

Chapter 65 | Landscaping and Screening

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Section 65.010 Purposes

The landscaping and screening regulations of this chapter establish minimum requirements for landscaping and screening. The regulations are intended to advance the general purposes of this zoning code and to help:

- 65.010-A** Maintain and enhance the city’s appearance;
- 65.010-B** Mitigate possible adverse impacts of higher intensity land uses abutting lower intensity land uses;
- 65.010-C** Reduce the impacts of noise and glare.
- 65.010-D** Maintain and improve air quality;
- 65.010-E** Protect surface water quality and reduce the negative impacts of stormwater runoff by reducing impervious surface area and providing vegetated areas that filter and retain greater amounts of stormwater on site;
- 65.010-F** Moderate heat by providing shade;
- 65.010-G** Encourage wise use of water resources;
- 65.010-H** Encourage preservation and replacement of existing trees and landscaping; and
- 65.010-I** Encourage greater use of low-impact development practices.¹

Section 65.020 Principles

The regulations of this chapter will be interpreted, administered and enforced in accordance with the following general principles:

- 65.020-A** Preservation of existing, healthy trees and shrubs is a top priority and is strongly encouraged.
- 65.020-B** Trees, shrubs, groundcover and turf must be the primary sources of landscaping and must be installed and maintained to reduce stormwater runoff and ensure safe visibility at intersections and points of vehicular access.
- ~~**65.020-C** Property owners are responsible for maintaining all required trees and landscape materials and for replacing any trees and plants that die.~~

¹ The outdoor lighting regulations are not a subject of this update. The current lighting regulations have been moved to their own chapter (Chapter 67).

~~65.020-D~~**65.020-C** The design of landscape areas to promote low-impact development practices (e.g., bioretention basins, rain gardens, filter strips, and grassed swales) is strongly encouraged and may be used to satisfy the landscaping regulations of this zoning code, subject to compliance with all applicable standards of the *Stormwater Management Criteria Manual*.

~~65.020-E~~**65.020-D** The alternative compliance provisions of Sec. ~~65.100-D~~ are intended to accommodate creativity in landscape and screening design and address site-specific barriers that prevent strict compliance with the regulations of this chapter.

Section 65.030 Applicability²

The landscaping and screening regulations of this chapter apply as set forth in the individual sections of this chapter. The following are expressly exempt from the landscaping and screening regulations of this chapter:

- 65.030-A** Agricultural uses;
- 65.030-B** Public parks and open spaces;
- 65.030-C** Household living uses consisting of a single household on one lot or 2 households on one lot (existing or proposed); and
- 65.030-D** Reconstruction of any building that is damaged or destroyed by tornadoes, straight-line winds, ice storms, accidental fire, floods, hail, lightning, or other forces beyond the reasonable control of the property owner..

Section 65.040 Street Trees

65.040-A Purpose

Street trees help maintain and enhance the appearance of the city, contribute to pedestrian safety and comfort and offer environmental benefits by allowing the infiltration of stormwater, reducing urban heating and improving air quality.

65.040-B Applicability

The street tree planting requirements of this section apply to all the following, except as otherwise expressly stated:

1. Construction of any principal building or non-accessory parking;
2. Any addition to or enlargement of an existing principal building when the addition or enlargement exceeds 20% of the building's existing floor area; and
3. Any increase in impervious coverage on the subject lot that exceeds 20% of the lot's existing impervious coverage.

65.040-C Requirements

1. Number

At least one large tree is required per 30 feet of street frontage. If large trees are not appropriate due to the presence of overhead ~~power~~ lines or other obstructions, at least one small tree is required per 25 feet of street frontage

² Still need to clarify that IMX and River Design Overlay are exempt from some or all of this chapter.

2. Location

- a. Required street trees must be installed on the subject property within 20 feet of the planned street right-of-way ~~or within~~ unless the land use administrator determines that the presence of buildings or obstructions or other factors prevent viable tree planting within this area, in which case required street trees must be installed in the first 7 feet of the planned street right-of-way.
- b. The land use administrator is expressly authorized to approve an alternative compliance landscape plan for installation of street trees in alternative locations when ~~there is not adequate room for circumstances prevent~~ tree planting within ~~20 feet of the planned street right-of-way or within the first 7 feet of the planned street right-of-way~~ areas described in Sec. 65.040-C2.a or when compliance with Sec. 65.040-C2.a would result in a poor growing environment for the tree or damage to public or private improvements.
- c. Required street trees must be located within pervious landscape areas or within tree wells.

3. Spacing

Street trees are not required to be evenly spaced, but the distance between street trees may not exceed 75 feet.

4. Materials, Installation and Maintenance

See [Section 65.080](#) and [Section 65.090](#).

Figure 65-1: Street Tree



Section 65.050 Interior Parking Lot Landscaping

65.050-A Purpose

The interior parking lot landscaping regulations of this section are intended to help mitigate the visual and stormwater runoff impacts of parking lots and provide shade for parked vehicles and pedestrians.

65.050-B Applicability

Unless otherwise expressly stated, the interior parking lot landscaping regulations of this section apply to all the following:

1. The construction of any new principal building or addition to a principal building that increases the floor area of principal buildings on the subject lot by more than 20%;
2. The construction or installation of any new parking lot containing 10 or more parking spaces; and
3. The expansion of any existing parking lot that increases the number of parking spaces or amount of paved area by more than 33%.

65.050-C Exception

Parking areas used solely for the display of motor vehicles for sale, lease or rental are exempt from the interior parking lot landscaping requirements of this section.

