

# **Landscaping Design Manual**

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# How to use this manual

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Guidelines for using this manual effectively

- **Start with Applicability (Chapter 2):** Confirm whether your project requires compliance with the manual.
- **Understand the Basics (Chapters 3–5):** Review the principles of landscaping, design considerations, and goals to align your project with community standards.
- **Apply Water Conservation (Chapters 6–7):** Select water-efficient plants and follow conservation practices to ensure sustainable design.
- **Explore Practical Guidance (Chapters 8–10):** Learn how to convert existing yards, avoid common mistakes, and plan landscapes using worksheets and diagrams.
- **Follow Procedures (Chapter 11):** Use the step-by-step guidance for preparing design proposals, reviews, and approvals.
- **Finalize Your Project (Chapter 12):** Complete the process with the Certificate of Completion, ensuring compliance with city requirements.

Use this manual as both a **reference** and a **checklist**: consult relevant chapters at each stage of your project, from concept to completion, to ensure your landscape design is attractive, efficient, and environmentally responsible.

## Applicability of the design manual

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The design manual shall apply to all new and rehabilitated landscaping undertaken in conjunction with any public agency or private development project, which project otherwise requires a grading, building, or use permit, provided that homeowner provided landscaping within single-family and multiple-family residential projects shall be exempt.

It is recommended that the guidelines be followed for all public agency projects, however, review of plans by the City's Design Review Committee shall not be mandatory.

## About Landscaping

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The design and installation of landscaping and irrigation systems is to enhance the visual quality of the environment. It involves suitable landscape design, planting, maintenance, and therefore to recognize and encourage scientific principles and techniques in landscaping.



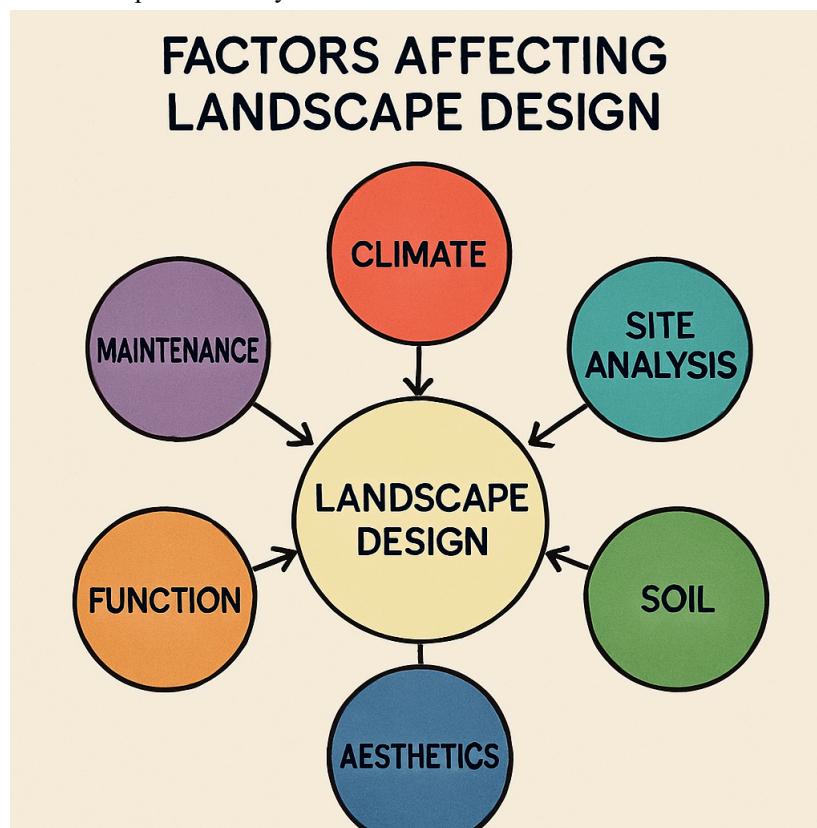
# Landscape design considerations

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A number of local conditions and characteristics impact landscape design possibilities and potential within the community, and therefore the structure of this document. First and foremost, the community is located within the Valley, an arid, yet urbanized region. This fact dictates that the encouragement of water efficient landscape design is a prudent act, but moreover, that landscaping has the potential to provide visual and environmental relief within an urban setting.

Second, the community lacks an abundance of natural landscape resources, also related to the City's high level of urbanization. The community is essentially flat, lacking distinctive topographic form, and natural areas are virtually non-existent. Consequently, development patterns are such that construction and rehabilitation proceed in the midst of a pre-existing and consistent urban fabric. This necessitates that landscape design respond to the built environment; landscapes must at once enhance function, build order, generate and strengthen identity, and appeal to the community's sense of taste.

Finally, it is recognized that it is a community which is essentially built out, with over half of the City's land area devoted to single family residential use. Therefore, development results from infill construction and rehabilitation, with some potential for redevelopment activity.



## Landscape design goals

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A landscape design manual and review procedures consider resource expenditure and ease of use in achieving goals and objectives.

