

Attachment B: Summary of Changes to Landscape & Irrigation Criteria Manual 2026

Section	Changes	Reason
1.10 Supplemental Information to these Criteria	Removed Director of Castle Rock Water as the point of contact for questions regarding the downloading of files on CRgov.com	Statement not needed. CRgov.com already includes administrative contact email and phone numbers.
1.10 Supplemental Information to these Criteria	Removed the following referenced documents: Drawing Submittal Requirements Electronic Data Submittal Layer Requirements General Construction Drawing Cover Sheet Notes Added a new reference document: Required Tables	The documents removed are no longer used or were duplicated. Reference to Required Tables document was added at the request of Planning since these are required for submittals.
1.12 Acronyms	Removed the following acronyms: BMP (Best Management Practices) CLIA (Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor) ET (Evapotranspiration) PLA (Professional Landscape Architect)	These acronyms are no longer being used in the document
1.13 Definitions	Removed various unused definitions as indicated in the redlines	These definitions are not being used in the document and/or are commonly known industry terms
1.13 As-Built Drawing Definition	Revised the definition of As-Built Drawings	Revised definition represents industry standard
1.13 Common Area Definition	Removed private use from the definition of a Common Area Removed references to pocket parks, passive parks and active parks	Common areas by definition must be made available for public use Broadened definition to include all parks and passive recreation areas
1.13 Functional Artificial Turf Definitions	Added following definitions as defined in HB25-1113 Limit Turf in New Residential Development: Functional Artificial Turf, Functional Turf, Non-Functional Turf, Non-Functional Artificial Turf	Definitions added to be consistent with Senate Bill 24-005 and House Bill 25-1113
1.13 Right-of-Way Definition	Revised the definition of Right of Way	Revised to better to align with Public Works definition
1.13 Temporary Irrigation Definition	Removed the following language in Temporary Irrigation definition: For sod to native seed conversion, existing subgrade irrigation may remain in place and 12" irrigation heads installed for the native seed establishment.	Not applicable to the definition of Temporary Irrigation

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2.1 Professional Registration: General Requirements	Revised language with no change to requirements	Eliminate redundancy of requirements already covered in other sections 2.2 and 2.3
2.4 Professional Registration Expiration	Changed the RLP registration expiration date from April 30 to December 31	To align with QWEL's expiration date of 12/31
2.7 (8) Denial, Suspension, Revocation	Revised language to extend the timeframe for Registered Landscape Professionals to make irrigation system adjustments and repairs from 24 hours to 48 hours	To allow adequate time to obtain necessary parts and perform repairs
3.1.2.1 Site Development Plan	Added the following language to Site Development Plan (SDP): At completion of the SDP process, this document is recorded with Douglas County and is a legally binding agreement.	Clarification of existing SDP process
3.1.2.2 Construction Documents 1 (c)	Revised language to require plant abbreviations/quantities listed on each sheet of the Landscape Plan	To facilitate the plan review process
4.1.2 Applicable Landscape and Irrigation	Added Parks to applicable landscape and irrigation under section 4 General Requirements	The performance standards and criteria for landscape and irrigation in section 4 apply to Parks
4.3.1 Performance Standard #1	Removed language with reference to Composite Landscape Water Use Rating (CLWUR) calculations	As result of ongoing updates to landscape and irrigation criteria, the CLWUR is no longer relevant
4.3.1 Performance Standard #1	Added requirement to maintain Distribution Uniformity of 75% after installation for non-residential properties Changed the requirement of performing an Irrigation Efficiency audit at the Town's sole discretion Removed requirement for Irrigation Design Affidavit	To ensure irrigation efficiency requirement applies to ongoing maintenance Irrigation efficiency can be visually assessed during the inspection process without a full audit. Therefore, requiring mandatory audits on every project is unnecessary. The Town reserves the right to require as needed to ensure proper system performance. No longer needed by Plan Review
4.3.1 Performance Standard #1	Revised language to include pavement and subgrade material	As requested by Public Works to note importance in also preventing impact to pavement and subgrade.

