

ORDINANCE NO. 202, 2025
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
ADOPTING AN UPDATE TO APPENDIX C OF THE LARIMER COUNTY
URBAN AREA STREET STANDARDS PERTAINING TO
“STREETSCAPE STANDARDS” FOR THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS

A. At its January 2, 2001, meeting, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 186, 2000, which adopted the Larimer County Urban Area Street Standards (“LCUASS”). LCUASS provides streetscape standards specific for each local entity.

B. The Streetscape Design Standards and Guidelines (“Streetscape Standards”) for Fort Collins were originally adopted in 2001 and incorporated into the LCUASS for application within the City.

C. At its February 26, 2013, meeting, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 151, 2012, which adopted the current version of the Streetscape Standards.

D. The Streetscape Standards, included as Appendix C of the LCUASS, establish detailed guidance for designing streets that function as safe, visually appealing landscaped public spaces and reinforce the City’s distinctive character. The Streetscape Standards address the design and treatment of parkways (the area between curb and sidewalk), medians, intersections, roundabouts, and key gateway intersections.

E. The Streetscape Standards are used by:

- developers and property owners providing landscaping in the City right-of-way as part of new development and redevelopment,
- by staff in reviewing and inspecting such development, and
- by staff in designing City capital projects, operations, and budgets.

F. The Streetscape Standards consider community values, City policies, and the strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan, Our Climate Future, and the Water Efficiency Plan. The recommended updates to the LCUASS are intended to advance key City objectives, including the Strategic Plan, Transportation and Mobility Objective #1 to make significant progress toward the City’s Vision Zero goal to have no serious injury or fatal crashes for people walking, biking, rolling or driving in Fort Collins; Our Climate Future, Big Move #3 for a climate resilient community; and the Water Efficiency Plan goal to improve efficiency and resilience on public landscapes.

G. Colorado Senate Bill 24-005 prohibits specific landscaping practices and installations as of January 1, 2026. To ensure compliance with Senate Bill 24-005 and alignment with the City’s priorities and values, the existing Streetscape Standards must be amended as set forth in this Ordinance.

H. LCUASS Section 1.6.2.A. states that policy revisions to the LCUASS may be made by City Council by ordinance provided a public hearing regarding the policy revisions is held and City staff makes a recommendation on the policy revisions.

I. City Staff has prepared and recommended the revisions to the Streetscape Standards to set forth in this Ordinance to:

- Develop streetscapes well-equipped to survive, even thrive, despite a changing climate and finite resources;
- Define and allow for turf-type grasses, which are native or hybridized for arid conditions and have a low water requirement;
- Comply with Colorado Senate Bill 24-005, which prohibits specific landscaping practices and installations as of January 1, 2026;
- Address safety concerns for Parks and Forestry crews performing maintenance in the rights-of-way as well as safety concerns for the traveling public;
- Address escalating maintenance costs and reduce maintenance required where traffic control is challenging;
- Minimize conflicts among infrastructure, trees, vegetation, and utilities;
- Provide guidelines for low impact development practices for streetscapes where appropriate;
- Be consistent with the Land Use Code;
- Aim for consistency between streetscapes constructed by development and City capital projects; and
- Clarify and update information and responsibilities throughout the standards.

J. On November 14, 2025, the Planning and Zoning Commission received a presentation on the proposed revisions to the Streetscape Standards, and City Staff solicited input on the updates. The Commission expressed support for the proposed revisions but did not take formal action on the proposed Streetscape Standards, because updating the LCUASS does not require modification of the City's Land Use Code.

K. City Council has determined that the proposed policy revisions to the Streetscape Standards comport with the principles and policies contained in City Plan, the Strategic Plan, Our Climate Future, and the Water Efficiency Plan, and are in the best interests of the City and, accordingly, should be adopted.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that the 2025 update to Appendix C of the Larimer County Urban Area Street Standards pertaining to "Streetscape Standards" for the City, a copy of which is

attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby adopted for inclusion in the Larimer County Urban Area Street Standards:

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on December 2, 2025, and approved on second reading for final passage on December 16, 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: December 26, 2025

Approving Attorney: Heather N. Jarvis

Exhibit: Exhibit A: Streetscape Standards – Larimer County Urban Area Street Standards Appendix C