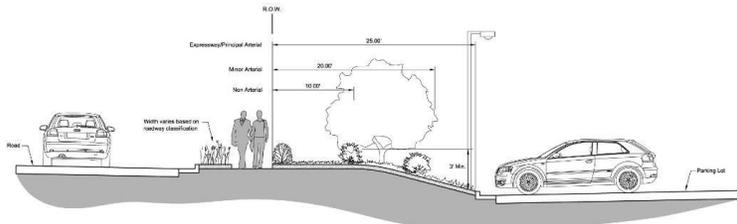
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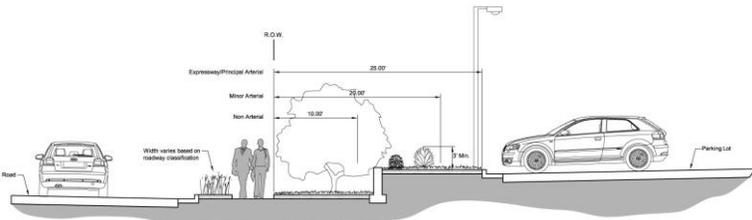
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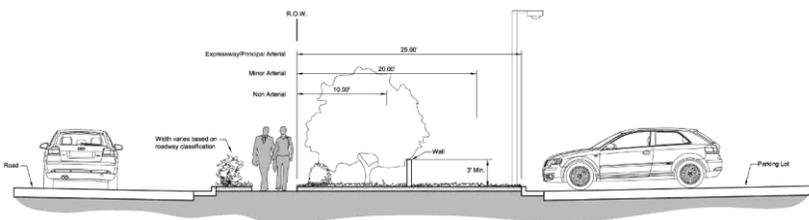


**Urban Parking Area Screening Using Vegetation to Achieve 3-Foot High Screen**

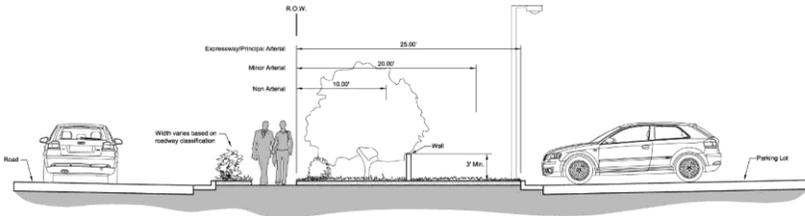


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**Urban Parking Area Screening Using Wall to Achieve 3-Foot High Screen**



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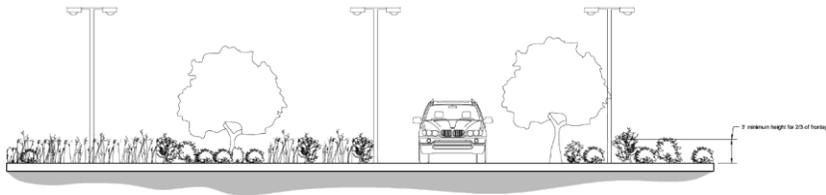
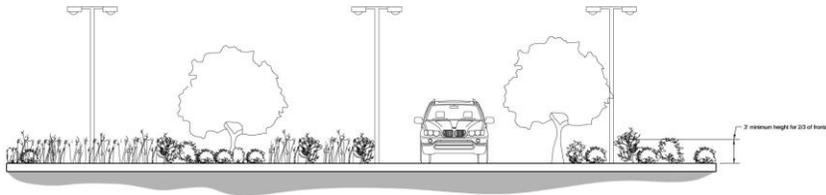


**(C) Parking Area Frontage**

All parking areas shall be screened to a height of 3' by vegetation, walls, and berms for at least 2/3 the length as ~~showingshown~~ in the figure below. This means that some areas may not have any screening while all other areas will have a minimum of 3' tall screen.

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**Parking Area Screened to a Height of 3' for at Least 2/3 of the Length.**



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**1.4.6: Parking Area Landscaping Policies and Explanations**

**(A) Visual Character**

The visual character of parking areas should be enhanced by planted islands, intensive shade trees or ornamental plantings. Large impervious areas are to be broken up with functional landscape medians and islands that can organize vehicular traffic and provide pedestrian pathways.

**(B) Other Plant Types**

The DSDPCD recognizes that other species in addition to those identified in Appendix B may be approved in a parking area if special conditions exist. For example:

- The scale and overall design achieves the goals/intent.
- Coniferous evergreen trees may be approved if such trees are planted in areas which exceed the minimum recommended planter size and if visibility is not a problem.
- Existing vegetation may be used, regardless of species. Larger islands may be required to accommodate larger, established root systems.

**(C) Reference Elevation for Screen**

In general, the reference elevation for the base of the required screen shall be the surface of the parking area space that is to be screened.

**(D) Screening Applies Where Parking Area is Visible**

Parking area landscape requirements will apply to any type of parking area where it can be seen from a public or private road.

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**(E) Reductions in Parking Area Screening or Islands**

Reductions in the amount of parking area screening and islands can be considered where the parking area is located a considerable distance from the road (200-300 feet-) or within the street perimeter buffer. The distance from the road and topography are primary considerations in allowing a reduction in the screening and island criteria, as well as the effectiveness of existing or proposed perimeter screening.

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4.5. **BUFFER AND SCREEN AREAS BETWEEN DIFFERING USES OR ZONE DISTRICTS**

4.5.1. **Purpose**

Buffering and screening is used to block displeasing views; reduce noise, odors, glare, and dust; mitigate traffic; protect residential privacy; and reduce trespassing. Buffering and screening can also make uses more compatible, such as with Special Uses. Between similar uses, buffering and screening (perimeter landscaping) can help identify parking areas and property boundaries.

4.5.2. **Water Conservation**

Water conservation can be incorporated into buffer and screen areas. Swales can be used to direct water to planted areas to minimize irrigation needs and detention pond volumes, the use of appropriate plant materials can conserve water and minimize maintenance costs, and the creative use of a variety of plants will provide four-season interest and effectiveness.

4.5.3. **Required Buffers/Screens**

Circumstances for each site and use are unique, and additional buffering/screening may be required to accomplish appropriate design. Of special concern are sites adjacent to residential areas or environmentally sensitive areas, areas with significant view corridors, industrial uses, or uses that are visible from highly-traveled roads.

**(A) Buffer/Screen Between Non-Residential and Residential Uses Separated by a Non-Arterial Road**

Along the ~~road side~~ roadside property line in any non-residential project in any zone district

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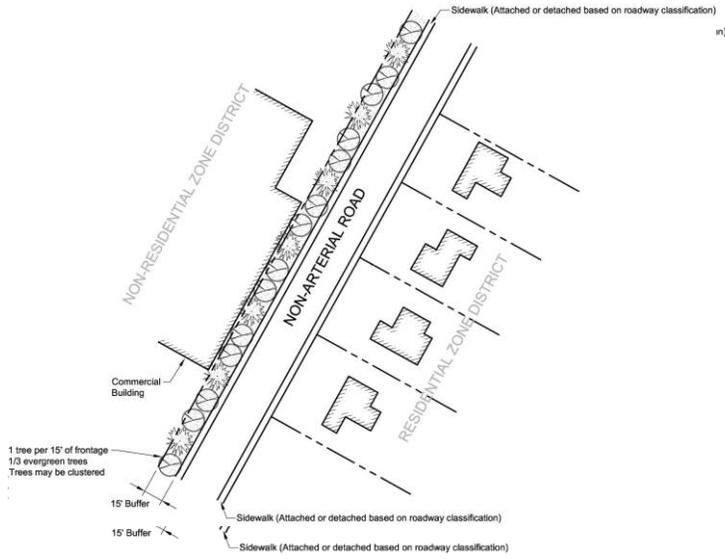
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where the project is separated from a residential use by a non-arterial street, a buffer meeting the requirements of the LDC is required. Non-arterial streets are those not designated as arterial streets or above on the County's Functional Classification Map, as amended. Private streets and ~~any~~ alleys are also considered non-arterial roads. The figures below provide two examples of how the standards can be met. Note that the parking area screening requirements ~~resulting result~~ in more landscaping being required within the use buffer area when a parking area abuts the roadway.

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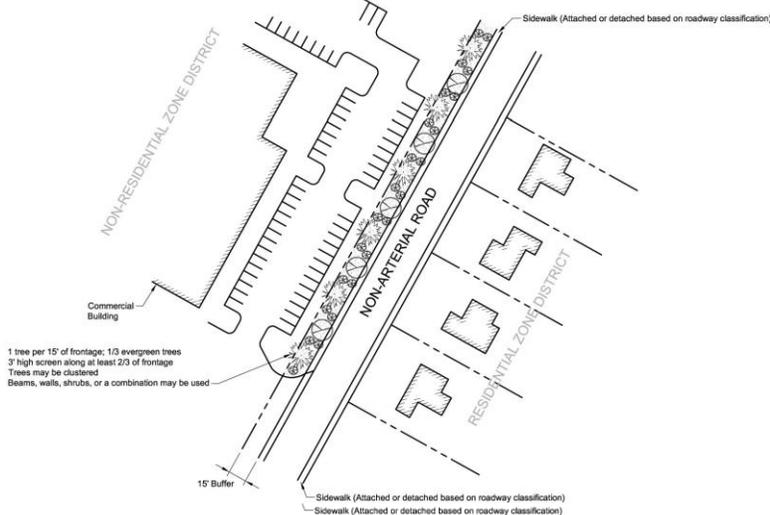
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**Example of 15' Buffer Standard between Non-Residential Zone District and Residential Zone District**



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**Example of 15' Buffer Standards between Non-Residential Zone District and Residential Zone District when Parking Area Abuts Road Frontage**



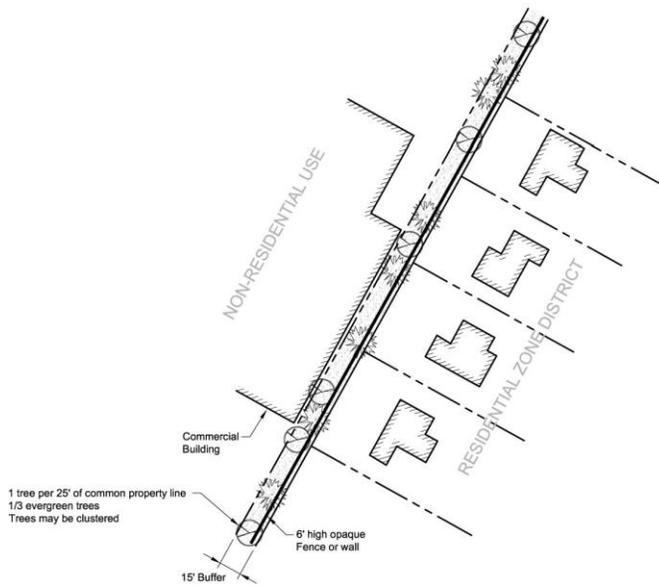
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**(B) Buffer/Screen Between: Adjacent Non-Residential and Residential Projects, and Adjacent Multifamily Residential and Single-Family/Two-Family Residential Projects**

Along the common property line in any non-residential project in any zone district where the project is adjacent to any residential zone district and along the property line in any multifamily project where the project is adjacent to a one-family or two-family use, a buffer meeting the requirements of the LDC is required. The figure below provides an example of how the standards can be met.