65.050-D Requirements**1. Landscape Area**

- a. At least 35 square feet of interior parking lot landscape area must be provided for each parking space. If compliance with this regulation would result in the loss of required parking spaces, the amount of parking required is automatically reduced by the amount needed to accommodate the required interior parking lot landscape area.
- b. When at least 50% of interior parking lot landscape area consists of depressed bioretention areas used for stormwater management, the minimum interior parking lot landscape area requirement is reduced from 35 square feet per parking space to 28 feet per parking space. To receive this bioretention credit, the ponding area must be at least 6 inches and not more than 18 inches in depth and planted with native wildflowers/forbs, grasses, shrubs or other appropriate plant material.

2. Trees and Plant Material

Required interior parking lot landscape areas must be landscaped at the minimum rates established in [Table 65-1](#).

Table 65-1: Minimum Interior Parking Lot Planting Requirements

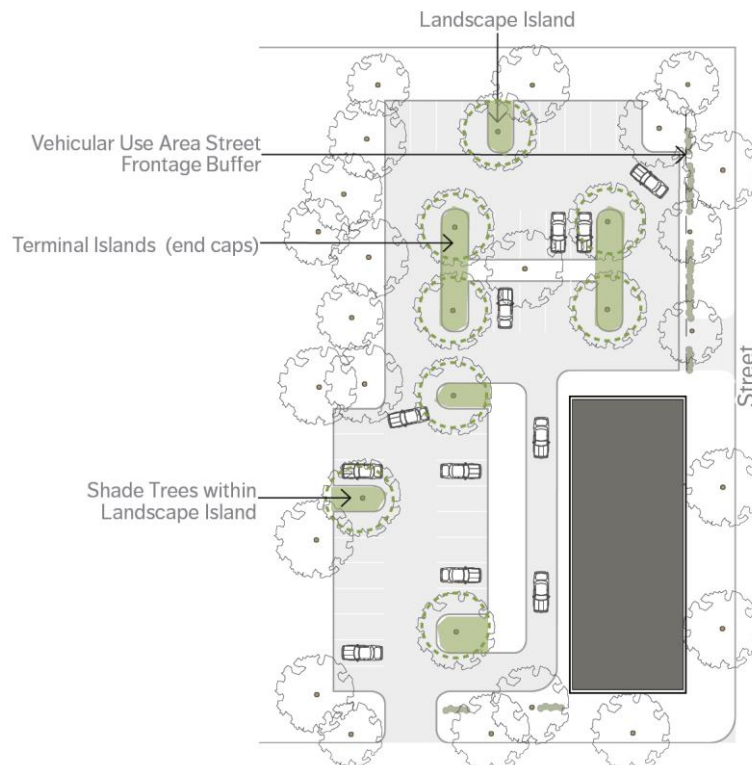
Trees and Plant Material	Minimum Number Required
Large or Medium Trees	1 per 10 parking spaces
Shrubs	2 per 10 parking spaces
Ground Cover	Complete coverage of required landscape areas

3. Location and Design

- a. Interior parking lot landscaping must be reasonably distributed throughout the parking lot and provided in landscape islands or medians ~~within the parking lot~~ that comply with all of the following requirements:
 - (1) They must be bordered by a paved surface on at least 2 sides;
 - (2) They must be at least 7 feet wide, as measured from the back of the curb;
 - (3) They must include at least one tree per island and be covered with ground cover plants or mulch;
 - (4) They must be protected by curbs or other barriers, which may include breaks or inlets to allow stormwater runoff to enter the landscape island; and

- (5) They must be located so that every parking space is within 100 feet of a tree.
- b. Parking rows that end abutting a paved driving surface must have a landscape terminal island (end cap) at that end of the parking row. All other parking lot landscape islands must be located to comply with all applicable regulations of this section.
 - c. The land use administrator is expressly authorized to approve landscape plans that do not provide terminal islands at the end of each parking row or that otherwise provide for reduced dispersal of interior parking lot landscape areas when proposed landscape planting areas are combined to form functional bioretention areas or to preserve existing trees and vegetation.
- 4. Vehicle Overhangs**
A portion of a motor vehicle parking space may be landscaped instead of paved to meet interior parking lot landscaping requirements. The landscaped area may be up to 2.5 feet of the front of the space, as measured from a line parallel to the direction of the bumper of the vehicle using the space. Groundcover plants must be provided in the allowed overhang area.
- 5. Relationship to Vehicular Use Area Buffer Regulations**
Landscape areas and plant material provided to satisfy the vehicular use area buffer regulations of [Section 65.060](#) may not be counted toward satisfying the interior parking lot landscaping regulations of this section ([Section 65.050](#)).
- 6. Materials, Installation and Maintenance**
See [Section 65.080](#) and [Section 65.090](#).

Figure 65-2: Interior Parking Lot Landscaping



Section 65.060 Vehicular Use Area Buffers**65.060-A Purpose**

The vehicular use area buffer regulations of this section are intended to help mitigate the visual and operational impacts of parking lots and other vehicular use areas³ when such areas are adjacent to streets or residential zoning districts.

65.060-B Applicability

Unless otherwise expressly stated, the vehicular use area buffer regulations of this section apply to all the following:

1. The construction or installation of any new vehicular use area with a contiguous paved area of 3,500 square feet or more; and
2. The expansion of any existing vehicular use area that results in the addition of 3,500 square feet of paved area, in which case the vehicular use area perimeter landscaping requirements of this section apply only to the expanded area.

