

**Alachua County Landscaping Code Update 2024
Draft Recommended Revisions by Topic Area
For BoCC Workshop 03/05/2024**

Process

- Move TND and Stormwater Management landscaping to Landscaping Code
- Reorganize and consolidate to more logical order
- Clarify landscape inspection and certification process
- Specify approved plant species substitution process
- Specify minimum plan submittal elements
- Clarify/reference FDOT sight triangle requirements

Urban Forest

- Address Lethal Bronzing Disease in Palms
- Require minimum 75% native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers
- Reduce minimum tree size to 15 gallon for street trees and parking islands for greater species diversity
- Max tree caliper size, helps reduce irrigation/establishment requirements, limited exceptions for specimen trees
- Minimum threshold for plans proposing 16 or more trees to meet current species/genus diversity requirements
- Minimum threshold for plans proposing 32 or more shrubs or groundcovers to meet diversity requirements
- Add additional native and non-native edible species to tree list
- Eliminate low quality species (Laurel and Water Oaks) from tree list
- Clarify required buffer materials are for each separate 100 ft
- Require evergreen plants in buffers

Urban Heat Island

- Required paved area tree canopy coverage in relation to solar installation (i.e., covered drive-in parking)
- Reduce required paved area tree canopy coverage for paved loading and storage areas of Industrial uses such as warehouses, storage facilities, etc.
- Achieve paved area tree canopy coverage through tree islands per parking space rather than current calculation of paved ground surface canopy coverage

Compact Development

- Add clarity to usable public or civic space design and landscaping requirements to allow for large, square, deep, walled, fenced basins as an amenity
- Require consistent minimum planting areas for all trees
- Require consistent minimum reduced planting areas with “alternative planting systems”
- Clarify tree locations in relation to utilities, prioritized over utility locations in County-owned ROWs
- Clarify parking is allowed between street trees (rather than vice-versa)
- More flexibility for street tree spacing

Resilient Landscapes (reduced irrigation/fertilizer)

- Encourage use of soil amendments
- Add minimum tree soil volume and specifications detail to soil quality requirements
- Require Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater techniques in parking areas of more than 40 parking spaces
- Tree planting strips required in parking areas for greater planting area
- Encourage temporary irrigation (establishment or 1 year, whichever occurs first) as outlined in Temporary Irrigation Guidance Document
- Clarify turf is for functional uses only (pedestrian traffic, recreation, erosion control)
- Prohibit turf in parking islands and in strips less than 4 feet wide
- Promote groundcovers as an alternative to turf
- Clarify use of existing vegetation for buffers and eliminate new shrubs where other screening is provided
- Require trunk protectors on all trees, biodegradable stakes and guywires, prohibit plastic turf cloth and plastic mesh for sod
- Update to reference/consistency with new irrigation code