

**WASHINGTON TERRACE CITY  
ORDINANCE 2018-09**

**LANDSCAPING AMENDED**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON TERRACE,  
UTAH, AMENDING CHAPTER 17.44 RELATED TO  
LANDSCAPING MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES;  
SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Washington Terrace City (hereafter referred to as “City”) is a municipal corporation, duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Utah;

**WHEREAS**, *Utah Code Annotated* §§ 10-8-84 and 10-8-60 authorizes the City to exercise certain police powers and nuisance abatement powers, including but not limited to providing for safety and preservation of health, promotion of prosperity, improve community well-being, peace and good order for the inhabitants of the City;

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to limit landscaping on certain public property to mitigate utility issues and road expansion problems;

**WHEREAS**, the City finds it necessary to update its municipal code in order to protect public health, safety, and welfare;

**WHEREAS**, after publication of the required notice the Planning Commission held its public hearing on May 31, 2018, to take public comment on this proposed Ordinance, after which the Planning Commission gave its recommendation to approve this Ordinance;

**WHEREAS**, the City Council received the recommendation from the Planning Commission and held its public meeting on June 19, 2018;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it ordained by the City Council of Washington Terrace City as follows:

**Section 1: Repealer.** Any word other, sentence, paragraph, or phrase inconsistent with this Ordinance is hereby repealed and any reference thereto is hereby vacated.

**Section 2: Amendment.** Chapter 17.44 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**17.44.200. Landscaping regulations.**

- A. Title. The name of this section shall be known and cited as “Landscaping Regulations” for the city of Washington Terrace (known as "city").
- B. Purpose and Goals. The purpose shall be to provide landscaping and buffering guidelines for developers and builders to follow in the design, installation, and maintenance of proposed residential, commercial, and industrial development projects. The goal shall be to promote quality landscaping design throughout the city while integrating various elements of site design. Landscaping regulations shall preserve and enhance the particular identity of the site by creating a pleasing site character and promote and encourage water conservation through landscaping design and irrigation systems.
- C. Landscaping Defined. "Landscaping" shall mean some combination of planting materials such as trees, shrubs, ground covers, perennials, annuals, Xeriscape principles and other materials such as rocks, water, sculpture, art, walls, fences, paving materials, benches, and street furniture.
- D. Landscaping. All landscaping shall be installed and maintained in conformance with a landscape plan approved by the planning commission for subdivisions, PRUDs, commercial/industrial businesses and commercial/industrial zones.

1. Landscape Plan: Two (2) copies, eleven by seventeen (11 x 17), of a detailed landscaping plan and development plan shall be submitted to the planning commission at the time of site plan review. Fifteen percent (15%) of a business/commercial area shall be maintained in landscape open space;
2. Tree Stand; Natural Vegetation: Existing significant tree stands and natural vegetation shall be integrated into the site landscape plan to the maximum extent possible. The minimum size for landscaping is five (5) gallon shrubs, two inch (2") width caliper trees, and five (5) to six foot (6') tall evergreens;
3. Preparation by a Licensed Architect. The city requires that landscaping plans be designed by a licensed landscape architect.
4. Sprinkling or Irrigation System. Plantings shall be serviced by an acceptable underground sprinkling or irrigation system.
5. Noise and Glare. Landscaping shall minimize the nuisance of noise and glare;
6. Certain Species Prohibited. Species that are a public nuisance or that cause excessive litter shall be avoided.

E. Scope Of Requirements:

1. Residential landscaping includes all R zones.
  - a. New Homes: All landscaping for new construction shall be installed and maintained for the park strip, front yard, and side yard within one (1) year of taking occupancy of any lot or parcel on which a home has been constructed. -Rear yard landscaping shall be installed within 2 years of occupancy.
  - b. Existing Homes: All landscaping for existing homes shall be installed and maintained on any lot or parcel on which a home exists. Homes that have a transfer of title or ownership will have one (1) year to landscape the park strip, front yard, side yard, and rear yard.
  - c. Park Strip: Park strips shall be maintained and landscaped by the abutting property owner.
    - i. Low growing conforming type vegetation/grass shall be allowed to be planted in park strip areas.
    - ii. Shrubs, vegetation and landscaping shall not exceed three (3) feet in height in any park strip. Shrubs, vegetation and landscaping that becomes a nuisance shall be subjected a notices, citation and removal by city ordinance.
    - iii. Trees within a park strip must comply with the city ordinances and a city zoning compliance permit shall be completed before installing any trees in the park strips. (See approved park strip tree list below.)
    - v. Shrubs, vegetation and landscaping, in the event becomes an obstruction due to utility work, City construction/ road projects and any other public/city project, may be required to remove the shrubs, vegetation and or landscaping.
    - vi. All existing trees in the park strips that are not listed below shall be nonconforming, but if the tree becomes a hazard or damages sidewalks or curbs and gutter, the tree should be removed. If the abutting property owner removes the tree, the same tree cannot be placed back into the park strip area and must comply with the approved park strip trees that have be adopted by code.
    - vii. Prohibited Shrubs, vegetation and landscaping: no Pfizer or junipers shall be allowed, plants with thorns, spines, or other sharp, rigid parts are hazardous to the public, shrubs that create visual barriers, and structural encroachments into sidewalks, curb and gutters.
    - viii. Property owners shall get approval from the building official or public works director to have concrete or other decorative material

installed within the park strips. (Zoning compliance permit will be required)

