



City of Orem

Required Landscaping Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Where can I obtain information about the City's landscaping requirements?

Answer: The landscaping requirements are found in Orem City Code [Section 22-14-13 Landscaping](#). The full City Code can be found at <http://online.encodeplus.com/regs/orem-ut/>

Question: Is approval necessary for the installation of required landscaping on a commercial or residential property?

Answer: Yes, a commercial, industrial, business park, or multi-family site must obtain approval from the City to change or modify an approved landscaping plan.

Answer: No, a residential single-family dwelling is not required to obtain approval from the city to install the required landscaping as outlined in Section 22-14-13. A property owner is responsible for complying with all applicable requirements. (The Development Services Department can provide additional advice or recommendations to comply with the ordinance.) Contact staff at 801-229-7183 or at orem.org/planning

Question: What type of landscaping is required?

Answer: Landscaping means the intentional application or use of some combination of grass, shrubs, trees, flowers, vines, or other living plants, bark chips, mulches, peat moss, rocks, boulders, gravel, synthetic turf, fountains, pools, statues, retaining walls, and benches as allowed or required by Section 22-14-13.

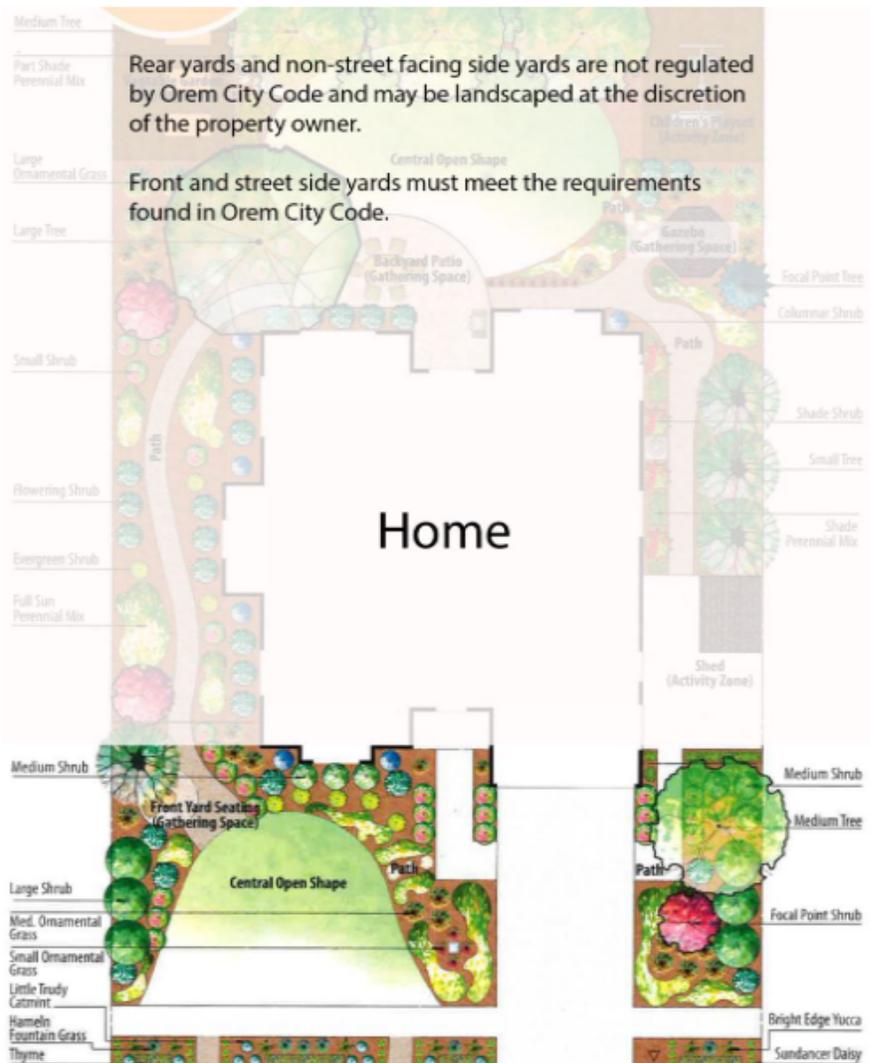
Question: Is the use of grass required?