65.060-C Requirements**1. Street Frontage Buffers**

- a. When a vehicular use area is located adjacent to a street right-of-way, street frontage buffers must be provided in accordance with the regulations of this subsection to physically and visually buffer the vehicular use area from the right-of-way.
- b. Street frontage buffers are required only when the vehicular use area is located within 100 feet of the right-of-way and there are no intervening buildings between the vehicular use area and the right-of-way.
- c. Except as expressly stated for vehicular use areas in the CBD zoning district (see [65.060-C1.e](#)), street frontage buffers must be at least 7 feet in width and be planted with at least one large or medium tree per 30 linear feet of landscape. An S1 low-profile screen must also be provided within the street frontage buffer, in accordance Sec. [65.070-C1](#).
- d. Trees planted to satisfy the street tree planting requirements of [Section 65.040](#) may be counted toward satisfying street frontage buffer tree planting requirements.

³ Vehicular use area = An area on a lot that is not contained within a garage or similar enclosed or partially enclosed structure that is designed and intended for use by motor vehicles, including parking lots, vehicle storage and display areas, loading areas; and driveways and drive-through lanes.

- e. In the CBD zoning district, required street frontage buffers must be at least 3 feet in width and include a minimum 3-foot tall decorative metal or wrought-iron fence or brick, stone, cast stone, or stamped concrete wall.
- f. Groundcover plants must be provided in all street frontage buffer areas that are not covered by fences or walls.
- g. The vehicle overhang allowance described in [65.050-D4](#) applies to parking spaces abutting street frontage buffer areas.

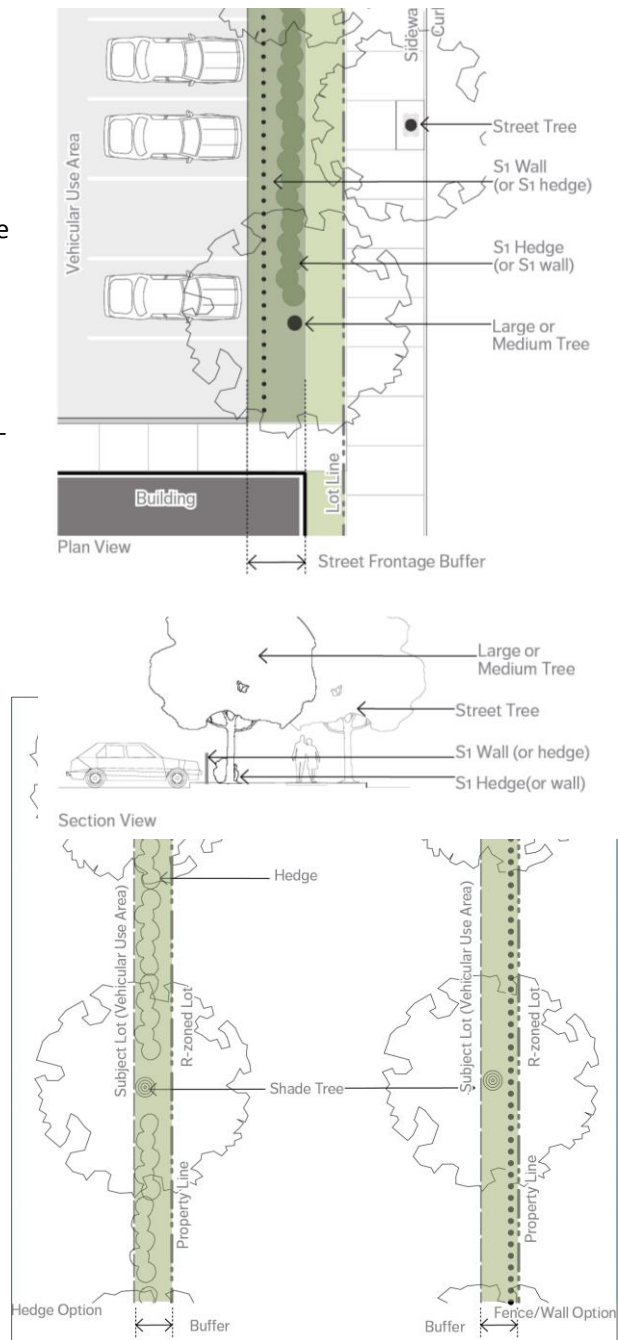
2. R District Buffers

- a. When a vehicular use area is located adjacent to an R-zoned lot, an R district buffer must be provided in the form of an F1 screen, in accordance with [65.070-C2](#).
- b. R district buffers are required only when the vehicular use area is located within 100 feet of an abutting R-zoned lot and there are no intervening buildings between the vehicular use area and the abutting R-zoned lot.
- c. Groundcover plants must be provided in all R district buffer areas that are not covered by fences or walls.
- d. The vehicle overhang allowance described in [Sec. 65.050-D4](#) applies to parking spaces abutting R district buffers.
- e.

3. Materials, Installation and Maintenance

See [Section 65.080](#) and [Section 65.090](#).

Figure 65-3: Vehicular Use Area Street Frontage Buffer



Section 65.070 Screening

65.070-A Purpose

Screening requirements are intended to partially or completely shield expressly identified uses and site features from view of abutting streets or other abutting lots.

65.070-B Features Required to be Screened

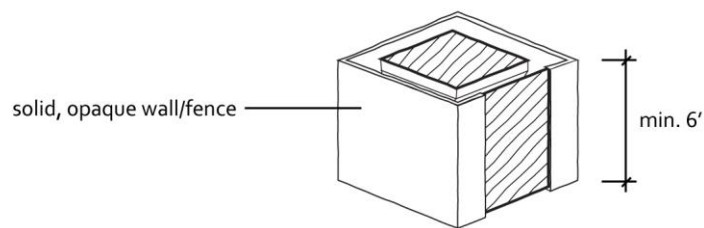
1. General

This subsection establishes screening requirements for several common site features that require visual separation from streets and abutting lots. Other uses, districts, structures and activity areas may also require screening in accordance with other provisions of this zoning code.