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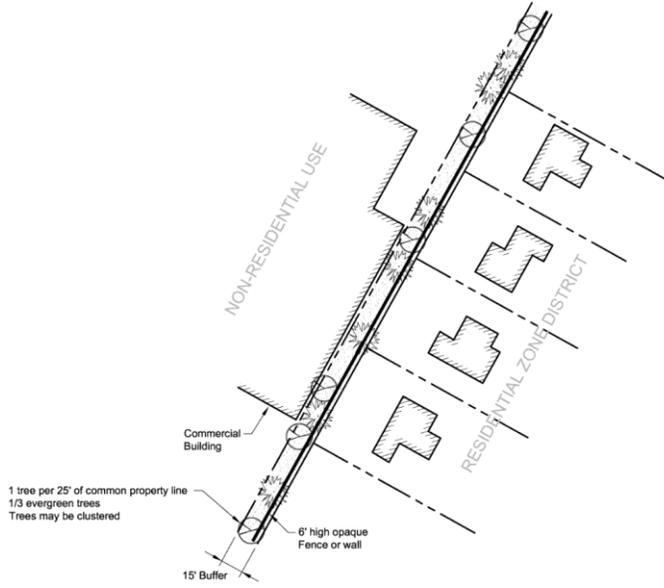
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**Example of 15' Buffer Standards between Non-Residential Use and Residential Zone District**



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**1.5.4. Trash Collection Areas**

Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, are required to be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by the use of an opaque wall or fence, other architectural elements, or dense evergreens. Walls/fences should be of a durable material, such as masonry, and should match the overall project architecture. Wood or chain link are discouraged. Gates should be metal.

**(A) Rural Areas**

In rural areas, dense evergreen, or four-season plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet are appropriate.

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4.5.5. **Policies and Explanations**

**(A) Design for Effectiveness from Time of Installation**

Buffers and screening shall be designed in a manner that appropriately provides the required effect at the time of installation, as well as in the future.

**(B) Restoration Efforts**

Restoration/conservation/preservation efforts on portions of a site that are part of larger natural areas, such as wildlife habitat conservation areas, habitat corridors, or wildlife movement corridors, etc. may count toward the buffering/screening requirements, with approval from the DSD/PCD Director.

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4.7.

**LANDSCAPING AND GRADING IN UTILITY EASEMENTS OR RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

Utility providers, as a matter of general policy, will not normally permit use of their easements/rights of way by other parties. These criteria are general guidelines only and should not be construed as the complete and only conditions for such exceptions. Each case will be evaluated on an individual basis and must be approved by the utility provider.

- Changes in grades and elevations along the rights of way ~~should~~shall not reduce safe ground clearances of overhead wires.
- Safety clearance distances between overhead and underground wires and any improvements/structures should be maintained as applicable.
- Working space clearances as applicable should be maintained around line structures.
- Excavations ~~should~~shall not reduce support strength of overhead line structures.
- Excavations ~~should~~shall not reduce the depth of burial of underground cables.
- Low level landscaping, with a maximum height of 4525 feet or less, may be allowed within the easement/right of way provided all other applicable requirements of this document are met and permission is expressly granted by the easement/ROW holder.
- The party or owner installing and planting landscaping will be responsible for maintenance of the landscaping.
- Future power line installations may necessitate the relocation of vegetation. The removal/ relocation and replacement will be at the owner's expense if located in an easement or Right-of-Way.

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## 1.8. MULCH

Mulch, organic or inorganic groundcover, prevents the growth of weeds, prevents erosion and dust, retains moisture in the soil, provides shade for plant roots, and presents an attractive and finished appearance for landscapes. Mulch is required on all landscaping projects, in areas other than turfgrass.

### 1.8.1. Specifications

Acceptable mulch materials include but are not limited to the following examples: bark and pole peelings, river rock, washed gravel of  $\frac{3}{8}$ " diameter or greater, (should be limited in areas prone to washout), or other similar materials that may be approved by the DSDPCD. Avoid very light or dark colors, as these can adversely affect soil and ambient temperatures. Non-water/low water using turf or plant species are encouraged (See Water Wise Planting List).

### 1.8.2. Mulch Installation

Mulch should be installed over breathable fabric underlayment, pinned at intervals of not less than 24".

### 1.8.3. Mulch Depth

Mulch should be installed at the following minimum depths:

- Bark and pole peeling mulch shall be installed at a depth of not less than 4".
- Rock mulch shall be installed at a depth of not less than 3".

Mulch shall be maintained in a manner so that the minimum required depths are achieved throughout the life of the project. In no case shall underlayment fabric be visible.

### 1.8.4. Steel Edging

Steel edging of at least 1/8" thickness and 6" depth should be used to define all mulch beds, unless a bed is

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defined by curbing or other constructed edge.

4.9. **IRRIGATION**

4.9.1. **Recommended Conservation Techniques**

Drip irrigation is highly recommended for all trees and shrubs in order to conserve water. Drip irrigation may be required for certain species to allow for establishment and/or maintenance. Sprinkler systems may be used but are discouraged. Additionally, moisture sensors are also recommended to avoid watering during or after rain. In areas where outdoor irrigation is not allowed due to well permit restrictions, plants that are most drought-tolerant ~~shall~~should be installed.

4.9.2. **Policies**

Statements regarding the proposed type of irrigation or watering method should be similar to those outlined in the following table.

***Types of Recommended Irrigation***

Type of Planting	Irrigation Required	Possible Solutions
Native grass seed or drought tolerant turf grass seed.	May germinate with normal precipitation if planted in late fall or early spring.	<del>insure</del> Ensure sufficient moisture by temporary overhead or agricultural system; add soil amendments/surfactants to soil to aid in moisture retention

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<p>Xeric ground covers, shrubs, and trees per approved plant list, or as approved by the DSPCD.</p>	<p>Drip irrigation for one or two growing seasons until established; on as-needed basis after that.</p>	<p>1. Small accessible areas may be hand watered.          2. Drip irrigation system, plants gradually weaned off system.          3. Overhead temporary system.</p>
<p>Water intensive ground covers, shrubs, grasses, and trees not native to the Rocky Mountain Region NOT RECOMMENDED, unless limited to a designated high-water use area, as allowed herein.</p>	<p>Spring through Fall and intermittent winter.</p>	<p>1. Drip irrigation system.          2. Permanent/Sprinkler irrigation system.</p>
<p>Bluegrass sod. RECOMMENDED IN URBAN AREAS ONLY and limited to a designated high water use area, as allowed herein.</p>	<p>Spring through Fall and intermittent winter.</p>	<p>Permanent irrigation system.</p>

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4.10. **DEFINITIONS**

Words used in this manual have their dictionary meaning unless they are specifically defined in this manual, the LDC, or the ECM. Words defined within this manual shall have the specific meaning assigned, unless the context clearly indicates another meaning.

**Substitute Landscape Plan**

A landscape plan that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section. The PCD Director may approve a substitute landscape plan provided the proposed landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the Landscape and Planting Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the PCD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section. (LDC 6.2.2(A)(4))

**Berm**

A mound of soil, either natural or manmade, used to obstruct views, attenuate noise, or direct the flow of stormwater.

**Buffering**

The installation of plant materials, fencing, or landforms (or a combination of these measures), between 2 or more lots or parcels which inhibits visibility or mitigates the transmission of noise, dust, smoke, lights, and other nuisances from one lot or parcel to another, or provides for future public improvements or additional open space.

**Canopy**

The upper vegetative cover of a tree or plant grouping; dripline of a tree or plant grouping.

**Context**

The surrounding environment or character of an environment; trees or landforms that naturally exist on a site or surrounding sites.

**Coniferous**

Evergreen plant; keeps its leaves/needles all year.

**Deciduous**

A plant with foliage that is shed annually.

**Drought Tolerant**

A plant that will survive in the typical or somewhat less than typical amount of rainfall in El Paso County.

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landscaping and other bulk items or public roads and rights-of-way. The term parking area includes parking lots and parking structures.

**Plant Community-**

A natural association of vegetation that is dominated by one or more prominent species, or a characteristic physical attribute; see also "context".

**Right-of-Way-**

The entire dedicated tract or strip of land that is to be used by the public for various purposes or intended to be occupied by a road, crosswalk, railroad, electric transmission line, oil or gas pipeline, water main, sanitary or storm sewer main or for another similar use.

**Roadway Landscape Area-**

A minimum required landscaping area on a private property which is adjacent to a lot or parcel boundary line common to a right-of-way or another lot or parcel. ~~Driveways and sidewalks to~~  
~~Driveways and sidewalks to~~ afford limited access may be allowed to interrupt this required area; however, structures, buildings and parking are not allowed within the roadway landscape area.

**Rural**

For purposes of this Code, the zoning, use and development of land in zoning districts or areas which allow lot sizes that are 2.5 acres in size or greater, characterized by dispersed residential development, agricultural uses and activities, or vacant land.

**Screening-**

A method of visually shielding or obscuring a structure or use from view by fencing, walls, trees, or densely planted vegetation. Screening provides a complete, opaque, year-round visual separation between differing land uses.

**Semi-Arid Climate-**

A climate characterized by 10" to 20" of annual precipitation.

**Shade Tree-**

A deciduous tree planted primarily for its high crown of foliage or overhead canopy. A major shade tree at maturity reaches a height of at least fifty feet.

**Shrub-**

A self-supporting woody perennial plant of low to medium height characterized by multiple stems and branches continuous from the base, usually not more than 12' in height at its maturity. May be evergreen or deciduous.

**Soil Amendment-**

Organic and inorganic materials added to soil to improve texture, nutrients, moisture holding capacity, and infiltration rates.

**Tree-**

A large, woody plant having one or several self-supporting stems or trunks and numerous branches.

**Turfgrass-**

Continuous plant coverage consisting of hybridized grasses that, when regularly mowed, form a dense growth of leaf blades and roots.

**Urban**

Land development of higher density and intensity which is characteristically provided with services of an urban nature (i.e. central water and sewer, fire hydrants, paved roads often with curb and gutter, and shorter emergency service response times). This category of development ordinarily includes most commercial, office and industrial uses and residential uses with densities of more than 1 dwelling unit

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per 2.5 acres.

**Vegetation:-**

Plants in general or the sum total of plant life in an area.-

**Verge:-**

The landscaped area between a sidewalk and the back of curb.-

**Xeric:-**

Plants or landscapes that embody xeriscape principals.

**Xeriscape:-**

The use of water conserving, indigenous plants appropriate to the surrounding environment. The goal of xeriscaping is to conserve water, minimize maintenance efforts and costs, and ensure survivability.

**Xeriscape Principals:-**

Methods of professional landscaping that include: planning and design, soil analysis, efficient irrigation, appropriate plant selection, practical turf areas, use of mulches, and proper maintenance.

