This chapter is subject to the following plan change- Proposed Plan Change 6- Regulatory Efficiency and Effectiveness Plan Change

25.5 Landscaping and Screening

25.5.1 Purpose

a) Landscaping provides a range of aesthetic, functional and ecological opportunities for environmental enhancement. This chapter includes standards for screening activities and contributing to the amenity of the streetscape. Landscaping in this context is intended to soften hard surfaces and bleak areas, reduce visual impacts and provide visual unity. The standards also recognise that landscaping can contribute towards improved ecology.

25.5.2 Objectives and Policies: Landscaping and Screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25.5.2.1</td>
<td>To maintain and enhance amenity values within and around development, while contributing to local ecology and cultural connection where possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.5.2.1a</td>
<td>Minimise visual impacts of developments in part by providing appropriate screening and planting around activities and between zones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.5.2.1b</td>
<td>Encourage the planting of native species where appropriate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explanation

Screening between zones, activities and particular development features, such as service and storage areas, helps mitigate the visual impact of development and contributes to the amenity of the streetscape.

25.5.3 Rules – General Standards

25.5.3.1 Landscaping

Landscaping shall be provided in accordance with the following standards.

a) Activities adjacent to a major arterial transport corridor

i. A 2m wide planting strip shall be required along any boundary adjacent to a major arterial transport corridor.

ii. The requirements in (i) shall not apply in the City Centre Zone, all Residential Zones, Special Character Zones and Future Urban Zone.

b) Activities in the Industrial Zone (including Amenity Protection Area)

i. A 1.8m high close-boarded or similar solid fence or wall, and a 2m wide buffer strip shall be required along any side or rear boundary with a Residential or Special Character Zone or Open Space Zone; and
ii. Either
   • A 2m wide planting strip, or
   • A 1.2m or 1.8m permeable fence and 2m wide planting strip
   shall be required along any boundary adjoining an Open Space Zone or
   transport corridor

iii. Where a site is wholly or partially within the Amenity Protection Area, a 1.8m
    high close-boarded or similar solid fence or wall, and a 5m wide buffer strip
    shall be required along any side or rear boundary with a Residential or Special
    Character Zone.

c) Activities in the Community Facilities and Knowledge Zones
   i. A 2m wide planting strip shall be required along the boundary of a site adjacent
      to any Residential, Special Character or Open Space Zone, and
   ii. When adjoining a transport corridor, a 30% planting area for the front setback
       adjoining the transport corridor shall be required.
   iii. The requirements in (i) and (ii) shall not apply to the ECMT railway and private
        roads within the Knowledge Zone.

d) Activities in the Business 1 to 7 Zone
   i. A 2m wide planting strip shall be required along the boundary of a site adjacent
      to, or facing, any Residential or Special Character Zone.

e) Activities in the Ruakura Industrial Park Zone
   i. A 1.8m high close-boarded or similar solid fence or wall, and a 2m wide buffer
      strip shall be required along any side or rear boundary with a Residential or the
      Knowledge Zone; and
   ii. Either
      • A 2m wide planting strip, or
      • A 1.2m or 1.8m permeable fence and 2m wide planting strip
      shall be required along any boundary adjoining an Open Space Zone or
      transport corridor.

f) Drive-through services adjacent to a Residential or Special Character Zone
   i. A 1.8m high close-boarded or similar solid fence or wall, shall be required along
      any side or rear boundary with a Residential or Special Character Zone, and
   ii. A 2m wide planting strip shall be required along any front boundary facing any
      Residential or Special Character Zone

g) Ground-level parking spaces, loading spaces and vehicle storage areas adjacent to a
   transport corridor in all Zones (except Residential, Special Character and Future
   Urban Zones)
i. Where ground-level parking, loading spaces and vehicle storage areas are provided within 5m of a boundary of a transport corridor, a 2m wide planting strip shall be required between that area and the transport corridor boundary.

h) External ground-level parking spaces in all Zones

i. Parking areas of more than 10 parking spaces shall be landscaped with tree planting and ground cover planting at a rate consistent with Rule 25.5.4.6.

