

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

9  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

2  
3  
4  
5  
6

**Subsec. 10-1-3.6.A Purpose, Applicability, and Design**

**A. Purpose.** Greenscaping in the form of site landscaping, screening of parking and vehicular use and storage areas, and buffering within and between developments contributes to the character and appearance of developments. **TREES ARE AN ASSET THAT SHOULD BE PROPERLY PROTECTED AND MAINTAINED.** The greenscape requirements in this Section serve to address the following:

**1. ENVIRONMENT. PRESERVATION OF MATURE TREES AND PROMOTION OF NEW TREES IS A PRIORITY FOR THE COMMUNITY. MATURE TREES PROVIDE INNUMERABLE BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING IMPROVEMENT TO AIR QUALITY AND SEQUESTRATION OF CARBON, REDUCTION OF NOISE POLLUTION, REDUCTION TO HEAT ISLANDS, AND PROVIDING IMPROVEMENT TO MENTAL WELLNESS;**

**1.2. Appearance.** Improve the general appearance and aesthetic appeal of the city by creating tree-lined streets with deciduous canopies, preserving urban tree cover, and softening the impacts of development with landscaping;

**2.3. Character.** Establish an aesthetic that emphasizes the value and beauty of the natural landscape and the visual enhancement of streetscapes, parking lots, service areas, building foundations and façades, and utility improvements;

**3.4. Buffering.** Provide for landscaping and screening between zoning districts to buffer adjacent land uses and their associated impacts;

**4.5. Green Function.** Enhance the various place types with provisions for pervious surfaces and planting areas for trees, shrubs, and grasses;

**5.6. Conservation.** Conserve energy and water resources by encouraging the use of shade and xeriscaping;

**6.7. Biodiversity.** Provide a diversity of species and native plant communities to ensure natural sustainability, minimize the spread of disease and insect infestations, and limit the use of species that cause negative impacts to native plant communities; and

**7.8. Water Quality.** Protect the quality of surface water and groundwater, reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff, prevent stream channel erosion, preserve trees and other natural vegetation, and encourage groundwater recharge.

**B. Applicability ...**

**C. DESIGN**

**1. Objectives.** In the review and approval of landscape plans, the Director may impose additional requirements to fulfill the following sustainable design objectives:

**a.** Integration of drainage and pedestrian circulation systems into the landscaping design.

**b.** Use of ground covers or other types of landscape materials that stabilize soils and minimize erosion.

**c.** Protection during construction and preservation of existing native vegetation.

**d.** Use of landscape materials that achieve variety with respect to seasonal changes, species of living material selected, textures, colors, and size at maturity.

e. Placing newly installed plants at intervals to ensure their health at maturity.

~~e.f. PLANTING OF NEW TREES SHALL BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE STANDARDS.~~

f.g. Maximize shading of streets and parking areas.

g.h. Provision for native and drought-tolerant plant species.

h.i. Planting trees and shrubs in locations that will reduce energy consumption by shading buildings and reducing the heat island effects of paved surfaces.

i.j. Protection of existing specimen trees and native vegetation to preserve intact natural ecosystems.

j.k. Designing the landscape to complement building elevations and architecture through use of color, texture, density, and form on both vertical and horizontal planes. Landscaping should be in proportionate scale with adjacent buildings and be of a size at maturity to accomplish intended goals. Ornamental, shrub, and ground cover plantings should be designed to complement a building's architectural character.

k.l. Landscape design should incorporate natural drainage features and the use of pervious surfaces and areas that capture and minimize runoff.

l.m. Inclusion of pedestrian amenities such as, but not limited to, shade, benches, kiosks, public art, shades, fountains, and other elements into the landscape design.

2. *Water Wise Landscaping (Xeriscape)*. ...

