



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
STREET TREES DIVISION

965 Fir Street
Chico, CA 95928

(530) 896-7800
Email:
streettrees@chicoca.gov
Website: www.chico.ca.us

Parkway Conversion Guidelines:

In order to meet the requirements of the Chico Municipal Code and to be consistent with Cal Water's program, Staff has established the following guidelines for parkway conversions that accomplish the following goals:

1. To provide for the health and vigor of City Street Trees.
2. To reduce water use through the planting of low-water use plants suited for the area, and water efficient irrigation systems.
3. To allow water, including stormwater, to seep into the ground.
4. To provide for public safety by protecting utilities, sight distances, and access to fire hydrants, mailboxes etc.
5. To reduce the "heat island" affect by encouraging a minimum plant area coverage.

The intent of the parkway conversion guidelines is to provide a short list of "do's and don'ts" to accomplish the above goals, and is not meant to overly limit the resident's options for landscaping and water conservation.

1. Prior to excavation and installation, call the Underground Service Alert (USA North 811) and the City of Chico to locate underground utilities.
2. All street trees are to remain in place, and be irrigated as needed. If a resident wishes to have a tree removed or planted, they must follow the City's tree permit process.
3. Design and choose irrigation systems that reduce runoff and overspray. Be mindful that different plants may have different water needs.
4. Install only permeable surfaces, such as mulch, bark, wood chips, gravel, decomposed granite, mortar-less pavers, or river rock.
5. Nonporous surfaces, such as concrete, rocks mortared in place, or non-permeable plastic, are not allowed.
6. Leave a border of organic mulch only that forms a minimum three (3) foot radius from the trees.
7. Use water efficient, noninvasive plants suited to the area that do not grow more than two (2) feet in height at maturity. It is encouraged that at least 50% of the project area be covered by plant material. Tree canopies can count toward the 50% coverage.
8. All exposed areas, other than paths and planting areas, must be mulched to a depth of at least two (2) inches.
9. Use only natural colored rocks or mulch. Ensure that all mulch and rock are recessed within the parkway and do not flow over the curbs and onto the street and sidewalk.
10. Do not install large boulders, statues, or other structures that would interfere with or obstruct the public street, utilities, or other facilities, such as hydrants.