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**"Water Wise" Trees, Shrubs, & Grasses**  
**\*See also: Appendix B**

<u>Trees</u>	
<u>American Plum</u>	<u>Prunus americana</u>
<u>Amur Maple</u>	<u>Acer ginnala</u>
<u>Arizona Cypress</u>	<u>Callitropsis arizonica</u>
<u>Austrian Pine</u>	<u>Pinus nigra</u>
<u>Baby Blue Eyes Spruce</u>	<u>Picea pungens 'Baby Blue Eyes'</u>
<u>Bosnian Pine</u>	<u>Pinus heldreichii</u>
<u>Bristlecone Pine</u>	<u>Pinus aristate</u>
<u>Bur Oak</u>	<u>Quercus macrocarpa</u>
<u>Caddo Maple</u>	<u>Acer saccharum 'Caddo'</u>
<u>Cockspur Hawthorn</u>	<u>Crataegus crus-galli</u>
<u>Crabapple</u>	<u>Crabapple Malus</u>
<u>Goldenrain Tree</u>	<u>Koelreuteria paniculata</u>
<u>Gray Gleam Juniper</u>	<u>Juniperus scopulorum 'Gray Gleam'</u>
<u>Hackberry</u>	<u>Celtis occidentalis</u>
<u>Hot Wings Tatarian Maple</u>	<u>Acer tataricum 'GarAnn'</u>
<u>Kentucky Coffeetree</u>	<u>Gymnocladus dioicus</u>
<u>Lacebark Pine</u>	<u>Pinus bungeana</u>
<u>Maidenhair Tree</u>	<u>Ginkgo biloba</u>
<u>Mugo Pine</u>	<u>Pinus mugo</u>
<u>Northern Red Oak</u>	<u>Quercus rubra</u>
<u>One-seed Juniper</u>	<u>Juniperus monosperma</u>
<u>Pinyon Pine</u>	<u>Pinus edulis</u>
<u>Ponderosa Pine</u>	<u>Pinus ponderosa</u>
<u>Red Maple</u>	<u>Acer rubrum</u>
<u>Rocky Mountain Juniper</u>	<u>Juniperus scopulorum</u>

Russian Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus ambigua</i>
Seven-Son Flower	<i>Heptacodium miconioides</i>
Tatarian Maple	<i>Acer tataricum</i>
Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> var. <i>inermis</i>
Thornless Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i>
Turkish Filbert	Turkish Filbert <i>Corylus colurna</i>
Vanderwolf's Pyramid Limber	<i>Pinus flexilis</i> 'Vanderwolf's Pyramid'
Weeping Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i> 'Pendula'
Weeping White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i> 'Pendula'
Western Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>

<b>Shrubs</b>	
Common Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>
Common Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
Cranberry Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster apiculatus</i>
Creeping Barberry	<i>Berberis amplexans</i>
Creeping Three-Leaf Sumac	<i>Rhus trilobata</i> 'Autumn Amber'
Crimson Pygmy Barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> var. <i>atropurpurea</i> 'Crimson Pygmy'
Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i>
Cutleaf Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i> 'Laciniata'
Dark Knight Spirea	<i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i> 'Dark Knight'
Diablo Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Monlo'
Dwarf Blue Rabbitbrush	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i> ssp. <i>nauseosa</i> var. <i>nauseosa</i>
Dwarf Creeping Juniper	<i>Juniperus procumbens</i> 'Nana'
Dwarf Globe Blue Spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Glauca Globosa'
Dwarf Korean Lilac	<i>Syringa meyeri</i> 'Palibin'
False Indigo Bush	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>
Fernbush	<i>Chamaebatiaria millefolium</i>
Gentry's Gem Spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Gentry's Gem'
Golden Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>canadensis</i> 'Aurea'
Golden Sword Yucca	<i>Yucca filamentosa</i> 'Golden Sword'
Green Mound Alpine Currant	<i>Ribes alpinum</i> 'Green Mound'
Gro-Low Sumac	<i>Rhus aromatica</i> 'Gro-Low'
Hancock Coralberry	<i>Symphoricarpos x chenaultii</i> 'Hancock'
Havard's Century Plant	<i>Agave havardiana</i>
Hillside Creeper Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> 'Hillside Creeper'
Japanese Barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>
Judd Viburnum	<i>Viburnum x juddii</i>
Kinnikinnick	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>
Leadplant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>
Littleleaf Mountain Mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus intricatus</i>
Mesa Verde Spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Mesa Verde'
Miss Kim Dwarf Lilac	<i>Syringa pubescens</i> subsp. <i>patula</i> 'Miss Kim'

Mock Bearberry	Manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos x coloradoensis</i>
Mohican Wayfaring Tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i> 'Mohican'
Montgomery	<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Montgomery'
Mops Dwarf Mugo Pine	<i>Pinus mugo</i> 'Mops'
Mountain Mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i>
Nanking Cherry	<i>Prunus tomentosa</i>
Nearly Wild Rose	<i>Rosa</i> 'Nearly Wild'
Oregon Grape	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>
Panchito Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos x coloradoensis</i> 'Panchito'
Pawnee Buttes Sand Cherry	<i>Prunus besseyi</i> 'P011S'
Peking Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster acutifolius</i>
Persian Lilac	<i>Syringa x persica</i>
New Mexican Privet	<i>Forestiera pubescens</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>
Purple Smoketree	<i>Cotinus coggygria</i> 'Royal Purple'

Pyracantha	<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i> 'Gnome'
Red Twig Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>
Redleaf Rose	<i>Rosa glauca</i>
Rock Spirea	<i>Holodiscus dumosus</i>
Rocky Mountain Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i> var. <i>cismontana</i>
Rose Glow Japanese Barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> var. <i>atropurpurea</i> 'Rose Glow'
Russian Sage	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>
Saltbush	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>
Sand Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia filifolia</i>
Saskatoon Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>
Scrub Oak	<i>Quercus gambelii</i>
Shadblow Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>
Siberian Peashrub	<i>Caragana arborescens</i>
Silver Buffaloberry	<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>
Silver Fountain Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia alternifolia</i> 'Argentea'
Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>
Soapweed	<i>Yucca glauca</i>
Spanish Gold Broom	<i>Cytisus purgans</i>
Staghorn Sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i>
Stansbury's Cliffrose	<i>Purshia stansburyana</i>
Summer Wine Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Seward'
Tall Rabbitbrush	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i> var. <i>nauseosa</i>
Tam Juniper	<i>Juniperus sabina</i> 'Tamariscifolia'
Texas sotol	<i>Dasyllirion texanum</i>
Threeleaf Sumac	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>
Valley Cushion Dwarf	<i>Mugo Pine Pinus mugo</i> 'Valley Cushion'
Van Houtte Spirea	<i>Spiraea x vanhouttei</i>

<u>Variegated Dogwood</u>	<u>Cornus alba 'Argenteo-marginata'</u>
<u>Waldbrunn Spruce</u>	<u>Picea pungens 'Waldbrunn'</u>
<u>Wavyleaf Oak</u>	<u>Quercus x undulata</u>
<u>Waxflower</u>	<u>Jamesia americana</u>
<u>Wayfaring Tree</u>	<u>Viburnum lantana</u>
<u>Western Sagebrush</u>	<u>Artemisia tridentata ssp. Tridentata</u>
<u>Western Snowberry</u>	<u>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</u>
<u>William Baffin Rose</u>	<u>Rosa 'William Baffin'</u>
<u>Wine and Roses Weigela</u>	<u>Weigela florida 'Alexandra'</u>
<u>Winter Jasmine</u>	<u>Jasminum nudiflorum</u>
<u>Yellow Twig Dogwood</u>	<u>Cornus sericea 'Flaviramea'</u>

<b>Grasses</b>	
<u>Alkali Sacaton</u>	<u>Sporobolus airoides</u>
<u>Arizona Fescue</u>	<u>Festuca arizonica</u>
<u>Big Bluestem</u>	<u>Andropogon gerardii</u>
<u>Blonde Ambition Blue Grama Grass</u>	<u>Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambition'</u>
<u>Blue Fescue</u>	<u>Festuca ovina glauca</u>
<u>Blue Grama</u>	<u>Bouteloua gracilis</u>
<u>Blue Heaven Little Bluestem</u>	<u>Schizachyrium scoparium 'MinnBlueA'</u>
<u>Blue Oat Grass</u>	<u>Helictotrichon sempervirens</u>
<u>Buffalograss</u>	<u>Bouteloua dactyloides</u>
<u>Compact Maiden Grass</u>	<u>Miscanthus sinensis 'Adagio'</u>
<u>Feather Reed Grass</u>	<u>Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'</u>
<u>Giant Sacaton</u>	<u>Sporobolus wrightii</u>
<u>Heavy Metal Switchgrass</u>	<u>Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal'</u>
<u>Indian Grass</u>	<u>Sorghastrum nutans</u>
<u>Japanese Blood Grass</u>	<u>Imperata cylindrica 'Red Baron'</u>
<u>Korean Feather Reed Grass</u>	<u>Calamagrostis brachytricha</u>
<u>Maiden Grass</u>	<u>Miscanthus sinensis 'Gracillimus'</u>
<u>Overdam Feather Reed Grass</u>	<u>Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Overdam'</u>
<u>Prairie Dropseed</u>	<u>Sporobolus heterolepis</u>
<u>Prairie Sky Switchgrass</u>	<u>Panicum virgatum 'Prairie Sky'</u>
<u>Sheep Fescue</u>	<u>Festuca ovina</u>
<u>Shenandoah Switchgrass</u>	<u>Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'</u>
<u>Sideoats Grama</u>	<u>Bouteloua curtipendula</u>
<u>The Blues Little Bluestem</u>	<u>Schizachyrium scoparium 'The Blues'</u>
<u>Turf-type Tall Fescue</u>	<u>Festuca arundinacea</u>
<u>Undaunted Ruby Muhly</u>	<u>Muhlenbergia reverchonii</u>
<u>Variegated Maiden Grass</u>	<u>Miscanthus sinensis 'Variegatus'</u>
<u>Zebra Grass</u>	<u>Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus'</u>

<b>Not Recommended/Restriction Recommended Plantings</b>	
Elm	<u>Ulmus genus (Dutch Elm Disease resistant acceptable)</u>
Box Elder (25ft ROW setback restriction)	<u>Acer negundo</u>
All Salix and Populus genus (Except Aspen) (25ft-ROW Restriction)	
Autumn Purple Ash	<u>Fraxinus americana 'Autumn Purple'</u>
Green Ash	<u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>
Common Sea Buckthorn	<u>Hippophae rhamnoides</u>
Mexican Feather Grass	<u>Nassella tenuissima</u>
Kentucky Bluegrass	<u>Poa pratensis</u>

**Low Water, Native, Front Range Plantings Resource:**

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/native/FrontRange.pdf>

**Native Trees for Colorado Landscapes:**

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/garden/07421.pdf>

**Native Shrubs for Colorado Landscapes:**

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/garden/07422.pdf>

**Colorado Springs Utilities – Plant Selector**

<https://www.waterwiseplants.org/find-a-plant/>

**Sources**

Colorado Springs Utilities <https://www.csu.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Colorado State University Extension <https://extension.colostate.edu/>

Colorado Native Plant Society [www.conps.org](http://www.conps.org)

## APPENDIX A LDC LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS

This Appendix contains all applicable landscape provisions from the LDC. Please note that other ~~setback~~ setbacks, performance standards and design standards of the LDC could affect the placement and design of landscaping. The fence, wall and hedge provisions have been included since when required fencing and buffering requirements directly impact landscape design.

