



GUIDELINES FOR Landscape Plans (Pursuant to Chapter 17.34)

Planning and Environmental Review
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The information provided in this handout is to aid in the preparation of Landscape Plans. The City encourages you to provide all of the required information in order to not delay the review and processing of your application. All plans and reports submitted must be prepared by qualified, licensed professionals in their respective fields. All required stamps and signatures must be provided on all documents as appropriate.

The following items shall be provided/shown in accordance with Zoning Ordinance Chapter 17.34 **Landscaping**.

1. **Applicability.** The regulations of Chapter 17.35 of the Goleta Municipal Code apply to:
 - a. **New Structures.** All new structures, except active agricultural buildings located further than 100 feet from public right-of-way;
 - b. **Additions.** Additions that require Design Review Board approval;
 - c. **Change of Use.** A change in use or building occupancy designation that results in increased parking requirements where sufficient parking to meet the increase does not exist on the site; and
 - d. **Rehabilitation.** Rehabilitated landscape projects with an aggregate landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet requiring a building permit.

2. **Required Landscaping Areas**
 - a. **Parking areas.** Parking areas, as required pursuant to Chapter 17.38, Parking and Loading.
 - b. **Unused Areas.** All visible, undeveloped areas of a project site not intended for a specific use, including areas planned for future phases of a phased development, must be landscaped or left in an undisturbed state provided there is adequate vegetation to prevent erosion and the area is adequately maintained for weed control and fuel maintenance.

3. General Requirements

- a. **Landscaped areas.** Required landscaped areas must be maintained free from encroachment by any use, structure, vehicle, or feature not part of the landscaping design, except for any fire hydrants and related fire protection devices, mailbox clusters, pedestals, poles, cabinets, utility-housing boxes, or other permanent fixtures as approves for emergency or service access, or as otherwise allowed by this Chapter.
- b. **Visions Clearance.** Landscaping must be planted and maintained so that does not interfere with public safety or traffic safety sight areas; see Section 17.24.210, Regulations Applying to Multiple Districts – Vision Clearance.
- c. **Public Safety.** Landscaping must not encroach into the public road right-of-way, unless obtaining the required approvals from the City, nor be allowed to grow into public accessways, such as sidewalk or trails, so as to create an impediment, hazard, risk of injury, or public nuisance.

4. Materials

- a. **Public Landscaping.** Landscaping with City rights-of-way or on other City-owned facilities must comply with the City’s Urban Forest Management Plan.
 - b. **Private Landscaping.** Landscaping may consist of a combination of turf, groundcovers, shrubs, vines, trees, and incidental hardscaping, such as stepping-stones, benches, sculptures, decorative stones, and other ornamental features placed within a landscaped setting.
 - i. Plant materials must be selected from among native or non-invasive drought-tolerant species and varieties known to thrive in the region’s climate.
 - ii. Recirculating water must be used for decorative water features.
5. **Landscape Plans.** A Landscape Plan must be submitted with the permit application whenever new or rehabilitated landscaping is required, pursuant to Section 17.34.020 of the Goleta Municipal Code and must contain all required elements of State and City’s Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance (WELO).