



Landscaping and Buffers Chapter Amendments

Planning Petition Information for PLNPCM2023-00098

Petition Number: PLNPCM2023-00098

Application Type: Text Amendment

Project Location: City-Wide

Zoning District: All Districts

Council District: All Districts



What is the request?

Salt Lake City's Planning Division is considering updates to the Landscaping Chapter in the Zoning Ordinance. The purpose of the Zoning Ordinance text amendment is to better address landscaping regulations as the effects of climate change are experienced through extreme drought conditions and changing weather patterns. The amendments are intended to better conform to City goals of reduction of water consumption, enhancement of the urban forest, and improvements to air quality and green infrastructure.

These updates are the result of the September 6th, 2022 City Council work session direction and initiates implementation of the Urban Forest Action Plan.

The updated Landscaping and Buffers chapter will:

- Clarify, simplify, and reorganize the Landscaping chapter to be more user friendly.
- Improve accessibility of landscaping best practices for improved compliance and conservation.
- Enhance livability of the community by reducing the urban heat island effect, improving air quality and endurance of the urban forest by fostering tree health and preservation,

and instilling the importance of community appearance as experienced from the public realm.

- Address the use of turf and artificial turf on private and public property.
- Specify responsibilities of property owners.
- Reduce unnecessary water consumption by requiring water wise and drought tolerant landscaping choices.
- Improve water quality by promoting low impact development strategies to reduce stormwater runoff.
- Allow all residents of the City to continue to be eligible for rebates for replacing turf with water wise landscaping.
- And, reflect potential changes to the State Code during the 2023 legislative session.

What are the next steps?

- Notice of this application has been sent to Community Council Chairs throughout the City, who may choose to schedule the matter at an upcoming meeting. Please contact the chair(s) of these organizations to determine whether a community council will review this petition and when and how that meeting will occur.
- A 45-day notice period to solicit comments on the chapter updates is held before a public hearing with the Planning Commission can be scheduled. This notice period will end **March 27, 2023**.
- During and following this comment period, the Planning Division will consider all public comments received and make appropriate modifications to the chapter updates to better meet the needs of the City.
- The Planning Commission will then hold a public hearing for additional public comments and make a recommendation to City Council.
- City Council will hold a public hearing for additional public comments, the City Council will have the final decision on the matter.

What is the role of the Planning Staff in this process?

Planning Staff responds to public comments, answers questions regarding best management practices, will make appropriate modifications to the draft chapter, and will brief and make recommendations to Planning Commission and City Council.

Where can I get additional information?

The applicant has provided a packet with the plans as well as a project description. The application packet is a public record and available for download. To access this information:

1. Visit the open house webpage for this petition at <https://www.sl.c.gov/planning/open-houses/>.
2. Click on the project title for this petition, located under the “Active Online Open Houses” section
3. Click “Additional Information”
4. Click any applicant-submitted item to download submitted plans

Public comments and questions

We want to hear from you! To submit a comment or question please contact the staff planner via email or leave a voicemail, your questions will be answered within a week after the comment period has ended.

- **Start of Comment Period:** February 10, 2023
- **End of Comment Period:** March 27, 2023

The Planning Division will consider and evaluate all comments received as modification to the Landscaping and Buffers draft continue to be made.

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