APPENDIX F: LANDSCAPE DESIGN STANDARDS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL

TOPIC	INFORMATION	LINKS
Applicability	A. The Landscape Design Standards apply to all TFC new construction and major renovation projects: 1. Contracted on or after the Edit Date indicated in the header above; 2. When landscape is part of the project scope.	•
Purpose	A. Promote conservation of water on state facilities B. Water is in limited supply and is subject to ever increasing demands. C. Quality landscapes conserve water and other natural and energy resources. D. They reduce pollution and assist in groundwater recharge.	•
Regulatory Requirements	A. Automatic irrigation systems shall comply with: 1. Texas Water Code (TWC); 2. Texas Occupations Code (TOC) Chapter 1903; 3. Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Title 30; 4. Chapter 447 of the Texas Government Code; a. State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) Water Conservation Standards (WCS); b. Texas Administrative Code Chapter 19, subchapter C; and 5. All local requirements. B. The minimum precipitation rate that can be applied by any zone of conventional irrigation shall be in accordance with state regulations established by TCEQ.	• Texas Statutes (TWC, TOC) • TCEQ • TAC • TGC 447.04 • SECO WCS • TAC 19 C

Return to Table of Contents

APPENDIX F: LANDSCAPE DESIGN STANDARDS

EXISTING VEGETATION

TOPIC	REQUIREMENTS	LINKS
Plant Preservation	A. Preservation of existing native plants is encouraged. B. Such plants include, but are not limited to: 1. Plants that are threatened or endangered: a. Make reasonable efforts to identify and protect endangered plants b. Resources for plant identification include but are not limited to: (i) Texas Natural History Survey (TNHS) available through The Nature Conservancy (TNC). 2. Specimen plants or exceptional examples of a particular species; and 3. Plants that readily survive relocation and are useful in new or existing landscape. C. Every attempt to preserve desirable plant species by barrier methods is encouraged. 1. Identify plants that can be preserved through barrier methods. 2. Establish specifications, by facility, to preserve those plants. D. Preservation of wetlands shall be considered for all construction projects. 1. Exception: Any plant that endangers health, safety, or property can be removed without delay. E. When economically feasible, relocation of desirable plants from areas to be disturbed by construction is encouraged.	• TNC • TNHS
Protective Barriers	A. Indicate appropriate protective barriers completely surrounding existing vegetation to remain. B.	•

Return to Table of Contents

APPENDIX F: LANDSCAPE DESIGN STANDARDS

PLANTING		
TOPIC	**REQUIREMENTS**	**LINKS**
Installation	A. Recommended: Fall installation to minimize water usage. B. Discouraged: Summer installation.	•
Topsoil	A. Specify soil analysis and amendments, such as compost, in type and quantity necessary to enhance plant growth and maximize water retention. B.	•
Turf Grass Areas	A. Irrigated turf shall not exceed 50% of landscaped areas. B. Turf type shall be determined by: 1. Facility need; 2. Geographic and climatic conditions; and 3. Ability to survive normal rainfall or minimal irrigation.	•

Return to Table of Contents

APPENDIX F: LANDSCAPE DESIGN STANDARDS

IRRIGATION		
TOPIC	**REQUIREMENTS**	**LINKS**
Water Source(s)	A. Identify available alternate sources of non-potable and reclaimed water. 1. Utilize alternate sources when found to be economically feasible.	•
Water Budget	A. Provide a water budget in irrigation documents indicating: 1. Pressure regulation component locations; 2. Estimated monthly water use in gallons; 3. Area to be irrigated, in square feet; 4. Precipitation rates for each valve circuit; 5. Monthly irrigation schedule for: a. Plant establishment period; and b. Recommend annual watering schedule, including seasonal adjustments. B. Design System for minimum run-off.	•
Metering	A. Meter separately from other water supply systems such as domestic and fire protection.	• Metering Requirements
Hardware	A. Employ drip, trickle, micro, low-arching, or other water-conserving technology where possible. B. Circuit remote control valves: Adjustable flow control type. C. Pressure regulating devices (at the valve or the head): Required where static pressure exceeds manufacturer's recommended operating range. D. Check Valves: Required where elevation differential may cause low head drainage adjacent to paving areas. E. Rain and freeze sensor shut-off devices: Required on all systems.	•
Sprinkler Head Spacing	A. Do not place within four feet of paved areas or hardscape. B. Design for head-to-head coverage OR C. Follow manufacturer's requirements adjusted for prevailing winds.	•

Return to Table of Contents