Answer: No, grass is not required to be used in the required landscaped area. However, it is an acceptable option and can be used in combination with other living plants to meet the landscaping requirements. A combination of living plant without the use of grass is also acceptable.



Question: What part of my yard am I required to landscape?

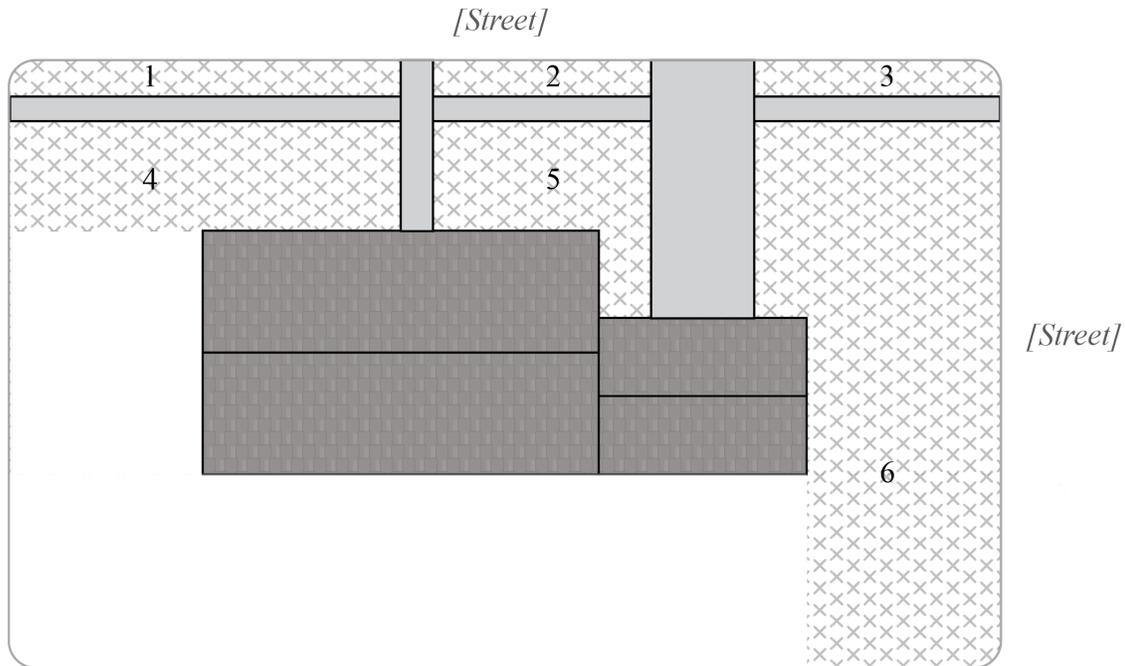
Answer: The entire front yard and side yard adjacent to a street (excluding driveways and sidewalks) of developed lots in residential zones shall be landscaped as shown in the diagram below. The area of driveways on residential lots shall not exceed sixty percent (60%) of the area of the front yard or side yard in which the driveway is located. The area of all driveways on a corner lot shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the combined area of the front yard and side yard adjacent to a street.



Sample Landscape Plan, provided by Localscapes.com

Question: How much of my front yard and street side yard do I need to landscape:

Answer: At least fifty percent (50%) of each contiguous area required to be landscaped shall be planted and maintained with some combination of grass, shrubs, trees, flowers, vines, or other living plants (excluding weeds). A contiguous area is an area that is not divided by sidewalks, drive accesses, parking, buildings, or other similar dividing features as outlined in the diagram below.



- Required Landscaped Area

1, 2, 3: Buffered Sidewalk Areas

4, 5: Front Yard

6: Front Yard and Street Side Yard

* Numbers correspond to contiguous landscape areas.

Question: What plants can I use in my landscape to conserve water?

Answer: The City has provided a list of possible drought-tolerant species of trees, shrubs, flowering perennials, and grasses as options to plant to help in the conservation of our natural resources. This list is found in [Appendix “VV”](#) of the Orem City Code. This list is not an exhaustive list and a local nursery or other service may provide additional advice on native species available to plant.





