

1 **CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS**

2 Sec. 1-50. - Definitions.

3 The purpose of this section is to define words, terms and phrases contained within this code, unless
4 otherwise specifically defined elsewhere herein. Definitions for words not defined below may be defined
5 elsewhere in the City of Round Rock Code of Ordinances or found in Webster's Dictionary of the English
6 language, unabridged, subject to interpretation by the PDS director.

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Term	Definition
Drought-tolerant turf grasses	Turf grass varieties and mixes that have been developed to minimize, once established, the requirements for irrigation, mowing, weeding and fertilizer in central Texas landscapes and have summer-dormancy capabilities. Drought-tolerant turf grasses include species such as Buffalo, Bermuda hybrids that do not produce viable seed, Zoysia, <u>Native Sun Turf™</u> , <u>Thunder Turf™</u> , and HABITURF®. St. Augustine is not considered a drought-tolerant turf grass

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9 **II.**

10 That Zoning and Development Code, Chapter 8, Article II, Section 8-10,
11 subsections (e), (i)(1), and (l), Code of Ordinances (2018 Edition), City of Round Rock,
12 Texas, are hereby amended as follows:

13 Sec. 8-10. - Landscaping.

14 (e) *General planting requirements.*

15 (1) Trees

16 a. The planting specifications and standards included in the Tree Technical Manual are
17 applicable unless otherwise stated herein.

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18 b. At the time of planting, all trees shall have the following caliper measurements:

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19 1. Large trees: three (3) inches;

20 2. Medium trees: two (2) inches;

21 3. Small/ornamental trees: one (1) inch.

22 c. Tree planting pits shall be 50% excavated soil and 50% prepared soil.

23 d. ~~(2)~~ All trees shall be planted in a pervious area no less than four (4) feet wide in any
24 direction measured from the center of the tree, unless otherwise stated herein. Said
25 pervious area shall be covered with mulch to a minimum average thickness of three (3)
26 inches, except for the area within a six (6) inch radius of the tree trunk which shall have
27 no mulch or other material above the root ball in order to prevent or reduce the possibility
28 of bark rot.

29 e. Notwithstanding the requirements of the Tree Technical Manual, the zoning administrator
30 may allow large trees to be placed closer to a building in order to achieve an urban
31 streetscape.

1 f. All trees planted to meet the landscaping standards herein shall be protected trees regardless
2 of size.

3 g. Berms shall not encroach upon the critical root zones of existing trees, as regulated by
4 chapter 8, Article III, Tree Protection and Preservation.

5 (2) Shrubs provided to satisfy requirements for parking lot landscape buffers and screening
6 requirements of Section 8-40 shall be evergreen and have a minimum height of 24" at time
7 of planting.

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8 (3) Species Diversity. No more than 50 percent of the required trees and shrubs shall be of the same
9 species without the approval of the zoning administrator. Such approval may only be granted in
10 order to achieve a specific design intent of the landscape architect.

11 (4) Turfgrass

12 a. Wherever sod or turfgrass is specified, such grass shall be of a drought-tolerant species.

13 b. Drought tolerant turf grass shall be limited to 50% of the lot area that is not covered by
14 impervious cover.

15 c. Where Habiturf®, Native Sun Turf™, or Thunder Turf™ are specified, the 50% coverage
16 limitation shall not apply.

17 d. Turfgrass shall not be installed between sidewalks and back of curb adjacent to street rights
18 of way.

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19 (45) Soil Depth. Improved soils containing a minimum 20% organic content shall be provided in all
20 required landscape areas in accordance with the following:

21 a. Turf areas shall have to a minimum improved soil depth of four six (64) inches;

22 b. Planting beds shall have to a minimum depth of eight (8) inches; and

23 c. Tree planting pits shall be 50% excavated soil and 50% prepared soil.

24 (56) Landscape Barriers and Edging

25 a. All landscaping shall be separated from vehicular use areas by some form of barrier such as
26 raised concrete curbing, bollards, curb stops, or other suitable permanent alternative.

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27 b. (6) All landscape beds shall be separated from turfgrass sod areas by some form of barrier
28 such as steel edging, masonry materials, or another equivalent durable material as approved
29 by the zoning administrator. No plastic materials shall be allowed. Provided however, the
30 barriers may be designed in such a way to capture, filter, reuse or infiltrate rainwater with the
31 purpose of protecting and conserving water resources.

