

Alternative Landscape Options - Benefits and Considerations

The table below presents key benefits, challenges, and considerations for each alternative landscape treatment. Traditional turf grass is included for comparison.

Table 1: Benefits, suitable areas and considerations for alternative landscape options compared to live turfgrass.

	Alternatives						Live Turf Grass
	Naturalized Grass - No Active Tree and Shrub Planting	Naturalized Grass - With Tree and Shrub Planting	Low Growing Alternatives to Grass	Urban Farming	Artificial Turf Grass	Permaculture	
Benefits	-Reduced mowing/trimming and associated carbon emissions -Environmental and ecosystem benefits	-Reduced mowing costs -Environmental and ecosystem benefits -Supports education and environmental stewardship	-Lower maintenance costs due to lower frequency of mowing and trimming	-Food production -Urban farmer/contractor responsible for maintenance	-Durable and does not require mowing, trimming, weed control and watering	-Eliminates mowing and trimming costs in the long run -Food production	-Less cost and time to maintain compared to more complex landscapes -City has existing resources/equipment for maintenance
Suitable Areas	Roadways, narrow medians, berms, stormwater management ponds, dry ponds, passive use park and open space areas, slopes, utility corridors	Roadways, wide medians, berms, stormwater management ponds, dry ponds, passive use park and open space areas, slopes, utility corridors	Parks and open spaces, traffic circles, intersections crossings, medians, narrow boulevards	Parks and open spaces, typically away from roads and paths in order to avoid contaminants	Traffic circles, intersections crossings, medians, narrow boulevards, sports fields	Parks and open spaces, typically away from roads and paths in order to avoid contaminants	Parks and open spaces and along roadways that are safe for mowing/trimming
Challenges/ Considerations	-Multi-year approach for establishment and weed control -Sites may look unkempt during establishment	-Sites may look unkempt during establishment -Higher initial capital costs	-Site suitability limited	-Development permits and zoning considerations -Time and resources required to set up and manage contracts	-Site suitability limited - High initial capital cost for installation	-Multi-years before seeing benefits and higher initial capital costs -Time and resources required to set up and manage contracts	-Carbon emissions from equipment -Steep slopes, narrow medians, and wet/saturated areas are unsafe or challenging to mow