Section 4.176.  Landscaping, Screening, and Buffering.
Note: the reader is encouraged to see Section 4.179, applying to screening and buffering of storage areas for solid waste and recyclables.

(.01) Purpose. This Section consists of landscaping and screening standards and regulations for use throughout the City. The regulations address materials, placement, layout, and timing of installation. The City recognizes the ecological and economic value of landscaping and requires the use of landscaping and other screening or buffering to:

A. Promote the re-establishment of vegetation for aesthetic, health, erosion control, flood control and wildlife habitat reasons;
B. Restore native plant communities and conserve irrigation water through establishment, or re-establishment, of native, drought-tolerant plants;
C. Mitigate for loss of native vegetation;
D. Establish and enhance a pleasant visual character which recognizes aesthetics and safety issues;
E. Promote compatibility between land uses by reducing the visual, noise, and lighting impacts of specific development on users of the site and abutting sites or uses;
F. Unify development and enhance and define public and private spaces;
G. Promote the retention and use of existing topsoil and vegetation. Amended soils benefit stormwater retention and promote infiltration;
H. Aid in energy conservation by providing shade from the sun and shelter from the wind; and
I. Screen from public view the storage of materials that would otherwise be considered unsightly.
J. Support crime prevention, create proper sight distance clearance, and establish other safety factors by effective landscaping and screening.
K. Provide landscaping materials that minimize the need for excessive use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, irrigation, pruning, and mowing to conserve and protect natural resources, wildlife habitats, and watersheds.

(.02) Landscaping and Screening Standards.
A. Subsections “C” through “I,” below, state the different landscaping and screening standards to be applied throughout the City. The locations where the landscaping and screening are required and the depth of the landscaping and screening is stated in various places in the Code.
B. All landscaping and screening required by this Code must comply with all of the provisions of this Section, unless specifically waived or granted a Variance as otherwise provided in the Code. The landscaping standards are minimum
requirements; higher standards can be substituted as long as fence and vegetation-height limitations are met. Where the standards set a minimum based on square footage or linear footage, they shall be interpreted as applying to each complete or partial increment of area or length (e.g., a landscaped area of between 800 and 1600 square feet shall have two trees if the standard calls for one tree per 800 square feet.

C. General Landscaping Standard.

1. Intent. The General Landscaping Standard is a landscape treatment for areas that are generally open. It is intended to be applied in situations where distance is used as the principal means of separating uses or developments and landscaping is required to enhance the intervening space. Landscaping may include a mixture of ground cover, evergreen and deciduous shrubs, and coniferous and deciduous trees.

2. Required materials. Shrubs and trees, other than street trees, may be grouped. Ground cover plants must fully cover the remainder of the landscaped area (see Figure 21: General Landscaping). The General Landscaping Standard has two different requirements for trees and shrubs:
   a. Where the landscaped area is less than 30 feet deep, one tree is required for every 30 linear feet.
   b. Where the landscaped area is 30 feet deep or greater, one tree is required for every 800 square feet and two high shrubs or three low shrubs are required for every 400 square feet.

D. Low Screen Landscaping Standard.

1. Intent. The Low Screen Landscaping Standard is a landscape treatment that uses a combination of distance and low screening to separate uses or developments. It is intended to be applied in situations where low screening is adequate to soften the impact of one use or development on another, or where visibility between areas is more important than a total visual screen. The Low Screen Landscaping Standard is usually applied along street lot lines or in the area separating parking lots from street rights-of-way.

2. Required materials. The Low Screen Landscaping Standard requires sufficient low shrubs to form a continuous screen three (3) feet high and 95% opaque, year-round. In addition, one tree is required for every 30 linear feet of landscaped area, or as otherwise required to provide a tree canopy over the landscaped area. Ground cover plants must fully cover the remainder of the landscaped area. A three (3) foot high masonry wall or a berm may be substituted for the shrubs, but the trees and ground cover plants are still required. When applied along street lot lines, the screen or wall is to be placed along the interior side of the landscaped area. (See Figure 22: Low Screen Landscaping).
E. High Screen Landscaping Standard.

