

RESIDENTIAL TREE LAWN LANDSCAPING



PREFERRED TREE LAWN PLANT LIST

The following are preferred plantings and materials within the tree lawn, which is the strip of landscaping within the right-of-way, generally located between the street and adjacent sidewalk. Although the tree lawn is Town-owned right-of-way, the adjacent property owner is responsible for maintaining it. There are now two approaches to tree lawn landscaping. One being to simply maintain what was installed during the construction of the home or development. Oftentimes, this includes at least one deciduous or shade street tree and turf grass. The alternative approach is to replace irrigated turf grass with low-growing shrubs, grasses, and perennials per the Town's landscape guidelines (see page two) in addition to the required street tree.

Street Trees

The Town has identified the following species as suitable within the right-of-way. These trees have displayed no serious vitality issues in the Northern Colorado Climate. Other species may be suggested, but require Director approval. Replacement of an existing street tree may only be requested if the tree is dead/dying or identified as an invasive species.

- Northern Catalpa, *Catalpa speciosa*
- Northern Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*
- Honeylocust, *Gleditsia triacanthos inermis*
- Espresso Kentucky Coffeetree, *Gymnocladus dioica 'Espresso'*
- Texas Red Oak, *Quercus buckleyi*
- Bur Oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*
- Chinkapin Oak, *Quercus muehlenbergii*
- Shumard Oak, *Quercus shumardii*
- English Oak, *Quercus robur*
- American Linden, *Tilia americana*
- Littleleaf Linden, *Tilia cordata*
- Redmond Linden, *Tilia x euchlora*
- Glenleven Linden, *Tilia x flavescens*
- Accolade Elm, *Ulmus sp*

Ornamental Grasses

Grasses can be incorporated for many different landscape purposes. They may be substituted in place of smaller shrubs and in perennial borders. Ornamental grasses vary in height, but species limited to 24" or less should be selected within the tree lawn.

- Tufted Hair Grass, *Deschampsia caespitosa*
- Blue Fescue, *Festuca ovina glauca*
- Japanese Blood, *Imperata cylindrical*
- Fountain Grass, *Pennisetum alopecuroides*
- Little Bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*
- Blue Grama, *Bouteloua gracilis*

Low-Growing Shrubs

Other species may be selected if the mature height is 24" or less.

Deciduous

- Cranberry Cotoneaster, *Cotoneaster apiculatus*
- Rose Daphne, *Daphne cneorum*
- Shrub Potentilla, *Potentilla fruticosa*
- Gro-Low Sumac, *Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low'*
- Gold Mound, Daphne, Little Princess, *Magic Carpet Spirea, Spirea sp*

Evergreen

- Low-spreading junipers, *Juniperous, spp.*
- Panchito Manzanita, *Arctostaphylos x coloradoensis*
- Kinnikinnick, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
- Purpleleaf Wintercreeper, *Euonymus fortunei*
- Blue Chip Juniper, *Juniperus horizontalis 'Blue Chip'*

Live Groundcovers

Groundcovers are low-growing plants that spread quickly to form a dense cover. Choose plants that are known to do well in a semi-arid climate and guard against plants known to become invasive.

- Pearly Everlasting, *Anaphalis margaritacea*
- Snow-in-Summer, *Cerastium tomentosum*
- Hardy Ice Plant, *Delosperma, sp.*
- Sweet Woodruff, *Galium odoratum*
- Evergreen Candytuft, *Iberis sempervirens*
- Moneywort, *Lysimachia nummularia*
- Mat Penstemon, *Penstemon caespitosus*
- Creeping Phlox, *Phlox subulata*
- Creeping Potentilla, *Potentilla verna nana*
- Woolly Thyme, *Thymus pseudolanuginosus*
- Turkish Veronica, *Veronica liwanensis*

Perennials

Perennials and bulbs are subject to review to determine an appropriate blend with year-round flora to ensure live coverage throughout the year. Many perennial varieties are suitable, but choose species with a height of 24 inches or less at maturity.

