

## For Additional Information

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The City's landscape, bufferyard, irrigation and tree preservation requirements may be found in their entirety in Landscape Ordinance 544-B, Zoning Ordinance Section 42— Bufferyards, Zoning Ordinance Section 43—Overlay Zones, Tree Preservation Ordinance 585-D, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Landscape Irrigator's Rule Compilation. In addition, the latest news and information about water conservation is provided on the City's Water Conservation Website, [www.cityofsouthlake.com/waterconservation](http://www.cityofsouthlake.com/waterconservation).



### City of Southlake

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## Water Conservation Best Practices for Commercial Landscapes

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*A Quick Reference Guide*



## Water Conservation

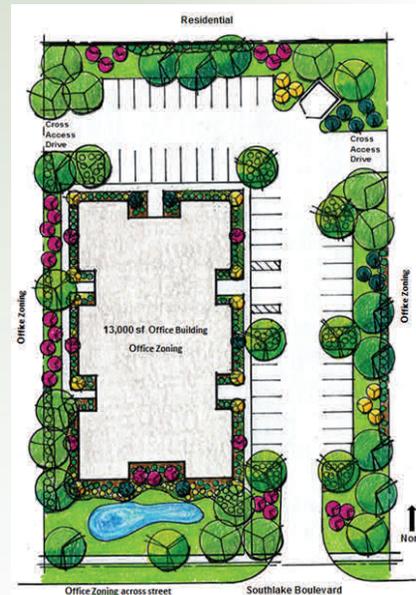
Best practices in landscape design, installation, irrigation systems, and maintenance are key components to ensuring the continued high standard for the landscapes within the City of Southlake. A key goal of these best practices is water conservation. When possible, the City of Southlake encourages the installation of low water use native and non-native plants and water saving irrigation systems.

## Plant Selection

Any new planting must follow the approved landscape plan for the site (if applicable). Landscape plans are required for:

1. New commercial and office developments
2. New commercial and office construction greater than 30% of the existing building or greater than 5,000 square feet
3. New residential developments adjacent to a regional corridor or arterial road
4. Changes in zoning to any other district other than agriculture or single family residential (unless #3 above applies)

When developing a landscape plan, native and adapted (low water use plants) are encouraged. In addition, plant diversity should be considered. Diversity is important in creating a more sustainable landscape that reduces plant losses when a pest outbreak or severe weather event occurs. In general, a landscape should be made up of not more than 10% of any species, not more than 20% of any genus, and not more than 30% of any family. For a list of recommended plants, please refer to Appendix A of Landscape Ordinance 544-B.



*Example of a landscape plan*

When installing landscaping, all plant material shall be of No. 1 grade, be free from plant disease, have typical growth for the species, have a healthy, normal root system, and a rounded branching pattern. Mulch planting beds to a depth of 2-3 inches.

## Irrigation & Water Efficiency

All required landscape areas must be irrigated by an automatic irrigation system designed by an authorized professional, such as a Licensed Irrigator. Follow these guidelines for irrigation systems:

- Where possible in planting beds, flood irrigation, porous pipe or emitter/drip systems should be used.
- Where slopes do not allow flood-systems, flat spray heads should be used under shrubs instead of upward spray heads on risers above shrubs.
- Lawn spray heads should have low precipitation rates, run for longer periods of time, and water infrequently to promote deep root growth for grasses.
- In order to reduce system misting and to aid in effective watering, all irrigation systems must have pressure regulating spray heads and rotor bodies.
- Irrigation systems need to adequately water newly planted trees until they are established. Examples include the installation of a separate zone for bubbler irrigation or low-pressure drip systems. Any lines providing heads near a tree must not cross through the tree's root zone.
- Regularly check irrigation systems for leaks, damaged irrigation heads and malfunctioning irrigation controllers. All irrigation heads or lines which are broken and flow water must be replaced or repaired immediately.