



# City of Arlington Median Design Guide



November 2018

Prepared in conjunction with:



## **Introduction**

The City of Arlington Median Design Guide is intended for staff, homeowners, and developers for work in the street right of way in order to increase consistency and understanding of acceptable standards in street landscaping. To create a cohesive attractive look to the City of Arlington for the benefit of our residents and those visiting our community.

In the development of this Guide Community and Economic Development worked with the other City departments to create a design guide that incorporated design, style, aesthetics, the environment, maintenance considerations, and safety.

This document provides guidance in the following areas:

- Design Layout
- Design Criteria
- Standard Colors
- Stamped or Textured Concrete
- Public Art
- Safety and Maintenance Considerations

This document is a collaboration with Community and Economic Development, Maintenance and Operations, Public Works, and City Council. The development of this standards manual will help to increase consistency and understanding of acceptable standards in median design. This process also facilitated greater communication and buy-in from the representative departments. Use of this design guide will inform developers, decision makers, designers, and citizens and help to create a consistent look for Arlington.

## **Design Layout**

The standard layout for medians is described below. Each median should include curb adjacent to an 18" wide decorative concrete border to provide a buffer between traffic and the planting areas. Vegetated landscaping areas will utilize, as much as practical the following standard design shape;

- Parallelogram with interior acute angle of 60 degrees
- Acute angle is measured from direction of adjacent traffic flow
- Length of 25 feet
- Spacing of 15 feet

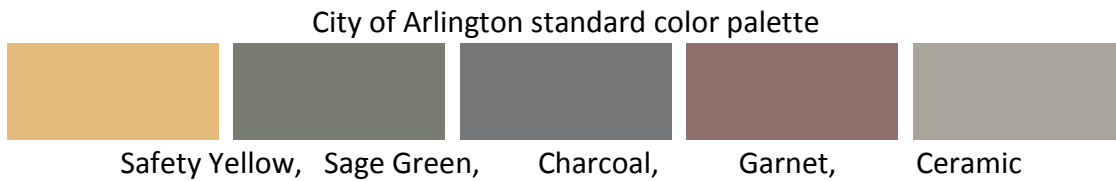
## **Design Criteria**

The landscaping should be planned as an integral component of the project. Landscaping should be designed in keeping with the character of the street/neighborhood and its environment, providing for aesthetics, storm water drainage, noise abatement, and erosion control. The landscaping needs to be arranged to permit a sufficiently wide, clear and safe pedestrian walkway, considering individuals with disabilities, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The areas should also be developed to serve traveling motorists with considerations to ensure sight distances and clearance to obstructions. Projects should demonstrate that future maintenance activities have been considered in the design.

- Landscape designs must coordinate with placement of all site utility elements.
- Plant material to be a mixture of drought tolerant deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, and ground cover
- Large maturing trees may not be planted in conflict with overhead distribution or transmission lines
- Adjust planting locations to maintain a planting distance of 15 feet from all underground utilities
- Sidewalks to be setback from curb a minimum of 5 feet for tree and shrub installations
- Planting distances for trees are dependent upon species
- Street median islands 4 feet or less in width to be decorative hardscape
- No plant material within 10 feet of the end of street median islands
- No multi-trunk or low-breaking trunk trees to be planted in area less than 10 feet in width and/or at the end of the street median island
- No shrubs with a mature height of 3 feet to be installed on street median islands or within 10 feet of curb on ROW.
- Trees shall be per Arlington approved tree list, or approved equal
- Use of grass is discouraged
- Design and materials shall be per Arlington design standards
- Standard colors, decorative concrete, shall be utilized
- Root barrier shall be placed to a depth of 18" around all trees
- Installation of public art is encouraged

## **Standard Colors**

The median design should incorporate the use of stamped colored concrete per the design layout. In order to provide for city wide consistency, while allowing artistic design, the City has outlined five colors to be utilized in colored concrete. The designer may utilize, one or several of the colors in their design. Note that the Safety Yellow is intended as an accent color and shall not be used as a main color or in a way that could cause driver confusion or a hazard.



The palette above was chosen from Solomon Colors, Inc. Designers may propose any brand of integral pigment available that reflects the colors above. To view these colors online visit [www.solomoncolors.com](http://www.solomoncolors.com).

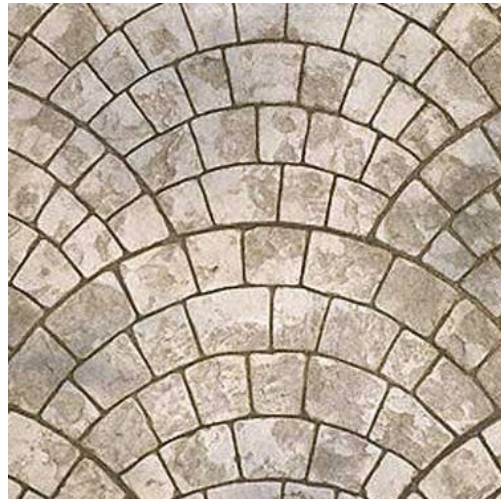
## **Stamped or Textured Concrete**

The median design should incorporate the use of stamped or textured colored concrete per the design layout. Below are two examples of stamped concrete designs that would be acceptable. Designers are encouraged to propose their own stamped designs for approval. As shown in the design layout, 18 inches of stamped concrete adjacent to the curb on a median is standard for maintenance access and safety. Textured concrete may also be proposed. Designs that reflect the natural style of the northwest are encouraged.

**Savannah Stone**



**European Fan**





## **Public Art**

Installation of public art shall be encouraged. The Public Art Committee shall approve all public art installations. Location shall be approved by the City of Arlington.



## **Safety and Maintenance Consideration**

Street Landscape is planned, designed and installed to provide a community with a safe and aesthetic transportation corridor. While the benefits of a maturing landscape are well-known and appreciated, future maintenance provisions and costs are often not considered with the same importance. The City of Arlington Maintenance and Operations Department is often the responsible party for the maintenance of these landscaped areas which include center medians and right of way plantings. Maintenance of these areas is an evolving process that should be planned as an integral component of the landscaping project.