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Question: What other non-living materials can I use in the 50 percent areas not covered by living plants?

Answer: All areas required to be landscaped that are not covered with living plants as required may be covered and maintained with:

- a. bark chips, mulches, and peat moss;
- b. decorative rocks, bricks, boulders, gravel (provided that all such decorative materials are installed with a depth of four inches (4”) or more with a weed block barrier underneath). The use of decorative rocks, boulders, and gravel is only permitted to the extent that such materials are part of a deliberate landscaping plan and not the result of the natural state of the land or neglect of the landscaping);
- c. ornamental objects such as fountains, pools, statues, retaining walls, and benches; or
- d. artificial or synthetic turf that: (1) is a soft polyethylene green synthetic fiber, (2) has a minimum length of 1-1/2 inches (3) resembles real grass, (4) is ultra-violet light (UV) protected, treated, and tufted on a porous backing, (5) has a surface that is infilled with a natural material such as sand, (6) is permanently affixed to the ground to create a stable, weighted surface, (7) is installed over a landscaping fabric that prevents the infiltration of weeds or unwanted vegetation, (8) is installed on a surface that is designed, compacted, and graded for positive drainage. However, artificial and synthetic turf are not allowed in any landscaped buffer strip located between a public street and a required sidewalk.

Question: What types of trees are acceptable?

Answer: The city has provided a list of recommended trees for various situations including under overhead utility lines and a list of trees suitable for Xeriscaping. The complete list of recommended trees can be found in [Appendix “U”](#) of the Orem City Code.

Question: How will landscaping requirements be enforced?

Answer: Typically, the city will contact the property owner through mail, email or make contact in person concerning any violations to the landscape ordinance. The city will request the property come into compliance and will allow a certain time frame to comply. Only after a reasonable amount of time has lapsed or the property owner is unwilling to comply with the request to come into compliance will the city proceed with additional enforcement actions.

Questions: Who is responsible for the maintenance of required landscaping?





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Answer: All required landscaping must be maintained by the property owner in good condition. Park strips in front of a residential home or a commercial property is also the responsibility of the property owner.

All required landscaped areas shall be maintained in a neat, clean, and orderly condition and in accordance with good landscape maintenance practices. This includes proper pruning, lawn mowing, weeding, removing of litter, fertilizing, replacing of dead plants and the regular watering of all living material within landscaped areas. Required landscape maintenance also includes the removal of trees that pose a safety hazard; trees that are dead, decayed, or diseased; and weeds or debris that constitute unsightly appearance, present a danger to public safety and welfare, or prove detrimental to neighboring properties.

Question: Can I replace my lawn with artificial turf?

Answer: Yes, artificial or synthetic turf may be used as part of the 50 percent non-living materials used in the required landscaped areas. The turf must be: (1) is a soft polyethylene green synthetic fiber, (2) has a minimum length of 1-1/2 inches (3) resembles real grass, (4) is ultra-violet light (UV) protected, treated, and tufted on a porous backing, (5) has a surface that is infilled with a natural material such as sand, (6) is permanently affixed to the ground to create a stable, weighted surface, (7) is installed over a landscaping fabric that prevents the infiltration of weeds or unwanted vegetation, (8) is installed on a surface that is designed, compacted, and graded for positive drainage. However, artificial and synthetic turf are not allowed in any landscaped buffer strip located between a public street and a required sidewalk.

Question: Why does the City require landscaping?

Answer: The purpose of the landscaping requirements in Section 22-14-13 is (1) to promote pleasant and attractive surroundings and thereby enhance, conserve and stabilize property values, and create a more pleasant community, (2) to reduce heat, noise, and glare through the proper placement of green plants and trees, and (3) to support landscape treatments that reflect good design principles, and conserve limited resources.

Question: Do I get any reduction in required landscaping if I have trees in my front yard or side yard?

Answer: Yes, the minimum required living landscape coverage requirement shall be reduced from 50% to 45% where three or more trees are maintained in the front yard or side yard adjacent to a street over and above the number of trees that are required by City Code.





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Contact: If you have additional questions, please contact the Development Services Department at orem.org/planning

