

LANDSCAPING AND SITE DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

18.20.220.(1) - GENERAL

The Landscaping and Open Space Standards and Guidelines provide guidance to create a sustainable management of the streetscape, alleys, plazas, front yards, and other private open spaces throughout the City of Golden. Against some of the challenging climatic conditions of Colorado, thoughtful landscaping can create comfort zones, increase livability, and contribute positively to the environment.

In this section, the filled boxes (■) indicate the item being a standard, and empty boxes (□) indicate the item being a guideline.

1. NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

Development plans should include landscape elements that contribute positively to the character of the neighborhood. Improvements should:

- Enhance the human scale of the building.
- Provide a transition between areas with different character.
- Screen views of unsightly elements, such as utility boxes and parking areas.
- Create comfort zones to encourage pedestrian activity.
- Facilitate water efficiency.

2. PLANT REQUIREMENTS (TREE AND SHRUB EQUIVALENTS)

Plant material shall be selected from the species approved by the CSU Extension Guides.

In this section (18.40.220), a Tree Equivalent (TE) point system is used, with 1 TE being equal to the minimum size and characteristics of the tree at the time of planting or installation as follows:

Deciduous trees:

Two and one-half-inch (2 1/2") caliper, measured one foot above ground. (1 TE)

Coniferous trees:

Six feet in height. (1 TE)

In this section (18.40.220), plant requirements shall be measured by Shrub Equivalent (SE). A Shrub Equivalent (SE) equals one large shrub, or two medium shrubs, or four small shrubs. The minimum size and characteristics of the plant at the time of planting or installation, shall be as follows:

Evergreen and deciduous shrubs and hedges:

- Minimum (1) five-gallon container size (1 SE) or
- Minimum (2) two-gallon container size (1 SE) or
- Minimum (4) one-gallon container size



The walkable character of Golden's traditional neighborhood is enhanced by the mature street tree canopy, landscaped front yards, and continuous sidewalks.



Plant selections should provide visual interest, create comfortable outdoor spaces, and contribute positively to the environment by reducing water consumption, providing natural habitat, and reducing stormwater runoff.



Plant materials soften the built environment and provide an appropriate transition between the sidewalk and the house. This technique is especially useful in situations with small setbacks.

3. LANDSCAPING

The following landscape standards and guidelines are for the private lot landscaping of all building form types.

- 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.
- 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. Special considerations for drought tolerant turf and other plant materials should be considered.
- c. The minimum size and characteristics of other landscape materials at the time of planting or installation, shall be as follows:

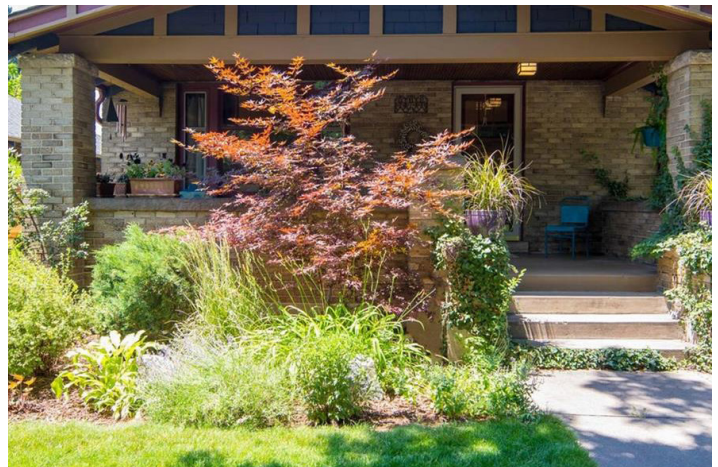
Ground covers and vines: One gallon size, except for prostrate junipers and other shrub like ground covers that shall be five-gallon size.

Wood chip mulch: Minimum three inches depth.

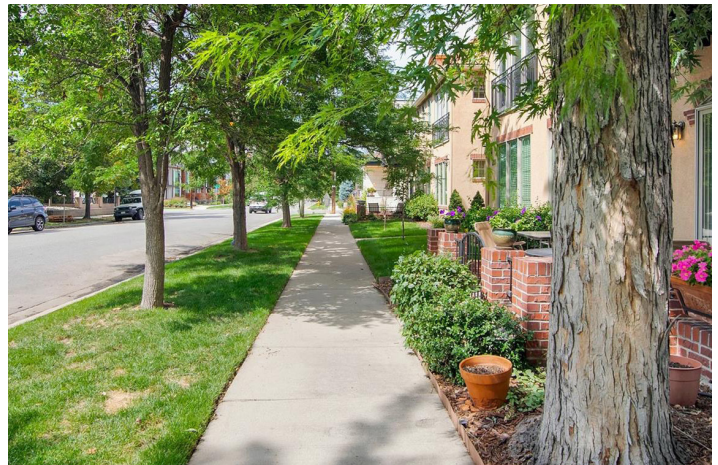
Rock or stone mulch: Two-inch minimum to cobble size, minimum three inches in depth.

- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.

- h. Provide a landscaped area between residential properties and the street, including trees and other landscape materials.
- i. 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. Evergreen trees that buffer from cold winds, snow, and ice are recommended along the north facade of the building. Decisions should also take into account the effects on solar access with regard to neighboring properties.
- j. Trees that must be removed on site due to demonstrated hardship should be disposed of as organic waste, including chipping or composting, and when possible used on site for mulch or soil amendment.
- k. Plant materials may be integrated into groupings and do need not be uniformly distributed throughout the site. An ideal design would balance distribution with grouping.
- l. No turf grass should be used on area narrower than 4 feet. Even then, xeric plants are encouraged over turf grass.



Ornamental trees and small shrubs planted around porches provide seasonal interest and contribute to the character of the street.



Street trees and landscape areas between the street and the sidewalk, and between the sidewalk and the house, foster a pedestrian friendly environment.

4. LANDSCAPING THE STREETScape

- a. City right-of-way, or the area between the road and the property line, shall be maintained by the owner of the adjoining property.

5. LANDSCAPING PARKING AREAS

- a. In addition to the street trees required above in subsection, 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 open space requirement. 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.

6. 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. 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.
- c. The final landscape plan for commercial and mixed use and multifamily residential projects shall be prepared and stamped by a Colorado licensed landscape architect.



Parking lots shall include trees within or on the edges of the parking lot, in order to shade cars and reduce the heat island effect.



Landscape areas should be integrated into the parking lot design, and should be designed and located to enhance pedestrian circulation throughout the parking lot and site.

OPEN SPACE

When lots with areas of 22,000 s.f. or more are subdivided, the amount of open space determined below shall be set aside for pocket parks, plazas, or common courts, excluding the surface parking areas. These areas shall comply with the “Common Court Ingress and Egress” [\[link\]](#) easement. These areas shall be publicly accessible, located to encourage public use, and not hidden from view.

Building form zones	Subdivided Lots (22,000 SF or more)
Core	15%
Transition	15%
Edge / Outer Edge	15%
Neighborhood Corridor	15%
Main Street A and B	15%
Strip	15%

- a. Open space areas are outdoor areas which provide separation and relief from buildings or create outdoor recreational opportunities. These areas include:

Walkways, pedestrian paths, open plazas and malls; terraces, natural drainage ways and drainage ponds; playgrounds; rooftops improved for landscape or recreational purposes; areas with benches, outdoor furnishings, and other places for sitting; and other areas designed specifically for active or passive recreational use, and which are not designed to be used by motor vehicles except for emergency and service purposes; and

Areas used as planted or landscaped areas, flowerbeds and planters.

- b. Open space areas do not include:

Portions of a property which are capable of being developed and which are specifically used for storage or reserved for future expansion, or outdoor areas which are developed for use as a storage area; and

Areas designed to accommodate motor vehicle uses such as parking lots, open-air showrooms, roads, or service areas, at, above, or below ground level. Landscaping over underground parking, however, is included as open space.

7. SCREENING

- c. All trash containers shall comply with the requirements of chapter 5.03 of the Golden Municipal Code, and shall not be located in the public right-of-way, setback areas, or buffer areas. Trash enclosures shall be integrated into the site plan to minimize enclosure visibility and accommodate truck access. Trash enclosures shall accommodate receptacles for both trash and recycling pick-up. Trash enclosures shall be constructed of durable, opaque materials and the color, texture, and architectural detailing shall be consistent with the overall site and building design. Chain link fence is not a suitable material for screening.
- d. Roof-mounted electrical, heating, ventilation or air conditioning units, and mechanical equipment shall be placed or screened such that the equipment is not visible from any point ten feet above the ground at any point within a 200-foot radius of the building upon which it is mounted. Downspouts, cell antennae, cable dishes, and roof ladders shall be located so as to minimize their view from adjacent properties.
- e. Utility cabinets, meters, generators, and other ground-mounted mechanical equipment shall be contained within the building or otherwise fully screened.
- f. Screening shall be provided for outdoor storage uses when these are permitted by the zoning district. Said screening shall occur in a manner acceptable to the city through the use of opaque fencing, landscaping, berming, or other techniques.
- g. Mechanical equipment and trash enclosures not shown on the submitted drawings shall only be approved when shown on the site plans and elevation drawings as part of a complete submittal.
- 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. 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.
- a. 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, or to the height of elements to be screened.
- b. 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, or to the height of elements to be screened.