2. Dumpsters and Recyclable Material Bins

All dumpsters and recyclable material bins must be screened from view of the street and all abutting properties. Required screening must consist of an opaque fence or wall with a minimum height of 6 feet. One side of the storage area must be furnished with an opaque, lockable gate.

Figure 65-5: Dumpster and Recycling Bin Screening

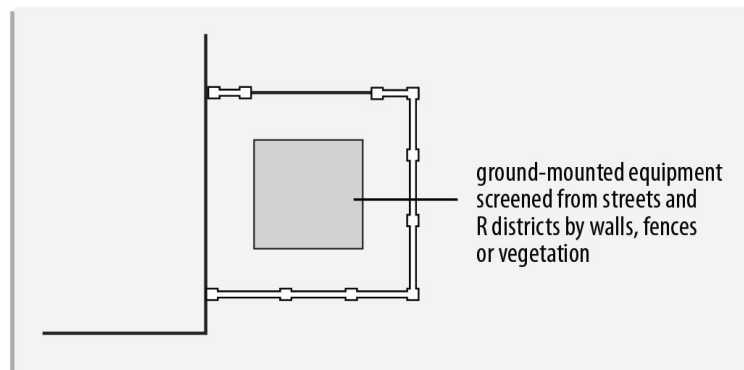


3. Mechanical Equipment

a. Ground-mounted Equipment

Mechanical equipment located at ground level, such as heating or cooling equipment, pumps, or generators must be screened from view of the street and any abutting R districts by walls, fences or vegetation. Screening must be at least as tall as the tallest part of the equipment required to be screened.

Figure 65-6: Screening of Ground-mounted Equipment



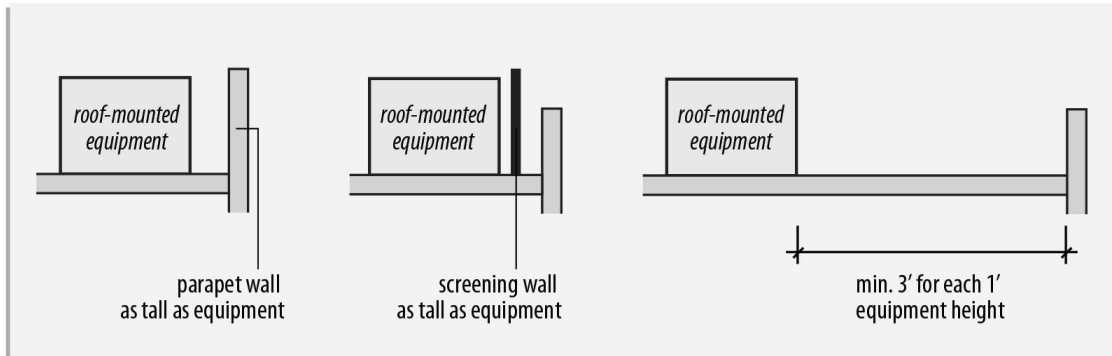
b. Roof-mounted Equipment

Mechanical equipment placed on roofs must be screened in one of the following ways, if the equipment is within 50 feet of an R zoning district:

- (1) A parapet along facades facing the R district that is as least as tall as the tallest part of the equipment;
- (2) A screening fence or wall around the equipment that is as least as tall as the tallest part of the equipment required to be screened; or

- (3) An equipment setback from roof edges facing the R district by at least 3 feet for each one foot of equipment height.

Figure 65-7: Screening of Roof-mounted Equipment



65.070-C Type of Screens

1. S1, Low-profile Screen

a. Purpose

The S1, low-profile screen is intended to help soften visual impacts of certain site features and provide an “urban edge” along lot borders and other site features, while maintaining some visibility of the areas required to be screened.

b. Design

The S1 screen requires shrubs planted to form a continuous visual barrier (hedge) at least 3 feet in height. A 3-foot tall brick, stone, cast stone, or formed concrete wall may be substituted for the shrubs.

2. F1, Screening Fence or Wall

a. Purpose

An F1 screening fence or wall is required in those instances where a complete visual barrier is needed.

b. Options

F1 screening requirements may be met by either of the following options.

- (1) The installation of an opaque fence at least 6 feet in height and at least one tree per 25 linear feet of fence; or
- (2) The installation of a masonry wall with a minimum height of 6 feet.

c. Street Setback

When located in the required street setback, required F1 screening fences and walls may not exceed 4 feet in height.

3. Materials, Installation and Maintenance

See [Section 65.080](#) and [Section 65.090](#).

4. Modification of Requirements

- a. Applicable screening requirements may be waived or modified through the alternative compliance approval process (see [§65.100-D](#)) or through the special exception approval process when:

- (1) Existing features provide a visual screen equivalent to the screening requirements of this section;
 - (2) The screening requirements cannot be achieved; or
 - (3) The screening is prohibited by other ordinances or regulations or by plat restrictions.
- b. An extension of time to install required screening may be approved through the special exception approval process when the properties benefited by the screening are undeveloped.
- 5. Screening or Setbacks Triggered by Proximity to Nonresidential Areas/Features**
When a screening wall or fence or setback is required by this zoning code because a use abuts one or more R districts, such wall, fence, or setback is not required if the actual use of the abutting R district is a freeway, expressway, turnpike, nonresidential use; or a nonresidential development area. This exemption from screening does not apply to junk or salvage yards.

Section 65.080 Landscape and Screening Material

65.080-A General

1. Applicability

The regulations of this section apply to all trees, plant materials, and other features used to satisfy the landscaping and screening requirements of this zoning code.

2. Plant List

The planning and development director is authorized to prepare a specific list of recommended and prohibited plant species for use in administering and enforcing the regulations of this chapter.

