

## Why is landscaping so important?

Landscaping plays a vital role in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of our community. Not only does it provide for visually appealing neighborhoods, but it also benefits the environment. Here are just some of the many benefits of landscaping:

- Improves property values
- Provides shade
- Aids in air purification
- Reduces dust and storm water run-off
- Dampens noise
- Buffers residential properties from impacts on adjacent land

Essentially, everyone stands to benefit from a well-landscaped community. Here we provide you with helpful tips and resources that are aimed to help you landscape and maintain your property, in order to keep your home and our community healthy and happy.



### Did you know...

That landscaping is actually required in the City Ordinance? See the City Code of Ordinances and Ordinance No. 959 and 965 to find out what your city asks of you.



22 East Broadway  
PO Box 1306  
Williston, ND 58801  
Ph: (701) 577-8104  
[www.cityofwilliston.com](http://www.cityofwilliston.com)



## Tips on Landscaping

For the benefit of you and for our community



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# Requirements

## All Existing Properties

Grass must be mowed and kept at 8 inches or below. Weeds must be removed or controlled.

## New Single and Two-Family Residential

Yards must be landscaped with grass, vegetative ground cover, or xeriscape, in conjunction with site development.

## New Commercial, Industrial, Multifamily

All ground areas, excluding those required for parking/access/etc., must be landscaped with grass, vegetative ground cover, shrubs, trees or other landscape materials in conjunction with site development. For every 1000 square feet of landscaped area, the minimum planting requirements are 5 plant units. Plant units are defined in Table 1 of Ordinance No. 959.

## Plant Quality

All plants must be adapted to Climate Zone 3.

## Boulevard/Street Trees

Boulevard trees must be installed after the construction of any principal building is completed (with few exemptions). Trees must be selected from the Authorized Boulevard Trees list and are to be installed within the boulevard—between the street curb and the sidewalk. Contact Planning and Zoning if an obstruction is preventing installation in the boulevard. Rocks and concrete are not permitted in boulevards without permit by the Engineering Department. Replacement of dying trees is the property owners' responsibility.

- **Ordinance Amendments – No. 959 & 965**
- **Chapter 20, Article II, Section 20-20**

# Planting & Maintenance

## Planting

A list of trees adapted to this area can be found on the City of Williston website. Lists are maintained by the City Forester. Things to look for when choosing which plants to landscape with:

- Plant species that are best suited for our area
- Landscape plants that have low fertilizer and water needs
- Select native plants as much as possible
- Avoid ash tree varieties as they are susceptible to the invasive emerald ash borer

## Mowing

Mowing your lawn correctly keeps it healthy and looking its best. Here are general tips for mowing:

- Decide when to mow based on height of your lawn, rather than a set schedule
- Never remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade at one time (i.e. never mow a 3 inch tall lawn shorter than 2 inches)
- Mow when the grass is dry
- Change patterns each time you mow
- Leave clippings on lawn to return nutrients and nitrogen to the lawn (grass cycling)

## Watering

As with mowing, it's important to water your lawn correctly. Here are some tips in regards to watering:

- Watering is necessary to keep a lawn healthy
- Practice overnight watering to alleviate peak demands on the water system and promote water conservation
- Pay attention to the weather and water less when rainfall is abundant
- Focus on the root zone, where the plant uses the water, instead of wasting it on the foliage

## Establishing Trees

A tree takes two years to establish, so be sure to water it regularly in that time. The soil should be kept moist, not soggy. Deep root watering, keeping the soil moist to a depth that includes the roots, can speed root establishment. Wood-chip mulch helps retain moisture.

## Re-Leaf Williston

The Re-Leaf Williston program is designed to help property owners plant trees in their boulevards, with a reimbursement from the city of half the cost of the tree. Trees must be purchased from a participating nursery. Please see the trees brochure in the Forestry Documents of Public Works on the city website, or visit the Public Works Department for more information.

# Resources

## [www.cityofwilliston.com](http://www.cityofwilliston.com)

Visit the City of Williston website to find specific regulations on landscaping and buffering:

- City Code of Ordinances Sec. 5-282—5-287
- Ordinance No. 959 and 965: Landscaping, Screening, and Buffering Ordinance
- Chapter 20, Article II, Section 20-20

## Public Works

For questions about specific plant species or the Re-Leaf Williston program, please contact Public Works at 809 5<sup>th</sup> St E. or (701) 577-6368.

## Planning and Zoning

For inquiries about landscaping requirements, please contact Planning and Zoning at 22 E. Broadway or (701) 577-8104.