1. Intent. The High Screen Landscaping Standard is a landscape treatment that relies primarily on screening to separate uses or developments. It is intended to be applied in situations where visual separation is required.

2. Required materials. The High Screen Landscaping Standard requires sufficient high shrubs to form a continuous screen at least six (6) feet high and 95% opaque, year-round. In addition, one tree is required for every 30 linear feet of landscaped area, or as otherwise required to provide a tree canopy over the landscaped area. Ground cover plants must fully cover the remainder of the landscaped area. A six (6) foot high masonry wall or a berm may be substituted for the shrubs, but the trees and ground cover plants are still required. When applied along street lot lines, the screen or wall is to be placed along the interior side of the landscaped area. (See Figure 23: High Screen Landscaping).

F. High Wall Standard.

1. Intent. The High Wall Standard is intended to be applied in situations where extensive screening to reduce both visual and noise impacts is needed to protect abutting uses or developments from one-another. This screening is most important where either, or both, of the abutting uses or developments can be expected to be particularly sensitive to noise or visual impacts, or where there is little space for physical separation.

2. Required materials. The High Wall Standard requires a masonry wall at least six (6) feet high along the interior side of the landscaped area (see Figure 24: High Wall Landscaping). In addition, one tree is required for every 30 linear feet of wall, or as otherwise required to provide a tree canopy over the landscaped area. Ground cover plants must fully cover the remainder of the landscaped area.

G. High Berm Standard.

1. Intent. The High Berm Standard is intended to be applied in situations where extensive screening to reduce both visual and noise impacts is needed to protect abutting uses or developments from one-another, and where it is desirable and practical to provide separation by both distance and sight-obscuring materials. This screening is most important where either, or both, of the abutting uses or developments can be expected to be particularly sensitive to noise or visual impacts.

2. Required materials. The High Berm Standard requires a berm at least four (4) feet high along the interior side of the landscaped area (see Figure 25: High Berm Landscaping). If the berm is less than six (6) feet high, low shrubs meeting the Low Screen Landscaping Standard, above, are to be planted along the top of the berm, assuring that the screen is at least six (6) feet in height. In addition, one tree is required for every 30 linear feet of berm, or
as otherwise required to provide a tree canopy over the landscaped area. Ground cover plants must fully cover the remainder of the landscaped area.

H. Partially Sight-Obscuring Fence Standard.
1. Intent. The Partially Sight-Obscuring Fence Standard is intended to provide a tall, but not totally blocked, visual separation. The standard is applied where a low level of screening is adequate to soften the impact of one use or development on another, and where some visibility between abutting areas is preferred over a total visual screen. It can be applied in conjunction with landscape plantings or applied in areas where landscape plantings are not necessary and where nonresidential uses are involved.

2. Required materials. Partially Sight-Obscuring Fence Standard are to be at least six (6) feet high and at least 50% sight-obscuring. Fences may be made of wood (other than plywood or particle-board), metal, bricks, masonry or other permanent materials (see Figure 26: Partially Sight-Obscuring Fence).

I. Fully Sight-Obscuring Fence Standard.
1. Intent. The Fully Sight-Obscuring Fence Standard is intended to provide a totally blocked visual separation. The standard is applied where full visual screening is needed to reduce the impact of one use or development on another. It can be applied in conjunction with landscape plantings or applied in areas where landscape plantings are not necessary.

2. Required materials. Fully sight-obscuring fences are to be at least six (6) feet high and 100% sight-obscuring. Fences may be made of wood (other than plywood or particle-board), metal, bricks, masonry or other permanent materials (see Figure 27: Totally Sight-Obscuring Fence).

(0.03) Landscape Area. Not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the total lot area, shall be landscaped with vegetative plant materials. The ten percent (10%) parking area landscaping required by section 4.155.03(B)(1) is included in the fifteen percent (15%) total lot landscaping requirement. Landscaping shall be located in at least three separate and distinct areas of the lot, one of which must be in the contiguous frontage area. Planting areas shall be encouraged adjacent to structures. Landscaping—shall be used to define, soften or screen the appearance of buildings and off-street parking areas. Materials to be installed shall achieve a balance between various plant forms, textures, and heights. The installation of native plant materials shall be used whenever practicable. (For recommendations refer to the Native Plant List maintained by the City of Wilsonville). [Amended by Ord. # 674 11/16/09]

(0.04) Buffering and Screening. Additional to the standards of this subsection, the requirements of the Section 4.137.5 (Screening and Buffering Overlay Zone) shall also be applied, where applicable.