- Support environmental conservation and enhancement within the community; recognize that a beautiful and efficient urban landscape design is integral to the community's and region's quality of life.

- Demonstrate and build community supports for a conservation ethic through attractive, low maintenance and water efficient landscape design in the public realm.
- Encourage and require as necessary, aesthetically pleasing and functionally appropriate landscaping for private sector development projects; water efficient landscape design shall be addressed.
- Promote understanding of plant materials; many water conserving species are quite attractive and most conventional landscapes can prosper with much less water.
- Provide standards and guidelines for suitable landscape design, to be used as criteria in the evaluation of design proposals. As far as feasible, criteria and review procedures shall consider ease of implementation.

## Water conservation principles in landscape design

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Incorporate the main principles of water conservation in landscape design:

- Water conserving plants
- Reduction of turf area
- Grouping of plants according to watering needs
- Irrigation to meet plant needs.



## Water-efficient plants

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This list contains the names of various plant materials that are typically attractive and water conserving. Some are native to the city, others from areas with similar climate.

Plants adapted to the city's dry climate are naturally suited to less water, and once established, many species perform best with infrequent, deep watering.

We have:

- Water-efficient Trees
- Water-efficient Shrubs
- Water-efficient Perennials



### Note:

For further information, the Garden Book is an effective reference. Those plant types marked with an asterisk (\*) are especially water efficient and adapted to the city climate.

## Water-efficient trees

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Common Name	Botanic Name
Mexican Blue Palm	<i>Brahea armata</i> *
Guadalupe Palm	<i>Brahea edulis</i>
Pindo Palm	<i>Butia capitata</i> *
Bottle Brush	<i>Callistemon citrinus</i> *
Weeping Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>
Incense Cedar	<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>
Crown of God Tree	<i>Cassia xcelsa</i>

## Water-efficient shrubs

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Common Name	Botanical Name
Wattle	<i>Acacia spp</i>
Lily-of-the-Nile	<i>Agapanthus africanus</i>
Agave	<i>Aloe spp</i> *
Tree Aloe	<i>Aloe arborescens</i>
Strawberry Tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i> *
Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos spp</i> *
Sage/Wormwood	<i>Artemesia spp</i> *

## Water-efficient perennials

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Table 1: Water-efficient Perennials, Bulbs, and Annuals

Common Name	Botanical Name
Yarrow	<i>Achillea spp</i> *
Lily of the Nile	<i>Agave spp</i> *
Aloe	<i>Aloe spp</i> *
Alyssum	<i>Amaryllis belladonna</i> *
Anacyclus	<i>Anacyclus depressus</i>
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia spp</i>

# Converting a yard to landscape

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If you get the chance to design a landscape from scratch, you can do it straight-forward. But sometimes it is not practical for a homeowner with an established landscape to make the changeover to a Friendly design immediately.

## Steps to convert a yard to landscape

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A seven-step process for yard to landscape conversion

Converting an established yard to a friendly landscape can be done most effectively in about three years and seven steps.

1. Develop a master plan.
2. Install Hardscapes - Patios, Walkways, Decks, Pools, etc.
3. Create new tree beds
4. Install trees
5. Prepare plant beds
6. Install plant beds
7. Repeat steps 5 & 6

# Landscape planning

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A simple worksheet can be used for both new and established landscapes. By following this, you will be on your way to a thriving, low-maintenance landscape suited to your climate and needs. Once you have a plan, you can easily choose plants suited for the conditions in your landscape.

## Steps to do plan a landscape

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A simple worksheet to do landscape planning.

It is a widely accepted worksheet for landscape designers and planners

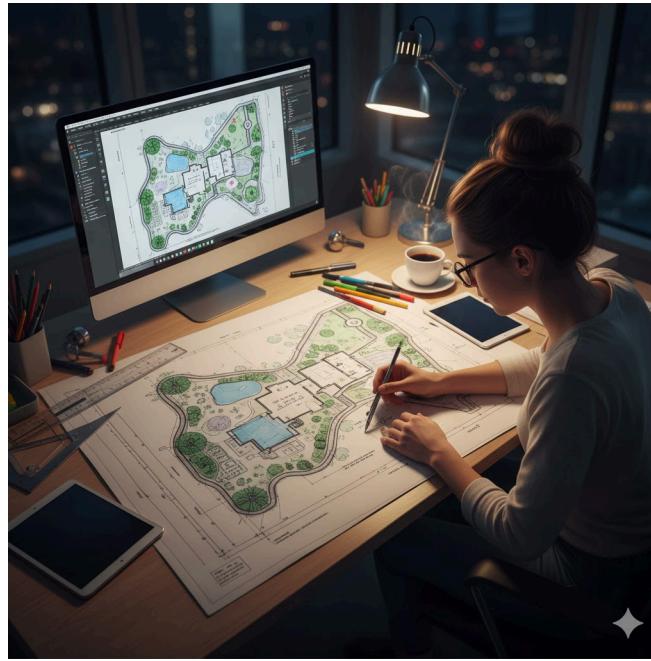
1. Decide why you want a landscape.



