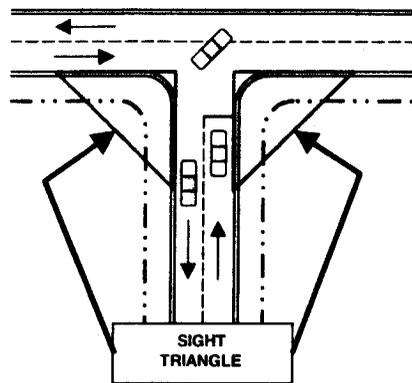


The city code determines what can be planted in planting strips in order to ensure public safety on roads and sidewalks:

- Plants can include grasses, flowers, low-growing shrubs, and approved street trees.
- Street trees must be of a variety approved by the city arborist. See <http://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us/forms/Street%20Tree%20List.pdf> for a list of approved trees. Before planting any street tree, you must obtain a free street tree permit from the city Public Works.
- Vegetation height restrictions apply to strips on corners, so that drivers and cyclists have an unobstructed view of cross traffic and pedestrians. Within the sight triangle, plants or other material must not obstruct a driver's view between 3 ft. and 8 ft. above the roadway. For specifics, contact city Public Works.



For more information on ordinances, visit <http://www.codepublishing.com/wa/ellensburg/> and see Titles 4.17, 4.36, 4.38.

Additional Resources

Information on xeriscaping, including comprehensive xeric plant lists:

- WSU Extension Master Gardener program, 509-962-7507
- WSU Extension <http://extprograms.wsu.edu>
- Washington Native Plant Society www.wnps.org
- Colorado State University Extension www.est.colostate.edu

Sources of plants and materials

- Local nurseries
- Roy & Marge Bach Memorial Conservation Plant Sale www.kccd.net/
- City of Ellensburg Arbor Day Free Tree Giveaway Program, contact city Public Works, 509-962-7230
- Kittitas County Compost Facility 509-962-7542
- High Country Gardens www.highcountrygardens.com
- Plants of the Wild www.plantsofthewild.com
- Methow Natives www.methownatives.com/

Information on care and maintenance

- WSU Hortsense/Pestsense www.wsu.edu/hortsense/
- WSU Spokane www.spokane-county.wsu.edu/

Tips for Strips

A guide for creating a beautiful water-wise, low-maintenance planting strip



Photo by Utah Rivers Council

For more information
visit the Master Gardener
Diagnostic Clinic
May through September
Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

WSU Extension Office
901 E 7th Avenue, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Phone: (509) 962-7507
<http://www.kittitas.wsu.edu>
www.facebook.com/mgofkittitas



WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of non-compliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office. Trade names may have been used to simplify the presentation of information. No

Don't Zeroscape! Xeriscape!

The planting strip is that narrow strip of lawn between the sidewalk and the street. It buffers walkers from traffic and provides the foundation for beautiful, tree-lined streets. But this strip can be a challenge for property owners to maintain. It's too hot, too rocky, and too hard to water without watering pedestrians and parked cars as well.



Why not try something different with this space? Through xeriscaping, you can convert your water-wasting grassy strip or weed patch into a low-maintenance island of color.

Drought-tolerant Perennials

Dimensions are height x width



Sempervivum X rupicolum
Hens-and-Chicks
4" x 12"
Sun / pt. sun



Sedum spectabile 'Brilliant'
Brilliant Showy Stonecrop
21" x 12"
Sun / pt. sun



Achillea
Yarrow
18" x 4"
Sun



Lavandula angustifolia
English Lavender
20" x 24"
Sun



Dianthus barbatus
Sweet William
10" x 20"
Pt. sun / shade



Coreopsis verticillata
'Moonbeam'
Moonbeam Coreopsis
2' x 2'



Aurinia saxatilis
Basket-of-Gold
10" x 20"
Sun



Gaillardia x grandiflora
Blanket Flower
12" x 15"
Sun



Coronilla varia
Crownvetch
20" x 48"
Sun / pt. sun



Antennaria dioica
Pussytoes
2" x 15"
Sun / pt. sun



Cerastium tomentosum
Snow-in-Summer
6" x 18"
Sun



Vinca minor
Creeping myrtle
6" x 3"
Pt sun / shade

Measure and monitor

Figure the square footage by multiplying the strip length by width. Make note of site characteristics: proportion of sun/shade, soil quality, and amount of foot traffic.

Plan

Determine the number and size of plants needed, keeping city ordinances in mind. Consider whether to include street trees and non-plant material such as stepping stones.

Select plants

Choose plants appropriate to the site. Use a mix of drought-tolerant evergreen and seasonal perennials in a variety of sizes and colors.

Prepare the soil

Drought-tolerant plants often do not require rich soil, but digging in some compost will improve soil structure, drainage, and water infiltration rate. If you are replacing existing lawn, you will first need to kill the grass by using one of these methods: strip the turf with a shovel, cover it with a sheet of plastic for a few weeks, or apply glyphosate, following directions carefully.

Plant

Remove plants from containers and loosen the rootball so that it is not tightly wound. Place the plant so the top of the rootball is even with the ground and water immediately.

Mulch

Cover your planting area with 3 to 4 inches of bark, wood chips, or gravel to reduce evaporation and suppress weeds.

Maintain

New plants, even drought-tolerant ones, need to be watered frequently. Once established, plants may need watering only once every week or two. Consider using drip irrigation. Occasional weeding and trimming will keep your strip looking healthy and attractive.