### 6.2. DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR ANCILLARY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

#### 6.2.1. Fences, Walls, and Hedges

**(A) Applicability**

This Section is applicable to any fence, wall, or hedge established after the date of adoption of this Section unless superseded by a specific development standard in a PUD zoning district or within a Rural Land Use Plan.

**(B) Exemptions**

This Section is not applicable to agricultural fences, except as otherwise provided by this Section, or to the installation of noise barriers required by this Code, the ECM or constructed and installed in accordance with federal requirements.

**(C) General Standards Applicable to Fences, Walls, or Hedges**

The following standards are applicable to fences, walls, or hedges, including agricultural fences.

**(1) 100-Year Floodplain**

Fences and walls within a 100 year floodplain shall comply with the requirements of the Floodplain Regulations.

**(2) No Obstruction of View of Vehicle Operators**

No fence, wall, or hedge may obstruct the view of motor vehicle operators entering or leaving any parking area, service drive, driveway, road, alley, or other thoroughfare. Fences, walls and hedges are subject to the sight distance standards in Chapter 2 of the ECM.

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(3) **Fencing Materials**

(a) **Use of Tires for Fence**

The use of tires for a fence or wall, whether whole or baled, shall be allowed only on the granting of a beneficial use agreement with El Paso County, and shall only occur in conformance with the requirements of this Code and CDPHE regulations.

(b) **Corrugated Metal Not Approved as Fencing Material**

Corrugated metal is not considered an acceptable fencing material in perimeter fencing if visible from outside the fenced lot or parcel.

(4) **Measuring the Height of a Fence**

The height of fences, walls, and hedges shall be measured from the final ~~grade of the lot, parcel, or tract at the~~ location of the fence, wall, or hedge to the top of the fence, wall, or hedge. The top of a fence, wall, or hedge is the highest component of the fence, wall, or hedge, not including columns or posts. The depth of drainage channels under a fence, wall, or hedge shall not be included in the height measurement. The height of a fence, wall, or hedge built on berms or retaining walls shall include the height of the berm or wall.

(5) **Fencing Maintained**

Fences, walls or hedges shall be maintained in good structural or living condition. The owner is responsible for the repair or removal of a fence, wall or hedge, which constitutes a safety hazard, by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence or abandonment, or which constitutes a zoning violation.

(D) **Height and Location Standards**

The following requirements are applicable to all fences and walls except agricultural fences:

(1) **Building Permit Required for Fences and Walls Over 6 feet in Height**

A fence or wall over 6 feet in height requires a building permit from the Building Department.

(2) **Fences and Walls 6 Feet in Height Considered Accessory Structure**

A fence or wall over 6 feet in height is considered an accessory structure, and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements of this Code. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are applicable.

(3) **Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Drainage**

The fence and wall shall not be established where it would impede the drainage established by an approved drainage plan.

(4) **Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Use of Easement**

The fence or wall shall not be established within an easement in a manner where the use of the easement is unnecessarily impeded.

(E) **Specific Fence Standards for Residential Uses**

The following requirements are applicable to fences associated with residential uses.

(1) **Opaque Fence Height Limited in Front Yard Setback Area**

Fences or walls more than 25% opaque shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within the front setback area.

(2) **Opaque Fence Height Limited in Sight Triangle**

An opaque fence, wall or hedge shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

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(F) **Specific Fence Standards for Non-Residential Uses**

The following requirements are applicable to fences associated with non-residential uses:

(1) **6 Feet High Fences Allowed**

Fences not exceeding 6 feet in height may be placed anywhere on the lot or parcel except no fence, wall or hedge shall exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(2) **Security Fencing**

Security fencing may include 3 strands of wire on top of the fence. The wires are not included in the height measurement.

(3) **Subject to Parking, Landscaping, and Screening Standards**

Walls and fences shall conform to the parking, landscaping, and screening standards of this Code.

(G) **Noise Barrier Fencing or Walls**

Noise barrier fencing or walls shall be constructed in accordance with the provisions for noise barrier fencing in Chapter 8 and the ECM.

(H) **Development Perimeter Fencing**

If fencing is proposed around the perimeter of a subdivision or development, any fencing adjacent to a County road or State or federal highway shall be compatible with the existing land uses, topography, and landscaping in the immediate vicinity. Subdivision perimeter fencing shall be consistent in design and materials when established along or adjacent to common boundaries where other perimeter fencing exists.

(I) **Retaining Wall Standards**

(1) **Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Retaining Surcharge**

A building permit is required for a retaining wall that retains a surcharge.

(2) **Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Over 4 Feet High**

A building permit is required for a retaining wall greater than 4 feet in height.

(3) **Retaining Walls 6 Feet High Considered Accessory Structure**

A retaining wall over 6 feet in height is considered an accessory structure and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are applicable.

(4) **Established Prior to Principal use**

A retaining wall, when necessary for development, may be established prior to the principal use.

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6.2.2. **Landscape Requirements**

(A) **General**

(1) **Purpose**

The landscape requirements are intended to provide uniform standards for the development and maintenance of the landscaping of private property and public rights-of-way to achieve a balance between the individual right to develop and the general benefit and welfare of the community. The benefits to be achieved and the overall purposes of the landscaping required by this Section are: (1) to create a positive image and visual appeal both along the road which is highly visible and internal properties which provide a working, shopping and living environment; (2) to decrease the scale of parking lots, provide shade, and reduce heat, glare and noise; (3) to separate circulation systems; to soften and reduce the mass of buildings; to screen and buffer lower intensity uses from higher intensity uses and protect residential privacy; and (4) to create an overall pleasant and attractive surrounding.

(2) **Applicability**

(a) **Applies to All Land Uses**

The requirements of this Section shall apply to all uses except single-family or duplex dwellings and associated accessory uses.

(b) **Applies to Change in Use**

The requirements of this Section shall apply when a use is established that requires a change of occupancy to be approved by the Building Department or by the DSD.

(c) **Applies to New Construction and Additions**

The requirements of this Section shall apply to existing buildings where the new construction of or addition to a building's floor area exceeds 50% of the existing building's gross floor area.

(3) **Requirements of Section Supplemented**

The requirements of this Section are supplemented by the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

(4) **Authority of Director to Accept Alternative Landscape Designs**

The DSD Director may approve landscaping that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section provided the proposed landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the DSD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section.

(B) **Roadway Landscaping Requirements**

Roadway landscaping areas are required. A roadway landscaping area is located along the lot, parcel or tract frontage between the road right-of-way, easement, or tract boundary lines and any building or use.

(1) **Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area**

Table 6-1 lists the depth and number of trees required to be provided along any road in roadway landscaping area. Where the required setback is narrower than the depth of the required landscape area, the roadway landscaping area depth shall control.

**Table 6-1. Roadway Landscaping Required by Roadway Classification.**

Road Classification	Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area	Required Trees (Trees/Linear Foot of Frontage)
Expressway, Principal Arterial	25 feet	1 per 20 feet
Urban Interchange/Intersection	25 feet	NA
Minor Arterial	20 feet	1 per 25 feet
Non-Arterial	10 feet	1 per 30 feet

<sup>1</sup>The required depth of the roadway landscape area shall be increased to 15 feet along a non-arterial road or public alley where the road or alley separates a non-residential use from a residential zoning district. The number of required trees shall be increased to 1 per 15 feet of linear frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

(2) **Location and Type of Trees in Roadway Landscaping Area**

(a) **Clustering Allowed**

The roadway landscaping trees may be clustered along a road frontage. The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in

areas where the winter shade will cause unsafe conditions on an adjacent road.

**(b) Type of Tree Limited**

The types of roadway landscaping trees utilized shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and listed in the Landscape and Water Conservation.

**(c) Exceeding Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping**

The roadway landscaping trees shall be located within 50 feet of the road right-of-way, easement or tract boundary line and any building or use.

**(d) Allowed in Right-of-Way if Approved**

The roadway landscaping trees may be placed in a right-of-way if the right-of-way owner approves the placement and no conflicts exist, or will exist, with utility easements or any provider of utilities. Generally, trees are not allowed to be placed within any County right-of-way. Placing of the required roadway landscaping trees within the right-of-way shall not negate the requirement for the required roadway landscape area.

**(3) Walls and Fences in Roadway Landscape Area**

Walls and fences which are 25% or more opaque shall not exceed 3 feet in height when located within a required roadway landscaping area. Opaque walls and fences higher than 3 feet (such as noise barriers) shall be located outside of the roadway landscaping area to maintain a landscaped appearance along the road.

**(C) Parking Lot Landscape Requirements**

**(1) Required Trees**

A tree of a type suitable for parking lots shall be provided for every 15 parking spaces in parking lots with 15 or more parking spaces. The required trees may be clustered and shall be located in a manner which will divide and break up expanses of paving and long rows of parking and create a canopy effect over the parking lot.

**(2) Parking Lot Islands**

The most common method to satisfy the parking lot tree requirement is through the utilization of plant islands, fingers (areas open to the parking on three sides), and corners (open to the parking on two sides). Islands, fingers, and corners are required to be incorporated into all parking lots of 15 parking spaces or more in area. One island shall be provided for every 15 spaces. An island, finger or corner that is the same size as a parking space counts as a required island. An island the size of two spaces counts as two islands. Pedestrian entry spaces also count as an

island, including the ramp. Parking lots containing fewer than 25 spaces shall not be required to provide islands.

Islands should be located at the end of center rows and at entry locations to direct traffic and minimize cutovers. Islands should generally be used and located to organize and enhance circulation, breakup continuous parking areas, and capture and direct stormwater. Islands protect vegetation from damage.

Small parking lots may utilize the perimeter area of the parking lot to satisfy the parking lot tree location requirement when there are not more than 2 rows of parking spaces and a single drive aisle. Where a parking lot is not required to be paved, no islands shall be required.

The tree types, minimum planter sizes and utilization of perimeter tree placement shall be consistent with the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

**(3) Protection of Trees from Damage**

Parking lot trees shall be protected from vehicle damage by curbs, planters or other barriers.

**(4) Storm Drainage for Irrigation Encouraged**

Parking lots designs that allow runoff to enter landscaped areas for irrigation and controlling non-point source pollution are encouraged.

