

Section 1. That SMC section 17C.200.010 is amended to read as follows:

Section 17C.200.010 Purpose

- A. The City of Spokane recognizes the aesthetic, ecological, and economic value of landscaping and requires its use to:
1. promote the distinct character and quality of life and development expected by the community as indicated and supported in the policies of the comprehensive plan;
 2. maintain and protect property values;
 3. enhance the visual appearance of the City;
 4. enhance the compatibility of new development with surrounding properties;
 5. preserve and enhance Spokane's urban forest;
 6. preserve and enhance existing vegetation;
 7. reduce stormwater runoff pollution, temperature, and volume;
 8. aid in energy conservation by providing shade and shelter from the wind; and
 9. promote water conservation and reduced maintenance.
- B. The following landscaping and screening standards are applicable to all sites in RA, RSF, RTF, RMF, RHD, O, OR, NR, NMU, CB, GC, CC, LI, PI HI, **and downtown zones and FBC zones**. These standards address materials, placement, layout, and timing of installation.

Section 2. That SMC section 17C.200.040 is amended to read as follows:

Section 17C.200.040 Site Planting Standards

Sites shall be planted in accordance with the following standards:

- A. Street Frontages.
1. The type of plantings as specified below shall be provided inside the property lines:
 - a. along all commercial, light industrial, and planned industrial zoned properties except where buildings are built with no setback from the property line: a six-foot wide planting area of L2 see-through buffer, including street trees as prescribed in [SMC 17C.200.050](#). Remaining setback areas shall be planted in L3.
 - b. along all downtown, CC1, CC2, **and CC4, and FBC** zoned properties except where buildings are built with no setback from the property line **or along a Type 1 Street of the FBC**: a five-foot wide planting area of L2 see-through buffer, including street trees as prescribed in [SMC 17C.200.050](#), Street Tree Requirements. Remaining setback areas shall be planted in L3. Living ground cover shall be used, with non-living materials (gravel,

river rock, etc.) as accent only. In addition, earthen berms, trellises, low decorative masonry walls, or raised masonry planters (overall height including any plantings shall not exceed three feet) may be used to screen parking lots from adjacent streets and walkways.

- c. in the heavy industrial zone, along a parking lot, outdoor sales, or
- d. outdoor display area that is across from a residential zone: a six-foot wide planting area of L2 see-through buffer, including street trees as prescribed in [SMC 17C.200.050](#). Remaining setback areas shall be planted in L3.
- e. in industrial zones, all uses in the commercial categories (see [chapter 17C.190 SMC](#), Use Category Descriptions, Article III, Commercial Categories) are subject to the standards for uses in the general commercial (GC) zone.
- f. along all RA, RSF, RTF, RMF, and RHD zones, except for single-family residences and duplexes: six feet of L3 open area landscaping, including street trees as prescribed in [SMC 17C.200.050](#). For residential development along principal and minor arterials, a six-foot high fence with shrubs and trees may be used for screening along street frontages. The fence and landscaping shall comply with the standards of [SMC 17C.120.310](#) for the clear view triangle and must be placed no closer than twelve feet from the curb line. A minimum of fifty percent of the fence line shall include shrubs and trees. The landscaping is required to be placed on the exterior (street side) of the fence.

2. Except for attached and detached single-family residences and duplexes, plantings may not exceed thirty-six inches in height or hang lower than ninety-six inches within the clear view triangle at street intersections on corner lots and at driveway entries to public streets. The clear view triangle is defined in [SMC 17C.120.310](#). The director of engineering services may further limit the height of plantings, landscaping structures, and other site development features within the clear view triangle or may expand the size of the clear view triangle as conditions warrant.



