

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND PARKWAYS
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

LaTOYA CANTRELL
MAYOR

MICHAEL E. KARAM
DIRECTOR

DESIGN STANDARDS FOR PLANTINGS ON PUBLIC GREEN SPACE
(Neutral Grounds, Parks, Playgrounds, Public Rights-of-Way)

These standards apply to all public green spaces under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Parkways, and should be considered as you develop a proposal package for consideration:

1. BASIC INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED BY APPLICANT

- a. Identify who will be installing and who will be maintaining the planting.
- b. Explain the purpose of the planting.
- c. Indicate when the planting will be installed.
- d. Provide a schedule of change-outs if seasonal plantings are included.
- e. Provide a schedule for routine weeding.
- f. Identify water source, if any, and proposed watering method and schedule.

PLEASE BE ADVISED: applicant is responsible for future replacement of water meter under all circumstances, including but not limited to any construction damage.

2. LAYOUT PLAN REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED BY APPLICANT

- a. Ideally, the layout or planting plan should be prepared for the Applicant by a Louisiana licensed Landscape Architect; if otherwise, please contact Parkways Planning & Design Division staff prior to application for guidance.
- b. At a minimum, plan must indicate botanical names, sizes, spacing and sources of plants.
- c. Plan must show accurate dimensions of bed and bed locations, including distance from curbs, intersections, trees, light standards, utility poles, etc.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS USED IN NEUTRAL GROUND PLANTING

- a. Steel edging or concrete border/curbing is required for any planting beds so that there is a clearly defined edge for mowing of the adjacent turf.
- b. Any existing turf grass and weeds within proposed planting bed(s) must be completely removed and the soil tilled before planting.
- c. Plants must be of high quality, in good health, and must be planted using currently accepted horticultural standards. If plant material dies or is unhealthy, the Applicant is expected to make replacements immediately.
- d. Trees should be of an appropriate size to be able to survive the conditions on a neutral ground; a minimum tree trunk caliper of two inches (2”), and minimum height of 10 to 12 feet, is required.
- e. Organic mulch is required for beds – indicate what type is to be used. Pine straw is preferred; cypress mulch is not allowed per City code.
- f. Plastic trunk protectors, such as “Arbor Guard” brand, are encouraged at the base of all trees to prevent mower damage.
- g. Maintaining a ring of mulch around the base of trees will help the trees become established.
- h. Installation of a water bag at the base of the tree will allow for more efficient watering of the tree until establishment.

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4. ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR PLANTING WITHIN RIGHT-OF-WAY

- a. Plant trees no closer than 25 feet from a corner intersection or five feet from a driveway so that the tree won't block visibility and become a traffic hazard.
- b. Allow at least 20 feet between a tree and a light pole for larger trees, small trees may be 10 feet from the light pole.
- c. Typically, if the width of the planting strip is less than 4 feet, only a small tree is allowed. Small trees are defined as those species with a mature height of less than 40 feet.
- d. Only small trees (those with a mature height of less than 40 feet) should be planted under utility wires.
- e. Keep trees and other plantings at least 10 feet away from a fire hydrant for fire safety and access.
- f. Maintain ADA compliant clearance for pedestrians along the sidewalk, typically a passageway 60" wide with 80" clearance in height (current ADA information can be found at www.access-board.gov/ada/#ada-403).
- g. Tree planting wells within sidewalk or other paved areas must provide at least 24 square feet of open planting area per each tree to allow for healthier tree root development.

If the above guidelines and standards are not followed and the planting becomes a problem area, the Department of Parks and Parkways will require that the installation be removed by the Applicant.

This process takes time, but the investment in proper planning now will increase the probability of success of your project. We want to ensure that the planting will be an asset for your neighborhood for years to come.

A legal agreement, a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement may be required for Applicant's proposed planting in the public right-of-way; Applicant should plan on incorporating the approval process for such agreement within the proposed project schedule.

Useful information about design standards and the green spaces under the stewardship of the Department of Parks and Parkways can be found online at: <https://www.nola.gov/parks-and-parkways/>

For more information, please contact our Planning & Design Division by telephone at 504.658.3201 during weekday business hours or via email at parksandparkways@nola.gov.