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4.4.1 Soil Evaluation	Changed the requirement of performing a soil test to the Town's sole discretion	Change reflects current practices
4.4.3 Soil Amendment	Minimum soil amendment volumes to apply only when a soil analysis is not done Removed language regarding the use of non-potable water	Change reflects current practices Not applicable within this section
4.4.5 Structural Soil	Defined how tree planting strips are measured. Planting strips shall be measured from back of curb to edge of walk or curb	Clarify how to measure narrow tree planting strips less than 8 feet
4.4.6 Inspections	Added requirement for a pre-construction meeting prior to starting work for non-residential projects Revised language to clarify not all inspections are required before plant material installation	Change reflects current practices Change reflects current practices
4.4.6 Inspections (4) Residential	Added clarification for residential compost inspections to be performed prior to turf installation Added the review of the following to the residential inspection process: <i>master valve and manifold</i> <i>backflow prevention assembly</i> Removed curb stop box from inspection process	Change reflects current practices Change reflects current practices Change reflects current practice. A curb stop is inspected by the Meters department when meter is installed.
4.4.6 Inspections (5) Non-residential	Removed repetitive language regarding no slopes greater than 3:1 Added requirement for As-built drawings before final inspection and certificate of occupancy	Already included in section 4.4.4 (2) To ensure receipt of As-builts and facilitate the final inspection and close-out of permit
4.4.6 Inspections (7)	Specified only cash surety is accepted	Town is no longer accepts bonds or letters of credit for landscape and irrigation permits
4.4.8 Minimum Planting standards (3)	Added language for CU Structural soil to be used for ornamental trees in areas less than 6 feet Added language of 4 feet minimum planting width for ornamental trees	To clarify based on existing practice To clarify based on existing practice
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4.4.9 Non-living landscape material	Added prohibition of landscape fabric under organic mulch	To ensure consistency with industry standards

	<p>Added prohibition of Organic mulch in Defensible Space Zone 1 (0-5 feet) and included requirement for inorganic mulch in this same Zone</p> <p>Replaced Artificial Plant Material with: Artificial Turf may be used and must be installed per manufacturer specifications</p>	<p>This is the Fire Wise best practice as directed by Fire Department</p> <p>Clarification to include more commonly used term with no requirement change</p>
4.5.1 General Irrigation Design (5)	<p>Removed inconsistent language allowing for permanent irrigation of native grass on slopes</p>	<p>To align with the temporary irrigation criteria already in place</p>
4.5.4 Irrigation System Design	<p>Clarified requirement for separate valve box</p> <p>Modified existing flow sensor specification to require ultra-sonic products</p> <p>Added language: incomplete irrigation charts and hydraulic worksheets result in additional reviews</p>	<p>Consistency with existing irrigation details</p> <p>Ultra-sonic sensors required to accurately read lower flow conditions present in ColoradoScape Designs</p> <p>Emphasizes existing plan review process</p>
4.5.5 Irrigation System Installation	<p>Removed reference to bonding and replaced with cash surety</p> <p>Added language: Town may require an irrigation audit and the cost will be at customer's expense</p> <p>Removed the requirement for certification from an Irrigation Designer and the Town's Irrigation Design Affidavit</p>	<p>The Town no longer accepts bonds for landscape and irrigation permits but uses cash surety</p> <p>Change reflects current practice. Audits are only deemed necessary when system performance is a concern</p> <p>Irrigation Design Affidavit is no longer used</p>
4.5.6 Irrigation System Operation	<p>Added language regarding temporarily installed above ground irrigation to be used for establishment only</p>	<p>Align existing requirement with Temporary Irrigation Criteria Appendix A whereby temporary irrigation is used for establishment only</p>
4.6.1 Irrigation General Maintenance	<p>Added reference to new Appendix C with detailed Irrigation Maintenance Requirements. Appendix C added to end of updated manual.</p>	<p>Maintenance best practices align with existing QWEL recommendations</p>
4.6.3 Turf	<p>Specified mowing height is for cool season turf grass</p>	<p>Mowing height applies to cool season turf grass only and not native grasses</p>

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4.6.3 Native Grasses	<p>Revised language to restrict native grass from being mowed and maintained the same as turf grass</p> <p>Revised language to require management of weeds</p>	<p>When native grasses are maintained in their natural form, overall plant health is improved</p> <p>Promote proper growth and healthy habitat</p>

