

CITY OF FOREST LAKE
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 758

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE XV, CHAPTER 153, SECTION 153.074,
153.080, 153.084, AND 153.085, PERTAINING TO LANDSCAPING
REGULATIONS

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FOREST LAKE ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendment. Title XV, Chapter 153, Section 153.074 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR DESIGN: APPLICABLE TO ALL COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS DISTRICTS (NC, B-1, B-2) of the Forest Lake City Code is hereby amended by adding **Bold and underline** are proposed additions to the code and deleting the ~~strikeout~~ language as follows:

(2) Landscape design. Landscaping shall be used to unify, soften, and screen neighborhood commercial projects. Landscaping in the Neighborhood Commercial District shall incorporate the following elements in addition to the requirements in §§ 153.134 through 153.142 **requirements in the City's Landscaping Ordinance.**

— (a) ~~Incorporate unique and significant existing trees into the landscape design. See § 153.196.~~

— (b) ~~Use a wide variety of plants in informal arrangements.~~

— (c) ~~Landscaping shall be arranged and grouped to signify key site locations, such as building and site entrances, walkways, and around monuments.~~

— (d) ~~Use layering to promote informality with a variety of plants with differing mature heights.~~

— (e) ~~Use of plants or trees that have seasonal color.~~

(3) Landscaping. **The B-1 District shall incorporate** In addition to the landscaping requirements presented in, landscaping in the B-1 District shall also be subject to the following requirements **the City's Landscaping Ordinance.:**

— (a) ~~Use predominately native materials and well-adapted plant species to create an attractive environment along the edges of each development parcel.~~

— (b) ~~Use landscaping to buffer objectionable views, to break up the apparent size and monotony of parking areas, and to screen service areas and ground mechanical equipment. Parking shall be screened from the public right-of-way through landscaping, berms, or low walls.~~

— (c) ~~Window boxes, hanging flower baskets, and planters shall be used to identify primary entrances.~~

Section 2. Amendment. Title XV, Chapter 153, Section 153.080 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR DESIGN: APPLICABLE TO ALL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS (I, BP) AND THE B-3 DISTRICT. of the Forest Lake City Code is hereby amended by adding **Bold and underline** are proposed additions to the code and deleting the ~~strikeout~~ language as follows:

Landscaping. **Landscaping in the BP District shall incorporate the requirements in the City's Landscaping Ordinance** In addition to the landscaping requirements presented in §§ 153.134 through 153.142, landscaping in the BP District shall also be subject to the following requirements:

- ~~— (a) Use predominately native materials and well-adapted plant species to create an attractive environment along the edges of each development parcel.~~
- ~~— (b) Use landscaping to buffer objectionable views and to break up the apparent size and monotony of parking areas.~~
- ~~— (c) Landscaping shall be clustered into features areas, such as corners, entryways, buffer zones, and screening rather than distributed thinly throughout the site.~~

Section 3. Amendment. Title XV, Chapter 153, Section 153.084 DOWNTOWN MIXED USE (MU-1) DISTRICT of the Forest Lake City Code is hereby amended by adding **Bold and underline** are proposed additions to the code and deleting the ~~strikeout~~ language as follows:

(K) Landscape design. All landscaping shall ~~comply with § 153.134 et seq.~~ **incorporate the requirements in the City's Landscaping Ordinance.** of this chapter. Plant materials shall be used to enhance and delineate the existing downtown environment, to enhance the pedestrian environment, and to improve the connection between Lake Street and the lakefront.

- ~~— (1) Plant materials used shall demonstrate an adaptability to urban conditions, including salt spray, storm water runoff, and reflected pavement glare and heat.~~
- ~~— (2) Plant materials shall be free of hazards such as thorns, fruit, or nuts that may pose safety or maintenance concerns for this pedestrian-oriented environment.~~
- ~~— (3) Plant materials shall be located so that no impacts occur to overhead or underground utilities, traffic flow and internal circulation, and emergency and maintenance access.~~
- ~~— (4) Planting areas should be located and designed to avoid visual interference with public signage and private commercial communication.~~
- ~~— (5) Plant materials shall be arranged to provide focal points on the site, and concentrated to signify key site locations such as the primary building entrance, site entrance, around signage and along pedestrian walkways.~~

Section 4. Amendment. Title XV, Chapter 153, Section 153.085 GENERAL MIXED USE (MU-2) DISTRICT of the Forest Lake City Code is hereby amended by adding **Bold and underline** are proposed additions to the code and deleting the ~~strikeout~~ language as follows:

(O) Landscape design. In addition to the landscape requirements presented in § 153.134, **the City's Landscape Ordinance** plant materials shall be used to create a unified and attractive mixed use environment.

~~(1) Planting areas should be located and designed to avoid visual interference with public signage and private commercial communication.~~

~~(2) Plant materials shall be arranged to provide focal points on the site, and concentrated to signify key site locations such as the primary building entrance, site entrance, around signage, along pedestrian walkways, and along the perimeter of the building.~~


Section 5. Summary Publication. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 412.191, in the case of a lengthy ordinance, a summary may be published. While a copy of the entire ordinance is available without cost at the office of the City Clerk, the City Council approves the following summary and the City shall publish the summary in lieu of publishing the entire ordinance:

This is an amendment to the Minimum Standards for Design and Landscaping Regulations to clarify language.


Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption and publication as provided by law.

Passed in regular session of the City Council on the 15 day of August, 2025.

CITY OF FOREST LAKE

By: 
Blake Roberts
Its: Mayor

Attested:

By: 
Jolleen Chaika
Its: City Clerk

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