- d. Approved Park Strip Trees:
    - A. Crabapple/flowering
    - B. Plum-nonbearing varieties only
    - C. Goldenrain tree.
    - D. Hawthorn: Lavalley, Carriere, Washington, or Paul Sarlet
    - E. Imperial honey locust.
    - F. Japanese lilac tree.
    - G. Maple: hedge, amur, tartartian, Rocky Mountain, or truncatum.
    - H. May Day tree.
    - I. Red bud, eastern tree.
  - e. Alternative Landscape Methods: Any alternative method of landscaping, such as Xeriscape, shall receive approval by the city building official. The applicant shall submit two (2) copies, eleven by seventeen (11 x 17), of landscaping plans for review.
  - f. Compliance: All landscaping shall also comply with all other municipal codes that apply, including, but not limited to, this chapter.
  - g. Residential Compliance: Residential landscaping shall also comply with subsections D4, D5 and D6 of this section.
- F. **Maintenance.** Each property owner of commercial and/or residential shall maintain all landscaping installed and required as part of site plan approval and/or when no site plan is obtainable shall be required to comply with this chapter as follows:
- 1. All landscaping shall be adequately watered, mowed, and maintained.
  - 2. All landscape shall be properly fertilized, any dead plant materials shall be regularly removed and replaced in a timely manner.
  - 3. Irrigation systems shall be monitored to provide for sufficient plant life, prevent waste, and maintained to prevent leakage or blockages.
  - 4. Xeriscaping shall be maintained as provided as shown on the approved site plan, and all dry landscape materials shall follow industry standards of fire prevention, upkeep, and preventative maintenance.
  - 5. General maintenance of landscaping includes keeping landscape in good order and repair.
  - 6. Lawn, grasses, and other approved ground cover shall be maintained in an attractive manner with shall water and fertilizer to maintain healthy plant life. Lawn, grasses and other acceptable ground cover shall not exceed six (6) inches in height at any time.
  - 7. Trees shall be trimmed and kept in an attractive manner. Only the acceptable trees shall be allowed as listed in section, landscaping regulations. Trees shall not be an obstruction to clear view areas of streets.
  - 8. Bushes and shrubs shall be maintained in an attractive manner. Bushes and shrubs located within clear view areas of street intersections shall not be an obstruction, shall be trimmed so that the highest branch is no more than thirty-six (36) inches in height, measured from the top of the curb, or in the case of no curb, the average elevation of the road. Bushes and shrubs shall not be planted in a manner that has the effect of hiding or making it difficult to identify a fire hydrant. Leaves shall be removed from the curb and gutter on a regular basis to avoid interference with the flow of water.
  - 9. Rocks, stones, fountains, planter beds, and other landscaping features shall be attractive and appropriate for their location. Where rocks or other non-vegetative landscaping is used, the area shall be kept free of weeds, overgrowth, and debris. Water features shall be adequately monitored, safe, regularly cleaned, and kept free of moss, contamination, and disease including but not limited to listeria. Landscaping features located within

clear view areas of street intersections, shall be placed so that the feature is no more than thirty-six (36) inches in height.

10. Landscaping features shall not be placed in a manner that has the effect of hiding or blocking access to identify and use any fire hydrant.
11. All landscaping for commercial/industrial businesses/zones shall be maintained and installed on lot or parcel. Businesses that have a transfer of title or ownership, by sale or lease, shall comply with the following items and subsection F of this section:
  - a. There shall be landscaping maintained along the right of way line of dedicated streets in accordance with a detailed landscaping plan approved by the planning commission.
  - b. All landscaping shall not obstruct pedestrian walkways, vehicular use of driveways, and parking stalls and corner lot sight triangles of any street.
  - c. Storm water related devices, such as detention/retention basins and ponds, culverts, and riprap structures should be landscaped to reduce their visual impacts. Such landscaping may include evergreen plantings, shrubbery, hedges, and other suitable planting material that will control siltation and erosion.
  - d. Fire hydrants shall be free from obstruction on all sides by a minimum of three feet (3').
  - e. Environmentally sensitive areas designated by the city shall be preserved and untouched by development. The same standard applies to wetlands.
  - f. Berms shall comply with city standards.
  - g. Concrete curbs shall be provided between landscaped areas and off street parking areas.
  - h. Where a commercial or industrial development or business abuts any residential zone or residence, there shall be provided along the adjoining property line a decorative seven foot (7') high sight obscuring solid masonry wall and a ten foot (10') wide landscaped strip. The wall shall be constructed and maintained by the owner of the commercial or industrial development or business.
  - i. All landscaping must be completed before final occupancy is granted or business license issued. If completion is unfeasible, the applicant must submit in escrow an amount equal to complete the landscape plan. All landscaping shall be completed within six (6) months of the issuance of final occupancy or business license. If completion is not obtained, the applicant will forfeit escrow.
  - j. Landscaping shall be maintained during construction projects.
  - k. Dead or damaged landscaping shall be replaced within thirty (30) days of notification by the city or during the next planting season if not possible at the current time.
  - l. It shall be required to show the blowout valves and sprinkler connections on the site plan.
3. Public Park Strip in the Commercial/Industrial Zones and on Adams Avenue.
  - a. No trees shall be planted in any public park strip within any Commercial/Industrial Zone. No tree shall be planted in the public park strip on and along Adams Avenue.
  - b. Any new tree planted is deemed a nuisance subject to abatement at the expense of the person who planted the tree. All existing trees in a park strip where a tree is prohibited shall be deemed nonconforming. Any nonconforming tree that is removed shall not be allowed to be replanted and shall comply with this chapter.
  - c. A nonconforming tree is deemed a nuisance subject to abatement and reimbursement of any damages at the expense of the person owning the street frontage where the tree is located in the event that the nuisance tree causes or may cause damage to any utility, infrastructure, sidewalks, curb or gutter, or storm drain.