ii. Parking areas of five or more parking spaces shall have either:
   - A 1.2m or 1.8m permeable fence, or
   - A 2m wide planting strip between the parking area and the boundary with any Open Space Zone; and
   - A 1.8m high close-boarded or similar solid fence or wall, and a minimum 1m wide buffer strip, or
   - A 2m wide buffer strip when along the site boundary, between the parking spaces and any Residential or Special Character Zone.

i) Service areas in all Zones

i. Where service areas are visible from a transport corridor, any other public space, Residential or Special Character Zones they shall be screened from view with either:
   - A 1.8m high close-boarded or similar solid fence or wall, and a minimum 1m wide buffer strip, or
   - A 2m wide buffer strip.

j) Outdoor storage areas in all Zones

i. Where outdoor storage areas are visible from a transport corridor, any other public space, Residential or Special Character Zone they shall be screened from view with either:
   - 1.8m high close-boarded or similar solid fence or wall, and a minimum 1m wide buffer strip, or
   - A 2m wide buffer strip.

k) Activities in the Ruakura Logistics Zone and the Crawford Street Freight Village

i. Where fencing is required to meet specialised security needs (e.g. Ministry of Agricultural quarantine specifications) a 6m high permeable fence may be used, provided that a 10m planting or buffer strip shall be provided along boundaries with any transport corridor or Open Space Zone.
   - A 2m wide planting strip, or
   - A 1.2m or 1.8m permeable fence and 2m wide planting strip shall be required along any boundary adjoining an Open Space Zone or transport corridor.
I) Utility Buildings/Cabinets

i. The requirements of Rules 25.5.3.1 (a) – (k) do not apply to the small utility buildings/cabinets not exceeding 10m²/3m high, and network utility support poles and antennas.

25.5.3.2 Implementation

All planting shall be implemented within the first planting season after any buildings and other site works are completed.

25.5.3.3 Planting Strips, Buffer Strips and Planting Areas

Planting strips, buffer strips and planting areas shall not be:

i. Required on that part of any boundary required for pedestrian or vehicle access to the site.

ii. Required within an approach sight distance triangle as outlined in Rule 25.14.4.4.

iii. Used for outdoor storage, parking or vehicle manoeuvring.

25.5.3.4 Frangible Vegetation

Where a buffer strip or planting strip is to be located within 5m of the carriageway of an arterial transport corridor with a posted speed limit greater than 70 kilometres per hour all vegetation within the strip shall be frangible.

25.5.3.5 Maintenance

All fences and planting required by 25.5.3.1 shall be maintained in a manner to ensure ongoing compliance with relevant standards in this chapter. This will require regular care of planted areas, the timely repair or replacement of damaged fences, and the replacement of dead, dying or diseased planting.

Note

1. Guidance on selecting plant species appropriate to the site conditions is available from Council.

2. Particular care needs to be taken in selecting and locating specimen trees for planting, for example tree species which tend towards an expansive root system are an inappropriate choice for planting near underground network utilities. Guidance should be sought on appropriate species and local site constraints to ensure that the tree suits the site and any constraints.

25.5.4 Rules – Specific Standards

25.5.4.1 All Fences and Walls

a) Any fence or wall adjoining a buffer or planting strip shall be located so that the buffer or planting strip is between the fence and the external site boundary, and shall be designed to enable access to plantings for maintenance purposes.

25.5.4.2 Permeable Fences

a) The following design and dimensions shall apply to permeable fences.
i. Designed/constructed for less than 50% see-through visibility (e.g. close paling, masonry, or other opaque material) 1.2m

ii. Materials with 50% or more see-through visibility, or

iii. Designed/constructed for less than 50% see-through visibility (e.g. close paling, masonry, or other opaque material) for the bottom 0.9m of the fence

Materials with 50% or more see-through visibility for the top 0.9m of the fence 1.8m

iv. Materials with 50% or more see-through visibility 6m (Ruakura Logistics Zone only, see Rule 25.5.3.1k)

Note
1. Refer to Figure 25.5.4a for examples of acceptable and unacceptable fencing solutions.
2. Glass, metal bars or louvres are acceptable fence designs to achieve minimum 50% see-through visibility.

