

## Chapter 5.06 TREES, SHRUBS AND BUSHES

### 5.06.010 Pruning, corner clearances.

- (a) Trees, shrubs, bushes and other vegetation which are dead, broken, diseased, infested by insects or impede the passage of pedestrians or vehicles or obstruct sight-lines of any public street or highway or any official traffic control device so as to endanger the well-being of any other vegetation or constitutes a potential threat or hazard to persons or property shall constitute a nuisance.
- (b) It is unlawful for any person to injure, damage, destroy, cut, trim, spray or remove any tree, shrub, bush or other vegetation upon any public right-of-way or other public property unless authorized by the city.

(Ord. 1727, § 22, 2005; Ord. 1143, 1992)

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### **18.40.220 Landscaping.**

Landscaping improvements are an important part of the overall site design and should be used to integrate a development into its setting. Development plans should include landscape elements that contribute positively to the character of neighborhoods. Improvements should:

- (a) Enhance the human scale of the building.
- (b) Provide a transition between different use areas.
- (c) Screen views of unsightly elements, such as utility boxes and parking areas.
- (d) Create usable pedestrian areas.
- (e) Be designed to facilitate water efficiency.
- (f) Define specific areas and enhance architectural features.

(Ord. 1716, 2005; Ord. 1517, § 6, 2000; Ord. 1315, 1996)

### **18.40.221 Landscaping guidelines.**

- (1) Landscaping to be installed should be of a sufficient quantity and size to:
  - (a) Help screen buildings from adjoining properties.
  - (b) Screen parking areas from roads and neighboring properties.
  - (c) Provide a landscaped area between residential properties and the street, including trees and other landscape materials.
  - (d) Screen developments on slopes of over 15 percent.
- (2) Trees should be located on a site to emphasize passive solar gain. Deciduous trees that shade in the summer and allow sunlight to pass through their limbs in the winter are recommended for the south side of the building. Vegetation on the east and west sides of the building should be chosen and placed to reduce summer sun from entering windows. Evergreen trees that buffer from cold winds, snow, and ice, are recommended for the north facade of the building. Decisions should also take into account the effects on solar access with regard to neighboring properties.
- (3) Trees that must be removed on site due to demonstrated hardship should be mulched.
- (4) Plant materials may be integrated into groupings, and need not be uniformly distributed throughout the site. An ideal design would balance distribution with grouping.

(Ord. 1867, § 4, 2010; Ord. 1716, 2005)

### **18.40.222 Landscaping standards.**

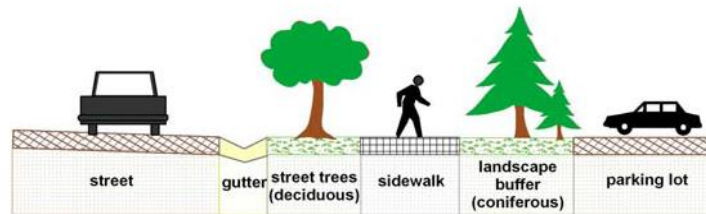
- (1) *Landscaping specifications.*
  - (a) Prior to planting and installing irrigation systems, all sites for plantings shall incorporate soil amendments at a rate of three cubic yards per 1,000 square feet to a depth of at least six inches. Existing topsoil shall be salvaged and stockpiled for use in amending area soil. All landscape and erosion control plans shall contain a note to this effect. Prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy, certification must be provided to the city certifying that such amendments have been installed.

