

chapter 17.100

LANDSCAPING, SCREENING AND FENCING

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17.100.010 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to establish standards for landscaping, buffering and screening in order to enhance the environment of the city through the use of plant materials as a unifying element and by using trees and other landscaping materials to mitigate the effects of the sun, wind, noise and lack of privacy. (Ord. 634 §1 Exh. A (part), 1995)

17.100.020 Applicability--Approval process. A. The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all development including the construction of new structures, major modification of existing structures as defined in Chapter 17.120, and to an application which increases the on-site parking or loading requirements or which changes the access requirements.

B. Where the provisions of Chapter 17.120 do not apply, the planner shall approve, approve with conditions, or deny a plan submitted under the provisions of this chapter. No notice is required.

C. The applicant shall submit a site plan which includes:

1. Location of underground irrigation system sprinkler heads where applicable;
2. Location and height of fences, buffers and screening;
3. Location of terraces, decks, shelters, play areas, and common open spaces;
4. Location, type, size and species of existing and proposed plant materials; and
5. A narrative which addresses soil conditions and erosion control measures. (Ord. 634 §1 Exh. A (part), 1995)

17.100.030 General provisions. A. Unless otherwise provided by the lease agreement, the owner, tenant and their agent, if any, shall be jointly and severally responsible for the maintenance of all landscaping which shall be maintained in good condition so as to present a healthy, neat and orderly appearance and shall be kept free from refuse and debris.

B. All plant growth in landscaped areas of developments

shall be controlled by pruning, trimming or otherwise so that:

1. Public utilities can be maintained or repaired;
2. Pedestrian or vehicular access is unrestricted;
3. Visual clearance area provisions are met. (See

Chapter 12.10, Visual Clearance Areas.)

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C. Certificates of occupancy shall not be issued unless the landscaping requirements have been met or a bond has been posted with the city to insure the completion of landscaping requirements.

D. Existing plant materials on a site shall be protected to prevent erosion. Existing plant materials may be used to meet landscaping requirements if no cutting or filling takes place within the dripline of the tree. (Ord. 820 §6, 2012; Ord. 634 §1 Exh. A (part), 1995)

17.100.090 Buffering and screening requirements. A. Buffering and screening are required to reduce the impacts on adjacent uses which are of a different type. The owner of each proposed development is responsible for the installation and effective maintenance of buffering and screening. When different uses abut one another, buffering and screening are required. When different uses would be abutting one another except for separation by a right-of-way, buffering, but not screening, shall be required.

B. A buffer consists of an area within a required interior setback adjacent to a property line, having a width of ten feet, except where the planning commission requires additional width, and a length equal to the length of the property line of the abutting use or uses.

C. Occupancy of a buffer area shall be limited to utilities, screening, and landscaping. No buildings, accessways or parking areas shall be allowed in a buffer area.

D. The minimum improvements within a buffer area shall include:

1. One row of trees, or groupings of trees equivalent to one row of trees. At the time of planting, these trees shall not be less than ten feet high for deciduous trees and five feet high for evergreen trees measured from the ground to the top of the tree after planting. Spacing for trees shall be as follows:

a. Small or narrow stature trees, under twenty-five feet tall or less than sixteen feet wide at maturity shall be spaced no further than fifteen feet apart;

b. Medium sized trees between twenty-five feet to forty feet tall and with sixteen feet to thirty-five feet wide branching at maturity shall be spaced no greater than twenty-five feet apart;

c. Large trees, over forty feet tall and with more than thirty-five feet wide branching at maturity, shall be spaced no greater than thirty feet apart.

2. In addition, at least one five-gallon shrub shall be planted for each one hundred square feet of required buffer area.

3. The remaining area shall be planted in groundcover, or spread with bark mulch.

E. Where screening is required the following standards shall apply in addition to those required for buffering:

1. A hedge of narrow or broadleaf evergreen shrubs shall be planted which will form a four-foot continuous screen within two years of planting; or

2. An earthen berm planted with evergreen plant materials shall be provided which will form a continuous screen six feet in height within two years. The unplanted portion of the berm shall be planted in lawn, ground cover or bark mulched; or

3. A five-foot or taller fence or wall shall be constructed to provide a continuous sight obscuring screen. Fences and walls shall be constructed of any materials commonly used in the

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construction of fences and walls such as wood or brick, or otherwise acceptable by the planner. Corrugated metal is not considered to be acceptable fencing material. Chain link fences with slats may qualify as screening when combined with a planting of a continuous evergreen hedge;

4. An evergreen hedge or other dense evergreen landscaping may satisfy a requirement for a sight obscuring fence where required. Such hedge or other dense landscaping shall be properly maintained and shall be replaced with another hedge, other dense evergreen landscaping, or a fence or wall when it ceases to serve the purpose of obscuring view; and no hedge shall be grown or maintained at a height greater than that permitted by these regulations for a fence or wall when located within a visual clearance area as set forth in Chapter 12.10, Visual Clearance Areas.