LANDSCAPING AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

18.20.220.(2) - MAIN STREET BUILDING FORM TYPES

The Main Street context calls for more urban solutions in terms of landscaping. These solutions include flowers in flower pots, ornamental trees in raised beds, and layering of bushes against the building walls. Providing retaining walls, raised planters and low garden walls in the form of seating is another recommended landscaping strategy in these areas.

1. WALKWAYS AND BIKE/PEDESTRIAN PATHS

- a. The minimum width of an on-site walkway shall be five feet unless head-in parking is permitted adjacent to the walkway, in which case the walkway shall have a minimum width of seven feet.
- b. On-site walkways designed to accommodate bicycles shall be referred to as bike/pedestrian paths and shall have a minimum width of eight feet. If head-in parking is permitted adjacent to bike/pedestrian paths, then two feet additional width shall be required for vehicle overhang on each side where head-in parking is allowed.
- c. Grades for walkways and pedestrian paths shall not exceed eight percent or the grade of the adjacent public street, except short stretches not to exceed 200 feet in length may be permitted by the city engineer if the city engineer determines that the criteria in the Golden Street, Sidewalk, and Drainage Specifications for sidewalks within the right-of-way are met.
- d. Connections from walkways, transit stops, trails, parks, and bike paths in the public right-of-way to the building and through any parking lots shall be provided.
- e. Walkways should be designed to be free of hazards and to minimize conflicts with external factors such as noise, vehicular traffic and protruding architectural elements.
- f. Walkways should ensure the mobility of all users by accommodating the needs of people regardless of age or ability.
- g. Walkways and bike/pedestrian paths should provide a continuous connection to adjacent pedestrian networks and be designed so users can easily find direct access to a route.
- h. Development should encourage and provide access for users to utilize alternate forms of transit such as pedestrian walkways, bicycle, bus, or light rail. If the project is in close proximity to a transit route such as the City of Golden bicycle system, Regional Transportation District (RTD) bus route, or a light rail line, the project should facilitate easy access to the route.

2. STREETScape

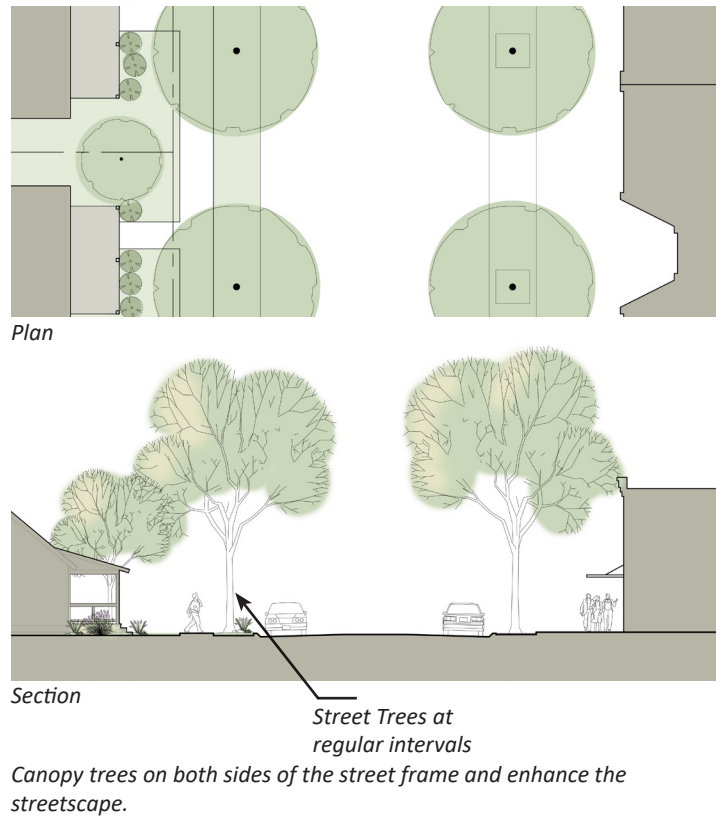
- a. A license agreement or city permit shall be required for any private activities located within the public right-of-way.
- b. Awnings shall not be back lit or internally illuminated.
- c. There shall be a minimum clearance of at least eight feet between the bottom of the awning and the ground at grade.
- d. Any portion of an awning containing the name of the business, or which is otherwise a sign, shall be treated as a sign and subject to the provisions of chapter 18.32.
- e. Restaurant seating in the pedestrian portion of the public right-of-way may be permitted pursuant to the provisions of chapter 4.90.
- f. Outdoor displays in the pedestrian portion of the public right-of-way may be permitted if at least six feet of passable sidewalk is maintained. No outdoor display or sales area shall encroach onto any portion of a drive aisle, parking or landscaped area.
- g. Streetscape requirements for buildings with a front setback less than ten feet in width, shall consist of deciduous trees in tree grates, a dry-laid brick paver strip and landscape planting areas where space permits.
- h. Where a parking lot abuts a sidewalk, a minimum of eight feet of landscaped berm or planting strip shall be used as a buffer.
- g. Streetscape design should contain elements that provide visual continuity along the public right-of-way. Activities and services in the streetscape area should allow safe pedestrian circulation.



