

Section 5.4 Landscaping, General Provisions

A. Application Requirement

A landscaping plan, landscaping grading plan, irrigation plan, and shading plan shall be required for all development review (Minor and Major), Conditional Use Permits, surface mining permits, subdivisions, and any other permit when the Planning Director deems it necessary.

1. The landscaping plan, landscaping grading plan, irrigation plan, and shading plan shall be submitted under one application consistent with the provisions of Section 2.1 Development Review of this code.
3. The landscaping plan, landscaping grading plan, irrigation plan, and shading plan may be submitted on four separate exhibits or may be combined on one to three exhibits, provided that the information required to be displayed for each plan is legible and clearly discernible.
4. No less than the number of copies as determined by the Planning Director of the landscaping plan, landscaping grading plan, irrigation plan, and shading plan shall be submitted for approval by the Planning Director.
5. All landscaping shall comply with state water-efficient landscaping requirements.
6. All plans shall show the following information:
 - a. The first sheet of a multiple sheet set shall contain a title block with the name and address of the project, sheet number, and numbers of sheets and a revision block to indicate date and type of revisions;
 - b. Each sheet shall show the required technical data, including scale of drawing, north arrow, date drawn, and dates of revisions (if applicable), all property lines and project limits, if other than property limits, all easements, fences, walls, curbs, roads, walks, structures, mounds, swales, manholes, banks, and all plant and landscaping materials, grading, irrigation and other exterior elements proposed. A legend shall also be included for each symbol used.

B. Landscaping Plan Requirements

1. Trees that are native to the area, and/or suitable for the local climate as determined by the Planning Director, should be used.
2. The location of all existing landscaping materials and where proposed landscaping material is to be placed shall be shown. Existing trees shall be preserved whenever it is practical to do so, and shall be shown on the landscaping plan.
3. The quantities, sizes, and locations of all trees, shrubs and ground cover, hydroseed and wildflower mixtures, etc., shall be indicated. Trees shall be a minimum twenty-four (24) box size. Shrubs shall be a minimum five (5) gallon size; however, the use of smaller plants may be approved for areas where color or growth habits make it suitable.
4. All trees and shrubs shall be drawn to reflect the average specimen size at fifteen (15) years of age/maturity.
5. All plants shall be listed by correct botanical name and common name.
6. The soil surface of all planters shall be shown planted or covered with mulch (e.g., bark, rock, etc.).

7. Lawns shall be indicated by common name of species and method of installation (seeding, hydromulching or sodding).
8. Proposed treatment of all ground surfaces, including paving, turf, and mulch (bark or rock).
9. Planting details and methods of application shall be shown.
10. Complete construction detail referencing (fencing, walls, etc.) shall be indicated.

C. Landscaping Grading Plan Requirements

The grading plan shall show the drainage of all planting areas and the heights of mounds. Mounds shall not exceed three-to-one (3:1) slope, and no mound over thirty (30) inches high shall be placed within ten (10) feet of any street and/or alley intersections.

D. Irrigation Plan Requirements

An irrigation plan shall show the following:

1. Locations of all irrigation components, such as sprinkler heads, valves, pipes, backflow prevention devices and water taps, drip irrigation, automatic controllers, and quick couplers.
2. Proposed radius or diameter of throw (sprinkler coverage) at a stated pressure (pounds per square inch, or psi) for each sprinkler head and drip irrigation specifications.
3. Worst case irrigation system pressure loss calculations.
4. Static water pressure psi, available gallons per hour (gph), water pressure zone, agency reading locations, and source of information for each one.
5. City required water budget calculations based on the Water Efficient Landscape ordinance requirements.

E. Shading Requirements

1. Parking area landscaping shall include shade trees, so as to provide for adequate shade canopies within fifteen (15) years of age as follows:

Table 5.4.-1: Percentage of Total Parking Area Required to be Shaded

Number Of Parking Spaces	Percentage Of Parking Area To Be Shaded
05 - 24 spaces	30% minimum
25 - 49 spaces	40% minimum
50+ spaces	50% minimum

Note: The percentage of parking area required to be shaded shall be based on the number of uncovered parking spaces; driveways and aisles are excluded. Multilevel parking structures are exempt from shading requirements.

