



# City of Meniffee Residential Parkway Landscape Conversion Guidelines



January 2016

# General Requirements

The City of Menifee allows homeowners to remove turf and alter the sprinkler system in the parkway in front of their homes, provided that digging is less than 12 inches deep, in order to install water efficient landscapes. The City has established guidelines for converting water demanding turf into water efficient landscaping in City parkways (the landscaped area between the curb and sidewalk).

Turf removal projects are the sole responsibility of the owners and are performed at no expense to the City of Menifee. Any changes or damages to any utility due to the installation shall be repaired at the sole expense of the homeowner.

If you are planning on removing the turf from your parkway, please follow these simple do's and don'ts:

## Do's

- Call Dig Alert at 1 (800) 227-2600 before you dig. Always call Dig Alert before you dig anywhere, even if it's on your property or in your backyard.
- Use water efficient plants that do not grow over 18 inches in height. See page 5 for a list of approved plants.
- Hand dig around marked utilities and always work safely.
- Use shredded wood mulch, which is the preferred method of ground cover.
- Make sure that Decomposed Granite and/or mulch are  $\frac{1}{2}$ " below the curb or sidewalk.
- Use pervious pavers and materials so water can still percolate back into the soil.
- Consider installing synthetic turf. Artificial turf must be professional looking and professionally installed.

## Don'ts

- Put plants next to fire hydrants. Leave a 3-foot area on each side of the hydrant and cover it with mulch.
- Put structures in the parkway. Only mailboxes and utilities are allowed in the parkway. No boulders, statues or structures of any kind.
- Use colored rocks or mulch.
- Use wood bark.
- Put pervious pavers next to a street tree. Leave a border equal to the parkway width around the tree.
- Grout pavers in place.
- Install impermeable surfaces such as concrete, plastic sheeting, etc.

For questions regarding these guidelines, please call the City of Menifee Public Works Department at (951) 672-6777

# Hardscape and Mulches

## Okay



Decorative Pavers  
(Pervious Only)



Shredded Wood Mulch  
(3" Min Depth - Natural Colors Only)



Decomposed Granite or Crushed Stone  
(Natural Colors Only)



Synthetic Turf

## NOT Okay



Concrete, Non-Pervious Pavers, or Metal Grates



Colored Mulch or wood bark  
(Only Natural Colors Approved)



Decorative Rock, Red Rock or Pea Gravel



Colored Decomposed Granite or Colored Crushed Stone

# Removing Turf and Planting New Landscaping



## STEP 1

Use a square edged shovel to score along the outside perimeter of the parkway area, digging down to a depth of about 3-4 inches. This will enable you to get a clean edge along the path once you begin removing the sod. Ensure all roots and seeds are sterile.



## STEP 2

Use the same square edged shovel and place the blade at an angle to maneuver under the sod and slice it at the roots. You can remove very manageable sized pieces at a time using this method. For large areas of turf, consider renting a sod cutter. Remember to always read the safety instructions before operating any machinery.



## STEP 3

After sod removal, irrigate again for a few days to see if anything grows back. If it does, apply an herbicide to the area and remove the grass again after a day or two.

Next, level the soil in preparation for planting.

## Removing Turf and Planting New Landscaping Cont.



### STEP 4

For best results, convert your existing overhead sprinklers to a drip system. This helps save water and reduce maintenance.



### STEP 5

Plant water efficient plants like those listed in our approved plant list (see next page); just make sure they do not grow over 18 inches tall, or over the curb into the street.

Make sure you leave necessary space around any fire hydrants or trees in the parkway area.

# Parkway Appropriate Plants

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Genus/Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Spread</u>
Baccharispilularis "Pigeon Point"	Dwarf Coyote Bush	24"	4'
Ballerina Indian Hawthorne	Rhapholepis Indica	24"	4'
Blue Chalk Sticks	Senecio Mandralisca	12" to 24"	2' to 3'
Aloe Aristata	Dwarf Aloe	8"	12"
Firethorn (Dwarf)	Pyracantha x Dwarf Red	24"	2' to 3'
Flower Carpet Rose	Rosa Species	24"	4'
Ice Plant	Delosperma Cooperii	3"	1.5'
Juniper (height under 18")	Juniperus hor. "wiltonii"	18"	Varies
Lavender Cotton	Santolina Chamaecyparissus	12" to 18"	3'
Mexican Blue Sage	Salvia Chamaedryoides	12" to 18"	6' to 8'
Star Jasmine	Trachelospermum	6"	6" to 9"
Trailing Germander	Teucrium Chamaedrys	6" to 12"	2' to 3'

Note: Some of the plants listed above are over 18". This is due to a flower sprout that generally extends beyond the base of the plant. Keep in mind that the 18" requirement is there to keep a clear line of sight for vehicles and pedestrians. Choosing plants that naturally remain under 18" is desirable to help reduce maintenance.