B. Other Property Perimeters.

A planting strip of five feet in width shall be provided along all other property lines except where buildings are built with no setback from the property line or where a parking lot adjoins another parking lot. The type of planting in this strip varies depending upon the zone designation of the properties sharing the property line (with or without an intervening alley) as indicated in the matrix below. Where properties with dissimilar zones share a common boundary, the property with the more intense zone shall determine the required type of planting. The owners of adjacent properties may agree to consolidate their perimeter plantings along shared boundaries. Therefore, instead of each property providing a five-foot wide planting strip, they together could provide one five-foot wide planting strip, so long as the required planting type, as indicated in the matrix, is provided. Types of landscaping to be provided in planting strips alongside and

rear property lines:

SUBJECT PROPERTY ZONE (vertical)	ADJACENT PROPERTY ZONE (horizontal)												
	RA	RSF	RTF	RMF	RHD	O, OR	NR, NMU	CB	GC	CC, FBC	LI, PI	HI	DT
RA	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
RSF	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
RTF	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
RMF	L2	L2	L2	L3	L2	L2	L2	L1	L1	L1	--	--	L1
RHD	L2	L2	L2	L2	L3	L2	L2	L2	L2	L2	--	--	L2
O, OR	L2	L2	L2	L2	L2	L3	L2	L2	L2	--	--	--	L2
NR, NMU	L2	L1	L2	L2	L2	L2	L3	L3	L2	--	--	--	L3
CB	L1	L1	L1	L1	L2	L2	L3	L3	L3	--	--	--	L3
GC	L1	L1	L1	L1	L2	L2	L2	L3	L3	--	--	--	L3
CC, FBC	L1	L1	L1	L1	L2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
LI, PI [3]	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	L2	--	--	--	--	--	--
HI [3]	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	--	--	--	--	--	--
DT	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	L2	L2	L3	L3	--	--	--	--

Notes:
 [1] In the industrial zones, all uses in the commercial categories (see [chapter 17C.190 SMC](#), Use Category Descriptions, Article III, Commercial Categories) are subject to the standards for uses in the general commercial (GC) zone.

C. Planning Director Discretion.

The planning director shall have the discretion to waive or reduce the requirements of subsections (A)(1) and (B) of this section based on the following factors:

1. No useable space for landscaping exists between the proposed new structure and existing structures on adjoining lots or alleys because of inadequate sunlight or inadequate width.
2. The building setback provided in front of the new structure is less than six feet or is developed as a plaza with decorative paving/pavers, trees, planters, or other amenities.
3. Xeriscape landscaping is utilized in designated stormwater control areas.
4. When existing trees and other vegetation serves the same or similar function as the required landscaping, they may be substituted for the required landscaping if they are healthy and appropriate for the site at mature size. When existing trees are eight inches or more in diameter, they shall be equivalent to three required landscape trees. If necessary, supplemental landscaping shall be provided in areas where existing vegetation is utilized to accomplish the intent of this chapter.

D. Other Areas.

All other portions of a site not covered by structures, hard surfaces, or other prescribed landscaping shall be planted in L3 open area landscaping until the maximum landscape requirement threshold is reached (see [SMC 17C.200.080](#)).

E. Parking Lot Landscaping Design.

1. Purpose.

To reduce the visual impact of parking lots through landscaped areas, trellises, and/or other architectural features that complement the overall design and character of developments.



2. Parking Lot Landscaping Design Implementation.

This section is subject to the provisions of [SMC 17C.120.015](#), Design Standards Administration.

3. The parking lot landscape shall reinforce pedestrian and vehicle circulation, especially parking lot entrances, ends of driving aisles, and pedestrian walkways leading through parking lots. (P)

4. Planted areas next to a pedestrian walkways and sidewalks shall be maintained or plant material chosen to maintain a clear zone between three and eight feet from ground level. (R)



5. Low walls and raised planters (a maximum height of three feet), trellises with vines, architectural features, or special interest landscape features shall be used to define entrances to parking areas. Where signs are placed on walls, they shall be integrated into the design and complement the architecture or character of other site features. (P)

