

LANDSCAPING FAQs

What You Need to Know About Landscaping in West Valley City

WHERE DO I NEED LANDSCAPING IN MY YARD?

- Landscaping is required in the front yard, which is the area between the front of the building and the front lot line.
- For corner lots, landscaping is also required between the sidewalk and the side line of the house, between the front property line and rear property line for any areas that are visible from the public right-of-way.
- City ordinance requires either landscaping or concrete installed in park strips. Landscaping in park strips can include live plant material or non-living ground covers such as rock or bark mulch. A permit is required from the Public Works Department to install concrete in the park strip.

WHAT TYPE OF LANDSCAPING IS REQUIRED?

- Landscaping should include at least one tree and can include a combination of lawn, shrubs or ground cover.
- Ground cover may include vegetative vines, low-spreading shrubs, or annual or perennial flowering or foliage plants, mineral or nonliving organic permeable material, or artificial turf that meets the standards in Section 7-2-127.
- Mineral groundcover may include such materials as rocks, boulders, gravel, or brick over sand.

HOW MANY PLANTS ARE REQUIRED?

- A minimum of 25 percent of the front yard must have live plant material. Tree canopies do not count towards the required percentage.
- When artificial turf is used in the front yard it may be used in place of the required live plant material. Specific regulations must be met when installing artificial turf.

HOW BIG CAN MY DRIVEWAY BE?

- For single family homes, up to 50% of a front yard may be covered with hard surface like concrete or asphalt. Parking is only permitted in front of the garage, in front of the carport, or any other portion of the front yard that does not cover or overlap more than four feet of the front of the house.

WHEN DO I NEED CITY APPROVAL FOR WORK DONE IN MY YARD?

- Landscaping does not require a permit; however, a no-fee permit is required before artificial turf is installed.
- A permit is required from the Public Works Department for pouring concrete in the park strip or for widening and/or adding a drive approach.

Water efficient landscaping programs and resources are available through the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District. For more information, visit <https://www.utahwatersavers.com>.

