

4.1 Landscaping

I. GOALS

- A. To define outdoor spaces and assist with spatial definition in concert with buildings.
- B. To provide visual enhancement of sites by creating a harmonious visual composition in combination with the architecture.
- C. To make necessary microclimate adjustments of sun, shade, and wind to control glare, minimize heat gain and create comfortable outdoor spaces.
- D. To provide historical continuity of landscaping, where appropriate.
- E. To develop landscaping that is easily maintained and conserves water.
- F. To provide visual screening, where appropriate.



Fig. 4.1.1 A mixture of native and ornamental plants have matured nicely at the Santa Rosa Business Park along Dutton Avenue.



Fig. 4.1.2 Imaginative residential landscape design.



Fig. 4.1.3 The Lakes Business Park on Sebastopol Road uses water, walking paths, and extensive landscaping to create a serene courtyard between the buildings.



Fig. 4.1.4 This large heritage Oak at the Finley Center in Santa Rosa was incorporated into the design of the facility.



Fig. 4.1.5 Parking lot landscaping in the "orchard" style. (See Section 4.2.B)



Fig. 4.1.6 Hillside Planting.

II. GUIDELINES

Santa Rosa has been nationally recognized as a "Tree City" for its concern and dedication to the maintenance and preservation of our urban forest.

1. Integrate landscaping into all site development.
2. Provide special attention to incorporation of trees in all landscape design.
3. Provide landscaping that exhibits a strong design concept and creates a harmonious composition.
4. Existing site features should be incorporated into landscape design. Elements such as mature trees, tree groupings, and rock outcroppings should be considered as principal features of any landscape plan. Trees considered to be an important part of a property or a neighborhood's history should be identified and incorporated in proposed site plans. *Removal of certain species and size of trees is regulated by Chapter 17 of the City Code, see Appendix A.*
5. Landscaping incorporated in a development should reflect or improve on the landscaping already present in the neighborhood.
6. Select landscape materials and plants that are appropriate in scale and function to the locations in which they are placed.
7. Unless special circumstances exist, provide perimeter landscaping that will create a buffer and provide a screen between development and adjacent properties. This perimeter strip should be comprised of a planting strip of at least five feet in width.
8. Utilize planting areas to break up large expanses of paving, to visually separate masses of parked cars, and to provide a shade canopy. These planting areas within paved areas should be a minimum of 5' wide. Refer to Section 4.2 for additional information.

9. Consider pedestrian circulation when locating planting areas and avoid locating planting areas where they can become a barrier to pedestrians.
10. Select planting materials that are appropriate for local climatic conditions and historic continuity.
11. Rely on native species for riparian areas and hillside conditions.
12. Maintainability is an important consideration in landscape design. To this end care should be taken to ensure that plants are selected which, at maturity, do not outgrow their planting site. Other factors to be considered include exposure, microclimate, soil condition and type, irrigation to be used, and the impact of plantings on pedestrian traffic.
13. Automatically controlled irrigation systems with multiple programs and repeat start times, are required.
14. Refer to the Appendix for Santa Rosa's Water Efficient Landscape Policy. The following is a summary of some of the most important provisions:
 - a. On most projects, turfgrass is limited to no more than 40% of the landscaped area, and can not be planted on slopes greater than 10% or in areas less than eight feet wide.
 - b. Other plants should be low water users when established and be well suited to our climate.
 - c. Irrigation systems must have separate circuits for different plant types and microclimates, and must not overspray or runoff the irrigated area when operating.
 - d. Soil conditioning with organic amendments and much is required.
15. Refer to Section 1.3(II)B for Street Tree requirements.



Fig. 4.1.7 Water conserving landscaping



Fig. 4.1.8 Water conserving landscaping