6. Landscape plant material size, variety, color, and texture within parking lots should be integrated with the overall site landscape design. (C)

F. Parking, Outdoor Sales, and Outdoor Display Areas.

1. In residential, commercial, **and** center and corridor, **and FBC** zones, a six-foot wide planting area of L2 see-through buffer landscaping shall be provided between any parking lot, outdoor sales, outdoor display area, and a street right-of-way. Living ground cover shall be used, with non-living materials (gravel, river rock, etc.) as accent only. In addition, earthen berms, trellises, low decorative masonry walls, raised masonry planters, or L1 visual screen landscaping shall be used to screen parking lots from adjacent streets and walkways (overall height including any plantings or structures shall not exceed three feet). Trees required as a part of the L2 landscape strip shall be located according to the standards for street trees in [SMC 17C.200.050](#), Street Tree Requirements.

2. In residential, commercial, **and** center and corridor, **and FBC** zones all parking stalls shall be within sixty feet of a planted area with L3 open area landscaping.

All individual planting areas within parking lots shall be at least one hundred fifty square feet in size.

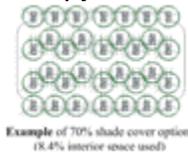
3. In residential, commercial, **and** center and corridor, **and FBC** zones all paved parking areas on a site with more than fifty cumulative parking spaces shall have plantings that satisfies one of the following options:

- a. Option 1.

Interior landscaping consisting of L3 open area landscaping, including trees amounting to at least ten percent of the total area of the paved parking area, excluding required perimeter and street frontage strips. A minimum of one interior tree shall be planted for every six parking spaces.

- b. Option 2.

Tree plantings shall be spaced in order that tree canopies cover a minimum of seventy percent of the entire paved area of the parking lot within fifteen years of project completion. Canopy coverage shall be measured in plan view, and be based on projected mature size of the selected tree species. All individual planting areas within parking lots shall be a minimum of eight feet in width, be at least one hundred fifty square feet in size, and in addition to the required trees, shall be planted with a living groundcover. See the "Landscape Plants for the Inland Northwest" issued by the Washington State University cooperative extension and the U.S. department of agriculture, available from the City planning services department, for acceptable mature tree size to be used when calculating canopy size.



4. Where parking lots are located between the building and a street, the amount of required interior landscaped area shall be increased by fifty percent and the minimum amount of tree shade cover shall increase to eighty percent. Where parking lots are behind buildings, the amount of interior landscaping may be decreased by fifty percent of what the code requires and the minimum amount of tree shade cover shall decrease to fifty percent.

5. A planting strip of five feet in depth with L1 visual screen landscaping or site-obscuring decorative wood, iron, etc. fences or masonry walls at least six feet in height shall be installed along property lines where any adjacent single-family residential zone would have views of parking or service areas.

6. A minimum of two-foot setback shall be provided for all trees and shrubs where vehicles overhang into planted areas.



7. In industrial zones, parking lots, outdoor sales, and outdoor display areas that are abutting or across the street from residential zones are subject to all of the requirements of subsections (E) and (F) of this section.

8. In industrial zones, all uses in the commercial categories (see [chapter 17C.190 SMC](#), Use Category Descriptions, Article III, Commercial Categories) are subject to the standards for uses in the general commercial (GC) zones.
9. In downtown zones an applicant must demonstrate to the director that the following required elements meet the intent of the Downtown Design Guidelines. Key design elements for these features include integrating storm water facilities, improving the pedestrian environment, and adding public amenities next to surface parking; outdoor sales and outdoor display areas so that they help to define space and contribute to a more active street environment.

- a. Surface Parking Lot Liner Walls in the Downtown Zones.

