Sample Landscape Strips

URBAN DESIGN BASICS
Sample Landscape Strips

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Do you need to include a landscaped open space strip in your development project?

Use these designs to:

- Satisfy minimum landscaped open space requirements of the Zoning By-law in the form of a three metre strip
- Implement the landscaping standards from the Urban Design Guidelines and streamline the Site Plan Control process
- Improve overall site aesthetics and stormwater management
- Contribute to a more attractive, walkable, and sustainable Thunder Bay

These designs make it easy for you to incorporate landscape strips that will meet the City’s requirements and will enhance your property. The intent of these planting designs is to improve both the quantity and quality of landscaping along City streets and sidewalks and within private lands.
How to use them:

The example landscape strips are very simple to use; combine one of three rectangular shrub and perennial beds with one of three tree configurations to create a typical row planting bed with a deciduous tree canopy. Trees are accommodated by selectively deleting shrubs from the design.

There is a fourth example landscape strip which is a free-form design that can be used on its own or with conifers. This curved shrub and perennial bed can be located in between coniferous trees rather than underneath.

There are ten 3 x 10 metre landscape strip combinations. They can be alternated to create more variety or repeated along the length of a street line.

The species and cultivars selected are hardy to both the local climate and the harsh urban conditions found along street lines. They have been divided into categories based on their recommended separation distance. This provides some flexibility on which plants are selected and promotes biological and visual diversity. For example, if the example planting strip identifies a shrub to be planted 1200 mm on centre, then any of the shrubs listed in that category may be selected.
Where to use them

There are many ways to implement these sample landscape strips in a site plan. The shrub and perennial beds can be underneath the trees or separated depending on the site. The strips can be used along the street line, to enhance a building facade or entrance, to frame signage, to break up a parking lot, or in many other ways. There are plenty of creative ways to enhance your site plan with these versatile strips.

Defining a property boundary

Here the shrub and perennial bed is underneath a row of typical deciduous trees. This defines the property boundary but still allows visibility through to the property. It enhances the property’s curb appeal and improves the public streetscape as well.

Enhancing a building facade or entrance

Here the shrub and perennial bed is against the building foundation. The trees are located in the front yard near the sidewalk. This enhances the front of the building and creates visual interest where there is a relatively flat facade. This is well-suited where the site has a larger required front yard (i.e. 6 metres or more).
Framing a sign
Here the shrub and perennial bed is framing a sign located on a corner or a main entrance. This draws the eye to the business or property’s signage in a pleasant way. Conifers are located on either side of the shrub and perennial beds to maintain sightlines at the corner.

Breaking up a parking lot
Here the shrub and perennial bed is combined with typical deciduous trees to break up the pavement of a parking lot. These landscape strips in a parking lot can help define parking spaces from drive aisles or pedestrian walkways and can improve stormwater management.
Shrub and Perennial Beds

1_Clustered

This shrub and perennial bed has groupings of the same plants clustered together. The planting bed is the narrowest of all the sample landscape strips at 1.2 metres. The planting bed is mulched with a minimum 70mm depth of shredded wood mulch and is surrounded by a 0.9 metre sodded strip on either side.
Type: Medium shrubs
Spacing: 1200mm on centre

Depicted:
Physocarpus opulifolius ‘Diablo’
(Diablo Ninebark)

Alternatives:
Physocarpus opulifolius ‘Dart’s Gold’
(Dart’s Gold Ninebark)
Cornus sericea
(Redosier Dogwood)
Syringa meyeri ‘Palibin’
(Dwarf Korean Lilac)
Microbiota decussata
(Russian Cypress) *low groundcover
Juniperus sabina ‘Arcadia’
(Arcadia Juniper)
Pinus mugo var. pumilio
(Mugo Pine)

Type: Small shrubs
Spacing: 750mm on centre

Depicted:
Spiraea japonica
(Japanese Spirea)

Alternatives:
Potentilla fruticosa
(Potentilla)

Type: Perennials
Spacing: 500mm on centre

Depicted:
Sedum spectabile ‘Autumn Joy’
(Autumn Joy Sedum)