32 (7) Visibility

33 a. Landscaping shall not obstruct the view between access drives and parking aisles.

34 b. (8) Nothing shall be erected, placed, allowed to grow, or planted so that it impedes vision
35 between the height of three (3) feet and 10 feet above the curb within a sight visibility triangle,
36 as defined in Sec. 1-50.

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37 (98) No artificial plant material may be used in any form to satisfy the requirements of this section.

38 (10) Berms shall not encroach upon the critical root zones of existing trees, as regulated by chapter
39 8, Article III, Tree Protection and Preservation.

40 (11) Wherever sod or turf grass is used, such grass shall be of a drought tolerant species.

41 (12)(9) Any landscaping placed in utility easements shall not be counted towards the minimum
42 landscaping requirements.

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43 (13) Notwithstanding the requirements of the Tree Technical Manual, the zoning administrator may
44 allow large trees to be placed closer to a building in order to achieve an urban streetscape.

(14) At the time of planting, all trees shall have the following caliper measurements:

a. Large trees: three (3) inches;

b. Medium trees: two (2) inches;

c. Small/ornamental trees: one (1) inch.

(15) All trees planted to meet the landscaping standards herein shall be protected trees regardless of size.

(i) Irrigation.

(1) *Underground automatic system.* All required landscape areas shall be irrigated by an underground automatic system ~~that may include a drip irrigation system.~~ Shrub, groundcover, and perennial planting areas shall use drip irrigation. Turfgrass areas may utilize spray heads. This system shall adhere to manufacturer specifications and the rules and regulations established by TCEQ or successor agency. In addition, an irrigation system must be designed by a landscape architect or irrigator licensed by the state as described in subsection (3) below.

(l) Requirements for new construction of single-family and two-family residences in the SF-2 (Single-family - Standard Lot), SF-3 (Single-family - Mixed Lot), and TF (Two-family) zoning districts.

(1) Turfgrass Requirements

a. Drought tolerant turf grass shall be limited to 50% of the lot area that is not planted on all portions of a residential lot not covered by buildings or hardscaping, or planting beds.

b. Where Habiturf®, Native Sun Turf™, or Thunder Turf™ are specified, the 50% coverage limitation shall not apply.

c. Improved soils with a minimum of 20% organic content and soil depth of six (6) inches shall be provided for turfgrass areas.

d. Turfgrass shall not be installed between sidewalks and back of curb adjacent to street rights of way.

(2) Tree Requirements

a. The front yard of all residential lots shall contain trees at the following minimum rate, according to lot width at the front building line:

Lot Width	40-49 feet	50-69 feet	70 feet and greater
Large Trees	1	1	2

	80 feet or less	Greater than 80 feet
Large trees	1	2
Small trees	1	3

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1 ~~(3)~~

2 b. Residential lots that abut parks, trails, or similar public open spaces on the side or rear yard
3 shall contain a minimum of one (1) large tree in and one (1) small tree in each yard that abuts
4 said space.

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5 c. All large trees shall have a caliper of three (3) inches at time of planting and shall be container
6 grown.

7 d. Large trees shall not be planted closer than five (5) feet to any lot line, fire hydrant, underground
8 utility (excluding irrigation), or water meter box, and no closer than four (4) feet to any
9 sidewalk, driveway, or curb.

10 e. All minimum required trees shall be in conformance with the preferred species listed in the tree
11 technical manual.

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12 ~~(4) All large trees shall have a caliper of three (3) inches and small trees shall have a caliper of one (1)~~
13 ~~inch at time of planting and shall be container grown.~~

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14 ~~(5) Large trees shall not be planted closer than five (5) feet to any lot line, fire hydrant, underground utility~~
15 ~~(excluding irrigation), or water meter box, and no closer than four (4) feet to any sidewalk, driveway, or~~
16 ~~curb.~~

17 ~~(6) Improved soils with a minimum 20% organic content shall be provided in all required landscape~~
18 ~~areas to a minimum depth of four (4) inches.~~

19 ~~(73) General Planting Requirements~~

20 a. Underground irrigation shall not be required for landscaped areas. However, should
21 underground irrigation be implemented it shall be in accordance with subsection (i) above.
22 Irrigation may be supplemented with a rainwater harvesting system. Landscape planting beds
23 shall provide improved soil with a minimum of 20% organic content and minimum improved soil
24 depth of eight (8) inches.