3. Selection

Trees and plants used to satisfy the requirements of this zoning code must:

- a. Meet or exceed the plant quality standards established in the latest edition of the American Standard for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1);
- b. Be native to North America adapted for growing conditions in the Tulsa area, as determined by the land use administrator; and
- c. Not be artificial plants or listed as a prohibited species on the recommended and prohibited species.

4. Planting Areas

- a. All planting areas must have amended soil to help ensure the health of newly installed plant material.
- b. All planting areas must be contained by edging material other than vegetation.

65.080-B Trees

1. Types

Unless otherwise expressly specified, required trees may be deciduous (broadleaf) or evergreen (conifers).

2. Size

a. New Trees

New or transplanted trees provided to satisfy the requirements of this zoning code must comply with the following minimum size requirements:

- (1) Large trees must have a minimum caliper size of 2.0 inches at the time of installation;
- (2) Small trees must have a minimum caliper size of 1.5 inches at the time of installation; and
- (3) Evergreen trees must have a minimum height of 6 feet at the time of installation.

b. Overhead ~~Power~~ Lines

Trees to be installed below overhead ~~power~~ lines must be selected from the list of small trees specified ~~in~~ the recommended and prohibited species list or be otherwise expressly approved by the land use administrator.

c. Existing (Preserved) Trees

- (1) Preserved trees will be credited toward satisfying the tree planting requirements of this zoning code in accordance with the regulations of this subsection ([65.080-B2.c](#)).
- (2) Credit will be given on the following basis:
 - (a) Preserved trees up to 6 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) will be credited as 3 trees.
 - (b) Preserved trees larger than 6 inches DBH, up to 12 inches DBH will be credited as 4 trees;
 - (c) Preserved trees that are more than 12 inches DBH up to 24 inches DBH will be credited as 5 trees; and
 - (d) Preserved trees that are more than 24 inches DBH will be credited at a ratio of 10 trees.
- (3) The tree preservation incentive credits provided in this subsection ([65.080-B2.c](#)) may not be used to reduce the number of trees required by this chapter by more than 50%.
- (4) To receive tree preservation credit, the following additional conditions must be met:
- (5) Preserved trees for which credit is given must be in good health and condition and may not be prohibited species;
- (6) The original grade of the dripline area of a preserved tree may not be changed;
- (7) Tree protection fencing must be installed around the outer limits of the dripline area and remain in place from commencement of construction activity until all exterior work is complete.

(8) Tree protection fencing must consist of orange vinyl construction fencing, chain link fencing, snow fencing or other similar fencing at least 42 inches in height and supported at maximum of 10-foot intervals by posts or stakes sufficient to keep the fence upright and in place. A visible warning/no-disturb sign must be affixed to fence at 100-foot intervals.

(9) The land use administrator is expressly authorized to reduce off-street parking requirements to allow for the preservation of existing trees.

(10) If healthy, preserved trees are removed, they must be replaced by the number trees for which credit was given.

(11) If preserved trees die or are lost to storms or natural causes within one year of the date of approval of the landscape plan, they must be replaced by the number trees for which credit was given. If preserved trees dies or are lost to storms or natural causes beyond one year of the date of approval of the landscape plan, they must be replaced by an equal number of trees (1:1 basis).

(12) If preserved

~~(10)~~(13)

3. Species

If more than 10 trees are required, no more than 40% may be of a single species. If more than 25 trees are required, no more than 25% may be of a single species. This requirement applies to trees being planted, not to existing trees.

65.080-C Shrubs

1. New Shrubs

- a. Deciduous shrubs must have a minimum container size of 3 gallons.
- b. Evergreen shrubs must have a minimum container size of 5 gallons.
- c. Shrubs may also be balled and burlapped.
- d. If more than 75 shrubs are required, no more than 40% may be of a single species.

2. Existing (Preserved) Shrubs

Existing shrubs may be used to satisfy the landscaping and screening requirements of this zoning code if protected and maintained during site development and construction phases of work and if such plants are not otherwise prohibited.

65.080-D Ground Cover

1. All required landscape areas that are not planted with trees or shrubs must be covered with ground cover plants, which may include turf. Mulch must be confined to areas underneath trees and shrubs and is not an allowed substitute for ground cover.
2. Ground cover plants other than turf must be minimum 4-inch pot or plug size. Areas planted in ground cover other than turf must be planted at distances appropriate for the species and at a density that will achieve complete coverage after the second full growing season.

65.080-E Mulch

All required trees and shrubs must be located within a mulched area and be separated from turf by a minimum distance of 2 feet (4-foot diameter mulched area). Mulch within such areas must comply with the following requirements:

1. Mulch must be applied to provide ~~at~~ a 2-inch (minimum) to 4-inch (maximum) soil cover, with no weed barrier material visible.
2. At least 50% of the total mulch area must be comprised of organic mulch, such as bark, shredded wood, wood chips, or other organic matter. Mineral mulch such as decorative stone, river stone or tumbled glass may be used in up to 50% of the mulch area.
3. Organic mulch must ~~consist of regionally sourced,~~be fully chipped or shredded, unsplintered wood product or bark chips free of soil, rocks, weeds, metals, toxins, and foreign objects.

65.080-F Fences and Walls

Unless otherwise expressly stated, fences and walls provided to meet the regulations of this chapter are subject to the regulations of this subsection.

1. Fences must durable and constructed with materials that are customarily used for fences, including wood, decorative rigid vinyl (polyvinyl chloride), metal or wrought iron. Fence posts must be structurally stable.
2. The finished side of all fences other than tree protection fences must face the adjacent property or street. Chain-link fencing may not be used to satisfy the regulations of this chapter.
3. Walls, raised planting beds and planters must be constructed of brick, stone or other durable masonry material approved by the land use administrator.