25.5.4.3 Buffer Strips

a) Buffer strips shall be of a permeable nature for stormwater purposes.

b) Buffer strips shall consist of shrub or hedge planting (hedges are recommended where buffer strip widths are less than 2m) selected and maintained in a manner to ensure a mature height of at least 1.8m and shall be at least 0.5m in height at the time of planting.

c) Shrub or hedge planting shall be selected, located, provided at a density, and maintained in a manner to ensure that, when mature, a visually impermeable screen of planting is achieved (refer Figure 25.5.4b):

i. Along the length of the buffer strip, and

ii. To a height of at least 1.8m.

d) Buffer strips shall include specimen trees at the following minimum rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of the buffer strip</th>
<th>Number of specimen trees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10m</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For each additional 10m or part thereof</td>
<td>An additional 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Except where frangible vegetation is required by Rule 25.5.3.4, in which case frangible trees shall be required instead of specimen trees.

e) Trees required by 25.5.4.3d) shall be selected to ensure they are capable of growing to a mature height of more than 4m and shall be at least 1.8m in height at the time of planting.

f) Where two or more trees are required by 25.5.4.3d) they shall be spaced along the length of the buffer strip to ensure they are no more than 15m or less than 5m apart (refer Figure 25.5.4c).

25.5.4.4 Planting Strips

a) Planting strips shall be of a permeable nature for stormwater purposes.
b) Planting strips shall consist of a combination of groundcover and shrub planting, with shrub planting selected to ensure they are capable of achieving a maximum mature height of 0.8m, and are least 0.4m in height at the time of planting.

c) Groundcover and shrub planting shall be maintained to ensure they do not exceed a height of 0.8m (refer Figure 25.5.4d).

d) Groundcover and shrub planting shall be selected, located and provided at a density to ensure that a minimum of 50% of the surface of the planting strip is covered from the time of planting.

e) Planting strips shall include specimen trees at the following minimum rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of the planting strip</th>
<th>Number of specimen trees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10m</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For each additional 10m or part thereof</td>
<td>An additional 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Except where frangible vegetation is required by Rule 25.5.3.4, in which case frangible trees shall be required instead of specimen trees.

f) Trees required by 25.5.4.4e) shall be selected to ensure they are capable of growing to a mature height of more than 4m and shall be at least 1.8m in height at the time of planting.

g) Where two or more trees are required by 25.5.4.4e) they shall be spaced along the length of the strip to ensure they are no more than 15m, or less than 5m apart (refer Figure 25.5.4c).

h) All trees shall be maintained to ensure that a clear distance of 2m is achieved between ground level and the tree canopy (refer Figure 25.5.4d). This standard shall not apply until a specimen tree reaches at least 4m high.

i) Trees within the planting strip shall be selected, located and maintained in a manner so as not to:
   i. Create traffic safety problems by obscuring visibility for road users or train drivers.
   ii. Obstruct traffic, official road, or hazard signage.
   iii. Interfere with transport infrastructure or network utilities.

25.5.4.5 Planting Area

a) Where a planting area is required, the area shall:
   i. Be of a permeable nature for stormwater purposes.
   ii. Consist of a combination of groundcovers and shrubs or hedges.
   iii. Include specimen trees at the following minimum rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of front boundary</th>
<th>Number of specimen trees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10m</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For each additional 10m or part thereof</td>
<td>An additional 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

iv. Be located in the front setback between the non-residential activity and the adjoining transport corridor boundary.
v. Include groundcover, shrub or hedge planting that has been selected, located and provided at a density to ensure that a minimum of 30% of the area of the front setback requirement of the relevant zone is covered from the time of planting.