A planter box can double as seating along main street corridors. Washington Avenue in Golden, Colorado

3. MAIN STREET LANDSCAPING

- a. All portions of lots which are not occupied by driveways, sidewalks, patios, decks, plazas or buildings shall be landscaped or mulched.
- b. Providing planters with seating, raised planters against building walls, and flower pots are recommended in order to balance the hardscape with planting, especially at plazas and expanded sidewalks.
- c. Differentiate the pavement of patio areas, plazas, or expanded sidewalks in front of businesses to delineate the public sidewalk from areas where businesses can extend with their merchandise.
- d. Flowering shrubs are encouraged to be placed against the building especially at walls with limited openings facing the public. When irrigated with carefully designed drip irrigation, placing plants close to the building wall does not create serious risks in terms of grading.
- e. A combination of ornamental trees, large and small shrubs are recommended where there is opportunity along the alley to prevent the formation of heat islands.
- f. Use canopy trees that will provide shade for users, located near benches or other places where people may gather.
- g. Provide xeric, ornamental plantings that are low-maintenance and require little water.
- h. Landscaping should not create isolated areas or areas that are not visible from adjacent public and private space for safety reasons.
- i. Plantings should create visual interest and variety for all four seasons, as well as provide shade for seating areas in warmer months along with other functional considerations.
- j. Deciduous trees should be the predominant large plant material used. They should be located adjacent to buildings and within parking areas to provide shade in summer and allow sun in winter. Species should be selected to be drought-tolerant, provide fall color and minimize litter and other maintenance problems.
- k. Evergreen shrubs and trees should be used as a screening device, for example, along rear property lines, around mechanical appurtenances and to obscure grillwork and fencing associated with subsurface parking garages.



4. STREET TREES AND PLANTINGS

- a. Deciduous shade trees shall be planted parallel to the adjoining street or streets such that a canopy of foliage will form over the streets. A minimum of one tree shall be planted in this manner for each 35 feet of street frontage. Ground cover and/or shrubs shall also be planted in the street-side landscaping strip in which the trees are placed.
- b. Coniferous trees shall not be used for street trees.
- c. All efforts should be made to preserve existing trees unless the application demonstrates site restrictions which would require their removal. Spacing may be adjusted depending on the location of alleys, common courts or specific building form lot types.

LANDSCAPING AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

18.20.220.(3) - STRIP CONTEXT

The Strip context is the most car-oriented of all the contexts, and it requires design solutions that balance both pedestrian and vehicular circulation. These solutions include parking lot design and internal circulation, landscaping to buffer incompatible adjacent land uses, and innovative stormwater management.