**(5) Required Parking Lot Screening**

Parking lots shall be screened from view from adjacent roads and properties with differing land uses. The minimum height of the screening shall be 3 feet and may be accomplished by using berms and plantings. A minimum of 2/3 of the road frontage or common lot, parcel, or tract boundary, not counting intersecting driveways, shall be provided with the required screening. The maximum spacing of plants to achieve an acceptable screen and the maximum acceptable grades for screening areas, such as grass berms and plantings beds, should be consistent with the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

Decorative walls or fences may be approved if the DSD Director finds that:

- The wall or fence avoids a blank and monotonous appearance by architectural articulation and the planting of vines, shrubs or trees; or
- The total use of berms or plantings is not physically feasible, or
- The wall or fence attractively compliments the use of berms or plantings.

(D) **Required Buffer and Screen Areas**

(1) **Buffer Between Non-Residential and Residential Districts Separated by a Non-Arterial Road or Public Alley**

(a) **Where Required**

A buffer is required along the road-side lot, parcel, or tract line of any non-residential use where the use is separated from a residential zoning district by a non-arterial road or public alley.

(b) **Depth and Planting Standards**

The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be one tree for every 15 feet of the road frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

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~~(c) **Opaque Fence or Wall Required**~~

~~An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the inside edge of the required buffer when the area immediately adjacent to the 15 foot buffer is used as a service corridor for loading, maneuvering or storage. If the area is used for parking, the required parking lot screening shall be applicable.~~

(d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required**

The required buffer area shall require a ground cover at maturity with a minimum of 75% living plant materials. Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved living ground cover material shall be covered in a approved non-living ground cover.

(2) **Buffer Between Non-Residential, Multifamily Residential and Single-Family/Duplex Uses**

(a) **Where Required**

A buffer is required in the following situations:

- Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the non-residential use property between the non-residential use and a residential zoning district.
- Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the multifamily use property between the multifamily use and a single-family or duplex zoning district.

(b) **Depth and Planting Standards**

The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be one tree for every

25 feet of common lot, parcel, or tract line. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

(c) **Opaque Fencing or Wall Required**

An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the lot, parcel, or tract line except where the adjacent single-family or duplex residential zoning district or use abuts a required roadway landscaping area.

(d) **Minimum Ground Covering Required**

Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved non-living ground cover material shall be covered in a living plant material.

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(E) **Internal Landscaping**

The following internal landscaping is required:

(1) **Requirements for Multifamily Uses**

The following internal landscaping is required for multifamily uses:

(a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area**

A minimum of 15% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.

(b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area**

A minimum of one tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.

(2) **Requirements for Non-Residential Uses**

The following internal landscaping is required for non-residential uses.

(a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area**

A minimum of 5% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.

(b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area**

A minimum of one tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.

(c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs**

A maximum of 1/2 of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs adjacent to retail store fronts where the view of wall signs may be obstructed. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

(3) **Standards for Required Internal Landscape Area**

(a) **Intent of Internal Landscaping**

The intent of the internal landscape area is to provide relief from structures and hard surfaces through the use of plantings.

(b) **Location of Internal Landscape Areas**

The required internal landscape areas shall be located in accordance with the following standards:

- Adjacent to those building elevations which form the major public views of the building from adjacent roads and properties and to the users of the project; or
- At all pedestrian entrances, except service-only entries; or
- ~~Within a plaza or courtyard~~ Within a plaza or courtyard between buildings or portions of buildings, (plaza/courtyard is to have at least one side open); or
- In an area provided to separate building areas from parking areas; or
- In a similar location which substantially conforms to the purpose of the required internal landscape area.

(c) **Area Calculation**

The entire lot, parcel or tract area shall be used as the basis for calculating required the internal landscape area. In instances where an entire lot, parcel, or tract is not used for the proposed development, the area used to calculate the required internal landscape area may be reduced by the DSD Director based on the area of the lot, parcel or tract actually being developed or used. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area determined by the DSD Director to be developed or used. However, even if reductions in the lot area are approved, the DSD Director may require that additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is provided at the first stage of a larger project to mitigate environmental impacts or meet the intent of the landscaping provisions of the LDC .

(d) **Paved Areas within an Internal Landscaped Area**

Sidewalks which provide basic pedestrian circulation shall not count toward meeting the internal landscape area requirement. Paved plazas may be credited to a maximum of 50% of required internal landscaping area if such plazas have trees and other pedestrian-only amenities (benches, sculpture, decorative paving, etc.), are not vehicular, and provide visual relief to those

building elevations which form the major public views of the project.

**(F) Minimum Plant Sizes and Percentage of Live Ground Cover**

**(1) Landscape Material Specifications**

Plant installation sizes and characteristics shall meet the following minimum requirements.

**(a) Deciduous Shade Trees**

Deciduous shade trees shall be 1½ inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.

**(b) Deciduous Ornamental Trees**

Deciduous ornamental trees shall be 1 inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.

**(c) Evergreen Trees**

Evergreen trees shall be 6 feet in height above ground, balled and burlapped, except Pinon Pine and upright junipers which shall be a minimum 4 feet in height.

**(d) Evergreen and Deciduous Shrubs**

Evergreen and deciduous shrubs, where required, shall be 5 gallon size.

**(e) Ground Cover and Vines**

Ground cover and vines shall be 1 size.

**(2) Required Live Material Ground Cover**

Unless otherwise allowed, required landscape areas shall include a minimum of 75% ground cover by living grass or other living plant materials at maturity. The remaining 25% of the required landscape area may be covered with bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other landscape materials or may be designed as hard-surfaced pedestrian areas. The foliage crown of trees shall not be counted in meeting the ground cover requirement.

**(G) Other Required Landscape Areas**

**(1) Other Areas to be Landscaped or Screened**

**(a) Zoning District Boundary Trees**

A minimum of one tree shall be provided for every 30 feet of lot, parcel, or tract line coincident with a zoning district boundary line except if otherwise required to meet the buffering requirements between a non-residential use or multifamily use and residential zoning district.

(b) **Refuse Areas Screened**

Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, shall be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by an opaque wall or fence, architectural elements, dense evergreen plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet, or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet.

(c) **Loading Docks and Other Vehicle Areas Screened**

Loading docks, vehicle repair bays, and vehicle fueling areas shall be screened from view from adjacent roads by the use of plantings, berms, walls, fences, or other architectural elements.

(d) **Landscaping Required Between Lot and Curb**

Landscaping is required between the lot, parcel, or tract line and the curb line. The landscaping shall meet the ground cover standards for the required roadway landscaping area. Although this landscape area is located within the right-of-way, easement or tract, the adjacent lot, parcel or tract owner shall be responsible for maintenance. Xeric plantings shall be used in order to avoid the need to install an irrigation system within the right-of-way, easement or tract. Xeric plants may require supplemental irrigation to get them established or in times of extreme drought. Installation of an irrigation system requires approval of DOT or owner or right-of-way, easement or tract. Installation of plant materials may also require approval of the DOT or owner or right-of-way, easement or tract.

(e) **Transmission Tower, Water Storage Tank, and Utility Facilities Landscape Requirements**

(i) **Site-Specific Landscaping Required**

DSD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for transmission tower, water storage tank, and utility facilities. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior putting a transmission tower, water storage tank, or utility facility into operation. The site-specific landscaping is subject to the following standards:

- Rural and Remote Areas: In rural and remote areas landscaping, screening and erosion control measures shall be tailored to the nature and character of the area and the type of facility or structure contemplated. Site-specific landscaping shall, at a minimum, include

revegetation of disturbed areas with materials indigenous to the site or otherwise adaptable.

- Urbanized and Developed Areas: In urbanized and developed areas, the site-specific landscaping shall address specific issues such as screening and visual impacts.

**(f) Outside Storage Area Landscaping Requirements**

**(i) Site-Specific Landscaping Required**

DSD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for establishing an outside storage area. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to utilizing an outside storage area.

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**(ii) Site-Specific Landscaping Standards**

The site-specific landscaping shall reflect a combination of berms, shrubs, trees, fences or walls which will provide, at maturity, a minimum 6 foot high, 100% opaque screening for the outside storage area.

**(2) Miscellaneous Requirements**

**(a) Flexibility in Design Allowed**

The owner may select the types of and the planting spaces between the required trees. The types of trees selected shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and should be a type listed in the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

**(b) Minimum Cover of Internal Landscape Area**

The internal landscape area shall consist of a minimum of 50% ground cover by living plant materials. The Landscape and Water Conservation Manual provides guidance for planting near foundations.

**(c) Plant Spacing**

The planting spacing should accommodate the growth characteristics of the trees without adversely impacting structures, walks, or drives.

**(d) Minimum Planting Size of Trees**

The minimum planting size of trees shall comply with this Section and should comply with any additional specifications established in the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual.

**(e) Existing Vegetation**

Existing vegetation which meets the plant type requirements of the Landscape and Water Conservation Manual may be counted toward the internal landscape requirement.

**(f) Limitations on Landscape Placement**

**(i) No Conflicts with Traffic or Sight Distance**

Landscaping shall not conflict with traffic. Sight distance shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2 of the ECM.

**(ii) No Interference with Utilities and Fire Equipment**

Landscaping shall not interfere with the general function, safety or acceptability of any gas, electric, water, sewer, telephone, or other utility easement or conflict with criteria established or adopted by a fire department. Landscaping shall not exceed 8 inches in height within 3 feet of a fire hydrant or other applicable fire department criteria.

**(g) Limitations on Landscape Materials**

**(i) No Artificial Landscape Materials**

The use of artificial vines, turf, or groundcovers as landscape material may be allowed on a case-by-case basis where live landscaping materials may be at risk or inappropriate due to land use, water availability, or location..

**(ii) Elm Trees Prohibited**

Trees of the *Ulmus* genus (elm) are prohibited in meeting the landscape requirements of this Code unless demonstrated to be Dutch Elm Disease resistant.

**(iii) Use of Box Elder, Salix, and Populus Limited**

Box Elder (*Acer negundo*) and all trees of the *Salix* and *Populus* genus, except Aspen (*Populus Tremuloides*), shall not be planted within 25 feet of a right-of-way.

**(h) Calculating the Required Number of Plants**

**(i) Fractional Numbers Rounded to Closest Whole Number**

Where a requirement results in a fractional number, the applicable requirement shall be the closest whole number (5.0 to 5.49 = 5; 5.5 to 5.9 = 6).

- (ii) **Greatest Landscape Standard Applies**  
Where more than one landscape requirements applies to the same use and landscape area, the greater requirements shall be met.
- (iii) **Landscaping Only Fulfills One Requirement**  
Landscaping necessary to fulfill one requirement shall not be counted in fulfilling a different landscape requirement.
- (iv) **Clumping Forms of Trees Encouraged**  
Clumps of tree, such as Hawthorn (*Craetagus* sp.) , are encouraged instead of single-trunk trees. However, a clump of 3 or fewer trees shall be credited as only one of the required trees.

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(i) **Approval of Certificate of Occupancy**

All required landscaping shall be completed, and then inspected and approved by the DSD prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the Building Department or establishment of the use, except when surety acceptable to the DSD Director guaranteeing the completion of the landscaping is provided. Plant substitutions require approval before issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Any request for a Certificate of Occupancy prior to the completion of the required landscaping shall include a written request explaining the circumstances why the landscaping cannot be installed, a cost estimate prepared by a qualified party, a landscape completion agreement signed by the owner, and surety acceptable to the DSD Director. Inspection and certification by a landscape architect of compliance with this Section may be accepted at the discretion of the DSD Director.