Section 65.090 Landscape Installation, Irrigation and Maintenance**65.090-A Installation**

1. Required landscaping must be installed in accordance with an approved landscape plan.
2. All trees and plant material must be installed in accordance with sound nursery practices, in a manner designed to encourage vigorous growth.
3. All newly installed trees must be staked.
4. Trees and plant material suitable for planting must be balled and burlapped or container grown. Planting areas should be at least twice the diameter of the root system or the container.
5. All landscaped areas that are adjacent to pavement must be protected with curbs or equivalent barriers. Flush curbs, curb cuts, or other methods must be used to direct stormwater to landscape areas that abut paved areas.
6. Landscaping may not obstruct traffic visibility at street intersections or driveways and must comply with the intersection sight distance regulations of Title 24 (§103.A) of the Tulsa Revised Ordinances as well as AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) guidelines.

7. The city is not liable for any damage to above-ground or below-ground improvements or landscaping within the public right of way, even when such damage or destruction is the direct result of government action. When landscaping is placed or installed within the public right-of-way, the city has no obligation to replace or repair such landscaping if removed or damaged by city field operations or other governmental functions. The city also has no obligation to maintain above ground or below ground improvements or landscaping within the public right-of-way.

65.090-B Protection

All landscape areas provided to meet the requirements of this zoning code must be protected from potential damage by adjacent uses and development, including parking and storage areas.

65.090-C Irrigation

1. All required landscaped areas must be provided with irrigation in accordance with one of the following 2 options:
 - a. A permanent irrigation system with a controller to tailor watering schedules to weather and site conditions; or
 - b. A temporary irrigation system that provides sufficient water to ensure that all trees and plants will become established.
2. Irrigation systems must comply with all applicable building and plumbing codes.

65.090-D Timing of Installation

1. All required landscaping and appurtenances, except trees, must be installed prior to the issuance of a ~~final~~ certificate of occupancy.
- ~~2. The development administrator is authorized to issue a temporary certificate of occupancy prior to installation of all required landscaping when the subject property owner deposits an irrevocable letter of credit, escrow, performance bond or other surety in an amount equal to 100% of the estimated cost of the uninstalled landscaping. The financial surety must be in a form approved by the city attorney.~~
2. All required trees must be installed within 120 days after issuance of a certificate of occupancy or temporary certificate of occupancy.

65.090-E Certificate of Installation

Within a CO, PUD or MPD district or whenever a mandatory or optional development plan is approved, certification of installation of required landscaping must be provided as required by any express provisions of the CO, PUD or MPD district or mandatory or optional development plan approval that was granted. In all other cases, within 120 days of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or temporary certificate of occupancy, written certification by the owner of the property, an architect, landscape architect or engineer licensed to do business in the State of Oklahoma must be submitted to the city stating that all landscaping and appurtenances have been installed in accordance with the approved landscape plan.

65.090-F Maintenance

1. Required landscaping and screening must be continuously maintained, including necessary watering; weeding; pruning; pest control; litter and debris clean-up; and replacement of dead, diseased or damaged plant material.

2. Failure to comply with an approved landscaping plan, including failure to maintain required landscaping and screening and failure to replace dead, diseased or damaged landscaping, constitutes a violation of this zoning code and is subject to penalties and enforcement under Chapter 85.
3. The property owner is responsible for maintenance of trees and landscaping in accordance with the approved landscape plan and the regulations of this zoning code. Any dead, diseased or damaged trees, landscaping or screening materials must be removed and replaced by the property owner within 90 days of date that written notice of the obligation to remove and replace required landscaping is issued by the city. Property owners have no obligation to replace or restore required landscaping that is damaged or destroyed as a direct result of government action or lawful action of a franchise utility provider.

Section 65.100 Landscape Plans

65.100-A Preparation of Landscape Plan

Required landscape plans must be ~~prepared and sealed~~accompanied by written certification from an architect, landscape architect or engineer licensed to practice in the State of Oklahoma, that the landscape plan is in conformance with the minimum requirements of this chapter, provided that written certification must be provided by a landscape architect licensed to practice in the State of Oklahoma if the subject property:

- a. Is subject to an approved mandatory or optional development plan; or
- b. Has a lot area of more than 20,000 square feet and is occupied by buildings with a combined gross floor area of more than 15,000 square feet.

~~2. All other required landscape plans must meet the same requirement or be accompanied by written certification from an architect, landscape architect or engineer licensed to practice in the State of Oklahoma, that the landscape plan is in conformance with the minimum requirements of this chapter.~~

65.100-B Required Information

All building permit applications for sites requiring landscaping must include a landscape plan that includes at least the following information:

1. General

The date, scale, north arrow, and name of the property owner;

2. Site Features

- a. The location of property lines and dimensions of the site;
- b. The approximate center line of existing water courses;
- c. The approximate location of significant drainage features;
- d. The location and size of existing and proposed streets and alleys, drive aisles, parking areas and sidewalks on or adjacent to the lot;
- e. The location of all existing and proposed buildings and structures on the lot;
- f. Existing topography and proposed grading;
- g. Area in which grading and vegetation removal will occur; and
- h. The location of existing and proposed utility easements and overhead utility lines on or adjacent to the lot.

