



CITY OF PORT HUENEME

Landscape Design Guidelines and City Design Theme Q & A

Thank you for your interest in exploring the City's effort to update the Landscape Design Guidelines and its Design Theme. The purpose of this document is to provide our community with a summary of frequently asked questions and answers related to the proposed Landscape Design Guidelines and City Design Theme updates.

General Information

Q: Why is the City updating its Landscaping Guidelines?

A: The current Guidelines date back to 1993. Since that time, many new regulations regarding drought-tolerant landscaping have taken effect. Therefore, the City wants to create a new set of Guidelines that will be up-to-date and provide businesses and homeowners a valuable resource to use if they want to update their landscaping. In addition, the City will be considering a new, streamlined process to assist and encourage homeowners' associations and businesses to update their landscaping.

Q: Why is a new "City Theme" being explored?

A: The City's existing "theme" (green pylons with wood signs and Coral trees) has been in existence for approximately 30 years. Since many of the existing Coral trees have failed, and with the City of Port Hueneme celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year, a new or updated "theme" with an updated City entry sign design, new wayfinding signs to important City amenities, and updated landscaping palettes at City entries and facilities could be considered.

Q: Will the new "theme" include a new City name?

A: No.

Q: Is it mandatory for homeowners and business owners to be in compliance with the new Guidelines?

A: No. The Landscape Guidelines is a resource tool to aid the community in replacing landscaping; however, it is not mandatory.

Q: Will the City redesign public spaces including parks, bike paths (greenbelt), beach, and City buildings?

A: The City will focus on replacing trees and plant materials which are in poor health, pose danger to life/property, and which fail due to weather-related activity. As funding becomes available the City may redesign public spaces subject to the Landscaping Guidelines.

Q: May I install a tree or other plant species that is not listed within the Landscaping Guidelines?

A: Yes, alternative trees are allowed; however, additional City review may be required for suitability in use, irrigation, and planned location. Homeowners that are not part of a homeowners' association (HOA) and/or Planned Development (PD) are not required to obtain approval from the City for landscape improvements.

Q: Will the City offer landscaping consultants for use by the public?

A: The City does not offer landscaping consultants, nor can we suggest any (to avoid appearing as favoring some companies over others). However, there are many local



landscape professionals in our county you can contact for help and support in creating new plans for your home, business or community. In addition, there are many resources online for the DIY gardener such as https://link.edgepilot.com/s/29add5fd/DIMiNe_0HUe-GT_D0GR1Q?u=https://www.bewaterwise.com/garden.html.

Potential Benefits

- Q: How will homeowners and businesses benefit from the new Landscaping Guidelines?
- A: Benefits include providing lists of drought-tolerant plants and landscaping ideas, which if designed properly, can save businesses, homeowners and homeowners' associations money and time through lower irrigation and maintenance costs. Similarly, the Guidelines will be a useful tool for those wanting to replace over-planted and/or outdated landscaping with new landscaping.
- Q: How will this benefit the environment?
- A: Landscaping benefits the environment in many ways including: battling climate change, providing carbon sequestration and ways to clean our air, providing shade, and beauty. The updated Landscape Guidelines will promote water-efficient plantings that will help conserve water.

Adoption Process

- Q: What are the next steps after these workshops?
- A: The Landscape Guidelines Update Committee will evaluate all of the comments received during the workshop process and incorporate them as applicable into the draft updated Guidelines. These will then be presented to the City Council for consideration.
- Q: When will the updated Landscaping Guidelines be available to use?
- A: It is anticipated that the updated Guidelines will be presented to the City Council for adoption in December, 2023. If the City Council approves them, then they will go into effect very shortly thereafter.
- Q: How will I know when the Landscaping Guidelines will be reviewed by the City Council?
- A: City meetings agendas are posted on the following City website link: <https://porthuenemeca.suiteonemedia.com/> Additionally, you may contact Jose Coyotl, Associate Planner via email: JCoyotl@cityofporthueneme.org or by phone at (805) 986-6548 to be included in the interested parties list to receive an email about the upcoming Landscaping Guidelines City Council hearing.

Public Participation

- Q: Can the public provide comments during the City Council meeting?
- A: Yes, community members are encouraged to provide comments during the open public forum portion of the meeting. Public comment instructions will be located on the first page of the City Council Agenda. Should you need additional help, please contact the City Clerk via email at clerk@cityofporthueneme.org