

Streetscape Standards Update

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Background – Streetscape Standards

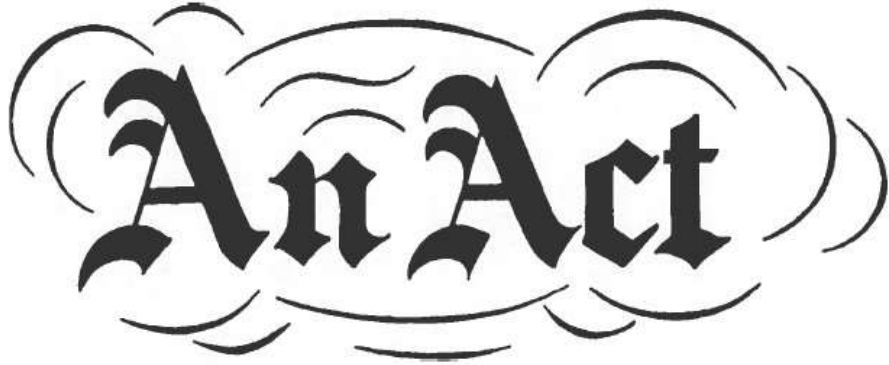
- Appendix C of Larimer County Urban Area Street Standards (LCUASS)
- Last adopted by City Council February 26, 2013
- Community Development and Neighborhood Services, Planning Division
- The purpose of the standards is to ensure the streetscape environment within the public right-of-way is attractive and links the public street corridors together through a coordinated city-wide approach to streetscapes.
- The term "streetscape" generally encompasses the visual and pedestrian environment of a street. The standards deal with the treatment of parkway strips (between the curb and sidewalk), medians, intersections, roundabouts, and key gateway intersections.



Streetscape Standards || Fort Collins

LARIMER COUNTY URBAN AREA STREET STANDARDS | APPENDIX C





SENATE BILL 24-005

BY SENATOR(S) Roberts and Simpson, Bridges, Hinrichsen, Buckner, Cutter, Exum, Fields, Jaquez Lewis, Marchman, Michaelson Jenet, Priola, Winter F., Fenberg;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) McCormick and McLachlan, Amabile, Bacon, Bird, Boesenecker, Brown, Daugherty, deGruy Kennedy, Duran, Epps, Froelich, Garcia, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Mabrey, Martinez, Marvin, Mauro, Ortiz, Parenti, Rutinel, Sirota, Snyder, Story, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Weissman, Willford, McCluskie.

CONCERNING THE CONSERVATION OF WATER IN THE STATE THROUGH THE PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN LANDSCAPING PRACTICES.

Senate Bill 24-005

- Addressing climate change, water supply, nonnative grasses, turf usage
- Definition of “Functional Turf”
- Prohibition of nonfunctional turf, artificial turf, and invasive plant species - local entities - construction or renovation of state facilities.
- Change regulations by January 1, 2026

Need for Updates (2) – Staff Safety

- Safety and Maintenance Concerns
 - Increasing numbers of documented close calls and accidents involving streetscape maintenance staff
 - Increasing damage to streetscape elements due to greater numbers of accidents
 - Increasing temporary traffic control measures and costs to protect staff during maintenance to maintain current levels of service



Need for Updates (3) - Maintenance



- What are the priorities we are trying to accomplish with medians and parkways?
- References to external standards rather than embedding standards that will become outdated.
- Responsibility for reviewing, maintaining, and enforcing the standards.
- Consistency with new Land Use Code.
- Where can trees be successful?
- Conflicts between trees, vegetation, and utilities.
- Low Impact Development (LID) in the right-of-way.
- Consistency between development and capital projects.
- Maintenance & safety concerns.



Phase 1

- Compliance with Senate Bill 24-005
- Remove static plant list and refer to online City list
- Remove irrigation standards and refer to City irrigation standards
- Locate irrigation backflow preventors and controllers in parkways
- Reduce maintenance where traffic control is challenging
- Minimum widths for landscaping and trees
- Encourage parking pull-offs for medians and roundabouts



Phase 2

- Update all photos and figures
- Corrections and fine tuning of Phase 1 work
- Additional safety improvements around remote irrigation control, standards for pull-offs, areas to avoid intensive landscaping, treatments for narrow medians
- Administrative, technical, and operational topics

Selected Phase 1 Updates



- Defining turf-type grasses
- "...continuous plant coverage that is native or hybridized for arid conditions, with a low water requirement."
- "Once established, such low-water turf-type grass typically requires approximately one watering per week during the average growing season. Turf-type grasses allowed in Fort Collins streetscapes must not exceed an average of 11 gallons of water per square foot per year. Any turf-type grass installed must meet hydrozone requirements in the Fort Collins Land Use Code."

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- Phase 1
 - Working group began August 14, 2024
 - Finalized, September 25, 2025
 - Planning and Zoning Commission Work Session, November 14, 2025
 - City Council adoption first reading, December 2, 2025
 - City Council adoption second reading, December 16, 2025
 - Regulations go into effect December 26, 2025 (meeting SB24-005 deadline of January 1, 2026)
- Phase 2 working group, Spring 2026
 - Public Outreach
 - Water Commission
 - Parks and Recreation Board
 - Natural Resources Advisory Board
 - Transportation Board



Thank you!