Alternatives:
Hemerocallis
(Daylilies)
Echinacea purpurea
(Echinacea)
Rudbeckia hirta
(Black Eyed Susan)
Calamagrostis x acutiflora ‘Karl Foerster’
(Karl Foerster Grass) *tall grass
Shrub and Perennial Beds

2 Linear

This shrub and perennial bed is the simplest design. It has one row of small shrubs in front of a row of medium shrubs and does not include any perennials. The planting bed is 1.8 metres. The planting bed is mulched with a minimum 70mm depth of shredded wood mulch and is surrounded by a 0.6 metre sodded strip on either side.
**Type: Small shrubs**  
Spacing: 750mm on centre

- Depicted: Potentilla fruticosa (Potentilla)
- Alternatives: Spiraea japonica (Japanese Spirea)

**Type: Medium shrubs**  
Spacing: 1200mm on centre

- Depicted: Pinus mugo var. pumilio (Mugo Pine)
- Alternatives:  
  - Physocarpus opulifolius 'Dart’s Gold' (Dart's Gold Ninebark)  
  - Cornus sericea (Redosier Dogwood)  
  - Syringa meyeri ‘Paliban’ (Dwarf Korean Lilac)  
  - Microbiota decussata (Russian Cypress)  
  - Juniperus sabina ‘Arcadia’ (Arcadia Juniper)  
  - Physocarpus opulifolius ‘Diablo’ (Diablo Ninebark)
This shrub and perennial bed has one row of large shrubs with two rows of perennials on either side. The example species selected includes a taller species (Karl Foerster grass) behind the row of shrubs and a shorter species in front of the shrubs. This is to create a tiered effect. Alternatively, the same perennial can be used on either side the shrub bed for a different effect. The planting bed is 1.8 metres in this design. The planting bed is mulched with a minimum 70mm depth of shredded wood mulch and is surrounded by a 0.6 metre sodded strip on either side.
**Type: Perennials**  
**Spacing: 500mm on centre**

- **Depicted:**
  - **Rudbeckia hirta** (Black Eyed Susan)
  - **Calamagrostis x acutiflora ‘Karl Foerster’** (Karl Foerster Grass) *tall grass*

- **Alternatives:**
  - **Hemerocallis** (Daylilies)
  - **Echinacea purpurea** (Echinacea)
  - **Sedum spectabile ‘Autumn Joy’** (Autumn Joy Sedum)

**Type: Medium shrubs**  
**Spacing: 1200mm on centre**

- **Depicted:**
  - **Syringa meyeri ‘Paliban’** (Dwarf Korean Lilac)

- **Alternatives:**
  - **Physocarpus opulifolius ‘Dart’s Gold’** (Dart’s Gold Ninebark)
  - **Cornus sericea** (Redosier Dogwood)
  - **Microbiota decussata** (Russian Cypress)
  - **Juniperus sabina ‘Arcadia’** (Arcadia Juniper)
  - **Pinus mugo var. pumilio** (Mugo Pine)
  - **Physocarpus opulifolius ‘Diablo’** (Diablo Ninebark)
  - **Physocarpus opulifolius ‘Diablo’** (Diablo Ninebark)
Shrub and Perennial Beds
4_Curved

This shrub and perennial bed is distinct from the other three as it is curved rather than straight. It includes shrubs and perennials of various sizes and is the only sample landscape strip with a large shrub species. It can be used on its own or in between coniferous trees, rather than beneath broad leaf deciduous trees. It is also well-suited to be used in areas where sight-lines need to be maintained such as at entrances or corners.

Type: Large shrubs
Spacing: 2000mm on centre

Depicted:
Hydrangea paniculata ‘Grandiflora’
(Pee Gee Hydrangea)

Alternatives:
Viburnum lentago
(Nannyberry)
Amelanchier alnifolia
(Saskatoon)
**Type: Medium shrubs**  
Spacing: 1200mm on centre

- Depicted:  
  - Physocarpus opulifolius ‘Diablo’  
    (Diablo Ninebark)
  - Cornus sericea  
    (Redosier Dogwood)
  - Syringa meyeri ‘Paliban’  
    (Dwarf Korean Lilac)
  - Microbiota decussata  
    (Russian Cypress)  
  - Juniperus sabina ‘Arcadia’  
    (Arcadia Juniper)
  - Pinus mugo var. pumilio  
    (Mugo Pine)