1. PARKING LOT DESIGN AND INTERNAL CIRCULATION

- a. Off-street parking areas shall be paved with asphalt, concrete or similar permanent surfacing, including semi-permeable surfaces such as grass pavers. Curbs or barriers shall be provided to protect public sidewalks from vehicular intrusion as well as to prevent parking in areas where parking is not permitted.
- b. The size of a parking stall, its angle, and the width of the access aisle shall conform to the requirements of chapter 18.36 of the Municipal Code. Stall width shall be increased to the appropriate size in accordance with American Disabilities Act standards for handicapped spaces.
- c. The required length of a parking stall which is adjacent to a landscaped area may be reduced by two feet if the design allows car bumpers to project over the landscaped area. If a median island is provided, it must be a minimum of nine feet in width.
- d. Parking spaces shall be defined on the pavement surface with painted or adhesive lines.
- e. Parking lots and loading areas shall have access from a clearly defined driveway not less than 16 feet in width for one-way traffic and 24 feet in width for two-way traffic. If the driveway is to serve as an emergency access, it shall not be less than 20 feet in width. Private drives and private streets shall meet the minimum standards shown in the City of Golden Street, Sidewalk, and Drainage Specifications Manual. Emergency access shall be provided which adequately links the site to public streets as a part of the overall site circulation.
- f. Both sides of a parking bay shall be the same angle. The layout of the parking area shall be such that no vehicle shall protrude into a traffic lane.
- g. Dead-end parking lot aisles shall provide back-around space five feet in depth and the same width as the aisle.
- h. Raised curb end islands are required for each parking aisle containing more than ten vehicle parking spaces. Curb islands shall be constructed of an appropriate material such as concrete, block, or other similar material.
- i. Off-street parking lots located on corner lots shall be so designed as to avoid the obstruction of views across the sight distance triangle, as defined by City of Golden Street, Sidewalk, and Drainage Specifications Manual specifications by reason of parked vehicles.

- j. Each site development plan for nonresidential use properties shall provide bicycle parking areas with a number of spaces equal to five percent of the number of automobile parking spaces provided. Such facilities shall be provided as racks or lockers, and be located in well lit accessible areas.
- k. Driveways parallel to public sidewalks shall be separated from such walks by a landscaped area not less than eight feet in width or a solid wall at least 30 inches in height.
- l. Buildings and parking areas shall provide safe and clearly visible pedestrian walkways from building entrances through the site to adjacent properties, transit stops, trails and parkland.
- m. Properties should minimize disruptions to sidewalks and trails, and when available, combine driveways and connect parking lots with those of neighboring properties, especially when and if it eliminates additional curbcuts.
- n. Where pedestrian paths cross driveways, highlight the crossing with a change in material or color.

2. STRIP LANDSCAPING

- a. Lots that are adjacent to residential areas or other non-compatible uses shall incorporate landscape buffers, berms or other screening elements along the rear property lines.
- b. At least one tree shall be provided for every eight parking spaces. At least one tree shall be provided for every thirty-five feet of drive aisle, when no parking spaces are accessed from that drive aisle.
- c. Provide screening such as low fencing, shrubs, or other landscape elements between parking lots and streets, walkways, or trails.
- d. Avoid excessive pavement and hardscape throughout the site. In areas that transition between hardscape and landscape and where runoff will be directed, use a stabilized surface to prevent erosion of unpaved surfaces.
- e. Landscape areas within and surrounding parking lots should provide some stormwater benefit such as reducing runoff or filtering pollutants.



Provide landscape areas within parking lots to promote pedestrian friendly spaces.



Reduce runoff by stabilizing areas where runoff will occur.

LANDSCAPING AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

18.20.220.(4) - FRONT YARDS AT ALL BUILDING FORM TYPES

Since creating walkable streets is one of the primary objectives of Golden's Comprehensive Plan, all lot types prescribe a friendly building presence along the sidewalk. When it is not feasible to provide shade trees within the front yard, ornamental trees in between buildings together with well-layered bushes and perennials located at front porches create a very pleasing and friendly streetscape. The following standards and guidelines are prepared with these factors in mind.

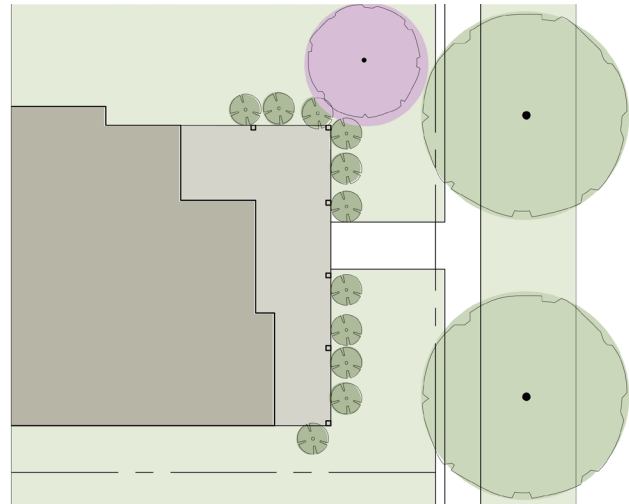
The standards in this section applies for all front yards that are six feet deep or deeper as measured from the front property line to the porch or building.