25.5.4.6 Internal Planting

a) Internal planting shall be located within the sealed area to break up the impermeable expanse of paving and hard surfaces while ensuring pedestrian and vehicle safety. For large areas this will require the internal planting requirements to be split into more than one location.

b) Internal planting shall consist of a combination of groundcovers and shrubs.

c) Internal planting shall include specimen trees at the following minimum rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of parking spaces</th>
<th>Number of specimen trees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 20</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For each additional 5 spaces or part thereof</td>
<td>An additional 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

d) Groundcover and shrub planting shall be selected, located and provided at a density to ensure that a minimum of 50% of the surface of the internal planting area is covered from the time of planting (refer Figure 25.5.4e).

e) Shrub planting shall be selected to ensure it is capable of growing to a mature height of at least 0.5m and shall be at least 0.3m in height at the time of planting.

f) Trees required by 25.5.4.6c) shall be selected to ensure they are capable of growing to a mature height of more than 4m and shall be at least 1.8m in height at the time of planting.

g) Trees shall be located within a planting space free from impermeable surfaces with a minimum dimension or diameter of 1.5m diameter.

h) All planting shall be protected from potential pedestrian and vehicle damage.

Note

1. Suitable means of compliance includes providing formalised pedestrian crossing points, ensuring plant selection and layout does not make crossing difficult, low fencing, or wheel stops (refer Figure 25.5.4f).

2. For larger external ground-level parking spaces in all zones (more than 20 parking spaces) any assessment of landscaping proposals should consider the total site area including landscaping and trees to be planted within planting and/or buffer strips.
Figure 25.5.4a: Examples of acceptable fencing or wall solutions.
**Figure 25.5.4b**: Examples of shrub or hedge planting to achieve a visually impermeable screen

**Figure 25.5.4c**: Examples of achieving specimen tree spacing
Figure 25.5.4d: Example of well-maintained groundcover

Figure 25.5.4e: Example of achieving ground coverage
Figure 25.5.4f: Example of methods to protect trees from pedestrian or vehicle damage

25.5.5 Other Resource Consent Information

Refer to Chapter 1: Plan Overview for guidance on the following.

- How to Use this District Plan
- Explanation of Activity Status
- Activity Status Defaults
- Notification / Non-notification Rules
- Rules Having Early or Delayed Effect

Refer to Volume 2, Appendix 1: District Plan Administration for the following.

- Definitions and Terms Used in the District Plan
- Information Requirements
- Controlled Activities – Matters of Control
- Restricted Discretionary, Discretionary and Non-Complying Activities Assessment Criteria
- Design Guides
- Other Methods of Implementation
25.6 Lighting and Glare

25.6.1 Purpose

a) Intrusive lighting is lighting that causes a nuisance to other people, usually by glare or light spill on to other people or properties. The District Plan manages these effects to protect amenity and safety values.

25.6.2 Objectives and Policies: Lighting and Glare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25.6.2.1</td>
<td>Ensure that light spill and glare do not detract from the amenity values of other properties, compromise traffic safety, or have a negative effect on people’s health and general welfare.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explanation

Intrusive lighting may include light from floodlights, security lights and activities such as welding. Light spill and glare have the potential to disturb people’s sleep, which could adversely affect their health and general welfare. Unlike other adverse effects of activities, like smoke or noise, which are difficult to contain completely, light spill is reasonably simple to avoid by correct aiming or baffling (shading) of the light source.

25.6.3 Rules – General Standards

a) Artificial lighting shall not result in illumination on transport corridors which may dazzle or distract transport corridor users or train drivers, or interfere with any traffic aids or signals. The relevant clauses of Australian Standard AS4282 1997 Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting shall apply with respect to the effect of artificial lighting on traffic.

b) Lighting designed to illuminate public spaces and transport corridors, including roads, public car parks and amenity areas, shall be designed in accordance with the Australian and New Zealand AS/NZS suite of standards.

Note

1. Acceptable means of compliance for the provision, design and construction of transport corridor lighting is contained within the Hamilton City Infrastructure Technical Specifications.