Surface parking lots must have a solid, decorative concrete or masonry wall adjacent to a complete street and behind a sidewalk. The wall must have a minimum height above the surface of the parking lot of two and one-half feet and a maximum height of three feet. The wall shall screen automobile headlights from surrounding properties. A wrought iron fence may be constructed on top of the wall for a combined wall and fence height of six feet. An area with a minimum width of two feet, measured from the property line, must be provided, landscaped and maintained on the exterior of the required wall. Such walls, fences, and landscaping shall not interfere with the clear view triangle. Pedestrian access through the perimeter wall shall be spaced to provide convenient access between the parking lot and the sidewalk. There shall be a pedestrian access break in the perimeter wall at least every one hundred fifty feet and a minimum of one for every street frontage. Any paving or repaving of a parking lot over one thousand square feet triggers these requirements.



Parking liner walls with plantings contribute to an interesting pedestrian environment. The parking liner wall and screen pictured above is enhanced by larger wall sections near automobile crossing points and a change in sidewalk scoring pattern. Both give cues to pedestrians and drivers.

- b. Surface parking lots in the Downtown zones are subject to the interior parking lot landscaping standard sections (F)(2) through (F)(6).
- c. The exterior boundary of all surface parking lots adjacent to any public right-of-way must include trees spaced no more than twenty-five feet apart. The leaves of the trees or any other landscaping features at maturity shall not obscure vision into the parking lot from a height of between three and eight feet from the ground. The species of trees shall be selected from the city's street tree list. If street trees exist or are provided consistent with [SMC 17C.200.050](#) then this landscaping strip may be omitted.
- d. Outdoor sales and display areas shall contribute to an interesting streetscape by providing the following:
 - i. Monument Features or Artistic Elements along the Street Edge between the Outdoor Display Area and the Sidewalk. These shall be integrated with display area lighting and pedestrian amenities.

- ii. Additional Streetscape Features in the Sidewalk Environment. Items may include elements that improve the health of street trees and plantings, improve storm water management, or artistic features that improve the pedestrian environment. This may include items such as permeable pavers in the pedestrian buffer strip, increased soil volumes for street trees, suspended sidewalks around the street tree to increase the amount of un-compacted soils, and engineered soils to support larger and healthier trees.

Section 3. That SMC section 17C.200.050 is amended to read as follows:

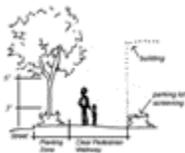
Section 17C.200.050 Street Tree Requirements

A. Purpose.

To provide consistent street frontage character within the street right-of-way. The street tree standards also maintain and add to Spokane's tree canopy and enhance the overall appearance of commercial and neighborhood development. Trees are an integral aspect of the Spokane landscape and add to the livability of Spokane. They provide aesthetic and economic value to property owners and the community at large.

B. Street Tree Implementation.

1. Street trees are required along all city streets in downtown, commercial, center and corridor, industrial zones, ~~and in residential zones~~ **and in FBC zones.**
2. Street trees shall be planted between the curb and the walking path of the sidewalk.



3. Street trees and other landscaping shall be maintained and irrigated by the adjacent property owner.
4. If a street has a uniform planting of street trees or a distinctive species within the right-of-way, then new street trees should be of a similar form, character and planting pattern.
5. For a full list of approved trees in the city of Spokane, see the urban forestry program's approved street tree list. Species selection should be guided by individual site conditions including hydrology, soil, solar orientation, and physical constraints.

C. Planting Zones.

1. Provide continuous planting strips or individual planting areas per Table 17C.200.050-1, Tree Planting Dimensional Standards.