1. FRONT YARDS ALONG STREETS AND SIDE STREETS

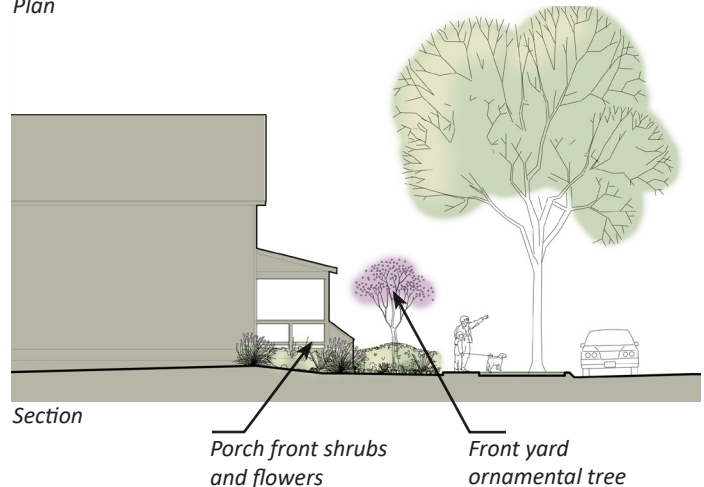
- a. Provide ornamental or mid-sized trees as follows:
 - 1 TE for lots with frontages between 25 and 42 feet
 - 2 TE for lots with frontages of 43 feet or more
- b. A minimum of 1 SE of plant material shall be employed for every 10 feet of street, side street, and common court frontage of the lot. The plant material shall be selected from the species approved by the CSU Extension Guides.
- c. No turf grass should be used on yards narrower than 4 feet. Even then, layering of flowering bushes and perennials are encouraged over turf grass. Rock mulch, wood mulch, and ground covers are also recommended.
- d. A combination of ornamental trees, large and small shrubs are recommended to be employed where there is opportunity.
- e. A combination of ornamental trees, large and small shrubs are recommended to be employed on the side yards when they are visible from the street or common court.

2. STREET TREES AND PLANTINGS

- a. 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 minimum for each 35 feet of street frontage. Ground cover and/or shrubs shall also be planted in the street-side landscaping strip in which the trees are placed.
- b. Coniferous trees shall not be used for street trees.



Plan



Section

Porch front shrubs
and flowers

Front yard
ornamental tree

Vertical layering helps define outdoor space and create an inviting composition around the porch



When the porch is located close to the sidewalk, a cluster of layered large and small shrubs and perennials arranged in front of the porch creates an appealing composition. A view from Washington Village in Boulder, Colorado (top); a view from a home in the 12th Street Historic District in Golden, Colorado (bottom).



LANDSCAPING AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

18.40.220.(5) - COMMON COURTS

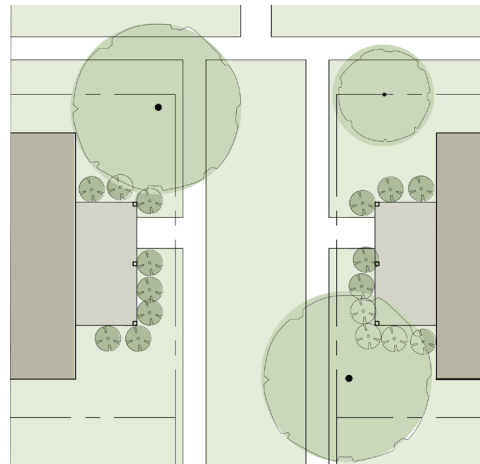
Common courts can be an important part of the amenities the neighborhoods provide for residents. In order for the dwelling units to face these amenities and enjoy them as comfort zones, certain design principles should be followed to guide the landscape design.