3. *Qualifications*.

a. ...

b. A professional shall certify that they are qualified to prepare the type of plan(s) that they submit by verifying licensure or certification at the time of application and providing professional qualifications, which may include:

1. Licensed Landscape Architect;

2. Licensed Architect;

3. Licensed Professional Engineer; or

4. Certified Irrigation Designer (CID);

~~5. INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE (ISA) CERTIFIED  
ARBORIST.~~

**Section 2:** Littleton City Code, Section 10-1-3.6.B, is hereby amended, by adding capitalized material and striking through deleted material, as follows. In this section, ellipses indicate material not reproduced as the Littleton City Council intends to leave that material in effect, as it now reads.

**Subsec. 10-1-3.6.B Planting Requirements**

**A. Plant Materials Standards.**

1. *Plant Types.* ...

2. *Plant Variety.* All plants shall be of a type and species that are selected for the climate, location, and soils on the site, as promulgated by the Colorado State University Extension FRONT RANGE TREE RECOMMENDATION LIST. All plant material shall be commercially produced and meet the minimum standards recognized by landscape professionals. In order to reduce the threat and impact of plant disease, a variety of plant types and species shall be utilized on each site. ~~In general, a minimum of one third of the plant material on any lot should be evergreen.~~ ALL NEW PLANTINGS SHALL FOLLOW THE CITY'S 5-10-20 RULE OF DIVERSITY STANDARDS, AS OUTLINED IN THE URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN, WHERE no more than 5% of the same species, no more than 10% of the same genus, and no more than 20% of the same family.

3. *Living Materials.* ...4. *Nonliving Materials.* ...5. *Artificial Turf.* ...

- ~~5.~~ *Prohibited.* Use of any plant species WHICH HAS BEEN DECLARED A "NOXIOUS WEED" OR INVASIVE SPECIES BY THE LOCAL ADVISORY BOARD UNDER TITLE 4, CHAPTER 4, OR THE STATE ~~listed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture as a "Noxious Weed Species," according to the~~ of Colorado Noxious Weed Act, C.R.S. §§ 35-5.5-101 through 35-5.5-119 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, is prohibited. ~~Specifically prohibited species include:~~

~~ii.~~ Chinese and Siberian elms;~~iii.~~ Cotton-bearing cottonwoods (female Populus species);~~iv.~~ Russian olive; and~~v.i.~~ Box elder.6. *Sizes.* ...B. [RESERVED.]C. **Plant Locations and Timing.**1. *Public Right-of-Way.* ...2. *Sight Triangle.* ...3. *Easements.* ...4. *Spacing.* ...

5. *Timing of Landscape Installation.* Landscaping that is required by this Code shall be installed between March 15 and October 15. If compliance with this timeframe is impractical due to the time of year that work is completed, an applicant may provide a financial performance guarantee in the form of a cash bond, ~~irrevocable~~ letter of credit, certified check, or similar instrument acceptable to the CITY ATTORNEY-Public Works Director or the Public Works Director's designee, in an amount equal to 125 percent of the estimated cost of purchase and installation of required landscaping.

D. **Plant Substitutions.**

1. *Approval.* Requested substitutions of plant material shall be submitted on a landscape plan and shall be in accordance with the recommended plant lists promulgated by the Colorado State University Extension's FRONT RANGE RECOMMENDATION LIST and approved by the Director.

2. *Substitution Ratios* ...

**Section 3:** Littleton City Code, Section 10-1-3.6.C, is hereby amended, by adding capitalized material and striking through deleted material, as follows. In this section, ellipses indicate material not reproduced as the Littleton City Council intends to leave that material in effect, as it now reads.

**Subsec. 10-1-3.6.C Protection and Preservation**

A. Purpose ...

B. ...

E. Tree Protection.

1. *Distance from Utilities.* ...

7. *Mitigation Standards.* Damage or removal of trees within a tree protection zone, or removal of trees required to be retained by this Subsection, shall require equivalent replacement on the lot or development site.

a. *Removal or Damage in Violation.* ...

b. *Restoration Plan.* ...

c. *Replacement Requirements.* ...

d. ~~In-Lieu Fee Alternative.~~ PAYMENT IN LIEU OF MITIGATION.