A. All intensive or higher density developments shall be screened and buffered from less intense or lower density developments.
B. Activity areas on commercial and industrial sites shall be buffered and screened from adjacent residential areas. Multi-family developments shall be screened and buffered from single-family areas.

C. All exterior, roof and ground mounted, mechanical and utility equipment shall be screened from ground level off-site view from adjacent streets or properties.

D. All outdoor storage areas shall be screened from public view, unless visible storage has been approved for the site by the Development Review Board or Planning Director acting on a development permit.

E. In all cases other than for industrial uses in industrial zones, landscaping shall be designed to screen loading areas and docks, and truck parking.

F. In any zone any fence over six (6) feet high measured from soil surface at the outside of fenceline shall require Development Review Board approval.

(.05) Sight-Obscuring Fence or Planting. The use for which a sight-obscuring fence or planting is required shall not begin operation until the fence or planting is erected or in place and approved by the City. A temporary occupancy permit may be issued upon a posting of a bond or other security equal to one hundred ten percent (110%) of the cost of such fence or planting and its installation. (See Sections 4.400 to 4.470 for additional requirements.)

(.06) Plant Materials.

A. Shrubs and Ground Cover. All required ground cover plants and shrubs must be of sufficient size and number to meet these standards within three (3) years of planting. Non-horticultural plastic sheeting or other impermeable surface shall not be placed under mulch. Native topsoil shall be preserved and reused to the extent feasible. Surface mulch or bark dust are to be fully raked into soil of appropriate depth, sufficient to control erosion, and are confined to areas around plantings. Areas exhibiting only surface mulch, compost or barkdust are not to be used as substitutes for plant areas. [Amended by Ord. # 674 11/16/09]

1. Shrubs. All shrubs shall be well branched and typical of their type as described in current AAN Standards and shall be equal to or better than 2-gallon containers and 10” to 12” spread.

2. Ground cover. Shall be equal to or better than the following depending on the type of plant materials used: gallon containers spaced at 4 feet on center minimum, 4” pot spaced 2 feet on center minimum, 2-1/4” pots spaced at 18 inch on center minimum. No bare root planting shall be permitted. Ground cover shall be sufficient to cover at least 80% of the bare soil in required landscape areas within three (3) years of planting. Where wildflower seeds are designated for use as a ground cover, the City may require annual re-seeding as necessary.

3. Turf or lawn in non-residential developments. Shall not be used to cover more than ten percent (10%) of the landscaped area, unless specifically approved based on a finding that, due to site conditions and availability of
water, a larger percentage of turf or lawn area is appropriate. Use of lawn fertilizer shall be discouraged. Irrigation drainage runoff from lawns shall be retained within lawn areas.

4. Plant materials under trees or large shrubs. Appropriate plant materials shall be installed beneath the canopies of trees and large shrubs to avoid the appearance of bare ground in those locations.

5. Integrate compost-amended topsoil in all areas to be landscaped, including lawns, to help detain runoff, reduce irrigation and fertilizer needs, and create a sustainable, low-maintenance landscape. [Added by Ord. # 674 11/16/09]

B. Trees. All trees shall be well-branched and typical of their type as described in current American Association of Nurserymen (AAN) Standards and shall be balled and burlapped. The trees shall be grouped as follows:

1. Primary trees which define, outline or enclose major spaces, such as Oak, Maple, Linden, and Seedless Ash, shall be a minimum of 2" caliper.

2. Secondary trees which define, outline or enclose interior areas, such as Columnar Red Maple, Flowering Pear, Flame Ash, and Honeylocust, shall be a minimum of 1-3/4" to 2" caliper.

3. Accent trees which are used to add color, variation and accent to architectural features, such as Flowering Pear and Kousa Dogwood, shall be 1-3/4" minimum caliper.