1. TREES AND SHRUBS

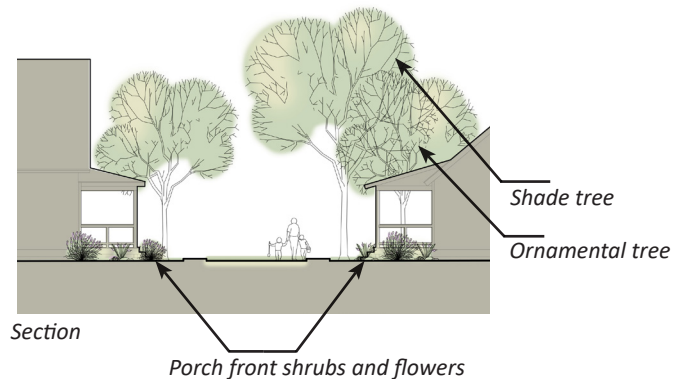
- a. Provide a minimum of 1 TE of shade tree per 800 s.f. of landscaped area of the green court (this area excludes impervious pavements). This requirement may be waived by the director if sufficient shade trees are provided in the front yards along the common court.
- b. Provide two rows of trees on either side of green courts, when space allows. On narrower green courts where it is not feasible to provide two rows of trees, provide a few high canopy shade trees at the center.
- c. Employ layered shrub landscaping close to the buildings and keep the center clear from the shrubs. Employ ornamental trees where the buildings have limited openings.
- d. Integrate best practices in stormwater management into site design with swales, filter strips, and rain gardens, to reduce runoff and filter pollutants. Employ simple bridges over the drainage ways or swales to maintain a continuous pedestrian walkway.

2. SIDEWALKS

- a. Avoid excessive pavement and hardscape throughout the site. In areas that transition between hardscape and landscape and where runoff will be directed, use a stabilized surface to prevent erosion of unpaved surfaces.
- b. Employ two narrow sidewalks (3 feet in width) at either side, close to the porches, rather than one at the center, when feasible.



Plan



Section

Two homes facing a common court with layered landscaping. When there is an opportunity the shade trees should be planted on front yards to leave the center free. At narrow courts however, central shade trees are more appropriate.



Entry to a common court in North Court showing layered landscaping and appropriately placed shade trees. (Holiday Neighborhood, Boulder, Colorado.)



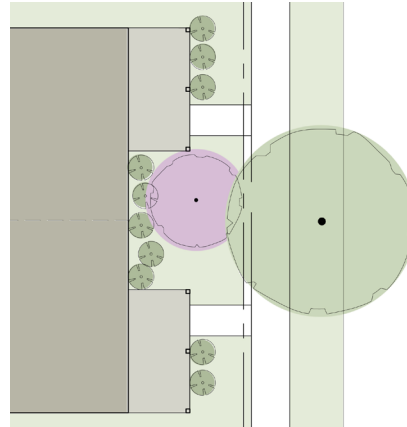
Mailboxes may emphasize the entrance to the common court. (Courtyard Townhomes on Washington and Iowa, Golden, Colorado.)

LANDSCAPING AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

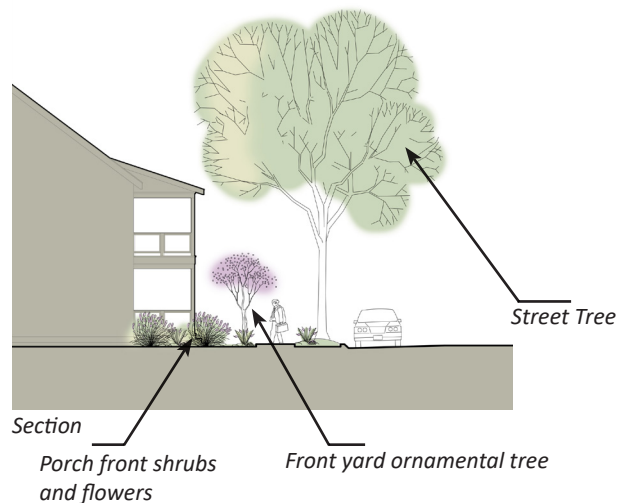
18.40.220.(6) - APARTMENTS

Clusters, apartment complexes, and urban residential building forms usually provide limited yard areas. However, when the yards are limited and visible to the public, residents tend to exhibit more care to the landscaping. Providing a well-irrigated infrastructure for intense landscaping in limited areas is the primary objective for landscape design for multiple dwelling building lots.

- a. All portions of lots which are not occupied by driveways, sidewalks, patios, decks or buildings shall be landscaped or mulched in accordance with the regulations found in 18.40.220 (1) General.
- b. When residential units occupy the ground floor, a minimum of 1 SE of plant material shall be employed for every 10 feet of street, side street and common court frontage of the lot. The plant material shall be selected from the species approved by the CSU Extension Guides.
- c. When apartment units are located on the ground floor facing the street or side street, the area between the porches and the sidewalk should be landscaped as a front yard landscaping.
- d. Flowering shrubs are encouraged to be placed against the building especially at walls facing the public with limited openings.
- e. A combination of ornamental trees, large and small shrubs are recommended to be used throughout the site.



Plan



Section

Porch front shrubs and flowers

Front yard ornamental tree

Flowering bushes create a buffer between the home and sidewalk. When apartment units are located on the ground floor, the area between the porches and the sidewalk should be landscaped as a front yard.