- Moonshine Yarrow, *Achillea 'Moonshine'*
- Sunset Hyssop, *Agastache rupestris*
- Mountain Basket of Gold, *Alyssum montanum*
- Fringed Sage, *Artemisia frigida*
- Silver Mound Sage, *Artemisia schmidtiana*
- Sea Foam Sage, *Artemisia versicolor*
- Redleaf Bergenia, *Bergenia cordifolia*
- Chocolate Flower, *Berlandiera lyrata*
- False Forget-Me-Not, *Brunnera macrophylla*
- Prairie Winecups, *Callirhoe involucrate*
- Threadleaf Coreopsis, *Coreopsis verticillata*
- Coral Canyon Twinspur, *Diascia integerrima*
- Aspen Daisy, *Erigeron macrantus*
- Blanket Flower, *Gaillardia aristata*
- Colorado Gold Gazania, *Gazania linearis*
- Daylilies, *Hemerocallis spp.*
- Coral Bells, *Heuchera sanguinea*
- Lavender, *Lavandula angustifolia*
- Gayfeather, *Liatris punctata*
- Blue Flax, *Linum perenne*
- Pineleaf Penstemon, *Penstemon pinifolius*
- Purple Coneflower, *Enhinacea purpurea*

Bulbs

- Crocus
- Daffodils
- Iris
- Tulips
- Snowdrops
- Siberian squill
- Alliums

Non-Plant Groundcovers & Materials for Tree Lawn Beds

Mulch

Mulch is typically created from wood peelings that have been chipped or shredded or rock cobble that has been separated based on diameter size. Wood Mulch can provide contrast to the plants in your bed, hold more water and is easier to install. Wood Mulch will require replacement every 2-3 years. Rock Mulch is far more durable and will not blow away. It does require more effort to install but does not require replacement. Wood mulch should be of the “shredded” types. Wood Chip Mulch will blow away and leave your bed bare in many spots. Rock Cobble Mulch will need to be at least 1.5” or greater. Pea gravel is too small and will create a dangerous walking surface when used next to sidewalks.

- Shredded Wood Mulch – More stable and less prone to blowing away on windy days.
- Cobble (Rock) Mulch - Must be at least 1.5” or larger.
- Wood Chips – Will blow away and create bare spots in your planting bed mulch coverage, not recommended.
- Prohibited Mulch - Recycled rubber or any other non-naturally occurring materials cannot be used for mulch within tree lawn beds.

Hardscapes

Steppers – Durable steppers can be used to create a pathway across your parkway bed. Examples might include flagstone or precast pavers. Loose materials such as crusher fines or breeze and poured concrete are not acceptable as pathway materials. Additionally, pour in place concrete would not be permitted in the right-of-way.

Decorative Boulders – Smaller boulders may be placed in parkway beds to accent steppers.

Steppers and decorative boulders cannot be used to replace required planting materials.

Weed Fabric

Weed Fabric can help you with weed maintenance by inhibiting weeds from growing in your bed.

Pros – Will keep weeds from coming up through the fabric and into your bed and inhibit rooting from wind born weed seeds.

Cons – Can slow down water infiltration into the soil.

Prohibited Weed Barrier – Plastic is not an acceptable web barrier. It stops water infiltration, prone to tearing and can be detrimental to the soil in your planting bed.

Tree Lawn Planting Guidelines:

- At least 75% of the area must be covered with live plant material at maturity. Artificial turf similar in appearance to live turf grass may be allowed on a case-by-case basis.
- Plants and materials must not obscure the line of sight for traffic or obstruct any Town street, alley, or sidewalk. Plants and groundcovers shall not exceed 24” in height. Please select plants that will be close to this height at maturity to reduce the need for pruning.
- Keep the soil surface 2-3 inches below the curb and sidewalk to help contain mulch materials.
- Trees should be selected from the Town’s Preferred Plant List. Other species may be suggested, but require Director approval.
- Irrigation should be designed and located in areas to avoid overspray onto the adjoining street or sidewalk.
- Fences and thorny/spiny/prickly plants are not permitted.

Xeriscape™ Principles

Xeriscaping is a landscaping design and planning idea centered on minimizing water use in the landscape. This style of landscaping requires little or no irrigation beyond natural rainfall amounts. Landscaping within the Tree Lawn can utilize xeric design to accommodate for water usage in the arid west, reduce pest management, and limit the weekly maintenance required for typical turf lawns. Xeric alternatives to right-of-way landscaping should utilize these seven principles:

1. Plan and Design
2. Appropriate Use of Turf
3. Efficient Irrigation
4. Soil Improvements
5. Mulches
6. Appropriate Plant Selection
7. Maintenance

Right-of-Way Landscaping Amendment

Amendments to Right-of-Way landscaping from any approved development plan must be submitted to the Town for review and thereby may be approved, approved with conditions, or denied administratively by the Community Development Director. A public hearing is not required for a Right-of-Way landscaping amendment. Such amendments may be authorized by the Director as long as the development plan continues to comply with the intent of the Timnath Land Use Code.

Application available at www.timnath.org/planning/