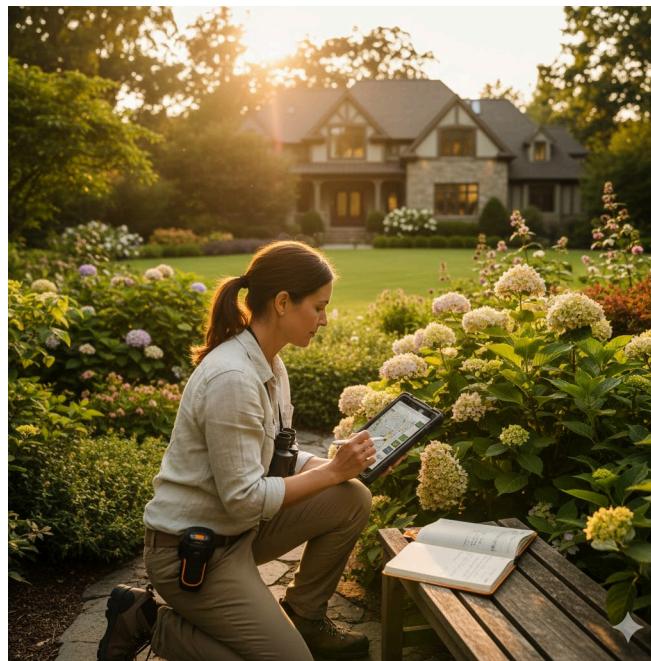
2. Obtain a soil analysis.



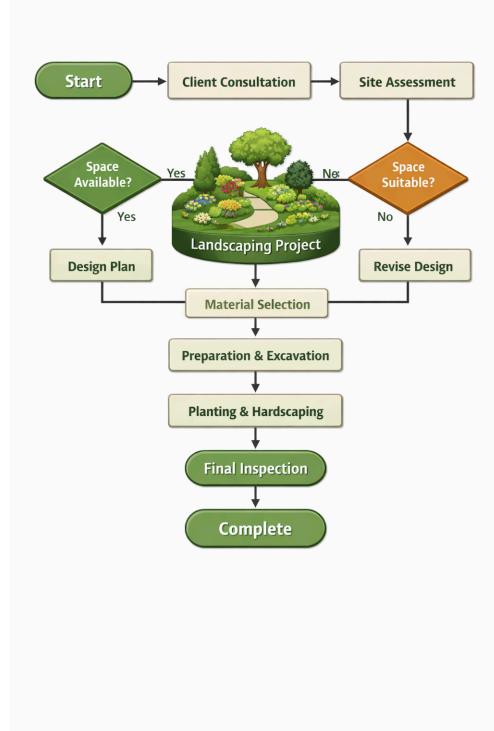
3. Draw a site plan.



4. Inventory your landscape.



5. Draw an activity diagram.



#### 6. Create a landscape plan.



## Common gardening mistakes

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### Common gardening mistakes to avoid

Some gardening may create a lot of issues leading to pest and disease problems, wastes water, and can wash pollutants into water bodies. Some may even lead to cramped and weak trees, insect development and even to the pollution of the garden.

These mistakes are to be avoided:

- Over watering - watering to the point of run off or leaching.
- Over planting - designing a landscape with more plants than can adequately be sustained.
- Over pruning - removing more foliage or branches from a plant than is healthy for it
- Fertilizing inappropriately - applying more fertilizers than necessary
- Using pesticides incorrectly - applying more or wrong pesticides

## **Design proposal**

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Most landscape design proposals will require a two-step review process - Design Proposal and Plan Check Approval



### **Design proposal - procedure**

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The Landscape Design Plan and Irrigation Design Plan are to be thoroughly checked by City Staff for substantial compliance with the criteria contained in this document; the Landscape Design Plan shall be in substantial conformity with the Preliminary Landscape Design Plan.

Most landscape design proposals will require a two-step review process as described below

1. Design Review approval of Preliminary Landscape Design Plan.
2. Plan Check approval of Landscape Design Plan and Irrigation Design Plan.
3. It is recommended that the guidelines be followed for all public agency projects, however, review of plans by the City's Design Review Committee shall not be mandatory.

### **Plan check approval - procedure**

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Include the entire Landscape Documentation Package of this document,

Drawings submitted for Plan Check are to include the entire Landscape Documentation Package of this document, including the Preliminary Landscape Design Plan

Following all necessary planning and subdivision approvals, full construction drawings may be submitted to the Building Division for approval through the City's "Plan Check" process.

## Certificate of completion

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Prior to the final of the last applicable project permit, a Certificate of Completion shall be submitted in accordance with the main Section of the Zoning Code.

- It is encouraged that licensed design professionals be hired for the preparation of all plans submitted in fulfilment of this document's requirements. Such individuals should be consulted at the earliest stages for a coordinated project proposal.
- It is not the intent of this Manual to stifle creativity or the creative process. Deviations from specific guidelines will be considered by the DRC, and must exhibit a superior approach to fulfilling the goals and objectives of the Landscape Design Manual.