- d. No trees or landscaping shall be installed or maintained so as to obstruct pedestrian walkways, sidewalks, driveways, parking stalls, and standard corner lot sight triangles of any street.
  - e. All landscaping shall comply with this chapter and other governing provisions of the municipal code,
  - f. Shrubs and vegetation not to exceed three (3) feet in height may be installed in any public park strip, subject to removal in the event the landscaping becomes a nuisance, utility work, or other construction.
  - g. Fire hydrants shall be free from obstruction on all sides by a minimum of three (3) feet.
  - h. The park strip under this subsection shall be properly maintained, watered, mowed, and kept weed free by the abutting property owner of the street frontage.
- A. Submittal Requirements: All landscaping shall be installed and maintained in conformance with an approved landscape plan. The applicant shall submit two (2) copies, eleven by seventeen (11 x 17), of landscaping plans to the city building official.
- 1. Landscape plans are required for all nonresidential projects.
  - 2. The landscape plan may be incorporated into the site plan or provided separately.
  - 3. No permit for use, subject to the requirements of this section, shall be issued until a landscape plan has been approved by the planning commission.
  - 4. The landscape plan shall be drawn to scale and accurately depict the following information:
    - a. The names of all types of plant species proposed.
    - b. The number, size and spacing of all proposed plants and the height of trees and shrubs at the time of planting.
    - c. The lot area and the total area of the lot required to be landscaped.
    - d. Location and dimensions of planting areas.
    - e. Details of any required berms, fences, or walls.
    - f. The location and dimensions of any proposed or required pedestrian walkways.
  - 5. Escrow. Owner/developer shall enter into an escrow agreement with the city wherein the owner/developer shall deposit sufficient funds to ensure installation of the required landscape, which amount shall include an additional ten percent (10%) of the total amount required, ten percent (10%) shall be applied in the event of default by owner/developer. The escrow agreement shall include a time certain for installation of the landscaping by the owner/developer. Upon default of the owner/developer of any of the conditions of this section, or the escrow agreement, the city will receive the escrow funds and complete the required landscaping.
  - 6. Nonconforming Status. Any use of property which on the effective date of this section or any subsequent amendment thereto is nonconforming only as to the regulations relating to landscaping may be continued in the same manner as if the landscaping was conforming. However, such use may not be increased in intensity except in accordance with the requirements of this section and any landscaping which may exist in the locations specified by this section shall not be reduced unless suitable substitutions are made which would meet the requirements of this section.
- B. Penalty:
- 1. Penalties For Failure To Comply: Any owner, occupant or person having an interest in, or control over, the property to which a notice of compliance is issued under the provisions of this chapter, who fails to comply with the notice of compliance from the inspector or order given pursuant to this chapter, shall be guilty and the following penalties and remedies shall apply:
    - a. Any violation of this chapter shall be deemed a class C misdemeanor.
    - b. The amount of the monetary fine shall be a five hundred dollar (\$500.00) fine and penalty for the notification of the removal of the violation, and fifty dollars (\$50.00) each day that the violation remains uncorrected or unabated.

**Section 3: Severability.** If a court of competent jurisdiction determines that any part of this Ordinance is unconstitutional or invalid, then such portion of this Ordinance, or specific application of this Ordinance, shall be severed from the remainder, which remainder shall continue in full force and effect.

**Section 4: Effective date.** This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon posting or publication after final passage.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MARK C. ALLEN, Mayor,  
Washington Terrace City

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
AMY RODRIGUEZ, City Recorder

RECORDED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

PUBLISHED OR POSTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

CERTIFICATE OF PASSAGE AND PUBLICATION OR POSTING

According to the provision of U.C.A. §10-3-713, 1953 as amended, I, the municipal recorder of Washington Terrace City, hereby certify that foregoing Ordinance was duly passed and published, or posted at 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ and 3) \_\_\_\_\_ on the above referenced dates.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Recorder

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_