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25 b. (8) Nothing shall be erected, placed, allowed to grow, or planted so that it impedes vision
26 between the height of three (3) feet and 10 feet above the curb within a sight visibility triangle.

27 ~~(9) All minimum required trees shall be in conformance with the preferred species listed in the Tree~~
28 ~~Technical Manual.~~

29 c. (10) No artificial plant material may be used in any form to satisfy the requirements of this
30 section.

31 ~~(34) Irrigation~~

32 a. Underground irrigation shall not be required for landscaped areas. However, should
33 underground irrigation be implemented it shall be in accordance with subsection (i) above.

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34 b. Where installed, drip irrigation shall be utilized for planting beds and planting areas between
35 sidewalk and back of curb adjacent to street rights of way.

36 c. Irrigation may be supplemented with a rainwater harvesting system.

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1 III.

2 That Zoning and Development Code, Chapter 8, Article V, Section 8-40, Code of
3 Ordinances (2018 Edition), City of Round Rock, Texas, is hereby amended as follows:

4 Sec. 8-40. - Screening.

5 (a) Purpose.

6 (1) The purpose of this section is to establish requirements to screen specific uses or structures
7 from public view. All landscape material required in this subsection shall be provided in an eight-
8 foot wide linear planting bed unencumbered by easements. Buffers shall provide a visual barrier
9 between land uses, enhance the streetscape, and provide privacy. The spacing requirements
10 between trees in the Tree Technical Manual shall not apply to this subsection. Compliance with
11 this subsection requires that all detention ponds, water quality ponds, ground-mounted equipment
12 (i.e., transformers, air conditioner units), dumpsters, trash receptacles, donation receptacles,
13 refuse storage containers, outdoor storage, loading docks, substations, large utility cabinets,
14 water and wastewater pumping stations, storage sites, and other similar uses be sufficiently
15 screened. Required landscape material shall be located to maximize the screening of these
16 facilities.

17 (2) All proposed detention and water quality facilities shall be screened from public view by means
18 of the following landscape elements:

19 a. Water quality ponds/detention ponds with structured walls.

- 20 1. One medium tree shall be planted for every 40 linear feet or portion thereof around the
21 boundary of the pond;
- 22 2. One small tree shall be planted for every 30 linear feet portion thereof around the
23 boundary of the pond; and
- 24 3. One large shrub shall be planted for every eight (8) linear feet or portion thereof around
25 the boundary of the pond; or
- 26 4. The foregoing tree and shrub requirements may be eliminated and replaced with the
27 following:
- 28 (i) The exterior walls of the pond shall be clad with limestone and/or other textured
29 design features; and
- 30 (ii) If a chain-link fence is utilized, a native/adapted vine in at least a five-gallon
31 container shall be planted for every eight (8) linear feet of fence.

32 b. Water quality ponds/detention ponds with earthen berms shall be planted with one large tree
33 for every 40 linear feet around the boundary of a non-structured detention/retention pond.

34 (3) ~~Dumpster and trash receptacles.~~ All dumpsters, trash receptacles, and refuse storage containers
35 shall be located within an enclosure providing screening ~~by means of both the following landscape~~
36 ~~elements:as described below:~~

37 a. A decorative masonry wall having a minimum height of six (6) feet on three (3) sides and a
38 gate on the fourth side. The gate shall be constructed with an opaque, non-masonry material.
39 The construction materials of the wall shall match material used on the principal building
40 located on the same lot.