**TABLE 17C.200.050-1
Tree Planting Dimensional Standards [1]**

ZONE	CONTINUOUS PLANTING STRIP (minimum width as measured from back of curb)	INDIVIDUAL PLANTING AREA (width as measured from back of curb)
Downtown	Individual Planting Areas (tree vaults) required [1]	4 ft. minimum 6 ft. maximum [2]
CC	5 ft.	4 ft. minimum 6 ft. maximum [2]
FBC	Individual Planting Areas (tree vaults) required [1]	4 ft [2]
Commercial	5 ft.	4 ft. minimum 6 ft. maximum [2]
Industrial	6 ft.	Continuous Planting Strip required [3]
RA, RSF, RTF	6 ft.	Continuous Planting Strip required [3]
RMF, RHD	6 ft.	Continuous Planting Strip required [3]
School/Church Loading Zone	Not Applicable	4 ft. minimum 6 ft. maximum [2, 4]
<p>Notes:</p> <p>[1] Individual Planting Areas (tree vaults) are the standard for the Downtown and FBC Zones. Proposals for Continuous Planting Strips may be evaluated on a case by case basis.</p> <p>[2] Un-compacted soils are necessary for street trees. Individual planting areas (or tree vaults) must be of a size to accommodate a minimum of 100 cubic feet of un-compacted soils per tree at a maximum depth of three feet. Refer to the Engineering Design Standards for examples of potential options in individual planting areas.</p> <p>[3] Continuous Planting Strips are the standard for Industrial and Residential Zones. However, individual planting areas meeting the CC standard may be proposed and evaluated on a case by case basis in Industrial, RMF and RHD Zones.</p> <p>[4] In all zones, within a school/church loading zone, street tree location may vary from the standard as long as street trees are located within the right-of-way.</p> <p>[5] In all zones, when a continuous planting strip will double as a stormwater swale, the minimum width shall be 6.5 feet.</p>		

2. Continuous Planting Strips.

- a. Continuous planting strips may be planted with living ground cover or low plantings that are maintained at a height less than three feet from ground level.
- b. When auto traffic is immediately adjacent to the curb, new street trees must be planted at least three feet from the edge of the automobile travel way.



3. Individual Planting Areas.

- a. When an individual planting area is not symmetrical, the longer dimension shall run along the curb.

- b. Tree grates or plantings are acceptable. However, when there is on-street parking, a tree grate or a paved walk eighteen inches wide behind the curb are encouraged to help avoid conflicts with car doors and foot traffic. The minimum clear pedestrian walking path as required for the zone shall be maintained.



D

- c. Where tree grates are used, they shall be ADA accessible and have a similar size and material as tree grates found in adjacent developments. Where tree grates are used, tree guards are encouraged for tree protection.

Tree Grate with Tree Guard



- d. Un-compacted soils are necessary for street trees. A minimum of one hundred cubic feet per tree at a maximum depth of three feet is required. See Engineering Design Standards for examples of potential options in individual planting areas and for retrofitting sidewalks.



D. Size Requirements for New Street Trees.

1. Street trees shall meet the most recent ANSI standards for a two-inch caliper tree at the time of planting
2. Larger shade trees with spreading canopies or branches are desirable where possible. Species of street trees within the public rights-of-way shall be approved by the City urban forester and reviewed by the director of engineering services.
3. If overhead power lines are present, street trees shall be limited to a mature height of twenty-five feet to avoid conflict with utility lines and maintenance

crews.

E. Spacing Requirements for Street Tree Spacing.

The objective is to create a continuous tree canopy over the sidewalk.

1. Continuous planting strips.

Average spacing shall be twenty five feet for small and columnar trees and thirty feet for canopy trees. The planning director may allow increased spacing for exceptionally large trees or upon the recommendation of the urban forester.

2. Individual planting areas.

Average spacing for all tree sizes and types shall be twenty-five feet. Trees planted adjacent to parallel parking stalls with meters may be spaced twenty feet apart.

3. Street tree plantings shall consider the location of existing utilities, lighting, driveways, business entrances and existing and proposed signs. See the Engineering Design Standards for required dimensions.

F. Clear View Zone.

Landscaped areas between the curb and sidewalk, as well as landscaped areas within the clear view triangle as defined in [SMC 17C.120.310](#) shall be maintained or plant material chosen to maintain a vertical clear view zone between three and eight feet from ground level.

