

Proposed Phasing and Implementation Considerations

The proposed implementation for resilient landscaping actions (detailed in Attachment 1) is structured into two phases:

- **Phase 1:** Administration intends to prepare draft text amendments for a future City Council Public Hearing in Q2 2027. Prior to this, Administration will conduct further targeted engagement with key city building partners and interested parties to refine proposed actions and draft amendments, including minimum ratios and percentages, and to determine additional resourcing needs to support implementation.
- **Phase 2:** These actions will undergo further research, analysis, and targeted engagement with key city building partners and interested parties. Key focus areas include evaluating strategies to: incentivize low impact development and ensuring streamlined review and approval processes; and transitioning minimum tree planting requirements from counts to canopy coverage based on development types, complexity, and anticipated outcomes.

Proposed Actions		Phase 1	Phase 2
Increased Use of Drought-resistant and Native Species			
1	Introduce a minimum percentage for required plants to be either drought-resistant, native, or climate adaptive.	✓	
Implementation considerations: • Development resources to help staff, applicants, and property owners easily identify locally available drought-resistant, native, and climate adaptive plants (e.g., consolidated City of Edmonton plant list). • Updates to landscape plan requirements to ensure a simplified review process to ensure compliance.			
Increased Naturalization			
2	Allow shrub substitutions for a portion of the minimum required shrubs for climate adaptive or pollinator-friendly grasses and perennials.	✓	

Proposed Actions		Phase 1	Phase 2
3	Introduce flexible plant diversity requirements (above the 50:50 deciduous to coniferous ratio)	✓	
Implementation Considerations: • Similar considerations for implementing proposed action #1. • Potential updates to landscape security processes to reflect shrub substitution considerations.			
Increased Topsoil Depth			
4	Embed topsoil depth minimums, and allow variations to minimums when a landscape plan is designed by a landscape architect.	✓	
5	Introduce minimum soil volume requirements for constrained planting areas (e.g., parking lots, planters and above parkades).	✓	
Implementation Considerations: • Development of resources, such as planting details for planters and parking lot islands that specify soil depth and volume requirements that applicants and staff can refer to and adapt for specific projects. • Updates to landscape plan requirements to ensure a simplified review process to ensure compliance. • Development of tools or processes that can support topsoil depth verification when enforcement is required.			
Expanded Requirements for Soft Landscaping into Other Zones			
6	Improve the definition for Soft Landscaping	✓	
7	Clarify and improve regulations for soft landscaping minimums for fee-simple row housing.	✓	
8	Introduce soft landscaping area minimums to more intensive residential and non-residential zones.		✓

Proposed Actions		Phase 1	Phase 2
Implementation Considerations: • Updates to resources related to soft landscaping to support greater awareness of regulations and purpose. • Appropriate regulations based on development type, complexity and anticipated outcomes.			
Increased Use of Low Impact Development (LID)			
9	Introduce incentives for tree preservation and LID by allowing it to count towards a higher amount of soft landscaping.		✓
10	Reduce tree count minimums when soil cells are provided for trees in constrained and hard surface areas, such as parking lots and within pathways.		✓
Implementation Considerations: • Development of educational resources to support staff and builders. • Appropriate soft landscape area credits based on development type, LID intervention, complexity and anticipated outcomes. • Updates to applicant submission requirements and review and inspection processes, including integration with EPCOR, to streamline approvals.			
Increase Tree Counts and Canopy Coverage			
11	Reduce minimum tree planting size for small scale residential development.	✓	
12	Shift regulation focus from stems to canopy, considering: ➤ Minimum canopy target; ➤ Minimum tree canopy size; or ➤ Combination of both		✓
13	Allow setback reductions when mature trees are preserved.		✓

Proposed Actions		Phase 1	Phase 2
Implementation Considerations: • Appropriate regulations based on development type, complexity and anticipated outcomes. • Development of resources to help staff, applicants, and property owners easily identify locally available trees and size at maturity (e.g., consolidated City of Edmonton plant list that includes detailed plant information). • Allowing flexibility in achieving minimum requirements (e.g., variety of plant sizes to meet canopy targets, or equivalents where multiple smaller trees can count towards a larger tree canopy requirement). • Updates to landscape plan requirements (e.g., tree canopy information, tree protection plans, and arborist reports) to ensure a simplified review process to ensure compliance.			
Improve Landscaping in Parking Lots			
14	Increase minimum landscaped parking island size to provide more space for trees and soil.	✓	
15	Allow multiple smaller trees to be substituted with larger canopy trees in islands.	✓	
16	Allow larger consolidated landscaped islands in place of smaller landscaped islands.		✓
Implementation Considerations: • Educational resources for staff, builders and residents (e.g., a consolidated plant list with details for mature tree size, and parking island and planting design templates and construction details that applicants and designers can adapt to their projects). • Allowing flexibility in achieving minimum requirements (e.g., variety of plant sizes to meet canopy targets, or equivalents where multiple smaller trees can count towards a larger tree canopy requirement) and corresponding resources to determine tree equivalents.			