



Town of Castle Rock

Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Date: 4/21/2020

Item #: File #: TMP 2020-185

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council

From: Mark Marlowe, PE, Director of Castle Rock Water
Matt Benak, PE, Water Resources Manager
Rick Schultz, Water Conservation Specialist
Linda Gould, Water Conservation Technician

Ordinance Amending Section 15.48.010 of the Castle Rock Municipal Code Adopting by Reference as a Primary Code the 2020 Landscape and Irrigation Performance Standards and Criteria Manual

Executive Summary

The purpose and intent of this memo is to seek Town Council approval of an Ordinance to amend certain chapters of the Town of Castle Rock Municipal Code (see **Attachment A**), specifically the Landscape and Irrigation Performance Standards and Criteria Manual. Roughly fifty percent of the water used in Castle Rock is used outdoors for landscape irrigation. Creating more water efficient landscapes (what Castle Rock Water refers to as ColoradoScapes) holds the potential to significantly reduce water use for new development in the future. This action will help Castle Rock meet our water efficiency plan goal of another 18 percent reduction in per capita use.

The major changes to the Landscape and Irrigation Performance Standards and Criteria Manual being proposed are included below:

- Removed Class II Compost as a soil amendment option. Class II compost contains animal waste and has a higher salinity level. We're removing Class II compost and only allowing Class I, as it is a more desirable amendment for Castle Rock soils.
- Updated definitions to include:
 - Registered Landscape Company
 - Registered Landscape Professional
 - Responsible Landscape Professional (RLP)

- Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control (TESC)
- Updated our hardiness zone to match the USDA hardiness zone for Castle Rock.
- Updated registration requirements to include the landscape company. This company must also designate one or more Responsible Landscape Professional(s) (RLP).
- Removed existing GreenCO Best Management Practices requirement and replaced with Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) certification. GreenCO is an older program that hasn't been updated since 2008. QWEL is a more up to date and comprehensive training and certification program.
- Added the following for suspension or disciplinary action:
 - The Responsible Landscape Professional and the registered individual will be notified of any instance of non-compliance and given the opportunity to correct all inconsistencies.
 - Failure to correct inconsistencies, or more than one notice of non-compliance, will result in suspension of Town registration.
 - Providing false or misleading permit fee charges to a customer or to the Town.
- Streetscapes. The following statement was added to clarify intent specifically for Town of Castle Rock Public Works Capital Improvement Projects.
 - **D. This section shall not apply to Town of Castle Rock Capital Improvement Projects.**

Added the following:

- All landscapes require irrigation for establishment and periodic maintenance. The ongoing need for irrigation is determined by weather.
- All deciduous large and small canopy trees must be permanently irrigated.
- Section 9 Parks, Sports Fields, and Golf Courses. Added section 9 that was inadvertently excluded during the last update in 2018.

Notification and Outreach Efforts

Castle Rock Water staff has communicated with all registered landscape professionals and their associated companies through email, U.S. Mail, in person meetings, and by telephone to seek feedback on the proposed changes. A Stakeholder meeting was scheduled for March 26, 2020 but has now been cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Due to low registration, staff intends to contact these companies individually to discuss the planned Code changes.

History of Past Town Council, Boards & Commissions, and Other Discussions

A summary of changes will be presented to the Developers Roundtable, Homebuilders Association, and Economic Development.

Discussion

The last revision to the Landscape and Irrigation Manual was in February 2018. The Landscape and Irrigation Performance Standards and Criteria Manual works in conjunction with the Water Efficiency Master Plan and the Water Use Management Plan to ensure the overall goals are implemented through efficient landscape and irrigation design, installation, and maintenance. These plans outline the need for additional water conservation efforts to meet the long-term water demands of the growing community and minimize the need to acquire additional renewable water resources to meet peak summer demands.

The Landscape and Irrigation Performance Standards and Criteria Manual consists of residential and non-residential landscape and irrigation efficiency requirements. All new developments must follow the criteria in these standards.

Under the changes, Registered Landscape Companies will be required to maintain a QWEL certified RLP on staff to be registered with the Town. Castle Rock Water will maintain a list of registered Responsible Landscape Companies on our website for customers to see and use.

Budget Impact

There is no significant anticipated additional cost to the Town if Council approves the proposed code amendment. Some minor administrative work may be needed. The proposed changes will help reduce outdoor water usage and therefore reduce the total amount of renewable water needed in the future and reduce the future peak water demands placed on the system to meet the summer irrigation demands of the community.

Recommendations

Castle Rock Water Commission _____ the proposed code amendment to the Town of Castle Rock Municipal Code be approved by Town Council.

Proposed Motion

"I move to approve the Ordinance as introduced by title."

Attachments

Attachment A: Ordinance
Exhibit 1: Manual