4. Large conifer trees such as Douglas-Fir or Deodar Cedar shall be installed at a minimum height of eight (8) feet.

5. Medium-sized conifers such as Shore Pine, Western Red Cedar or Mountain Hemlock shall be installed at a minimum height of five to six (5 to 6) feet.

C. Where a proposed development includes buildings larger than twenty-four (24) feet in height or greater than 50,000 square feet in footprint area, the Development Review Board may require larger or more mature plant materials:

1. At maturity, proposed trees shall be at least one-half the height of the building to which they are closest, and building walls longer than 50 feet shall require tree groups located no more than fifty (50) feet on center, to break up the length and height of the façade.

2. Either fully branched deciduous or evergreen trees may be specified depending upon the desired results. Where solar access is to be preserved, only solar-friendly deciduous trees are to be used. Where year-round sight obscuring is the highest priority, evergreen trees are to be used.

3. The following standards are to be applied:
   a. Deciduous trees:
      i. Minimum height of ten (10) feet; and
      ii. Minimum trunk diameter (caliper) of 2 inches (measured at four and one-half [4 1/2] feet above grade).
   b. Evergreen trees: Minimum height of twelve (12) feet.
D. Street Trees. In order to provide a diversity of species, the Development Review Board may require a mix of street trees throughout a development. Unless the Board waives the requirement for reasons supported by a finding in the record, different types of street trees shall be required for adjoining blocks in a development.

1. All trees shall be standard base grafted, well branched and typical of their type as described in current AAN Standards and shall be balled and burlapped (b&b). Street trees shall be planted at sizes in accordance with the following standards:
   a. Arterial streets - 3" minimum caliper
   b. Collector streets - 2" minimum caliper.
   c. Local streets or residential private access drives - 1-3/4" minimum caliper. [Amended by Ord. 682, 9/9/10]
   d. Accent or median tree - 1-3/4" minimum caliper.

2. The following trees and varieties thereof are considered satisfactory street trees in most circumstances; however, other varieties and species are encouraged and will be considered:
   a. Trees over 50 feet mature height: Quercus garryana (Native Oregon White Oak), Quercus rubra borealis (Red Oak), Acer Macrophyllum (Native Big Leaf Maple), Acer nigrum (Green Column Black Maple), Fraxinus americanus (White Ash), Fraxinus pennsylvannica 'Marshall' (Marshall Seedless Green Ash), Quercus coccinea (Scarlet Oak), Quercus pulustris (Pin-Oak), Tilia americana (American Linden).
   b. Trees under 50 feet mature height: Acer rubrum (Red Sunset Maple), Cornus nuttallii (Native Pacific Dogwood), Gleditsia triacanthos (Honey Locust), Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford' (Bradford Pear), Tilia cordata (Little Leaf Linden), Fraxinus oxycarpa (Flame Ash).
   c. Other street tree species. Other species may be specified for use in certain situations. For instance, evergreen species may be specified where year-round color is desirable and no adverse effect on solar access is anticipated. Water-loving species may be specified in low locations where wet soil conditions are anticipated. [Section 4.176(.06)(D.) amended by Ordinance No. 538, 2/21/02.]

E. Types of Plant Species.

1. Existing landscaping or native vegetation may be used to meet these standards, if protected and maintained during the construction phase of the development and if the plant species do not include any that have been listed by the City as prohibited. The existing native and non-native vegetation to be incorporated into the landscaping shall be identified.

2. Selection of plant materials. Landscape materials shall be selected and sited to produce hardy and drought-tolerant landscaping. Selection shall be based on soil characteristics, maintenance requirements, exposure to sun and wind, slope and contours of the site, and compatibility with other vegetation that
2015 Development Code

will remain on the site. Suggested species lists for street trees, shrubs and groundcovers shall be provided by the City of Wilsonville.

3. Prohibited plant materials. The City may establish a list of plants that are prohibited in landscaped areas. Plants may be prohibited because they are potentially damaging to sidewalks, roads, underground utilities, drainage improvements, or foundations, or because they are known to be invasive to native vegetation.