3. Proposed Landscaping

- a. The location, size and type of proposed landscaping (trees, shrubs, groundcover) and the location and size of the proposed landscape areas;
- b. Planting details and specifications, including type of mulch and edging to be used in landscape areas;
- c. The method of protecting any existing trees and vegetation proposed to be preserved, including the identification of existing and finished contours illustrating the limits of grading near the drip line of any trees;
- d. The proposed irrigation plan for each required landscape area, including a list of abbreviations and symbols, water main size, water meter size and location, point of connection, backflow prevention assembly size, make and model;
- e. The schedule of installation of required trees, landscaping and appurtenances;
- f. The location of all existing and proposed structures on the site;
- g. The existing topography and proposed grading; and
- h. The area and dimensions of each landscape area and the total landscape area provided on the site.

65.100-C Administrative Review

After receipt of a complete landscape plan, the development administrator must:

1. Approve the landscape plan as complying with the requirements of this chapter;
2. Approve the landscape plan with conditions of approval that will bring it into compliance with the requirements of this chapter; or
3. Reject the landscape plan as failing to comply with the requirements of this chapter.

65.100-D Alternative Compliance Landscape and Screening Plans

1. To accommodate creativity in landscape and screening design and to allow for flexibility in addressing atypical, site-specific development/redevelopment challenges, the land use administrator is authorized to approve alternative compliance landscape plans prepared by a landscape architect licensed to practice in the State of Oklahoma. In order to approve such alternative compliance landscape plans, the land use administrator must determine that one or more of the following conditions or opportunities are present:
 - a. The site has space limitations or an unusual shape that makes strict compliance impossible or impractical;
 - b. Physical conditions on or adjacent to the site such as topography, soils, vegetation or existing structures or utilities are such that strict compliance is impossible, impractical or of no value in terms of advancing the general purposes of this chapter;
 - c. Safety considerations such as intersection visibility, utility locations, etc., make alternative compliance necessary; or
 - d. Creative, alternative landscape plans will provide an equal or better means of meeting the intent of the landscaping and screening regulations of this chapter.

- 2.** The land use administrator is expressly authorized to approve alternative compliance landscape plans for projects implementing low-impact development practices or seeking sustainable development or green building certification from nationally recognized organizations, such as the International Code Council, the U.S. Green Building Council, the International Living Future Institute, the U.S. Green Building Initiative or SITES, as follows:
 - a.** Sites implementing low-impact development (LID) solutions meeting the general LID and stormwater regulation guidelines of Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources may be approved as alternative compliance landscape plans.
 - (1)** LID plans must be sealed by a landscape architect licensed to practice in the State of Oklahoma.
 - (2)** LID development solutions may be provided in the street right-of-way, subject to approval by all applicable city agencies. Such improvements must be maintained by the adjoining property owner.
 - (3)** All aspects of an LID project, including permeable pavement, bioretention areas, rain gardens, filter strips, grassed swales, green roofs, wetlands natural stream restoration or preservation will be considered part of the approved alternative compliance landscape plan.
 - b.** Plans for sites for which property owners are seeking sustainable development or green building certification from nationally recognized organizations may be approved as alternative compliance landscape plans.
 - (1)** Landscape plans must be sealed by a landscape architect licensed to practice in the State of Oklahoma.
 - (2)** Landscape improvements may be provided in the street right-of-way, subject to approval by all applicable city agencies. Such improvements must be maintained by the adjoining property owner.
 - (3)** All proposed aspects of the proposed certification, including hardscape material selections, site lighting, grey water irrigation systems and other components of the site may be considered as part of the approved alternative compliance landscape plan.

Chapter 67 | Outdoor Lighting

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Section 67.010 Purposes⁴

The outdoor lighting regulations of this chapter are intended to help ensure adequate lighting for motorized and nonmotorized travelers; provide for the efficient use of energy; and reduce the impacts of nuisance lighting and glare on nearby areas.

Section 67.020 Applicability and Exemptions

The outdoor lighting regulations of this section apply to all outdoor lighting installed after the effective date specified in **Section 1.030**, except that they do not apply to any of the following:

- 67.020-A** Outdoor lighting on lots occupied by residential buildings containing fewer than 4 dwelling units;
- 67.020-B** Public street lights;
- 67.020-C** Airport runway and aviation safety lights required by the FAA (e.g., warning lights on radio, communication and navigation towers);
- 67.020-D** Spotlighting of official government flags, provided that spotlighting is contained within the area of the flag;
- 67.020-E** Outdoor lighting used exclusively for and during public recreational activities, sporting events at stadiums and ball fields or other outdoor public spaces or venues;
- 67.020-F** Outdoor lighting used for emergency equipment and work conducted in the interest of law enforcement or for public health, safety or welfare;
- 67.020-G** Outdoor lighting in association with special events approved by the city council;
- 67.020-H** Outdoor lighting used for a temporary use lasting no more than 10 days;
- 67.020-I** Lighting fixtures with a light output of no more than 1,000 lumens; and
- 67.020-J** Temporary holiday light displays.

Section 67.030 General Standards

All outdoor lighting must comply with the following general standards:

67.030-A Canopy-Mounted Lights

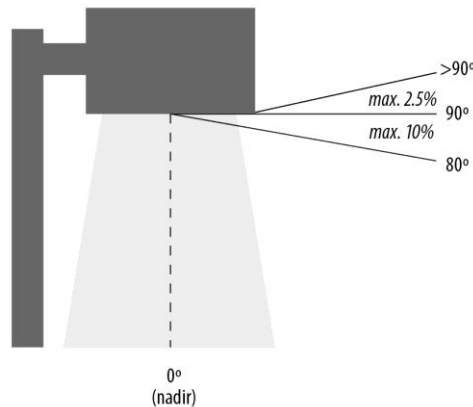
Recessed fixtures must be used in all under-canopy lighting. No lamps, reflectors, refractors or focusing or diffusing may extend below the underside of the canopy surface.