2. Trees shall be a minimum twenty-four (24) box size at planting.
3. Trees shall be planted and maintained throughout the parking area to ensure that the percentage of the parking area that is shaded is no less than the minimum amount required by Table 5.4-1 Percentage of Total Parking Area Required to be Shaded, above. The parking area shading plan shall be developed in compliance with a landscaping plan. Each planting area shall be of adequate size for the landscaping approved and shall have adequate irrigation for that landscaping.

F. Landscaping Design Standards

Landscaping shall be incorporated into the design of all off-street parking areas, including covered and decked, as follows:

1. **Countywide Design Guidelines.** In addition to the landscaping standards in this section, the standards of the Countywide Design Guidelines adopted by the City shall also apply. In the event of a conflict between this Zoning Code and the Countywide Design Guidelines, the more stringent standard shall apply.
2. **General landscaping provisions**
 - a. These provisions apply to:
 - 1) Landscaping throughout and immediately surrounding parking areas; and
 - 2) Additional landscaping as required by this Zoning Code.
 - b. Landscaped areas shall be distributed throughout the entire off-street parking area as evenly as is approved in the design of the parking facility;
 - c. Nothing in this section shall preclude the installation of additional landscaping and the planting of additional trees so long as such planting is consistent with visibility regulations;
 - d. Any open areas in the interior shall be landscaped with appropriate plant materials and maintained in good condition as provided in this code;
 - e. All landscaped areas shall be designed so that plant materials are protected from vehicle damage, encroachment or overhang;
 - f. All trees shall be double-staked and secured with a rubber or plastic strip, or other commercial tie material. Wire ties and twist-a-brace shall not be used;
 - g. No trees shall be planted within ten (10) feet of driveways, alleys and/or street intersections;
 - h. All landscaping shall be within planters bounded by a curb at least six (6) inches high;
 - i. A six (6)-inch-high curb with a twelve (12)-inch-wide concrete walkway shall be constructed along planters on end stalls adjacent to vehicle parking spaces;
 - j. In urban areas, all parking areas shall be screened from view along the entire perimeter of the parking lot by the construction of either a three (3)-foot-high and three (3)-foot-wide earthen berm, or a five (5)-foot-wide planter with shrubbery that can be maintained at a height of three (3) feet. When the parking area is adjacent to a public road right-of-way, the berm or planter shall be five (5) feet in width.
 - k. In addition to the perimeter landscaping required by this code, parking areas of five (5) spaces or more shall be required to provide additional landscaped areas within the parking area. A minimum percentage of the total parking area shall be landscaped as follows:

Table 5.4-2: Minimum Percentage of Total Interior Parking Area to be Landscaped

Parking Spaces Required	5-24 Spaces	25-49 Spaces	50+ Spaces
Percentage to Be Landscaped	5.0 %	7.5 %	10.0 %
Percentage to Be Landscaped – Along State and County Scenic Highways	6.0 %	8.5 %	11.0 %