1. WHERE EXISTING CONDITIONS MAKE IT IMPRACTICAL TO COMPLY WITH THE MITIGATION STANDARDS HEREIN, THE APPLICANT SHALL PAY A FEE-IN-LIEU IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE CANOPY LOSS FEE RATE SHALL BE \$250 PER INCH PER REPLACEMENT TREE.

2. THE CANOPY LOSS FEE FORMULA SHALL BE  $CANOPY LOSS FEE (\$) = [(DIAMETER PER STANDARD HEIGHT REMOVED) - (DIAMETER PER STANDARD HEIGHT REPLACED)] \times (CANOPY LOSS FEE RATE)$ .

2. IN-LIEU FEES SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE TREE EQUITY FUND TO BE USED TO INCREASE THE TREE CANOPY WITHIN THE CITY OF LITTLETON.

3. REDUCTIONS IN CANOPY LOSS FEE RATE:

1. AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS SHALL QUALIFY FOR A REDUCTION TO AN AMOUNT OF \$75.00 TOTAL PER REPLACEMENT TREE.

~~2.~~ NO PAYMENT IN LIEU OF MITIGATION SHALL BE REQUIRED FOR PROPERTY OWNERS THAT RECEIVE

VERIFIED, ESTABLISHED FORMS OF FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE FROM LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL  
ENTITIES.

- ~~1. Where existing conditions make it impractical to comply with the replacement standards, the applicant may, at the discretion of the Director, pay in lieu of meeting the requirement for replacement of damaged or removed trees, in whole or in part. The in-lieu fee shall be \$500 per replacement tree.~~
- ~~2. If tree replacement is required to mitigate damaged or removed trees in areas where water and electricity are not available and no development is under construction, the in-lieu fee shall be \$500 per replacement tree.~~
- ~~3. In-lieu fees shall be deposited in a tree reserve account for the purchase and installation of trees and tree-related irrigation systems in city parks, rights-of-way, and other public open spaces in reasonable proximity to the applicant's project.~~

8. *Tree Preservation Credit* ...

**Section 4:** Littleton City Code, Section 10-1-3.6.E, is hereby amended, by adding capitalized material and striking through deleted material, as follows. In this section, ellipses indicate material not reproduced as the Littleton City Council intends to leave that material in effect, as it now reads.

**Subsec. 10-1-3.6.E Tree Canopy Coverage Requirements**

**A. Applicability.** ...

**B. Minimum Standards.** The tree canopy coverage requirements for the applicable districts are set out in Table 10-1-3.6.E, *Canopy Coverage Requirements*.

Table 10-1-3.6.E Canopy Coverage Requirements	
Zoning District	Minimum Tree Canopy Coverage
MFR, Multi-Family Residential	<del>20</del> 30%
NC, Neighborhood Commercial	<del>15</del> 20%
CM, Corridor Mixed	<del>15</del> 20%
BC, Business Commercial	<del>10</del> 20%
Table Notes: 1. The minimum canopy coverage requirements are based on gross lot area.	

**Section 5:** Severability. If any part, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, including each part, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more parts, sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be declared invalid.

**Section 6:** Repealer. All ordinances or resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed, provided that this repealer shall not repeal the repealer clauses of such ordinance nor revive any ordinance thereby.

INTRODUCED AS A BILL at a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council of the City of Littleton on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026, passed on first reading by a vote of \_\_\_\_ FOR and \_\_\_\_ AGAINST; and ordered published by posting at Littleton Center, Bemis Library, the Municipal Courthouse and on the City of Littleton Website.

PUBLIC HEARING on the Ordinance to take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2026, in the Council Chamber, Littleton Center, 2255 West Berry Avenue, Littleton, Colorado, at the hour of 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as it may be heard.

PASSED on second and final reading, following public hearing, by a vote of \_\_\_\_ FOR and \_\_\_\_ AGAINST on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2026 and ordered published by posting at Littleton Center, Bemis Library, the Municipal Courthouse and on the City of Littleton Website.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Colleen L. Norton  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kyle Schlachter  
MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reid Betzing  
CITY ATTORNEY

