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New 2016 City of Edmonton Landscaping Standards

The new 2016 Landscaping Standards have been released. The review and update of the Standards was a very successful collaborative effort between several City departments, UDI-ER and Landscape Alberta.

The following is a list of summary changes that most impact Landscape Alberta members. Many of the changes are design specific and although will have impact may take several seasons before they are seen in practice of construction. Any construction prior to July 1, 2016 will be evaluated by the corresponding standard, with the exception of trees that require replacement or major disturbance.

Special thanks to Jeff Oudyk of Land Tec Landscape Contractors for his amazing representation of Landscape Alberta at these meetings. Additional thanks to Jordan Voogd of Sunstar Nurseries and Jeff Wotherspoon of Cheyenne Tree Farm for their review of the tree list included as an appendix in this year's version of the standards. Together we were able to advocate the position of the landscape industry and make advancements in improving the work our members conduct with the City of Edmonton and their developers.

Approved Proposed Changes to Landscaping Standards

Section	Clause	Change	Landscape Alberta Comments
02930	3.5 Planting Bed Preparation	New clause 3.5.2 added. Beds that contain only trees shall be prepared to a depth of 300mm. reference detail unless otherwise stated within specifications scope of work	Reduced from 450mm for bed containing both trees and shrubs.
02931	1.5.3 Naturalization	New clause 1.5.5 added. All pant material must be visible for inspections	In reference to naturalized areas for the most part but applies to all inspections.
	4.8.4	All amenities shall be maintained for a minimum warranty period of twelve (12) months (i.e. benches, garbage/recycling receptacles, etc.) The garbage receptacles must be emptied to the City of Edmonton standards until FAC.	Reduced warranty period. Receptacles must be emptied according to City standards until FAC as this is part of ongoing maintenance.
02920	2.2.1	Mesh must be removed prior to installation on big roll sod on sports fields	Wear and tear on the sports fields was creating a tripping hazard when the mesh would later become exposed.

	New	A contractor wishing to apply a pesticide on City property or property that is in the possession of the developer and has not yet received FAC, must first submit a completed *Contractor Pesticide Use Notification Form* to the appropriate service area. This must be sent at least 48 hours (not including weekends and holidays) prior, and be acknowledged by an email confirmation before conducting the treatment. If no response within two business days, the contractor may proceed. Please submit only one site per form. The *Contractor Pesticide Use Notification Form* may be found on the City of Edmonton website: http://edmonton.ca/business_economy/selling_to_the_city/contractor-pesticide-use-notification-form.aspx Developers shall provide signs indicating that areas have received herbicide treatments wherever there is a potential for public exposure. A pesticide as defined in the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act includes "a substance that is intended for use in preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any insect, nematode, rodent, predatory animal, parasite, bacteria, fungus, weed or other form of plant or animal life or virus."	New to accommodate the partial ban of pesticides in the city. This was always required but not enforced. The addition of the clause will help to increase compliance. This does not take effect until January 1, 2017.
	New	Fence CCC discussion and requirements: Minor touch up of fencing stain is a seasonal deficiency that is to be completed prior to June 30 of the following inspection season, at the inspector's discretion.	New to allow for an increase success rate at CCC.
02930	3.10.1 Trees, Shrubs and Ground Cover	All deciduous plants shall be pruned by or directly supervised by a certified professional (ISA Certified Arborist, Landscape Industry Certified Technician, Landscape Horticulturist (Red Seal or LGAP) or equivalent designation immediately after planting and as required during the warranty period according to the best management practices as defined by the International Society of Arboriculture in accordance with ANSI A300 Pruning Standards. The amount of pruning shall be limited to the minimum necessary to remove dead or injured branches, Pruning shall be done is such a manner as to preserve the natural character and shape of the plants. All cuts shall be clean and cut to the branch collar, leaving no stubs. Cuts, bruises, scars or tears on the bark shall be traced back to living tissue and removed. The affected areas shall be shaped so as to not retain water.	Changed from ISA certified arborist only, to: certified professional (ISA Certified Arborist, Landscape Industry Certified Technician, Landscape Horticulturist (Red Seal or LGAP) or equivalent designation. This recognizes a wider variety of industry professionals.