4.6.3 Fertilization	Revised language to clarify fertilizer composition shall be consistent with soil analysis if completed Removed requirement to submit fertilization program with construction document landscape plans	Reduce over fertilization Fertilization needs are typically unknown at the time of construction document submittal
4.6.4 Weed, Pest and Disease Control	Removed language referring to approved maintenance plans and specified the intent of ensuring application of pesticides and herbicides are compliant with all applicable laws.	Town does not approve maintenance plans
5.2.1.1 Gross site requirements	For non-residential properties, changed minimum requirement of 2 large canopy deciduous shade trees to 2 trees (any size and type) provided 50% of the trees are large canopy deciduous shade trees	This provides reasonable flexibility and will reduce number of technical criteria variance applications when spacing is limited
6.2.1 Landscape Design (3) (b)	Removed reference to Texas Hybrid Bluegrass Turf from backyard requirements	Texas Hybrid Bluegrass Turf is not the only turf variety meeting the 19 inches per season requirement
6.2.2 Gates and Walking Paths Functionality (1) (d)	Added the following technical specifications for walking paths: <i>Minimum width of 24 inches</i> <i>Materials prone to erosion or wash-out are prohibited in construction of walking paths</i> <i>Impervious materials must be used in walking paths on or near slopes or drainage swales</i>	Clarification to ensure safe and functional walking paths
6.2.3 Irrigation Design (1) (b)	Added language allowing for temporary above ground irrigation of native grass for establishment not to exceed one complete Growing Season and requiring the removal of the irrigation system once established	This is not a new requirement, but language added to support existing designs and site conditions
6.2.3 Irrigation System Design (3)	Specified ultra-sonic flow sensors are recommended Added new language prohibiting permanently installed overhead irrigation in front yards Removed section i. regarding Drip Irrigation Removed section j. regarding Bubblers Removed section k. regarding Irrigation charts	Expanded flow sensor recommendation to include ultra-sonic models as they perform better with lower flows associated with ColoradoScape Supports low volume drip irrigation for ColoradoScape design These requirements are included in Section 4 These requirements are included in Section 4 These requirements are included in Section 4
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6.2.3 Irrigation System Installation (5)	Removed section a. regarding Temporary Irrigation establishment defined for each plant material type Removed section b. regarding Permanent Irrigation by each plant material type	These requirements are already included in Section 4 These requirements are already included in Section 4

9.1.1 Applicable Uses	<i>Included public and private streets as part of Streetscapes</i>	Added at request of Planning as private streets should also be included in these requirements
9.2.2 Irrigation Design (2) (e)	<i>Removed language referring to Municipal Code 13.20</i>	Repetitive. Already included in sections 1 and 4 applicable to all land uses
10.2.1 Passive Parks (1) (b) (vi)	<i>Changed irrigation requirement of plant material <u>from</u> not to exceed 15 inches per growing season <u>to</u> 10 inches</i>	Created consistency with ColoradoScape requirements Hydrozones 1 and 2
10.2.1 Town-owned Parks and Sports Fields (2) (a) (iv)	<i>Removed language encouraging use of artificial turf on sports fields</i>	Artificial turf is allowed but not encouraged. It is not sustainable long-term, it increases heat island effect and inhibits storm water infiltration leading to increased run-off.
10.2.2 Irrigation Design	<i>Removed language with irrigation requirement of aesthetic and ornamental plant material not to exceed 15 inches per growing season</i>	Repetitive. Already included in section 10.2.1
Appendix A: Temporary Irrigation Criteria	<i>Removed language stating establishment period is assumed to be 2 years</i> <i>Revised language to specify above ground irrigation system</i> <i>Added reference to Town's TESC Manual</i> <i>Removed language regarding water bill rates, fees and tiers</i> <i>Removed all formulas for calculating watering cycles per zone and replaced with a sample watering schedule for the establishment period</i>	Establishment period by definition is a complete growing season Temporary Irrigation Criteria only applies to above ground system TESC Manual defines requirements for seeding Billing references are not necessary. Water will be billed at the appropriate and required rates. Formulas were provided as an example only and not meant to be prescriptive