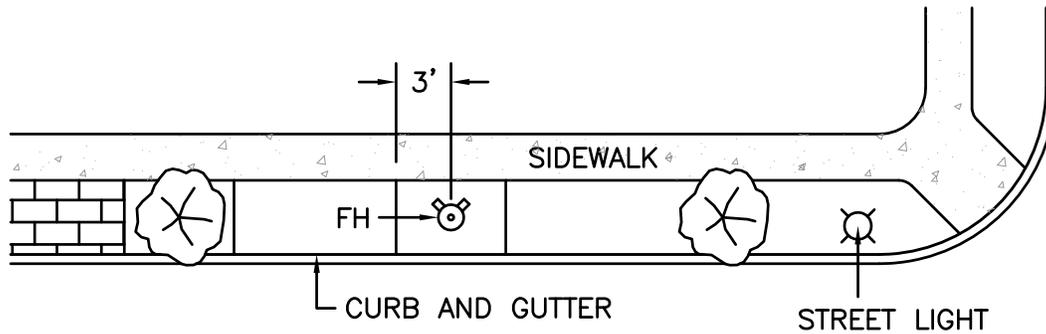
For a list of water wise landscape resources visit EMWD website at:  
<http://www.emwd.org/use-water-wisely/water-wise-resources>



# Street Tree and Fire Hydrant Requirements

## FIRE HYDRANTS

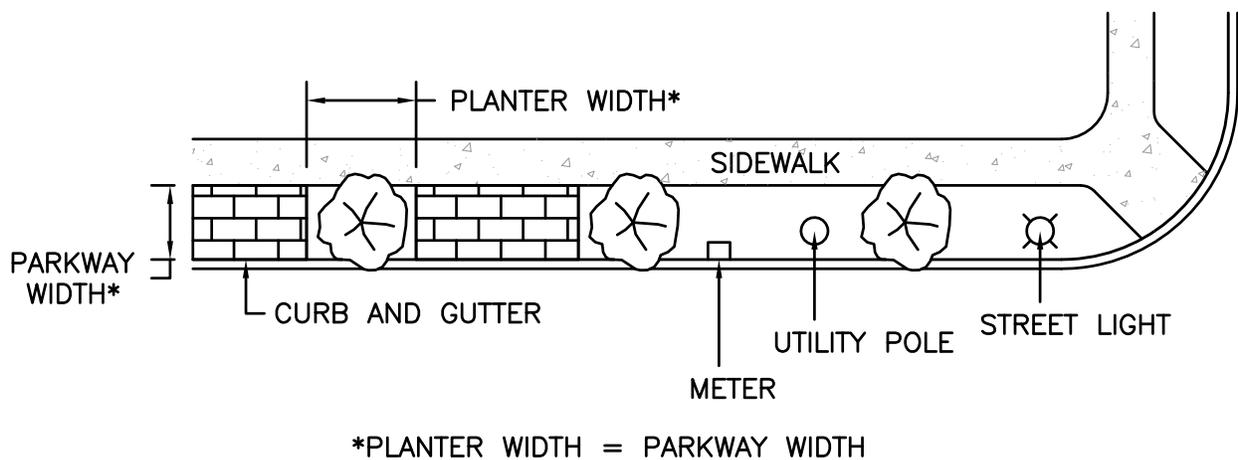
All fire hydrants must have a 3 foot (on center) clear area surrounding them, where no plantings should be placed. This area shall be covered in mulch. See illustration below.



## STREET TREES

All street trees need to remain in place. Planting of new trees shall not be allowed in the City Parkway area.

When adding pervious pavers to the parkway landscape, please make sure that the planter width is equal to the parkway width. See illustration below.