25.6.4 Rules – Specific Standards

25.6.4.1 Residential, Special Character, Future Urban and Community Facilities Zones

a) For any activity in any Residential or Special Character Zones, or the Future Urban or Community Facilities Zones, the spill of light from artificial lighting (excluding street and navigation lights and traffic signals) on to any other site shall not exceed 3 lux (horizontal and vertical) when measured or calculated at points 1.5m within the boundary of any other site.
25.6.4.2 Open Space Zones

a) Light spill from artificial lighting (excluding street and navigation lights and traffic signals) used in Open Space Zones shall comply with the following standards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of light source (site in Open Space Zone)</th>
<th>Where measured</th>
<th>Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. Sport and Recreation, Neighbourhood, and Natural Open Space Zones</td>
<td>Measured horizontally or vertically, at points 1.5m within the boundary of any other site</td>
<td>Maximum 3 lux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. Destination Open Space Zone</td>
<td>Measured horizontally or vertically, at points 1.5m within the boundary of any other site, except as stated in iii below</td>
<td>Maximum 10 lux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii. Destination Open Space Zone</td>
<td>Measured horizontally or vertically, at points 1.5m within the boundary of any site in the Community Facilities Zone and Future Urban Zone or any Residential, Special Character or other open space zones</td>
<td>Maximum 3 lux</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25.6.4.3 Major Facilities Zone and Knowledge Zone

a) The spill of light from artificial lighting (excluding street and navigation lights and traffic signals) in the Major Facilities Zone and Knowledge Zone on to any other site in any Residential, Special Character, Open Space, Community Facilities or Future Urban Zones, shall not exceed 3 lux (horizontal and vertical) when measured at points 1.5m within the boundary of the other site, except as provided for in Rule 25.6.4.3(c) and 25.6.4.3(d).

b) The spill of light from artificial lighting (excluding street and navigation lights and traffic signals) in the Major Facilities Zone and Knowledge Zone on to any other site in any zone not specified in Rule 25.6.4.3a shall not exceed 10 lux (horizontal and vertical) when measured at points 1.5m within the boundary of the other site, except as provided for in Rule 25.6.4.3(c) and 25.6.4.3(d).

c) Seddon Park

i. The flood lights shall not be used at more than 29 night-time events per year.

ii. The lights on the lighting towers shall not be used after:

- 2230 Monday to Thursday inclusive
- 2300 Friday to Sunday inclusive

However, the lights may remain on for the purpose of crowd dispersal for a period of up to one hour after the event or one hour after the time specified above, whichever is the earlier. Except on New Year’s Eve when flood lights may be used for crowd dispersal up to 0030 on the following day (January 1).

iii. The level of lighting from Seddon Park shall not exceed 100 lux at all property boundaries.

d) Waikato Stadium

i. The flood lights shall not be used at more than 35 night-time events per year.

ii. The lights on the lighting towers shall not be used after:
• 2230 Monday to Thursday inclusive
• 2300 Friday to Sunday inclusive

However, the lights may remain on for the purpose of crowd dispersal for a period of up to one hour after the event or one hour after the time specified above, whichever is the earlier.

iii. The level of lighting from Waikato Stadium shall not exceed 100 lux at all property boundaries.

25.6.4.4 All Other Zones

a) The spill of light from artificial lighting (excluding street and navigation lights and traffic signals) on to any other site shall not exceed 10 lux (horizontal and vertical) when measured or calculated at points 1.5m within the boundary of any other site. In the case of contiguous sites held in the same ownership for the same activity, the spill of light shall be measured or calculated at points 1.5m within the boundary of any other site beyond the boundary of the land holding.

b) The spill of light from artificial lighting (excluding street and navigation lights and traffic signals) on to any site in the Residential, Special Character, Open Space, Community Facilities or Future Urban Zones shall not exceed 3 lux (horizontal and vertical) when measured or calculated at points 1.5m within the boundary of any other site so zoned.

25.6.5 Other Resource Consent Information

Refer to Chapter 1: Plan Overview for guidance on the following.

• How to Use this District Plan
• Explanation of Activity Status
• Activity Status Defaults
• Notification / Non-notification Rules
• Rules Having Early or Delayed Effect

Refer to Volume 2, Appendix 1: District Plan Administration for the following.

• Definitions and Terms Used in the District Plan
• Information Requirements
• Controlled Activities – Matters of Control
• Restricted Discretionary, Discretionary and Non-Complying Activities Assessment Criteria
• Design Guides
• Other Methods of Implementation