

SMARTSCAPE

SENSIBLE • ECONOMICAL • BEAUTIFUL



City of Long Beach
Model Water Efficient
Landscape Ordinance

CITY OF
LONG BEACH

IT'S SIMPLE.

The State of California, Executive Order B-29, issued by Governor Jerry Brown, states that all new landscape projects over 500 square feet and relandscaping projects of more than 2,500 square feet now require a permit.

IT'S SMART.

This is the beginning of a great new approach to water-wise, sustainable landscaping. It's sensible, economical, and beautiful! Long Beach calls it Smartscape.





The good news.

The good news is that the City of Long Beach has streamlined the permit process. Our knowledgeable and helpful staff is available to assist with navigating the application process and understanding requirements, making the permitting process an opportunity, rather than an obstacle. Trained City staff is also available to provide information to help residents and businesses comply, and answer any questions you might have on the City's new requirements. The primary focus of the ordinance is water conservation, and the end result will be a wonderful new approach to landscaping in Long Beach.

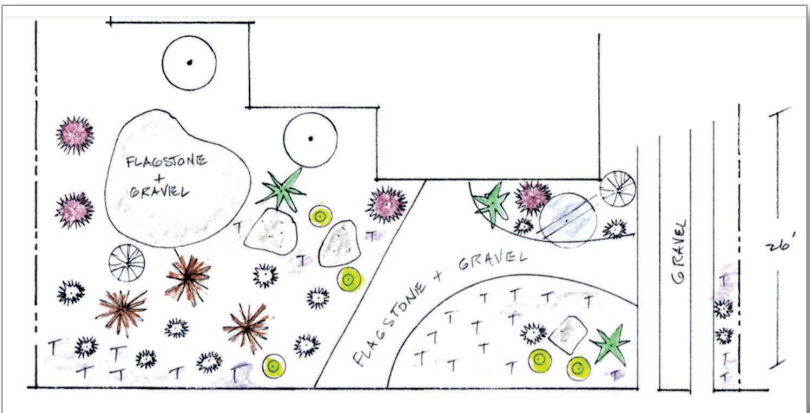
When did the law take effect?

On April 1, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown authorized the State Water Board to establish statewide water conservation regulations. In response to this legislation, on April 3, 2017, new landscaping requirements went into effect in Long Beach. Any new landscaping project consisting of more than 500 square feet and relandscaping projects over 2,500 square feet are required to meet water-efficient design standards requiring the issuance of a permit and applicable fees. This new permitting process will ensure the new design meets the maximum water allowance for your property.

Is this just about the drought?

It's about the drought and more. Droughts come and go, some last longer than others, and all are unpredictable. Cities must be prepared to respond to the drought to address existing conditions, and be proactive in planning for future drought events. Further, complying with these regulations can help save money on your water bill, and provide a modern new look for your property.

Plans for most residential projects can be as simple as a sketch like the one to the right.





Does the new ordinance only apply to Long Beach?

The State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, known here in Long Beach as Smartscape, covers the entire State of California.

Do I need a Landscape Architect?

It depends on the size of your landscape project. For most residential or small commercial projects, a local nursery of your selection would be able to assist in helping you determine the landscaping and plants that meet your needs. There are also several additional resources that offer a wealth of information on native and drought-tolerant landscape design. For larger residential or commercial projects—those over 2,500 square feet in size—a landscape architect or landscape design professional will be required for preparation of Landscape Design and Irrigation Plans and Water Efficient Worksheet calculations.

Does this mean I have to use cacti or desert plants?

Not at all! There are scores of California Native and other drought-tolerant plants, from ground cover and flowering shrubbery to drought-tolerant trees, all of which will make great additions to your project. The installation of decorative materials such as brick, stone, fountains, ponds, and even decorative elements are also encouraged.

Seems expensive, is it?

No. The conversion is far less than you might expect and when you factor in reduced water bills and far less maintenance, it can be a real bargain. Additionally, funding assistance through the Long Beach Water Department's Lawn-to-Garden Program is available for select new projects. Visit www.lblawntogarden.com for more information. Note most Lawn-to-Garden eligible projects will not be affected by this new regulation.

Is this good for Long Beach?

It certainly is. Smartscape will make the City more drought resistant, yet still plush and beautiful. And, as time goes by, Long Beach will be transformed into an even greater, more sensible and water-wise City.



How do I get a permit?

Getting started is easy! Everything you need to know to get started can be found in the section below.

The permitting process

To start, reach out to City staff or visit the Smartscape website to review the regulations and download forms. New landscaping projects containing 500 to 2,500 square feet of landscape area are eligible for the streamlined “Prescriptive Checklist” approach. For new and relandscaping projects over 2,500 square feet, a complete Landscape Design Package will be required. Landscape Design Package components include the following:

- Water Efficiency Landscape Worksheet
- Landscape Design Plan
- Irrigation Design Plan
- Grading Plan
- Soil Management Report

The chart below lists permit and inspection fees for all landscape projects.

Project Type	Plan Check Fee	Inspection Fee	Total Fees
Residential	\$40.00	\$100.00	\$140.00
Non-residential	\$60.00	\$120.00	\$180.00

For landscape projects of all sizes, you’ll find the City of Long Beach is on your side. We’re here to work together to make Long Beach a Smartscape City.

For more information on the City’s new landscaping regulations, call (562) 570-6194 or visit www.lbds.info/lbsmartscape.



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