[Section 4.176(.06)(E.) amended by Ordinance No. 538, 2/21/02.]

F. Tree Credit.

Existing trees that are in good health as certified by an arborist and are not disturbed during construction may count for landscaping tree credit as follows (measured at four and one-half feet above grade and rounded to the nearest inch):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing trunk diameter</th>
<th>Number of Tree Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 to 24 inches in diameter</td>
<td>3 tree credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 31 inches in diameter</td>
<td>4 tree credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 inches or greater</td>
<td>5 tree credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Amended by Ord. # 674 11/16/09]

1. It shall be the responsibility of the owner to use reasonable care to maintain preserved trees. Trees preserved under this section may only be removed if an application for removal permit under Section 4.610.10(01)(H) has been approved. Required mitigation for removal shall be replacement with the number of trees credited to the preserved and removed tree.

2. Within five years of occupancy and upon notice from the City, the property owner shall replace any preserved tree that cannot be maintained due to disease or damage, or hazard or nuisance as defined in Chapter 6 of this code. The notice shall be based on complete information provided by an arborist Replacement with the number of trees credited shall occur within one (1) growing season of notice.

G. Exceeding Standards. Landscape materials that exceed the minimum standards of this Section are encouraged, provided that height and vision clearance requirements are met. [Amended by Ordinance No. 538, 2/21/02.]

H. Compliance with Standards. The burden of proof is on the applicant to show that proposed landscaping materials will comply with the purposes and standards of this Section.[Amended by Ordinance No. 538, 2/21/02.]

(.07) Installation and Maintenance.

A. Installation. Plant materials shall be installed to current industry standards and shall be properly staked to assure survival. Support devices (guy wires, etc.) shall not be allowed to interfere with normal pedestrian or vehicular movement.
B. Maintenance. Maintenance of landscaped areas is the on-going responsibility of the property owner. Any landscaping installed to meet the requirements of this Code, or any condition of approval established by a City decision-making body acting on an application, shall be continuously maintained in a healthy, vital and acceptable manner. Plants that die are to be replaced in kind, within one growing season, unless appropriate substitute species are approved by the City. Failure to maintain landscaping as required in this Section shall constitute a violation of this Code for which appropriate legal remedies, including the revocation of any applicable land development permits, may result.

C. Irrigation. The intent of this standard is to assure that plants will survive the critical establishment period when they are most vulnerable due to a lack of watering and also to assure that water is not wasted through unnecessary or inefficient irrigation. Approved irrigation system plans shall specify one of the following:

1. A permanent, built-in, irrigation system with an automatic controller. Either a spray or drip irrigation system, or a combination of the two, may be specified.

2. A permanent or temporary system designed by a landscape architect licensed to practice in the State of Oregon, sufficient to assure that the plants will become established and drought-tolerant.

3. Other irrigation system specified by a licensed professional in the field of landscape architecture or irrigation system design.

4. A temporary permit issued for a period of one year, after which an inspection shall be conducted to assure that the plants have become established. Any plants that have died, or that appear to the Planning Director to not be thriving, shall be appropriately replaced within one growing season. An inspection fee and a maintenance bond or other security sufficient to cover all costs of replacing the plant materials shall be provided, to the satisfaction of the Community Development Director. Additionally, the applicant shall provide the City with a written license or easement to enter the property and cause any failing plant materials to be replaced.

D. Protection. All required landscape areas, including all trees and shrubs, shall be protected from potential damage by conflicting uses or activities including vehicle parking and the storage of materials.

(.08) Landscaping on Corner Lots. All landscaping on corner lots shall meet the vision clearance standards of Section 4.177. If high screening would ordinarily be required by this Code, low screening shall be substituted within vision clearance areas. Taller screening may be required outside of the vision clearance area to mitigate for the reduced height within it.

