

Item # 29



CITY OF EL PASO

# Landscape Ordinance Amendments

# Purpose

- Simplify and clarify code requirements
- Beautification and improved visual aesthetic for residents, businesses, and visitors
- Increase landscape density and distribution along street frontages and commercial corridors
- Applicability – commercial and residential subdivision development
- Aligned with Chihuahuan Desert Climate Action Plan



# Landscape Ord. Chronology

Ordinance 12399 enacted May 23, 1995

Ordinance modified in June 1999

Revised November 2007

- Updated to promote property aesthetics and values by landscape standards. Relocated from Ch. 20 Zoning to Ch. 18 Building and Construction Code

Revised November 2011

- Amended to address Smart Growth

Revised June 2013

# Public Outreach

Developers Focus Group

Coordination with EPE, Texas One Gas and EPW

Public meeting – February 27, 2025

Sustainability meeting – May 30, 2025

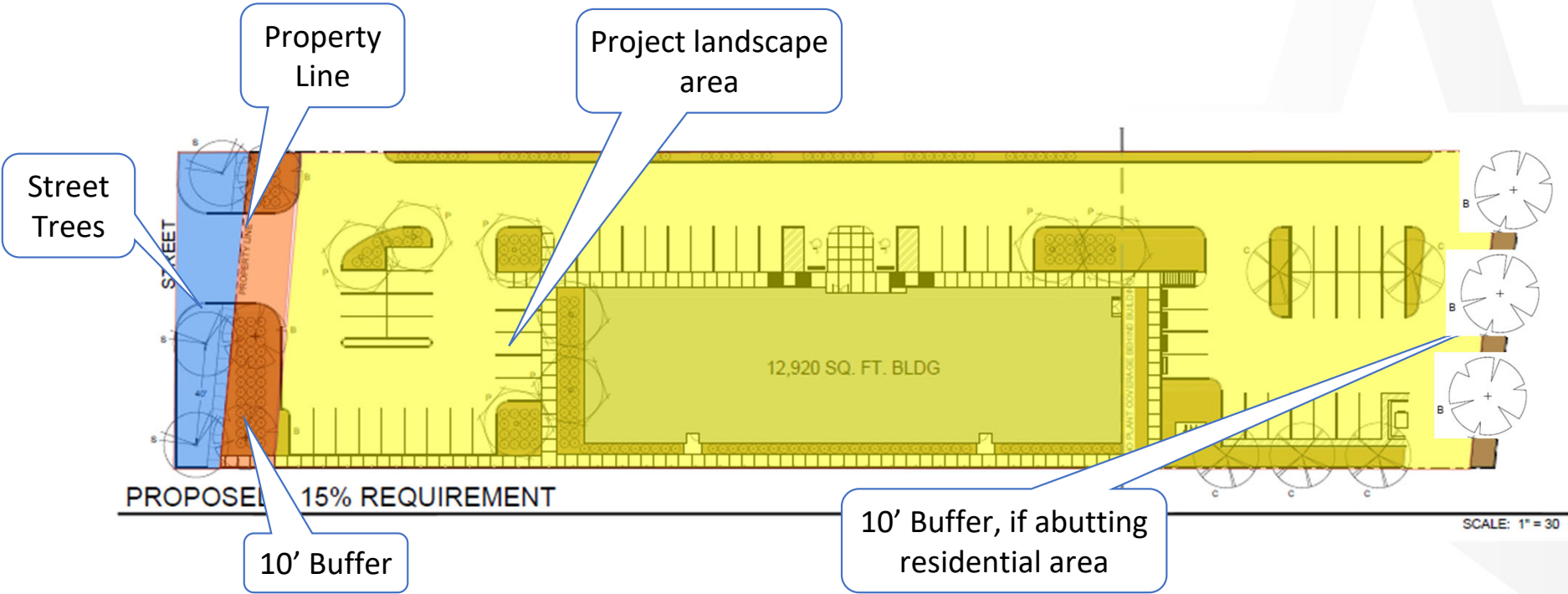
AIA Local Chapter – June 12, 2025

City Plan Commission – March 26, 2026

Council Briefings



# Project Landscape Areas



# Proposed Major Amendments

Requirements	Current Code	Proposed Code	Benefit
Street and Buffer Trees	1 tree per 30 feet of ROW Frontage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Large or medium trees from COEP Plant list</li> <li>- 40' spacing for large canopies, 40' or &gt;</li> <li>- 30' spacing for canopies, &lt; 40'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotes faster growth and greater shade canopy at tree maturity</li> <li>- Additional spacing allows for placement of required shrubs between trees at the buffer zone</li> </ul>



# Proposed Major Amendments

Requirements	Current Code	Proposed Code	Benefit
Required Landscape Area	Landscape permitted throughout parcel	Required landscape redistributed to front of building and along street frontage	- Improved visual aesthetic and beautification for pedestrians, residents, and motorists



# Proposed Major Amendments

Requirements	Current Code	Proposed Code	Benefit
Unit Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 1 Tree per unit</li><li>- 45 Shrubs - five gallon shrubs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 1 Tree per unit</li><li>- 30 Shrubs - five gallon shrubs</li><li>- 15% of the required shrubs shall in the 10' frontage buffer</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Enhanced visual aesthetics for community</li><li>- Increased selection of native or naturalized drought tolerant plants</li></ul>

# Proposed Major Amendments

Requirements	Current Code	Proposed Code	Benefit
Residential to Commercial Buffer	None required	10' wide buffer with trees every 30' O.C required when commercial abuts residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides sound and visual barrier</li> <li>- Codifies routine zoning condition</li> </ul>



Current commercial to residential buffer.



Proposed commercial to residential buffer.

# Proposed Major Amendments

Requirements	Current Code	Proposed Code	Benefit
Buy-out option	Only available for unmanned facilities	Expanded to apply to developed sites, when 1 unit or less is required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Current Fee – \$5,300</li><li>- Fees may be used to enhance landscaping City assets</li></ul>

# Staff Recommendation

Approval of proposed amendments to the landscape ordinance

## MISSION



Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community.

## VISION



Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government.



## VALUES

Integrity, **R**espect, **E**xcellence,  
**A**ccountability, **P**eople

## MISIÓN



Brindar servicios excepcionales para respaldar una vida y un lugar de alta calidad para nuestra comunidad

## VISIÓN



Desarrollar una economía regional vibrante, vecindarios seguros y hermosos y oportunidades recreativas, culturales y educativas excepcionales impulsadas por un gobierno de alto desempeño



## VALORES

Integridad, Respeto, Excelencia,  
Responsabilidad, Personas