(j) **Compliance with Plans**

The completed landscaping shall comply with the approved landscape plan and shall include the quantities, locations, species and sizes of plants and other landscape materials as represented on the approved landscape plan. Seeded landscape areas shall have no bare areas larger than 6 square inches after germination.

(k) **Maintenance**

(i) **Owner Responsible**

The owner is responsible for all regular and normal maintenance of required landscaping including weeding, irrigation, fertilizing, pruning and mowing.

(ii) Replacement of Dead or Damaged Materials

Replacement of dead, diseased or substantially ~~damaged plant materials~~ shall occur within 6 months from when the plant material died, or when the inspection determined the plant material was dead or damaged. Replacement shall be of the same or similar type as originally approved. An alternative type of species shall require approval by the DSD Director.

(iii) Maintenance Inspections

Maintenance inspections may be performed periodically. Failure to maintain the landscaping in compliance with the approval is considered a zoning violation.

## 6.2. - DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR ANCILLARY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

### 6.2.1. Fences, Walls, and Hedges

(A) **Applicability.** This Section is applicable to any fence, wall, or hedge established after the date of adoption of this Section unless superseded by a specific development standard in a PUD zoning district or within a Rural Land Use Plan.

(B) **Exemptions.** This Section is not applicable to agricultural fences, except as otherwise provided by this Section, or to the installation of noise barriers required by this Code, the ECM or constructed and installed in accordance with federal requirements.

(C) **General Standards Applicable to Fences, Walls, or Hedges.** The following standards are applicable to fences, walls, or hedges, including agricultural fences.

(1) **100-Year Floodplain.** Fences and walls within a 100-year floodplain shall comply with the requirements of the Floodplain Regulations.

(2) **No Obstruction of View of Vehicle Operators.** No fence, wall, or hedge may obstruct the view of vehicle operators entering or leaving any parking area, service drive, driveway, road, alley, or other thoroughfare. Fences, walls and hedges are subject to the sight distance standards in Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(a) **Corrugated Metal Not Approved as Fencing Material.** Corrugated metal is not considered an acceptable fencing material in perimeter fencing if visible from outside the fenced lot or parcel.

(3) **Measuring the Height of a Fence.** The height of fences, walls, and hedges shall be measured from the final grade of the lot, parcel, or tract at the location of the fence, wall, or hedge to the top of the fence, wall, or hedge. The top of a fence, wall, or hedge is the highest component of the fence, wall, or hedge, not including columns or posts. The depth of drainage channels under a fence, wall, or hedge shall not be included in the height measurement. The height of a fence, wall, or hedge built on berms or retaining walls shall include the height of the berm or wall.

(4) **Fencing Maintained.** Fences, walls or hedges shall be maintained in good structural or living condition. The owner is responsible for the repair or removal of a fence, wall or hedge, which constitutes a safety hazard, by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence or abandonment, or which constitutes a zoning violation.

(D) **Height and Location Standards.** The following requirements are applicable to all fences and walls except agricultural fences:

(1) **Building Permit Required for Fences and Walls Over 7 feet in Height.** A fence or wall over 7 feet in height requires a building permit from the Building Department.

(2) **Fences and Walls 7 Feet in Height Considered Accessory Structure.** A fence or wall over 7 feet in height is considered an accessory structure and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements of this Code. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are

applicable.

(3) Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Drainage. The fence and wall shall not be established where it would impede the drainage established by an approved drainage plan.

(4) Fences and Walls Not to Disrupt Use of Easement. The fence or wall shall not be established within an easement in a manner where the use of the easement is unnecessarily impeded.

(E) Specific Fence Standards for Residential Zoning Districts. The following requirements are applicable to fences within residential zoning districts.

(1) Opaque Fence Height Limited in Front Yard Setback Area. Fences or walls more than 25% opaque shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within any front setback area.

(2) Corner Lots. Any side of a property from which driveway access from the road is gained shall be considered a front setback area.

(3) Opaque Fence Height Limited in Sight Triangle. An opaque fence, wall or hedge shall not exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(F) Specific Fence Standards for Non-Residential Zoning Districts. The following requirements are applicable to fences within non-residential zoning districts:

(1) 7 Feet High Fences Allowed. Fences not exceeding 7 feet in height may be placed anywhere on the lot or parcel except no fence, wall or hedge shall exceed 30 inches in height when located within a sight distance triangle or as otherwise limited by Chapter 2 of the ECM.

(2) Security Fencing. Security fencing may include 3 strands of wire on top of the fence. The wires are not included in the height measurement.

(3) Subject to Parking, Landscaping, and Screening Standards. Walls and fences shall conform to the parking, landscaping, and screening standards of this Code.

(G) Noise Barrier Fencing or Walls. Noise barrier fencing or walls shall be constructed in accordance with the provisions for noise barrier fencing in Chapter 8 and the ECM. The Development Services Director may authorize the placement of noise barrier fencing, or walls that exceed 7 feet in height adjacent to expressways, arterials, or railroads, provided such fence or wall is facing and adjacent to the roadway for which the noise barrier is being provided.

(H) Development Perimeter Fencing. If fencing is proposed around the perimeter of a subdivision or development, any fencing adjacent to a County Road or State or federal highway shall be compatible with the existing land uses, topography, and landscaping in the immediate vicinity. Subdivision perimeter fencing shall be consistent in design and materials when established along or adjacent to common boundaries where other perimeter fencing exists.

(I) Retaining Wall Standards.

(1) Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Retaining Surcharge. A building permit is required for a

retaining wall that retains a surcharge.

(2) **Building Permit Required for Retaining Walls Over 4 Feet High.** A building permit is required for a retaining wall greater than 4 feet in height.

(3) **Retaining Walls 7 Feet High Considered Accessory Structure.** A retaining wall over 7 feet in height is considered an accessory structure and shall meet the accessory structure setback requirements. If no accessory structure setbacks are established by this Code, the principal structure setbacks are applicable.

(4) **Established Prior to Principal use.** A retaining wall, when necessary for development, may be established prior to the principal use.

### **6.2.2. Landscape Requirements**

#### **(A) General.**

- (1) **Purpose.** The landscape requirements are intended to provide uniform standards for the development and maintenance of the landscaping of private property and public rights-of-way to achieve a balance between the individual right to develop and the general benefit and welfare of the community. The benefits to be achieved and the overall purposes of the landscaping required by this Section are: (1) to create a positive image and visual appeal both along the road which is highly visible and internal properties which provide a working, shopping and living environment; (2) to decrease the scale of parking lots, provide shade, and reduce heat, glare and noise; (3) to separate circulation systems; to soften and reduce the mass of buildings; to screen and buffer lower intensity uses from higher intensity uses and protect residential privacy; and (4) to create an overall pleasant and attractive surrounding.
- (2) **Applicability.**
  - (a) **Applies to All Land Uses.** The requirements of this Section shall apply to all uses. PUD's may have their requirements modified subject to the individual PUD.
  - (b) **New Use Established or Use Changed.** Landscaping areas shall conform to this Section for a new building or use of previously vacant land, uses in an enlarged building, and all uses in a building when any use is changed that requires a change of occupancy to be approved by the Building Department or by the PCD.
  - (c) **Effect of Increase in Building Area.** A single or cumulative building addition (floor area) which exceeds 50% of the existing building's gross floor area shall require the entire building landscaping to comply with this Section. The existing building shall be considered the building as it existed on the effective date of this Section.
- (3) **Requirements of Section Supplemented by Manual.** The requirements of this Section are supplemented by the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (4) **Authority of Director to Approve Substitute Landscape Designs.** The PCD Director may approve landscaping that does not meet the specific requirements of this Section provided the proposed landscaping meets the purpose of this Section, promotes the concepts contained in the Landscaping and Planting Manual, and provides an equivalent benefit to the community and environment as would otherwise be achieved by meeting the specific requirements of this Section. This authority shall not allow the PCD Director to eliminate the requirement for landscaping or to diminish the total landscaped area required by this Section.

(B) **Roadway Landscaping Requirements.** Roadway landscaping areas are required. A roadway landscaping area is located along the lot, parcel or tract frontage between the road right-of-way, easement, or tract boundary lines and any building or use.

(1) **Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area.** Table 6-1 lists the depth and number of trees required to be provided along any road in roadway landscaping area. Where the required setback is narrower than the depth of the required landscape area, the roadway landscaping area depth shall control. Unless otherwise approved by the ECM Administrator, the depth of roadway landscaping shall be measured from the property line. Where a roadway easement has been provided, the measurement shall be from the ROW or roadway easement. Where future ROW has been identified, the measurement should begin at the future ROW line in order avoid subsequent impairment of the landscaping.

**Table 6-1. Roadway Landscaping Required by Roadway Classification**

Road Classification	Depth of Roadway Landscaping Area	Required Trees (Trees/ Linear Foot of Frontage)
Expressway, Principal Arterial	25 feet	1 per 20 feet
Urban Interchange/Intersection	25 feet	1 per 20 feet (Substitute shrubs for visibility)
Minor Arterial	20 feet	1 per 25 feet
Non-Arterial <sup>1</sup>	10 feet	1 per 30 feet

<sup>1</sup> The required depth of the roadway landscape area shall be increased to 15 feet along a non-arterial road or public alley where the road or alley separates a non-residential use from a residential zoning district. The number of required trees shall be increased to 1 per 15 feet of linear frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.

(2) **Location and Type of Trees in Roadway Landscaping Area.**

(a) **Clustering Allowed.** The roadway landscaping trees may be clustered along a road frontage. The clustering of evergreens may not be advisable in areas where the winter shade will cause unsafe conditions on an adjacent road. Clustering shall not be permitted when shade from clustering would be detrimental to adjacent road due to potential winter conditions as determined by the PCD Director or designee.

(b) **Type of Tree Limited.** The types of roadway landscaping trees utilized shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and listed in the Landscape/Water Efficiency Manual and Water Wise Planting List.

(c) **Exceeding Minimum Depth of Roadway Landscaping.** The roadway landscaping trees shall be located within 50 feet of the road right-of-way, easement or tract boundary line and any building or use.

(d) **Allowed in Right-of-Way if Approved.** The roadway landscaping trees may be placed in a right-of-way if the right-of-way owner approves the placement and no conflicts exist, or will exist, with utility easements or any provider of utilities, establishment of landscaping along private roads must include appropriate maintenance agreement between parties. Generally, trees are not allowed to be placed within any County right-of-way. Placing of the required roadway landscaping trees within the right-of-way shall not negate the requirement for the required roadway landscape area. All landscaping placed within County Right-of-way shall install appropriate safeguards for roadway and/or sidewalks to include "Tree root guards" where appropriate. Permission must be granted for all landscaping within the County Right-of-way through the Department of Public Works.