⁴ Outdoor lighting regulations are currently included as part of Chapter 65. They are proposed to be moved to their own chapter as part of the landscape regulations update.

67.030-B Arrangement and Shielding

1. Lighting must be installed to shield and direct light away from abutting lots that are not under common ownership or control with the lot on which the lights are located. Shielding must be designed and installed to ensure that the light-producing element of the fixture is not visible from on the abutting property, as measured 5 feet above grade.
2. Light-producing elements must be concealed or shielded with cutoffs so that no more than 2.5% of the light emitted directly from the lamp or indirectly from the fixture is projected at an angle of more than 90 degrees above nadir and no more than 10% of the light emitted directly from the lamp or indirectly from the fixture is projected at an angle of more than 80 degrees above nadir.

Figure 67-1: Required Shielding



67.030-C Spillover Light

Light trespass along the lot line of the subject property may not exceed 0.5 foot-candles when abutting an agricultural or residential zoning district and may not exceed 3.0 foot-candles when abutting any other zoning district or public right-of-way. Maximum illumination levels are measured 3 feet above grade or from the top of any opaque screening fence or wall along the property line.

Section 67.040 Lighting Plans

67.040-A General

Outdoor lighting plans demonstrating compliance with the standards of this section are required with the submittal of a site plan. If no outdoor lighting is proposed, a note must be placed on the face of the site plan indicating that no outdoor lighting will be provided. Applicants have 2 options for the format of the required lighting plan:

1. Submit a lighting plan that complies with the fixture height lighting plan requirements of [§67.040-B](#); or
2. Submit a photometric plan demonstrating that compliance will be achieved using taller fixture heights, in accordance with [§67.040-C](#).

67.040-B Option 1: Fixture Height Standard Lighting Plan

Option 1 (Fixture Height Standard Lighting Plans) establishes maximum light fixture heights but does not require submittal of a detailed photometric plan.

1. Information Required

Fixture height standard lighting plans must include at least the following:

- a. A scale drawing of the site with all outdoor lighting locations shown;
- b. Fixture specifications, including catalog cut-sheets or generic standards;
- c. Pole type and height of fixture;
- d. Lamp type and size; and
- e. Fixture mounting and orientation.

2. Maximum Fixture Heights

Allowable heights of light fixtures must be measured from the light-emitting surface to finished grade at the base of the pole. Maximum allowed light fixture heights are based on the (ground-level) horizontal distance between the light fixture and any agricultural or residential zoning district or public right-of-way, as established in ...

...[Table 67-1](#):

Table 67-1: Maximum Light Fixture Heights

Distance from AG District, R District or Public Right-of-Way (feet)	Maximum Fixture Height (feet)
0 – 50	16
50.01 – 250	20
More than 250	35

67.040-C Option 2: Photometric Study

Under option 2 (Photometric Study Lighting Plan) no maximum fixture heights are established, but applicants are required to submit a photometric study in sufficient detail to demonstrate that all applicable outdoor light standards will be met. The photometric study must include at least the following:

- 1. A scale drawing of the site with all outdoor lighting locations shown;
- 2. Fixture specifications, including catalog cut-sheets or generic standards;
- 3. Lamp type and size;
- 4. Fixture mounting heights, mounting orientation, and tilt angles if applicable; and
- 5. A representative point-by-point illumination array for the site showing property lines and all off-site lighting impacts.

Section 67.050 Measurement of Illumination

Light levels must be measured with a direct-reading, portable light meter, calibrated annually by an independent laboratory regularly engaged in the calibration of such instruments. The meter's sensor must be located at the top of the visual screening fence or wall along on the property line (or at a height of 3 feet above finished grade at the property line if there is no fence or wall), aimed towards the subject property in horizontal position. Readings must be recorded after the value has stabilized. Measurements are made after establishment of darkness with the light sources to be measured illuminated, and then with those light sources extinguished. The difference between these 2 readings must then be compared to the maximum allowed illumination at the property line. In this way, contributions to light levels by the moon and other ambient light sources are eliminated and the light intensity from the subject light sources can be accurately determined.

Landscape Chapter Companion Amendments

Section 55.050-L Conflicts with Interior Parking Lot Landscape Regulations

If compliance with the minimum interior parking lot landscaping regulation of 65.050-D.1 would result in the loss of required parking spaces, the amount of parking required is automatically reduced by the amount needed to accommodate the required interior parking lot landscape area.

Section 85.020 Violations

Unless otherwise expressly allowed by this zoning code or state law, any violation of a provision of this zoning code—including any of the following—are subject to the remedies and penalties provided for in this zoning code.

- 85.020-A** To use land, buildings or other structures in any way that is not consistent with the requirements of this zoning code;
- 85.020-B** To erect a building or other structure in any way not consistent with the requirements of this zoning code;
- 85.020-C** To install or use a sign in any way not consistent with the requirements of this zoning code;
- 85.020-D** To engage in the use of a building, structure or land, the use or installation of a sign, or any other activity requiring one or more permits or approvals under this zoning code without obtaining such required permits or approvals;
- 85.020-E** To engage in the use of a building, structure or land, the use or installation of a sign, or any other activity for which a permit or approval has been granted under this zoning code or under previous zoning codes of the city in any way inconsistent with such permit or approval or any conditions imposed on the permit or approval;
- 85.020-F** To violate the terms of any permit or approval granted under this zoning code or under previous zoning codes of the city or any condition imposed on the permit or approval;
- 85.020-G** To obscure, obstruct or destroy any notice required to be posted under this zoning code;
- 85.020-H** To violate any lawful order issued by any authorized public official;
- 85.020-I** To continue any violation after receipt of notice of a violation;
- 85.020-J** To fail to install or maintain required landscaping and screening material.