

## **Low Impact Design (LID) Strategies Incorporated into the Landscaping Code**

In October 2024, the Board adopted amendments to update ULDC Chapter 407. Article IV. "Landscaping" that included opportunities and requirements for low impact design (LID), native landscaping, and reductions in overall impacts, as listed below.

### **OVERALL LANDSCAPING OBJECTIVES**

- Enhance natural areas and diverse native plant communities.
- Conserve and protect water resources through resilient landscaping that requires little to no supplemental irrigation or additional inputs (fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides) once established.
- Contribute to urban forest tree canopy that mitigates the urban heat island effect.
- Reduce stormwater pollution, temperature, and rate of flow from developed areas, and disconnect impervious surfaces to mimic natural site hydrology through low impact design/green stormwater infrastructure.

### **RESILIENT LANDSCAPES**

- **Resilient Landscapes** – new subsection
  - Promotes reduced irrigation and fertilizer, soil amendments, protection of native soils, preservation of existing vegetation
  - Limits permanently irrigated turfgrass to functional uses
  - Encourages alternative groundcovers and drought tolerant turf grass species
  - Prohibits turf in parking islands and strips
- **Soil amendments**
  - Encourages with recommended standards
- **Irrigation**
  - Encourages temporary irrigation, reclaimed water, and harvested stormwater
  - References EPD temporary irrigation guidance document
  - References and establishes consistency with new County Irrigation Code
  - Requires leak detection for permanent irrigation systems
- **Low Impact Design techniques**
  - Requires LID techniques/Green Stormwater Infrastructure technologies for parking area stormwater runoff in developments with more than 40 parking spaces

- **Credit for existing plants**
  - Lists specific characteristics to determine credit and facilitate use
- **Alternative groundcovers**
  - List of appropriate species
- **Tree installation**
  - Maximum size limit to help reduce irrigation/establishment requirements
- **Turf grass installation**
  - Requires any netting to be biodegradable within 3 months
- **Tree pruning**
  - Expands and clarifies requirements and standards
- **Buffers**
  - Walls or fences may require ecopassages for wildlife
  - Reduces number of required shrubs for reduced irrigation, where a buffer does not front a public right-of-way and a fence or wall is provided

## **URBAN FOREST**

- **Species/genus diversity**
  - Requires diversity for shrubs and groundcovers (in addition to trees)
- **Native species**
  - Requires minimum 75% native for trees, shrubs, groundcovers
- **Edible species**
  - Incentivizes
  - Identifies and adds additional edible species to tree and new groundcover lists
- **Keystone species**
  - Encourages
  - Identifies and adds additional keystone species to appropriate trees list
  - Adds definition
- **Low quality and invasive species**
  - Removes from appropriate trees list
- **Lethal Bronzing Disease in Palms**
  - Limits to a maximum of 10% the proposed new trees that may be confirmed LBD host palm species (e.g., Cabbage Palms, Date Palms, Pindo Palms)

- Requires inoculation at Certificate of Occupancy, management plans for ongoing protection, and only allows as street trees for maintenance visibility
- **Tree installation**
  - Reduces minimum installation sizes for street trees, parking islands, and specimen trees for greater species diversity and better establishment

## **URBAN HEAT ISLAND**

- **Solar facilities on covered parking**
  - Allows flexibility in adjacent tree locations
- **Tree canopy coverage**
  - Paved vehicular areas – requires new tree strips between parking rows
  - Pedestrian areas – requires tree canopy for paved gathering areas
  - Street and parking area trees – limits use of smaller understory trees
- **Shading of buildings**
  - Emphasizes concentration of tree canopy along southern and western exposures where possible

## **COMPACT DEVELOPMENT**

- **Tree installation**
  - Requires new standards for root zone volume, width, and depth; pervious surface area and dimensions; tree distance from impervious surfaces and buildings
  - Provides new definitions – Root paths, Root zone, Root zone media, Root zone volume, Soil bulk density, Soil compaction, Soil trenches, Structural root box cells, Structural soil
  - Constrained tree planting areas – clarifies requirements, new detail graphics
- **Street trees**
  - Clarifies streetscape requirements, add new streetscape detail graphics
- **Stormwater basins**
  - Allows geometric, walled, fenced basins in compact development areas when designed with usable human scale public space features
- **Buffers**
  - Walls or fences may require pedestrian connections to adjacent greenways, trails, public parks, or open space