(e) **Single-Family PUD Roadway Landscaping.** Roadway landscaping along local residential roadways (non-arterials) within a residential PUD is subject to the individual PUD.

(3) **Walls and Fences in Roadway Landscape Area.** Walls and fences which are 25% or more opaque shall not exceed 3 feet in height when located within a required roadway landscaping area. Opaque walls and fences higher than 3 feet (such as noise barriers) shall be located outside of the roadway landscaping area to maintain a landscaped appearance along the road.

(C) **Parking Lot Landscape Requirements.**

(1) **Required Trees.** A tree of a type suitable for parking lots shall be provided for every 15 parking spaces in parking lots with 15 or more parking spaces. The required trees may be clustered and shall be located in a manner which will divide and break up expanses of paving and long rows of parking and create a canopy effect over the parking lot. See Landscaping and Planting Manual for island details.

(2) **Parking Lot Islands.** The most common method to satisfy the parking lot tree requirement is through the utilization of plant islands, fingers (areas open to the parking on 3 sides), and corners (open to the parking on 2 sides). Islands, fingers, and corners are required to be incorporated into all parking lots of 15 parking spaces or more in area. 1 island shall be provided for every 15 spaces. An island, finger or corner must be a minimum of two parking spaces in size (18' x 18' or 9' x 36' in order to qualify as a required island, finger, or corner. Parking lots containing fewer than 15 spaces shall not be required to provide islands but must include some other form such as a finger or corner plantings to satisfy the requirement.

Islands should be located at the end of center rows and at entry locations to direct traffic and minimize cutovers. Islands should generally be used and located to organize and enhance circulation, breakup continuous parking areas, and capture and direct stormwater. Islands protect vegetation from damage. See Landscaping and Planting Manual.

Small parking lots may utilize the perimeter area of the parking lot to satisfy the parking lot tree location requirement when there are not more than 2 rows of parking spaces and a single drive aisle. Where a parking lot is not required to be paved, no islands shall be required.

The tree types, minimum planter sizes and utilization of perimeter tree placement shall be consistent with the Landscaping and Planting Manual.

Parking lot island landscaping may also be counted towards Internal Landscape requirements provided any portion of the island is within 20 feet of a building elevation.

(3) **Protection of Trees from Damage.** Parking lot trees shall be protected from vehicle damage by curbs, planters or other barriers.

(4) **Storm Drainage for Irrigation Encouraged.** Parking lots designs that allow runoff to enter landscaped areas for irrigation and controlling non-point source pollution are encouraged.

(5) **Required Parking Lot Screening.** Parking lots shall be screened from view from adjacent roads and properties with differing land uses. The minimum height of the screening shall be 3 feet and may be accomplished by using berms and plantings. A minimum of 3/4 of the road frontage or common lot, parcel, or tract boundary, not counting intersecting driveways, shall be provided with the required screening. The maximum spacing of plants to achieve an acceptable screen and the maximum acceptable grades for screening areas, such as grass berms and plantings beds, should be consistent with the Landscaping and Planting Manual.

Decorative walls or fences may be approved if the Director finds that:

- The wall or fence avoids a blank and monotonous appearance by architectural articulation and the planting of vines, shrubs, or trees.
- The total use of berms or plantings is not physically feasible; or
- The wall or fence attractively compliments the use of berms or plantings.

(D) Required Buffer and Screen Areas.

(1) Buffer Between Non-Residential and Residential Districts Separated by a Non-Arterial Road or Public Alley.

- (a) Where Required. A buffer is required along the road-side lot, parcel, or tract line of any non-residential use where the use is separated from a residential zoning district by a non-arterial road or public alley.
- (b) Depth and Planting Standards. The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 15 feet of the road frontage. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.
- (c) Opaque Fence or Wall Required. An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the inside edge of the required buffer when the area immediately adjacent to the 15-foot buffer is used as a service corridor for loading, maneuvering or storage. If the area is used for parking, the required parking lot screening shall be applicable.
- (d) Minimum Ground Covering Required. The required buffer area shall require a ground cover at maturity with a minimum of 75% living plant materials. Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved living ground cover material shall be covered in an approved non-living ground cover.

(2) Buffer Between Non-Residential, Multifamily Residential and Single-Family/Duplex Uses.

- (a) Where Required. A buffer is required in the following situations:
  - (i) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the non-residential use property between the non-residential use and a residential zoning district.
  - (ii) Along the lot, parcel, or tract line on the multifamily use property between the multifamily use and a single-family or duplex zoning district.
  - (iii) On the residential side of the project when use to use compatibility is a concern.
- (b) Depth and Planting Standards. The required buffer shall be a minimum of 15 feet deep. The minimum number of trees in the buffer shall be 1 tree for every 25 feet of common lot, parcel, or tract line. A minimum of 1/3 of the trees shall be evergreen trees.
- (c) Opaque Fencing or Wall Required. An opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet is required along the lot, parcel, or tract line except where the adjacent single-family or duplex residential zoning district or use abuts a required roadway landscaping area.
- (d) Minimum Ground Covering Required. Bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other natural/synthetic landscape material shall be used as a non-living ground cover. Areas of a required buffer not covered in approved non-living ground cover material shall be covered in a living plant material.

(E) Internal Landscaping. The following internal landscaping is required:

(1) Requirements for Multifamily Uses. The following internal landscaping is required for multifamily uses:

- (a) Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area. A minimum of 15% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.
- (b) Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area. A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.
- (c) Trees Replaced by Shrubs. A maximum of 1/2 of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

(2) **Requirements for Non-Residential Uses.** The following internal landscaping is required for non-residential uses.

- (a) **Minimum Required Internal Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 5% of the lot or parcel shall be landscaped.
- (b) **Minimum Number of Trees in Landscaped Area.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 500 square feet of required internal landscape area.
- (c) **Trees Replaced by Shrubs.** A maximum of ½ of the required trees may be substituted with shrubs adjacent to retail store fronts where the view of wall signs may be obstructed. At least 10 shrubs with a minimum container size of 5 gallons shall be provided for each tree that is replaced.

(3) **Standards for Required Internal Landscape Area.**

- (a) **Intent of Internal Landscaping.** The intent of the internal landscape area is to provide relief from structures and hard surfaces through the use of plantings.
- (b) **Location of Internal Landscape Areas.** The required internal landscape areas shall be located in accordance with the following standards:
  - (i) Adjacent to those building elevations which form the major public views of the building from adjacent roads and properties and to the users of the project; or
  - (ii) At all pedestrian entrances, except service-only entries; or
  - (iii) Within a plaza or courtyard between buildings or portions of buildings, (plaza/courtyard is to have at least 1 side open); or
  - (iv) In an area provided to separate building areas from parking areas; or
  - (v) In a similar location which substantially conforms to the purpose of the required internal landscape area.
- (c) **Area Calculation.** The entire lot, parcel or tract area shall be used as the basis for calculating required the internal landscape area. In instances where an entire lot, parcel, or tract is not used for the proposed development, the area used to calculate the required internal landscape area may be reduced by the PCD Director based on the area of the lot, parcel or tract actually being developed or used. The minimum landscaping requirements may apply to just that project area determined by the PCD Director to be developed or used. However, even if reductions in the lot area are approved, the PCD Director may require that additional landscaping (including buffering or screening) is provided at the first stage of a larger project to mitigate environmental impacts or meet the intent of the landscaping provisions of the LDC.
- (d) **Paved Areas within an Internal Landscaped Area.** Sidewalks which provide basic pedestrian circulation shall not count toward meeting the internal landscape area requirement. Paved plazas may be credited to a maximum of 50% of required internal landscaping area if such plazas have trees and other pedestrian-only amenities (benches, sculpture, decorative paving, etc.), are not vehicular, and provide visual relief to those building elevations which form the major public views of the project.

(F) **Minimum Plant Sizes and Percentage of Live Ground Cover.**

- (1) **Landscape Material Specifications.** Plant installation sizes and characteristics shall meet the following minimum requirements.
  - (a) **Deciduous Shade Trees.** Deciduous shade trees shall be 1½ inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.
  - (b) **Deciduous Ornamental Trees.** Deciduous ornamental trees shall be 1 inch caliper measured 6 inches above ground, balled and burlapped.

(c) **Evergreen Trees.** Evergreen trees shall be 6 feet in height above ground, balled and burlapped, except Pinon Pine and upright junipers which shall be a minimum 4 feet in height.

(d) **Evergreen and Deciduous Shrubs.** Evergreen and deciduous shrubs, where required, shall be 5-gallon size.

(e) **Ground Cover and Vines.** Ground cover and vines shall be 1 size.

(2) **Required Ground Cover.** Unless utilizing the principles of xeriscaping, required landscape areas shall include a minimum of 30% ground cover by living or synthetic grass or other living plant materials at maturity. The remaining 70% of the required landscape area may be covered with bark, wood chips, rock, stone, or other landscape materials. No other areas within required landscape areas shall remain bare. The foliage crown of trees shall not be counted in meeting the ground cover requirement.

**(G) Other Required Landscape Areas.**

**(1) Other Areas to be Landscaped or Screened.**

(a) **Zoning District Boundary Trees.** A minimum of 1 tree shall be provided for every 30 feet of lot, parcel, or tract line coincident with a zoning district boundary line except if otherwise required to meet the buffering requirements between a non-residential use or multifamily use and residential zoning district.

(b) **Refuse Areas Screened.** Refuse collection areas, including trash bins, shall be screened from view from adjacent properties and roads by an opaque wall or fence, architectural elements, dense evergreen plantings with a minimum planting height of 6 feet, or berms with dense plantings creating an opaque appearance with a minimum height of 6 feet.

(c) **Loading Docks and Other Vehicle Areas Screened.** Loading docks, vehicle repair bays, and vehicle fueling areas shall be screened from view from adjacent roads by the use of plantings, berms, walls, fences, or other architectural elements.

**(d) Water Storage Tank and Utility Facilities Landscape Requirements.**

(i) **Site-Specific Landscaping Required.** PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for a water storage tank and utility facilities. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to putting a water storage tank or utility facility into operation. The site-specific landscaping is subject to the following standards:

- **Rural and Remote Areas:** In rural and remote areas landscaping, screening and erosion control measures shall be tailored to the nature and character of the area and the type of facility or structure contemplated. Site-specific landscaping shall, at a minimum, include revegetation of disturbed areas with materials indigenous to the site or otherwise adaptable.

- **Urbanized and Developed Areas:** In urbanized and developed areas, the site-specific landscaping shall address specific issues such as screening and visual impacts.

**(e) Outside Storage Area Landscaping Requirements.**

(i) **Site-Specific Landscaping Required.** PCD Director approval of site-specific landscaping is required for establishing an outside storage area. Installation of approved site-specific landscaping is required prior to utilizing an outside storage area.

(ii) **Site-Specific Landscaping Standards.** The site-specific landscaping shall reflect a combination of berms, shrubs, trees, fences or walls which will provide, at maturity, a minimum 6 foot high, 100% opaque screening for the outside storage area.