- I. At the discretion of the appropriate authority, a barrier-free, four (4)-foot-wide paved walkway may be provided through the required planter at street and driveway intersections to provide unencumbered access for persons with disabilities from the sidewalk to the parking lot. No planting area shall be bisected by a handicap walk making it less than five (5) feet wide.
 - 1) Such a walkway shall be located so as to facilitate the most direct movement of persons using sidewalk curb ramps, if provided;
 - 2) Bus shelters may be located within this planter if approved by the Planning Director. Such shelters shall not be placed so as to reduce the number of trees which are otherwise required by this code.
4. **General planter provisions.** Planters containing organic landscaping shall be provided adjacent to and within parking areas. The dimensions of a planter refer only to that which is plantable area.
 - a. No planter shall be smaller than twenty-five (25) square feet;
 - b. Each planter shall include an irrigation system;
 - c. The planter shall include shrubs, and other natural growth or other features such as berms, designed to form a partial visual screen at least three (3) feet in height, except within ten (10) feet of street and driveway intersections where landscaping shall not be permitted to grow higher than three (3) feet;
 - d. Planters shall be provided adjacent to all public road rights of way, consistent with the following:
 - 1) The planter shall be at least five (5) feet wide. Trees in this planter shall be planted at an average spacing of twenty-five (25) feet.
 - 2) For parking lots with more than 150 feet of frontage on a public right of way, a landscaped planter at least eight (8) feet wide (measured including curbs) shall be provided between parking spaces so that no more than five parking spaces are grouped together. Each of these planters shall include at least one (1) tree.
 - 3) Any area within the road right-of-way between the edge of the walkway and outer edge of the right-of-way shall also be developed as a landscaped area in conjunction with the required planter, unless this requirement is waived by the Planning Director.
 - 4) In the event that any of these standards conflicts with the standards in the Countywide Design Guidelines, the more stringent standard shall apply.”
 - e. A planter at least five (5) feet wide shall be provided adjacent to properties used for residential purposes and/or zoned R-1, R-2, R-3, PRD, R-6, R-A, R-R or R-T. Within this planter, one (1) screen tree shall be planted at an average distance apart of no less than five (25) feet on center in combination with other plants to provide a dense visual screen;
 - f. All planters located adjacent to all parking spaces shall have a six (6)-inch-high and twelve (12)-inch-wide concrete walkway and must maintain a minimum of five (5) feet of the actual planting area.

3. General plant materials provisions

- a. Existing mature trees on the site shall be preserved whenever it is practical to do so;
- b. All plant materials shall be maintained free from physical damage or injury arising from lack of water, chemical damage, insects, and diseases. Plant materials showing such damage shall be replaced by the same or similar species;
- c. Planting areas shall be kept free from weeds, debris, and undesirable materials which may be detrimental to public safety, drainage, or site appearance;
- d. Drought tolerant species and California native species are to be used to the maximum extent possible over nondrought tolerant and nonnative species.
 - 1) The quantity and extent of drought-tolerant species shall be dependent on the climatic zone of the project;
 - 2) Landscaping may include natural features such as rock and stone, nondrought tolerant plants, and structural features such as fountains, reflecting pools, art work, screens, walls, and fences.
- e. Plant materials shall be grouped together in regards to water and soil requirements. In order to conserve water, alternative types of low volume irrigation concepts may be used, including, but not limited to, drip, rotary spray (in areas fifteen (15) feet wide or larger), mini-spray, bubbler, and low volume sprays.

4. General irrigation provisions

- a. An automatic irrigation system for all planted areas shall be required.
- b. The layout of the system should consider meter water pressure, pipe size and length, dripping and type of heads.
- c. Sprinkler spacing shall not exceed the manufacturer's recommended spacing or, if no spacing is recommended, spacing shall not exceed 60 percent of the diameter of throw (sprinkler coverage). Head-to-head spray coverage is required.
- d. Sprinklers in hazardous locations shall be flush-mounted on high pop models only.
- e. Backflow prevention devices for sprinklers shall comply with the latest edition of the Building Code, as adopted by the City.

G. Request for Modification from Landscaping Standards

The Planning Director may, without notice or hearing, permit modifications to the landscaping requirements where topographic or other physical conditions make it impractical to require strict compliance with these requirements.

H. Enforcement of Landscaping Design Standards

1. Prior to the issuance of a final building occupancy certificate, all required landscape planting and irrigation shall have been installed and be in a condition acceptable to the Planning Director.
 - a. The plants shall be healthy and free of weeds, disease or pests;
 - b. The irrigation system shall be properly constructed and in good working order.
2. At the discretion of the Planning Director, the City can require financial security, per year, to ensure the maintenance of landscape.