02930	2.1.6 Trees, Shrubs and Ground Cover	Trees shall have straight trunks with a well-developed single (or central) leader. Minor adjustments of structural integrity may be attempted by structural pruning carried out by or directly supervised by a certified professional (ISA Certified Arborist, Landscape Industry Certified Technician, Landscape Horticulturist (Red Seal or LGAP) or equivalent designation and will be subject to re-inspection. Clump or multi-stem trees shall have three or more stems originating from a common base.	See above.
	7.7.2	80 mm caliper and larger trees will be accepted in boulevards if tree root trenching is proposed, and if there are no conflicts with utilities. A one year warranty period from CCC to FAC will apply in this case. Milestone inspections for tree root trenching will be required during trenching excavation. The consultant is to request an inspection with Forestry five business days prior to tree toot trenching. If tree root trenching in boulevards is not proposed for 80 mm caliper and larger, then a two year warranty period from CCC to FAC will apply. The City reserves the right to evaluate this standard on a case-by-case basis.	Changed from 75 mm to 80 mm caliper to conform with CNLA Standards for Nursery Stock and practices of nursery producers.
	4.8.3	All deciduous trees specified at 80 mm caliper or greater, to a maximum of 90 mm caliper, require a minimum twenty four month warranty period. If planted in a site which has enhanced site conditions, such as continuous root trench, a twelve month warranty period will be required.	See above.
02930	3.14.7 Trees, Shrubs and Ground Cover	Warranty period for Nursery and “collected” as follows: a) All stock 0-90 mm shall be 1 year b) All stock 90-150 mm shall be 3 years c) All stock 150-200 mm shall be 4 years d) No materials above 200 mm will be accepted	Warranty period updated to match the tree sizing used by industry. Includes a decrease in length for trees under 90mm.
02920	2.1.5 Seed and Sod	The Landscape Architect may recommend alternates to the above seed mixes which shall be identified within the scope of work and on plan prior to approval of drawings. Both common and scientific names should be listed on planting plan. The use of non-regulated, non-native plants may be appropriate in situations where the area being revegetated is in the middle of an area already seeded to the same species.	Updated native seed mixes are available in the new standards as recommended. Alternatives can be approved as well. Please note the new mixes represent a significant price increase per kilogram. The City has advised they will be increasing diligence in making sure the seed used matches the approved.
	4.10 Final Acceptance	New Clause 4.10.3 added. Landscaping projects with an FAC anniversary date that falls after August 1, are eligible for early inspection, on or after August 1. The Consultant and Contractor must agree to maintain	Attempting to remove some of the backlog from the busy FAC season.

	Certificate (FAC) Process	the site (should it be approved) for the remainder of the warranty period.	
	5.5.7	Plant material graphic symbols shall represent mature spread of shrubs as per *Trees and Shrubs for the Prairies* (see Section 3.2.1 Reference Documents). All shrub and coniferous tree material symbols shall be contained within a planting bed, with a minimum 500 mm width mulched area between the edge of the mature shrub/coniferous tree and the edge of the shrub bed. Shrub symbols should be shown at mature size with no overlap.	Landscape Alberta publication, *Trees and Shrubs for the Prairies*, is listed as a source for additional information: latest edition; primary plant reference, takes precedence if size/spreads are in conflict with other documents. Tree spacing shall be as per City of Edmonton Landscape Standards. For more information or to order copies, email admin@landscape-alberta.com.
	4.10.12	If the trees are in the third growing season, one tree stake and all guy wires shall be removed.	One tree stake to be left after wires removed. This is to identify planting year for future inspections and maintenance.
	4.8.2	All landscape improvements shall be maintained for a minimum warranty period of twelve months after issuance of CCC. The warranty period will be extended for an additional twelve months (at time of FAC inspection) when the following conditions apply: • For sites with more than 40 trees, where 10% or more of the tree rootballs have been or are required to be disturbed (lift, lower, straighten, etc.) or where 10% or more are required to be replaced within the current year. • Fore sites with 40 trees or less, where 25% or more of the tree rootballs have been or are required to be disturbed (lift, lower, straighten, etc.) or where 25% or more are required to be replaced within the current year. • For sites with 25 shrubs or less, where 50% or more of the total shrubs have not established. • For sites with more than 25 shrubs, where 25% or more of the total shrubs have not established. • For sites where 25% or more of the turf has not established. • At which time a new FAC application will be required.	An expansion of the previous policy to require additional flexibility in achieving CCC and FAC approval. The percentages were strongly debated and there was a lot of discussion over third party damage being a factor.