(.09) Landscape Plans. Landscape plans shall be submitted showing all existing and proposed landscape areas. Plans must be drawn to scale and show the type, installation size, number and placement of materials. Plans shall include a plant
material list. Plants are to be identified by both their scientific and common names. The condition of any existing plants and the proposed method of irrigation are also to be indicated. Landscape plans shall divide all landscape areas into the following categories based on projected water consumption for irrigation:

A. High water usage areas (+/- two (2) inches per week): small convoluted lawns, lawns under existing trees, annual and perennial flower beds, and temperamental shrubs;

B. Moderate water usage areas (+/- one (1) inch per week): large lawn areas, average water-using shrubs, and trees;

C. Low water usage areas (Less than one (1) inch per week, or gallons per hour): seeded fieldgrass, swales, native plantings, drought-tolerant shrubs, and ornamental grasses or drip irrigated areas.

D. Interim or unique water usage areas: areas with temporary seeding, aquatic plants, erosion control areas, areas with temporary irrigation systems, and areas with special water-saving features or water harvesting irrigation capabilities.

These categories shall be noted in general on the plan and on the plant material list.

(.10) Completion of Landscaping. The installation of plant materials may be deferred for a period of time specified by the Board or Planning Director acting on an application, in order to avoid hot summer or cold winter periods, or in response to water shortages. In these cases, a temporary permit shall be issued, following the same procedures specified in subsection (.07)(C)(3), above, regarding temporary irrigation systems. No final Certificate of Occupancy shall be granted until an adequate bond or other security is posted for the completion of the landscaping, and the City is given written authorization to enter the property and install the required landscaping, in the event that the required landscaping has not been installed. The form of such written authorization shall be submitted to the City Attorney for review.

(.11) Street Trees Not Typically Part of Site Landscaping. Street trees are not subject to the requirements of this Section and are not counted toward the required standards of this Section. Except, however, that the Development Review Board may, by granting a waiver or variance, allow for special landscaping within the right-of-way to compensate for a lack of appropriate on-site locations for landscaping. See subsection (.06), above, regarding street trees.

(.12) Mitigation and Restoration Plantings. A mitigation plan is to be approved by the City’s Development Review Board before the destruction, damage, or removal of any existing native plants. Plantings intended to mitigate the loss of native vegetation are subject to the following standards. Where these standards conflict with other requirements of this Code, the standards of this Section shall take precedence. The desired effect of this section is to preserve existing native vegetation.
A. Plant Sources. Plant materials are to be native and are subject to approval by the City. They are to be non-clonal in origin; seed source is to be as local as possible, and plants must be nursery propagated or taken from a pre-approved transplantation area. All of these requirements are to be addressed in any proposed mitigation plan.

B. Plant Materials. The mitigation plan shall specify the types and installation sizes of plant materials to be used for restoration. Practices such as the use of pesticides, fungicides, and fertilizers shall not be employed in mitigation areas unless specifically authorized and approved.

C. Installation. Install native plants in-suitable soil conditions. Plant materials are to be supported only when necessary because of extreme winds at the site. Where support is necessary, all stakes, guy wires or other measures are to be removed as soon as the plants can support themselves. Protect from animal and fowl predation and foraging until establishment.

D. Irrigation. Permanent irrigation systems are generally not appropriate in restoration situations, and manual or temporary watering of new plantings is often necessary. The mitigation plan shall specify the method and frequency of manual watering, including any that may be necessary after the first growing season.

E. Monitoring and Reporting. Monitoring of native landscape areas is the on-going responsibility of the property owner. Plants that die are to be replaced in kind and quantity within one year. Written proof of the survival of all plants shall be required to be submitted to the City’s Planning Department one year after the planting is completed.

[Section 4.176 amended by Ordinance No. 536, 1/7/02]
Figure 23: High Screen Landscaping

Figure 24: High Wall Landscaping

Figure 25: High Berm Landscaping
Figure 26: Partially Sight-Obscuring Fence

Figure 27: Totally Sight-Obscuring Fence
TREE CLEARANCES

The Landscaping Graphics

Small Trees (20-35 feet)

Figure 28: Tree Clearances

2’ min. from curb
CENTERED BETWEEN CURB AND SIDEWALK

10’ Min.
To driveways, street lights and signs

30’ Min.
From Intersection

5’ Min.
From underground utility branches

15’ Min.
Storm Sewer Inlet

10’ Min.
From Fire Hydrant

Figure 29: Tree Clearances