41 ~~b. Small shrubs shall be arranged as foundation planting around the perimeter of the pad area~~
42 ~~except the side where the gate is located. One small shrub shall be planted at each end of~~
43 ~~and every three (3) linear feet in a three-foot (3') wide landscape area. The landscape~~
44 ~~requirements of this subsection do not apply when the enclosure is an architectural extension~~
45 ~~of a principal building.~~

- 1 (4) *Donation receptacles.* All donation receptacles shall be located within an enclosure providing
2 screening by means of a decorative masonry wall on three (3) sides. The wall shall be at least as
3 tall as the donation receptacle it screens. The construction materials of the wall shall be
4 complementary to the material used on the principal building located on the same lot.
- 5 (5) *Ground-mounted equipment.* All proposed ground-mounted equipment shall be screened by the
6 planting of one large shrub every four (4) linear feet around the boundary of the equipment in a
7 planting bed with edging. [Shrubs shall be evergreen and a minimum height of 24 inches at time](#)
8 [of planting.](#)
- 9 (6) *Substations, water/wastewater stations.* Proposed electric substations, water pump stations and
10 wastewater lift stations shall be screened from public views by means of a six-foot decorative
11 masonry wall on a minimum of three sides. Smooth-face concrete masonry units are prohibited.
12 The following landscape elements shall be incorporated:
- 13 a. An eight-foot (8') wide planting bed with one small evergreen tree per 12 linear feet; provided
14 that said trees shall be planted no closer than eight (8) feet and no more than 16 feet apart;
15 or
- 16 b. A five-foot (5') wide planting bed with one large shrub for every four (4) linear feet. Shrubs
17 may be planted in a variety of configurations, but at no time shall be planted greater than six
18 (6) feet apart. [Shrubs shall be evergreen and a minimum height of 24 inches at time of](#)
19 [planting.](#)
- 20 (7) *Outdoor storage.* All outdoor storage shall be screened in accordance with the requirements of
21 Sec. 8-65. In addition, outdoor storage shall be screened as follows:
- 22 a. *Limited outdoor storage.*
- 23 1. An eight-foot (8') wide planting bed with one small evergreen tree per 12 linear feet of
24 wall constructed; provided that said trees shall be planted no closer than eight (8) feet
25 and no farther than 16 feet apart; or
- 26 2. A five-foot (5') wide planting bed with one large shrub for every four (4) linear feet;
27 provided that said shrubs shall be planted no closer than six (6) feet apart. [Shrubs shall](#)
28 [be evergreen and a minimum height of 24 inches at time of planting.](#)
- 29 b. *General outdoor storage.* An eight-foot (8') wide planting bed with one small evergreen tree
30 per 15 linear feet and one large evergreen tree per 30 linear feet of wall constructed; provided
31 that said trees shall be planted no more than 15 feet apart.
- 32 (8) *Loading docks.* All loading docks visible from public view shall be screened by means of the
33 following screening and landscaping elements:
- 34 a. A decorative masonry wall having a minimum height of six (6) feet. If the wall includes a gate,
35 it shall be constructed with an opaque, non-masonry material. The construction materials of
36 the wall shall match material used on the principal building located on the same lot;
- 37 b. One medium or large tree per 40 linear feet of wall constructed (75 percent of selected trees
38 shall be of an evergreen species);
- 39 c. One small tree per 15 linear feet of wall constructed (75 percent of selected trees shall be of
40 an evergreen species); provided that said trees shall be planted no more than 15 feet apart;
41 and
- 42 d. One large shrub per four (4) linear feet of wall constructed; provided that said shrubs shall
43 be planted no more than six (6) feet apart. [Shrubs shall be evergreen and a minimum height](#)
44 [of 24 inches at time of planting.](#)

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IV.

A. All ordinances, parts of ordinances, or resolutions in conflict herewith are expressly repealed.

B. The invalidity of any section or provision of this ordinance shall not invalidate other sections or provisions thereof.

C. The City Council hereby finds and declares that written notice of the date, hour, place and subject of the meeting at which this Ordinance was adopted was posted and that such meeting was open to the public as required by law at all times during which this Ordinance and the subject matter hereof were discussed, considered and formally acted upon, all as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended.

Alternative one.

By motion duly made, seconded and passed with an affirmative vote of all the Council members present, the requirement for reading this ordinance on two separate days was dispensed with.

READ, PASSED, and ADOPTED on first reading this ____ day of _____, 2025.

1 Alternative 2.

2 **READ** and **APPROVED** on first reading this the ____ day of
3 _____, 2025.

4 **READ, APPROVED** and **ADOPTED** on second reading this the ____ day of
5 _____, 2025.

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8 _____
9 CRAIG MORGAN, Mayor
10 City of Round Rock, Texas

11 ATTEST:
12

13 _____
14 ANN FRANKLIN, City Clerk
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