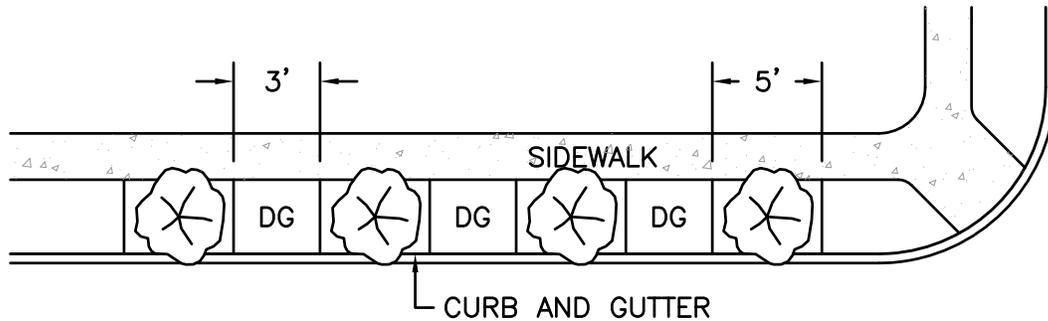


# Specification for Decomposed Granite (DG)

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide procedural and design guidance for residents considering decomposed granite (DG) installation in City parkways (the landscaped area between the curb and sidewalk).

## DECOMPOSED GRANITE

If you plan to use DG you may not have more than 3 continuous feet of DG without a 5 foot planter. The planter bed must be at least 5 feet in length with plants from the list on page 5. The exposed soil around the plants should be covered with mulch. See illustration below.



### STEP 1 - SELECT YOUR TYPE OF CRUSHED STONE (DG)

Select a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " crushed stone or decomposed granite (DG). Only natural colors are acceptable.

### STEP 2 - SITE PREPARATION

Prepare the site by removing existing grass and dirt down to 3" below grade. Refer to page 3 for proper turf removal steps.



### STEP 3 - INSTALL BASE MATERIAL

Spread a Class 2 base material at least 1" thick. This provides a base layer for the crushed stone and allows for better compaction and drainage. Compact the base using a vibrator plate compactor with a 16  $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 22" plate. Vibrator plate compactors can be rented at any local equipment rental yard.

# Specification for Decomposed Granite (DG) Cont.

## STEP 4 - ADD A STABILIZER

Be sure to add a stabilizer to the crushed stone for durability against foot traffic and weather elements. Stabilizer is a liquid application that binds the crushed stone together making the surface stronger and more resistant to foot traffic and weather conditions. Some DG comes pre-mixed with a stabilizer, but be sure to confirm with the supplier.



## STEP 5 - SPREAD CRUSHED STONE

Spread the crushed stone at a 2" depth. Install treated lumber or bender board as a boundary for the area.



## STEP 6 - COMPACT AREA

Use a vibrator plate compactor to compact the surface. Lightly apply water using a hose to the top of the surface before compacting. Perform 1 to 2 passes on one area at a time versus the whole area. Do not walk on area for at least 12 hours or until the surface has cured.

# Sample Parkway



# Tips and Helpful Information

## CONSERVATION FACT AND TIPS

- Did you know that up to 60% of the water used in the summer is for your lawn?
- Watering during the heat of the day can account for up to 60% evaporation loss.
- Water your lawn only when it needs it. If you step on the grass and it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, it needs water.
- If you water your grass and trees more heavily, but less often, this saves water and builds stronger roots.
- Weather based irrigation controllers that use weather data to control water will prevent over irrigation and runoff from your property.
- Raise your lawnmower blade to at least 3 inches to help your lawn establish better root systems and hold on to moisture longer.
- Aerate and fertilize your yard twice a year. Aeration will help water to penetrate the soil and fertilizer will help keep your lawn green.
- Check hoses, faucets, toilets and pipes for leaks. A leaky faucet can waste up to two gallons of water per day and a leaky toilet can waste hundreds of gallons of water per day.
- Put a layer of mulch in planter areas and around trees. Mulch helps to reduce evaporation and protects against weed growth.
- Gasoline-powered landscape equipment (mowers, trimmers, blowers, chainsaws) account for over 5% of our urban air pollution.
- Residential application of pesticides is typically at a rate 20 times that of farmers per acre and can have many unintended results.
- Yard wastes (mostly grass clippings) comprise 20% of the municipal solid waste collected and most still ends up in landfills.

## **EMWD is currently in Stage 4C Mandatory Outdoor Reduction!**

In accordance with Water Code 10632 requirements, EMWD is responsible for conserving the available water supply, protecting the integrity of water supply facilities, and implementing a contingency plan in times of drought, supply reductions, failure of water distribution systems, or emergencies.

EMWD has adopted the Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) to regulate the delivery and consumption of water use during water shortages. EMWD's Board of Directors has the authority to initiate or terminate the water shortage contingency measures described in the WSCP. To view the WSCP in its entirety, please visit [www.emwd.org](http://www.emwd.org).