

## **PROPOSED LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE OVERVIEW:**

The purpose of the proposed landscape ordinance is to establish minimum requirements for the design, installation, preservation, and maintenance of landscapes.

The proposed ordinance was developed to fulfill the following objectives:

1. Provide aesthetic enhancement reflective of community values and the natural environment.
2. Protect property values.
3. Conserve water resources.
4. Support storm water management ordinances.
5. Buffer conflicting land uses.
6. Strike balance among various interest groups.
7. Simplify the task of compliance, administration, and enforcement of the ordinance.

The existing ordinance is based on a point system. Plant materials are assigned a point value; the square footage of the property minus the square footage of the building(s) equals the number of landscape points required. Plants may be placed anywhere on the property subject to the following stipulations:

1. 50 percent of the required plant (points) must be located within 20 feet of the parking area(s).
2. 25 percent of the plants (points) located in the property's adjacent right-of-way may be included in the required points calculation.
3. Parking areas require one planter island per 50 parking spaces.

Certain properties located in industrial zoning districts may use either of two alternate methods to comply with the existing ordinance.

The proposed ordinance intends to provide greater design freedom, improved plant diversity and habitat, and an enhanced public image of Rapid City. The ordinance includes graphics, tables, checklists, and definitions to aid in its understanding and usability and attempts to limit ambiguous language and difficult-to-enforce requirements.

In essence, the ordinance consists of general requirements for all landscape areas plus additional landscape requirements for the followings three areas of a site:

1. **Frontage Landscape Setback:** A dedicated landscape area that separates the public-right-of-way from adjacent land use. Designed for flexibility, this setback provides an urban greenbelt area for street trees, on-site storm water management, and pedestrian amenities.
2. **Adjoining Landscape Setback:** A dedicated landscape area along rear and side property lines to provide for tree planting, buffering of conflicting land use, on-site storm water management, and the interruption of expanses of continuous development.
3. **Parking Areas:** General tree requirements for all parking lots and internal landscaping requirements for large parking areas containing more than 100 parking stalls. Flexibility is provided for on-site storm water management and safe vehicular and pedestrian circulation.