A cluster of shrubs placed close to the building, fences, or low walls creates a graceful relationship with the sidewalk despite the limited front setback. (Rowhomes on 8th street, Golden, CO.)



Ornamental grasses and raised planting beds create privacy for the ground floor unit and porch. (8th Street in Golden, Colorado.)

LANDSCAPING AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

18.40.220.(7) - ALLEYS

The traditional and historic contexts of Golden, which include the Core, Neighborhood Corridor, and Main Street contexts, are typically alley-loaded. Even though alleys are provided primarily for service uses and access, thoughtful landscaping is still needed on and around alleys. It is easy to create a heat island, especially when many garage doors line up along the alley as is the case for rowhomes. Some landscaping strategies include employing small landscape islands with upright shrubs and small trees, and providing shade trees on rear yards close to alleys. The following standards and guidelines aim at encouraging smart landscaping at alleys.

1. PAVEMENT AND EDGES

- a. Avoid excessive pavement and hardscape throughout the site. In areas that transition between hardscape and landscape and where runoff will be directed, use a stabilized surface to prevent erosion of unpaved surfaces.
- b. Provide pavement only for the width of the garage door and leave gaps in pavement for planting when feasible.
- c. Use of straight concrete edge in lieu of regular curbs is encouraged, for it makes it easier to create landscape islands.

2. LANDSCAPING ALONG THE ALLEY

- a. Provide landscape islands in between head-in parking stalls when feasible.
- b. Provide narrow detached sidewalks (3 feet in width) along the parking, and use the low shrubs as car stops, when feasible.
- c. A diverse set of plant species are encouraged to be employed, including shade trees, small ornamental trees, upright shrubs, and low ground covers. The plant material shall be selected from the species approved by the CSU Extension Guides.



Small islands with upright shrubs on either side of the garage entrances. (North Court, Holiday Neighborhood, Boulder, Colorado.)



Small islands are created for upright shrubs and small trees. (North Court, Holiday Neighborhood, Boulder, Colorado.)



Small landscape islands provide places for trees by the alley. (North Court, Holiday Neighborhood, Boulder, Colorado.)

LANDSCAPING AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

18.40.220.(8) - FENCING

Fenced yards, even if the yards are small, increase the use of the yard significantly. However, privacy fences should be arranged and designed in a way not to prevent interaction between the sidewalk and the porch. The following standards and guidelines aim at permitting fences in a way to balance the public and private realms in the neighborhood.

- a. No fences shall exceed 36 inches in height within 15 feet of the front property line.
- b. Low fences, walls, or hedges used to separate open space areas from public right-of-way should provide at least 50 percent open face or be less than 34 inches in height to allow uninterrupted visual perspective.
- c. On corner lots, fences with a height of up to 6 feet (privacy fences) may face the side street. However, on corner lots the following setbacks are applied for privacy fences facing the street:
 - Lots with 70 feet depth or less: a minimum of 26 feet setback from the front property line.
 - Lots with more than 70 feet depth: a minimum of 36 feet setback from the front property line.
- d. At alleys, all fences shall be setback a minimum of 6 feet from the rear property line.
- e. No fence greater than 6 feet in height shall be constructed until a building permit for said fence has been issued by the city. Issuance of a separate building permit shall not be required when adequate information is included in the building permit application for a building project that includes the proposed fence.
- f. No fence located in the required front setback for a property shall be constructed until a building permit for said fence has been issued by the city. Issuance of a separate building permit shall not be required when adequate information is included in the building permit application for a building project that includes the proposed fence.
- g. Prohibited fence styles: Barbed wire, razor wire, and electric fences shall not be permitted unless specifically permitted in a PUD official development plan, or required by the city as a condition of approval of a special use permit.
- h. Fences located within a sight distance area for a street, driveway, alley, or intersection shall conform with the requirements for such sight distance areas contained in the City of Golden Street, Sidewalk, and Drainage Specifications Manual.
- i. The maximum height of fences in the M-1 and M-2 zone districts shall be ten feet.

- j. The maximum height of fences in the PUD district shall be as listed in the official development plan or, if none is listed, in the most similar zone district.
- k. The maximum height of fences in all other zone districts shall be 6 feet, unless a taller fence is required by the city as a condition of approval of a site development plan submitted pursuant to chapter 18.40.



*A low front yard fence between the sidewalk and porch is desirable.
(Top: 8th Street Historic District; bottom: 12th Street Historic District,
Golden, Colorado.)*