**Type: Small shrubs**  
Spacing: 750mm on centre

- Depicted:  
  - Spiraea japonica  
    (Japanese Spirea)
  - Potentilla fruticosa  
    (Potentilla)

**Type: Perennials**  
Spacing: 500mm on centre

- Depicted:  
  - Sedum spectabile ‘Autumn Joy’  
    (Autumn Joy Sedum)
  - Hemerocallis  
    (Daylilies)
  - Echinacea purpurea  
    (Echinacea)
  - Rudbeckia hirta  
    (Black Eyed Susan)
  - Calamagrostis x acutiflora ‘Karl Foerster’  
    (Karl Foerster Grass)  
  - Calamagrostis x acutiflora
Tree Patterns

There are three tree configurations to select from; small trees, medium-large trees, or alternating between small and medium-large. Small trees are generally more ornamental and often offer showy flowers, unique foliage colours, and/or persistent fruit. On the other hand, they do not offer as much spatial impact or protection from sun and wind. Mature medium and large trees create large canopies overhead and leave significant open space beneath, improving visibility and sight lines and allowing for other plants beneath.

A_Small trees

- Acer ginnala (Amur Maple)
- Acer tataricum (Tatarian Maple)
- Prunus maackii ‘Jefree’ (Goldrush Amur Chokecherry)
- Malus x adstringens ‘Pink Spires’ (Pink Spires Crabapple)
- Malus x ‘Jeflite’ (Starlite Crabapple)
- Malus x ‘Spring Snow’ (Spring Snow Crabapple)
- Syringa reticulata ‘Ivory Silk’ (Japanese Tree Lilac)
- Sorbus aucuparia ‘Rossica’ (Russian Mountain Ash)
- Viburnum lentago (tree form Nannyberry)

Type: Small Trees
Spacing: typical 5000mm on centre
(acceptable range 4000-6000mm on centre)
Size and condition: 60mm wire basket

B_Medium-large trees

- Acer negundo ‘Sensation’ (Sensation Manitoba Maple)
- Acer rubrum ‘Northwood’ (Northwood Red Maple)
- Acer saccharinum ‘Silver Cloud’ (Silver Cloud Maple)
- Acer saccharum ‘Jefcan’ (Unity Sugar Maple)
- Aesculus glabra (Ohio Buckeye)
- Celtis occidentalis ‘Delta’ (Delta Hackberry)
- Gleditsia triacanthos ‘Harve’ (Northern Acclaim Honeylocust)
- Juglans cinerea (Butternut)
- Phellodendron amurense (Amur Corktree)

Type: Medium-Large Trees
Spacing: typical 10000mm on centre
(acceptable range 8000-12000mm on centre)
Size and condition: 60mm wire basket
C_Alternating

Populus x canescens ‘Tower’ (Tower Poplar)
Populus x jaackii ‘Northwest’ (Northwest Poplar)

Quercus macrocarpa (Bur Oak)
Quercus rubra (Red Oak)

Salix pentandra (Laurel Leaf Willow)

Tilia americana (American Linden/Basswood)
Tilia americana ‘Boulevard’ (Boulevard Linden)
Tilia cordata ‘Norlin’ (Norlin Linden)
Tilia flavescens ‘Dropmore’ (Dropmore Linden)
Tilia x flavescent ‘Glenleven’ (Glenleven Linden)

Ulmus americana ‘Lewis & Clark’
(Prairie Expedition Elm)
Ulmus davidiana ‘Discovery’ (Discovery Elm)
Ulmus ‘Morton’ (Accolade Elm)

D_Conifers

Type: Conifers
Spacing: typical 5000mm on centre
(acceptable range 4000-6000mm on centre)
Size and condition: 1500-1750mm wire basket

Picea glauca (White Spruce)
Picea pungens (Blue Spruce)

Pinus resinosa (Red Pine)
Pinus banksiana (Jack Pine)

Larix laricina (Tamarack)

Thuja occidentalis (American White Cedar)
For more information:

Consult the City’s Urban Design Guidelines

Contact the Planning Services Division at 807-625-2216