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- (b) Turf areas and live planting areas in excess of 100 square feet in area shall be served by a permanently installed irrigation system unless exempted by the director, based upon a determination that such an irrigation system is unnecessary as a result of the size, location or alternate maintenance accommodations applicable to the area.
  - (c) A solid fence or wall eight feet in height shall be part of a ten-foot wide buffer strip between commercial, industrial, governmental, or public assembly uses and residential uses. This fence may be reduced in height to as little as five feet by the director, if the director determines that site considerations, including but not limited to topographic differences between the lots, and setbacks of the proposed building warrant such reduction. Landscaping shall be used in combination with the fence or wall to soften the appearance of the buffer. A solid hedge of a minimum of five feet in height, after three growing seasons, may be used in lieu of a fence if the commercial/industrial, governmental or public assembly use does not generate noise or emissions and if no loading or access activities occur adjacent to the residential use. Berms may be used as buffers provided that such berm shall not exceed a slope of 3:1.
  - (d) The minimum size and characteristics of plant and other landscape materials at the time of planting or installation, shall be as follows:
    - 1. *Deciduous trees*: Two and one-half-inch caliper, measured one foot above ground.
    - 2. *Evergreen trees*: Six feet in height.
    - 3. *Evergreen and deciduous shrubs and hedges*: Five-gallon container size.
    - 4. *Ground covers and vines*: One gallon size, except for prostrate junipers and other shrub like ground covers that shall be five-gallon size.
    - 5. *Wood chip mulch*: Minimum three inches depth.
    - 6. *Rock or stone mulch*: Two-inch minimum to cobble size, minimum three inches in depth.
  - (e) Plant material located within an applicable sight distance area, as defined by the City of Golden Street, Sidewalk and Drainage Specifications, shall conform to the requirements of said document.
  - (f) A performance warranty in the amount of 20 percent of the cost of installation of landscaping shall be provided to the city for projects where the cost of landscaping exceeds \$25,000. This performance warranty shall be held until completion of the first full growing season after the growing season of installation, and shall assure the replacement of any dead or diseased plant material.
  - (g) Species shall be mixed in such a manner as to provide a combination of evergreen and deciduous plantings, shade trees and ornamental trees and bushes.
  - (h) All open storage areas shall be screened from public rights-of-way or adjacent property by use of landscaping, berms or a combination of landscaping and other structural elements to a height of six feet.
  - (i) Any site contiguous to or facing any residential zone or residential use shall screen its parking areas, loading docks or similar uses through the use of landscaping elements to a height of four feet.
  - (j) Landscape shall be comprised of a minimum of 50 percent xeric species by area, designated by Golden's "Recommended Plant List", and shall use mulch to retain soil moisture.
  - (k) Landscape plan shall demonstrate that irrigation systems are designed to minimize overspray and water waste through use of automatic controllers, rain sensors, moisture sensors and, for non-turf areas, subsurface drip systems.
  - (l) Healthy existing mature trees (three-inch caliper or greater) shall be preserved on site unless sufficient hardship can be demonstrated. If trees must be removed, two must be planted (two and one-half-inch

caliper or greater) for every one that is taken, in addition to compliance with all other tree requirements. No substitutions for trees allowed.

(2) *Landscaping the streetscape.*

- (a) A street landscape area averaging 25 feet, but no less than 15 feet in width as measured from the proposed curb line shall be required of all properties abutting an arterial or collector street. Required pedestrian walks and bikeways are included in the streetscape measurement.
- (b) A street landscape area averaging 20 feet, but no less than 12 feet in width as measured from the proposed curb line shall be required of all properties abutting local streets. Required pedestrian walks and bikeways are included in the streetscape measurement.
- (c) Deciduous shade trees shall be planted parallel to the adjoining street or streets such that a canopy of foliage will form over the streets. One tree shall be planted in this manner for each 35 feet of street frontage. Clustering of trees and the introduction of coniferous trees may be permitted by the director. Ground cover and/or shrubs shall also be planted in the street side landscaping strip in which the trees are placed. All efforts should be made to preserve existing trees unless the application demonstrates site restrictions which would require their removal.



(3) *Landscaping parking areas.*

- (a) In addition to the street trees required above in subsection 18.40.222(2), trees shall be provided at a rate of one tree per five parking spaces or fraction thereof. These trees shall be placed within or immediately adjacent to the parking lot.
- (b) Properties for which on-site parking of 20 or more automobiles is required shall also provide a landscaped area equal to ten percent of the total paved parking area, which landscaped area shall count toward the requirement of section 18.40.232. The landscaped area shall be distributed throughout the paved parking area, and shall include trees, shrubs, and ground covers. Landscaped areas shall be served with an operating irrigation system. In no instance shall more than 25 parking spaces occur in a row without the provision of a landscape island. Landscape areas in parking lots shall be no smaller than 80 square feet each, and shall contain at least one tree and five shrubs for each island. Islands larger than 80 square feet shall contain one additional shrub for each additional 20 square feet of area, and one additional tree for each additional 200 square feet of area.

(4) *Landscaping obligation.*

- (a) Provisions for landscaping, screening and maintenance are a continuing obligation of the property owner, and where approved trees, shrubs or other landscaping materials die or are removed, it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to replace them with materials of a comparable nature and size to those originally approved. Replacement shall occur in the next planting season, but in any event, such replacement time shall not exceed one year. Any replacement which conforms to the requirements of this section shall not be considered an amendment to the site plan.
- (b) City right-of-way, or the area between the road and the property line, shall be maintained by the owner of the adjoining property.

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- (c) The owner of the property, his successors, lessees, heirs and assigns shall be responsible for the proper maintenance of the area subject to an approved site plan. That area shall be deemed to include an area as measured from the back of the curb line to, and including all areas subject to the approved site plan. Landscaping shall be regularly maintained including necessary watering, weeding, pruning, pest control and replacement of dead or diseased plant material.
- (5) The final landscape plan for commercial and mixed use and multifamily residential projects shall be prepared and stamped by a Colorado licensed landscape architect.
- (Ord. 1916, § 1, 2012; Ord. 1867, §§ 5, 6, 2010; Ord. 1716, 2005; Ord. 1517, § 10, 2000; Ord. 1315, 1996)