**(2) Miscellaneous Requirements.**

- (a) **Flexibility in Design Allowed.** The owner may select the types of and the planting spaces between the required trees. The types of trees selected shall be commonly known to grow in the Colorado Springs area and should be a type listed in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (b) **Minimum Cover of Internal Landscape Area.** The internal landscape area shall consist of a minimum of 50% ground cover by living or synthetic (grass only) plant materials, xeriscape may be included for a reduction to 30%. The Landscaping and Planting Manual provides guidance for planting near foundations.
- (c) **Plant Spacing.** The planting spacing should accommodate the growth characteristics of the trees without adversely impacting structures, walks, or drives.
- (d) **Minimum Planting Size of Trees.** The minimum planting size of trees shall comply with this Section and should comply with any additional specifications established in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (e) **Existing Vegetation.** Existing vegetation which meets the plant type requirements of the Landscaping and Planting Manual may be counted toward the internal landscape requirement.
- (f) **Limitations on Landscape Placement.**
- (i) No Conflicts with Traffic or Sight Distance. Landscaping shall not conflict with traffic. Sight distance shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2 of the ECM.
  - (ii) No Interference with Utilities and Fire Equipment. Landscaping shall not interfere with the general function, safety, or acceptability of any gas, electric, water, sewer, telephone, or other utility easement or conflict with criteria established or adopted by a fire department. Landscaping shall not exceed 8 inches in height within 3 feet of a fire hydrant or other applicable fire department criteria.
- (g) **Limitations on Landscape Materials.**
- (i) The use of artificial vines, turf, or groundcovers as landscape material may be allowed on a case-by-case basis where live landscaping materials may be at risk or inappropriate due to land use, water availability, or location.
  - (ii) Prohibited/Noxious planting list is included in the Landscaping and Planting Manual.
- (h) **Calculating the Required Number of Plants.**
- (i) Fractional Numbers Rounded to Closest Whole Number. Where a requirement results in a fractional number, the applicable requirement shall be the closest whole number (5.0 to 5.49 = 5; 5.5 to 5.9 = 6).
  - (ii) Greatest Landscape Standard Applies. Where more than 1 landscape requirement applies to the same use and landscape area, the greater requirements shall be met.
  - (iii) Landscaping Only Fulfills 1 Requirement. Landscaping necessary to fulfill 1 requirement shall not be counted in fulfilling a different landscape requirement, unless otherwise stipulated in this Code.
  - (iv) Clumping Forms of Trees Encouraged. Clumps of trees, such as Hawthorn (*Craetagus* sp.), are encouraged instead of single-trunk trees. Smaller caliper trees to meet the minimum caliper are accepted, however, a clump of 3 or fewer trees shall be credited as only 1 of the required trees.
- (i) **Approval of Certificate of Occupancy or Use.** All required landscaping shall be completed, and then inspected and approved by the PCD prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the Building Department or establishment of the use, except when financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director guaranteeing the completion of the landscaping is provided. Plant substitutions require approval before issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Any request

for a Certificate of Occupancy prior to the completion of the required landscaping shall include a written request explaining the circumstances why the landscaping cannot be installed, a cost estimate prepared by a qualified party, a landscape completion agreement signed by the owner, and financial assurance acceptable to the PCD Director. Inspection and certification by a landscape architect of compliance with this Section may be accepted at the discretion of the PCD Director.

(j) **Compliance with Plans.** The completed landscaping shall comply with the approved landscape plan and shall include the quantities, locations, species and sizes of plants and other landscape materials as represented on the approved landscape plan. Seeded landscape areas shall have no bare areas larger than 6 square inches after germination.

(k) **Maintenance.**

(i) Owner Responsible. The owner is responsible for all regular and normal maintenance of required landscaping including weeding, irrigation, fertilizing, pruning, mowing, and replacement in the care of artificial turf.

(ii) Replacement of Dead or Damaged Materials. Replacement of dead, diseased or substantially damaged plant materials shall occur within 6 months from when the plant material died, or when the inspection determined the plant material was dead or damaged. Replacement shall be of the same or similar type as originally approved. An alternative type of species shall require approval by the PCD Director.

(iii) Maintenance Inspections. Maintenance inspections may be performed periodically. Failure to maintain the landscaping in compliance with the approval is considered a zoning violation.

**APPENDIX B                      RECOMMENDED LANDSCAPING MATERIALS**

Found within this Appendix are plant materials that are xeric and especially recommended for El Paso County's challenging climate. More water-intensive plants are not listed and are not encouraged. The utilization and thoughtful selection of drought-resistant/drought-tolerant plant materials ~~is~~ are emphasized, along with appropriately designed irrigation systems, redirection of natural moisture, and reduced reliance on high-water-use turf in favor of other ground cover, for all areas of the County.

~~This~~ This is not a complete list of appropriate plant materials. The ~~DSD/PCD~~ DSD/PCD staff will consider ~~for approval of~~ for approval of other species, based on proven or anticipated survival.

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Ohio Buckeye Aesculus glabra	X	
Rocky Mountain Serviceberry (single stem) Amelanchier alnifolia	X	X
New Mexico Privet Foresteira neomexicana	X	X
New Mexico Locust Robinia neomexicana	X	X
Crabapple Malus sp.	X	X
Tatarian Maple Acer tataricum	X	X
Cherries, plums, chokecherries Prunus sp.	X	X
<b>EVERGREEN TREES</b>		
Pine, Austrian Pinus nigra	X	

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TREES	Suitable for Streetscapes, Buffers, Internal Landscaping Areas	Suitable under Power Lines
Pine, Pinon Pinus edulis	X	X
Pine, Ponderosa Pinus ponderosa	X	
Pine, Scotch Pinus sylvestris	X	
Foxtail Pine Pinus aristata		
<b>UPRIGHT EVERGREENS</b>		
Upright Junipers Juniperus scopulorum	X	X
Rocky Mountain Juniper Juniperus monosperma	X	X
One-Seed Juniper Juniperus virginiana	X	X
Red Cedar Thuja plicata		

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Fountain Grass Pennisetum alopecuroides		2'
Purple Fountain Grass Pennisetum setaceum "Rubrum"		2'
<b>MEDIUM - 4' TO 6' MATURE HEIGHT</b>		
Karl Foerster Grass Calamagrostis acutiflora		3'
Scotch Broom Cytisus scoparius "Moonlight"	X	5'
Juniper, Pfitzer Juniperus chinensis pfitzeriana	X	5'
Juniper, Pfitzer Compact Juniperus chinensis kelleyi	X	4'
Juniper, Pfitzer Gold Tip Juniperus chinensis pfitzeriara aurea	X	4'
Curl-leaf Mountain mahogany Cercocarpus ledifolius	X	5'
Fernbush Chamaebatiaria millefoium	X	4'

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Issue Date: 10/20/06  
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Appendix B

Wayfaring Tree Viburnum lantana	X	8'
Spiraea, Vanhoutte Spiraea vanhouttei	X	6'

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**Recommended Groundcovers for El Paso County**

<b>GROUND COVERS (less than 24" at maturity)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Creeping and Spreading Junipers Juniperus horizontalis varieties	Will provide four season interest and prevent erosion year-round
Snow in Summer Cerastium tomentosum	Spring/summer interest only
Blue Fescue Festuca ovina glauca	Spring/summer interest; erosion prevention qualities
Hens and Chicks Sempervivum sp.	Four season interest; will spread and prevent erosion
Creeping Hollygrape Mahonia repens	Four season interest; should be protected from winter wind; will grow in shade
Kinnikinnick Arctostaphylos uva- ursi	Four season interest; will grow in shade
Rock Cotoneaster Cotoneaster horizontalis	Four season interest; should be protected from winter wind; will grow in shade
Silver Mound, Wormwood Artemesia	Spring/summer interest; erosion prevention qualities
Stonecrops, Goldmoss, Dragonblood Sedum sp.	Spring/summer interest; erosion prevention qualities

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Chrysothamnus nauseosus	and greater screening
Apache Plume Fallugia paradoxa	
Potentilla Potentilla furticosa	
Yucca Yucca species	Sharp leaves: don't use where pedestrians might want to walk

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LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL

Other Recommended Plants for El Paso County

Habitat Plants

- Chokecherry, Plums, Cherries (Prunus sp.)
- Chokeberry (Aronia sp.)
- Current/Gooseberry (Ribes sp.)
- Serviceberry (Amelanchier sp.)
- Three leaf Sumac (Rhus trilobata)
- Alder
- Cottonwood (Populus grandidentatum)
- Current (Ribes odoratum "Crandall")

Turf Grasses

Non-Irrigated Areas

(Depends entirely on natural precipitation)

- Crested Wheatgrass Agropyron cristatum
- Buffalograss Buchloe dactyloides
- Blue Gramma Bouteloua gracilis

Planting References

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- Sunset Books, New Western Garden Book, 1979.
- Xeriscape Plan Guide, Denver Water, American Water Works Association, 1996.
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- Sunset Western Garden Book, Kathleen Brenzel, Editor, 2001.  
R, Andrew Hough, Douglas County Community Development Department, 2006.

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LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING MANUAL

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APPENDIX C Noxious Weeds

\*Please see "Noxious Weeds and Control Methods" by EPC Community Services Department, Environmental Division  
<https://epc-assets.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/Environmental-Division-Picture/Noxious-Weeds/Noxious-Weed-Control-Book.pdf>

Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) Classification of Noxious Weeds

<b>List A:</b> <i>Rare noxious weeds that must be eradicated statewide</i>
<a href="#">Cypress spurge</a>
<a href="#">Dyer's woad</a>
<a href="#">Knotweeds: Giant, Japanese &amp; Bohemian</a>
<a href="#">Myrtle spurge</a>
<a href="#">Orange hawkweed</a>
<a href="#">Purple loosestrife</a>

<b>List B:</b> <i>Discretely distributed noxious weeds that must be eradicated, contained, or suppressed, depending on their location, to stop their continued spread.</i>
<a href="#">Absinth wormwood</a>
<a href="#">Bouncingbet</a>
<a href="#">Bull thistle</a>
<a href="#">Canada thistle</a>
<a href="#">Chinese clematis</a>
<a href="#">Common teasel</a>
<a href="#">Dalmatian toadflax</a>
<a href="#">Diffuse knapweed</a>
<a href="#">Hoary cress (whitetop)</a>
<a href="#">Houndstongue</a>
<a href="#">Leafy spurge</a>
<a href="#">Musk thistle</a>
<a href="#">Perennial pepperweed</a>
<a href="#">Russian knapweed</a>
<a href="#">Russian olive</a>
<a href="#">Scentless chamomile</a>
<a href="#">Scotch thistle</a>

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<u>Spotted knapweed</u>
<u>Tamarisk (Salt cedar)</u>
<u>Yellow toadflax</u>

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<b>List C:</b> <i>Widespread and well-established noxious weeds in Colorado; control is recommended by the state and may be required by local government</i>
<u>Common mullein</u>
<u>Downy brome / Cheatgrass</u>
<u>Field bindweed</u>
<u>Poison hemlock</u>

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