F. Buffering and screening provisions shall be superseded by the visual clearance requirements as set forth in Chapter 12.10, Visual Clearance Areas.

G. When the use to be screened is downhill from the adjoining zone or use, the prescribed heights of required fences, walls or landscape screening shall be measured from the actual grade of the adjoining property. (Ord. 820 §6, 2012; Ord. 634 §1 Exh. A (part), 1995)

17.100.100 Screening--Special provisions. A. if four or more off-street parking spaces are required under this title, off-

street parking adjacent to a public street shall provide a minimum of four square feet of landscaping for each lineal foot of street frontage. Such landscaping shall consist of landscaped berms or shrubbery at least two feet in height, which shall be dispersed adjacent to the street as much as practical. Additionally, one tree which shall provide a canopy of at least three hundred square feet upon maturity shall be provided for each fifty lineal feet of street frontage or fraction thereof. Landscaped parking areas may include special design features which effectively screen the parking lot areas from view. These design features may include the use of landscaped berms, decorative walls, and raised planters. Landscape planters may be used to define or screen the appearance of off-street parking areas from the public right-of-way. Materials to be installed shall achieve a balance between low lying and vertical shrubbery and trees,

B. Screening of loading areas and outside storage is required according to specification in Section 17.100.090.

C. Except for one-family and two-family dwellings, any refuse container or disposal area and service facilities such as gas meters and air conditioners which would otherwise be visible from a public street, customer or resident parking area, any public facility or any residential area, shall be screened from view by placement of a solid wood fence, masonry wall or evergreen hedge between five and eight feet in height. All refuse materials shall be contained within the screened area. (Ord. 634 §1 Exh. A (part), 1995)

17.100.110 Fences or walls. A. Fences, walls or combinations of earthen berms and fences or walls up to four feet in height may be constructed in required front yards. Rear and side yard fences, or berm/fence combinations behind the required front yard setback may be up to six feet in height without any additional permits. Any proposed fence or fence/berm combination higher than six feet shall require a building permit. Any fence or fence/berm combination greater than

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eight feet in height shall require planning commission approval in addition to a building permit.

B. The prescribed heights of required fences, walls or landscaping shall be measured from the lowest of the adjoining levels of finished grade.

C. Fences and walls shall be constructed of any materials commonly used in the construction of fences and walls such as wood or brick, or otherwise acceptable by the planner. Corrugated metal is not considered to be acceptable fencing material. Fences and walls shall be in compliance with other

city regulations. (Ord. 634 §1 Exh. A (part), 1995)

17.100.120 Required fencing of pools. A. Every person in possession of land within the city, either as owner, purchaser under contract, lessee, tenant or licensee, upon which is situated a swimming pool or other outside body of water designed or used for swimming, dipping or immersion purposes having a depth of more than eighteen inches shall maintain an enclosure consisting of a fence or wall which shall discourage children climbing and is acceptable to the building inspector.

B. All gates or doors opening through such enclosure shall be equipped with self-enclosing and self-latching devices installed at least forty inches above the ground or base, designed to help and capable of keeping such door or gate securely closed at all times when not in actual use; provided, however, that the door of any dwelling occupied by human beings and forming any part of the enclosure required need not be so equipped.

C. Every person in possession of land within the city, either as owner, purchaser under contract, lessee, tenant or licensee, on which there is a fish pond or other decorative pool having a depth of eighteen inches or more shall construct and maintain an acceptable enclosure and securely close off or block any and all entrances thereto. An acceptable enclosure shall be one of the following:

1. A fence completely surrounding the yard where the fish pond or decorative pool is located;

2. A wire screen or cover of sufficient strength to hold a weight of at least seventy-five pounds and installed not more than six inches below the surface of the water at all times. (Ord. 634 §1 Exh. A (part), 1995)

17.100.140 Re-vegetation. A. Upon completion of construction activities, where natural vegetation or topsoil has been removed in areas not affected by the landscaping requirements and that are not to be occupied by structures, such areas are to be replanted as set forth in this section to prevent erosion.

B. Preparation for Re-vegetation. Topsoil removed from the surface is to be stored on or near the sites and protected from erosion while construction activities are underway; and

1. Such storage may not be located where it would cause suffocation of root systems of trees intended to be preserved; and

2. After completion of such activities, the topsoil is to be restored to exposed cut and fill embankments or building pads to provide a suitable base for seeding and planting.

C. Methods of Re-vegetation.

1. Acceptable methods of re-vegetation include hydromulching or the planting of rye grass, barley or other seed with equivalent germination rates, and where lawn or turf grass is to be

established, lawn grass seed or other appropriate landscape cover is to be sown at not less than four pounds to each one thousand square feet of land area. 2. Other re-vegetation methods offering equivalent protection may be approved by the approval authority.

3. Plant materials are to be watered at intervals sufficient to ensure survival and growth.

4. The use of native plant materials is encouraged to reduce irrigation and maintenance demands. (Ord. 634 §1 Exh. A (part), 1995)

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