



MEDIAN LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE - IRRIGATION

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ITEM #2

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SECTION

Background...



- Current Standards
 - Article IV – Development Standards for Landscaping
 - Section 32-281 – Landscaping of parkways and medians
- Some Highlights
 - Irrigation systems required for all medians/parkways
 - Some exemptions in particular situations
 - Plantings
 - Median - 20 trees/10,000 sq ft, 20 shrubs/10,000 sq ft
 - Parkway - 3 trees/1,000 lf frontage, 10 shrubs/1,000 lf frontage
 - Emphasis on native Chihuahuan Desert plants
 - Design
 - Promotes sustainable and environmentally friendly design

What is...



- **Xeriscape** *Denver Water Company*
 - A set of seven principles and techniques to conserve irrigation water in ornamental landscapes
 - Plan
 - Appropriate Plant Selection including Chihuahuan Desert Native Plants
 - Selective Use of Turf
 - Efficient irrigation
 - Soil Preparation
 - Use of Mulch
 - Appropriate Maintenance
- **Dryscape**
 - Landscape method that focuses on gravel mulch and boulders
 - No water philosophy
 - More emphasis on hard surfaces
- **Combination**
 - Simple landscape with gravel and boulders and selective use of Native Chihuahuan Desert Plants
 - Irrigate manually to establish plants and support during drought
 - Sparse/natural aesthetic

Xeriscape



Dryscape



Combination



Some options...



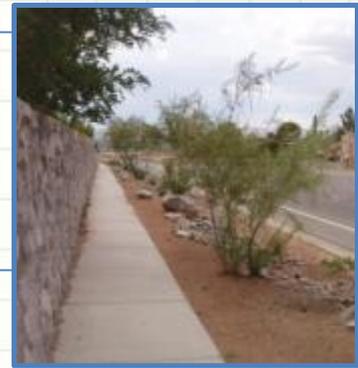
- Move in totally different direction?
 - Xeriscape
 - Dryscape
 - Combination
- Modify existing standards for medians
 - Remove/change requirement for irrigation?
 - Remove/change requirement for 20 tree minimum
 - Remove/change requirement for 20 shrub minimum
 - Clarify requirements and flexibility for implementation

For consideration...



- **Natural Resources**
 - Water, Sun, Wildlife, Native Vegetation, Regional Landscape
- **Health, Safety and Welfare**
 - Flooding, Reduce Heat Island Effect, Screening
- **Stormwater Harvesting**
 - Use landscape areas to harvest and utilize stormwater
 - More naturally accommodate natural drainage routes
- **Parking Lot Planting in Parkways**
 - Visually reduce impact of asphalt expanse
 - Provide relief from heat and sun
- **Soil Volume for trees and other large plantings**
 - Need adequate amount
 - If insufficient, could damage sidewalks or roadways and result in failing or dead vegetation

Schedule...



May
2012

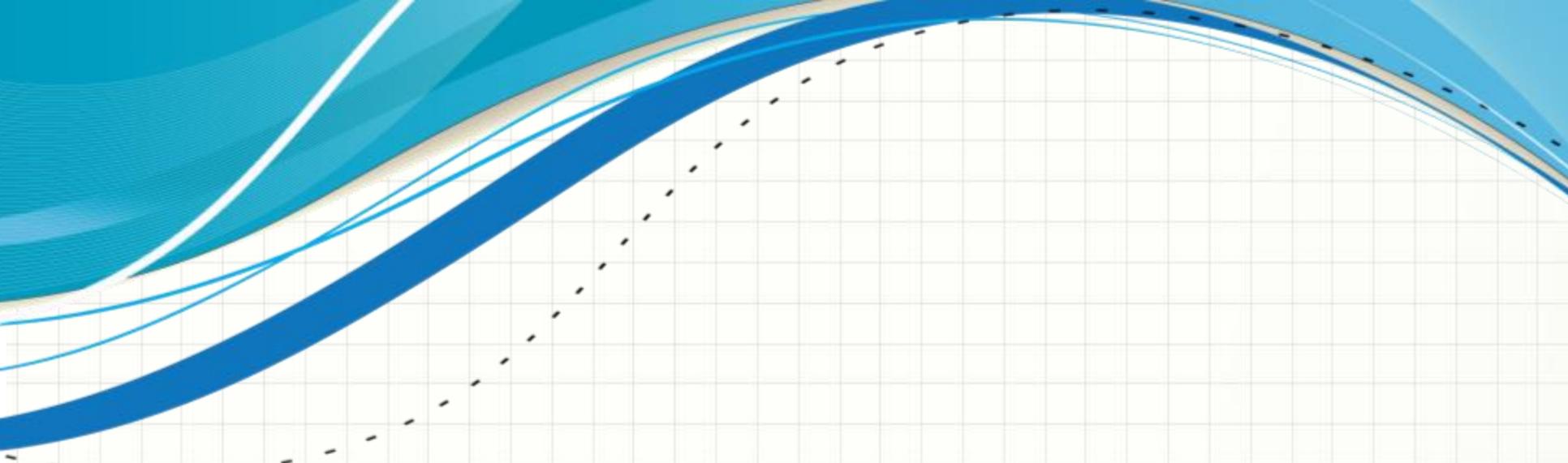
Start Revision
Process

Today

City Council
Input &
Guidance

May
2014

Final Draft for
Council
Consideration



QUESTIONS?