

**ISSAQUAH HIGHLANDS  
COMMUNITY WIDE STANDARDS  
FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES**

*Adopted: September 2009*

*Amended: May 2010 (Compile documents.)*

*Amended: May 2014 (Revise wording.)*

*Amended: September 2015 (Add vacant lot standards.)*

# ISSAQUAH HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY WIDE STANDARDS

*Issaquah Highlands* is a visionary urban village created for the enjoyment and benefit of the entire community. Part of community living involves following the maintenance standards and the guidelines below, which ensure that neighborhoods remain clean, well-maintained, and aesthetically pleasing to residents, while enhancing property values. Reference the ARC “neighborhood types” for specific inclusions and exclusions to these Standards.

- **Turf Standards:**

- Turf should be maintained in a manner generally uniform throughout the community.
- Turf must be kept at or less than a height of 4” inches.
- Turf must be edged when adjacent to any hard surface and regularly maintained.
- Turf may not grow over sidewalks.
- Turf may be allowed to go dormant in summer but if patches of grass die, they must be repaired with either sod or seed.
- Turf may be replaced with alternative landscaping on approval by ARC.
- The look should be similar to streetscape lawns generally free of bare patches and weeds.
- Grass clippings may remain after a mow to encourage green lawn maintenance practices.

- **Bed Standards:**

- Weeds in any landscape bed must be minimal and kept under control.
- Plants shall be maintained in a neat and orderly state and cut-back as necessary – reference Tree and Shrub Standards.
- Refer to the ARC “Neighborhood types” for the intended “feel” of the neighborhood and plantings.
- Landscape beds must have a clearly defined edge when adjacent to grass.
- Mulch or bark must be maintained at a minimum of 1” depth to control weeds and conserve water. Two to three (2-3) inches is recommended.

- **Tree and Shrub Standards:**

- Plant materials shall be a combination of ornamental, native and drought-tolerant varieties adapted to the climatic conditions of the Issaquah Highlands and on the Architectural Review Recommended Plant List and installed as per the Issaquah Highlands Plant Size and Spacing Requirements.
- All plant material shall be trimmed and neat in appearance. Selective pruning techniques must be utilized. Topping of trees is prohibited.
- Shrubs shall not encroach on sidewalks, trails, or any pedestrian right-of-way. The IHCA may prune encroaching plant material without consent.
- Trees overhanging sidewalks shall be kept trimmed above the walkways to facilitate pedestrian use.
- Dead trees and/or shrubs should be removed and replaced during appropriate growing season (spring or fall). Dead is classified as more than 50% of the plant is without leaves.
- Low hedges used as screens shall have a maximum height of 42 inches.
- Evergreen plant materials shall be used to screen exposed house foundations.
- Trees and large shrubs should be located to avoid blocking views from interior rooms or adjacent properties.

- Plant material used for “living fences” made up of trees or shrubs on the sides or back of yard must not exceed 8’ (eight feet) in height.
- **Yard Standards:**
  - Yard waste (leaves, twigs and branches) and other debris should be appropriately disposed of and not stored within the front or side yards.
  - Maintenance of yards does not include IHCA landscape (between the street and the sidewalk).
  - Yard waste must not be deposited on IHCA property or IHCA maintained streetscapes.
  - Pet Waste must be removed from yards and properly disposed of.
  - Clean-up of a severe wind or weather event which causes excessive storm debris shall occur within 7 days of the event.
- **Vacant Lot Standards: (Sold lots not yet under construction.)**
  - Lots must be kept clean of debris.
  - Lots must be kept mowed at least twice per summer. Mow to 4” in July and again in September if needed.
  - All Alder saplings and any other invasive species must be removed from lots.
  - Nothing is to be stored on lots without IHCA permission.
  - Homeowners must maintain proper grading and drainage on their individual lots.
- **Paint Standards:**
  - Trim (fascia boards, railings, and doors) and Body (siding): Paint of both trim and body must be maintained on a regular basis to avoid degradation in the form of peeling, cracked, missing, see-thru or sun-faded paint. Re-painting must take place when 15% of the total area demonstrates degradation.
- **Roofing Standards:**
  - Roof materials must be maintained on a regular basis to avoid degradation due to missing shingles, gutter damage, repair from damage caused by natural elements and moss build-up.
  - Moss must be removed and/or treated when it is visible on any roof surface.
- **Fencing Standards:**
  - All fencing material must be maintained on a regular basis to avoid degradation due to rotting posts, ground settlement (leaning of panels or posts), and damage caused by natural elements.
  - Gates must latch.
  - Painting standards apply to fencing material whether stained or painted.
- **Other Standards:**
  - **Broken windows:** Windows must be replaced immediately for public safety. Any broken glass should be properly disposed of immediately.
  - **Motor oil or antifreeze:** Any leakage on the ground surface is not permitted. If it occurs it shall be removed immediately from the ground surface utilizing environmentally safe clean-up kits.
  - **Pesticides/Herbicides:** The use of pesticides, herbicides and weed & feed fertilizers are highly discouraged due to the Issaquah Highlands proximity to the City of Issaquah’s aquifer and surrounding

waterways. The use of sustainable landscape maintenance practices is highly encouraged. Best practices include routine maintenance, timely irrigation and regular organic fertilization.

- **Open Spaces, Parks and Streetscapes**

- **Open Spaces** comprise a spectrum of purposes, uses, plantings and maintenance. Official designations of these areas include road right-of-ways, active and passive open space and greenbelt separation areas. The IHCA, City of Issaquah or King County are various owners of open spaces. All open spaces are governed by the IHCA Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan.
- **Streetscapes** are road right-of-ways and are considered high-visibility and receive correspondingly high levels of effort. Turf streetscapes are mowed 35 times annually and edged about 17 times while groundcover streetscapes are edged as needed. Herbicide applications are performed in accordance with IPM plan. Street trees are pruned and maintained on a regular basis. Replacements are installed in the fall or winter.
- **Parks and Improved Open Spaces** are maintained to the extent of their original installation. Turf is mowed 35 times annually and edged about 17 times, including bed edges. Herbicide applications are performed in accordance with IPM plan. Hedge and shrub pruning frequency is up to twice per year. Trees are trained, pruned and maintained as needed though less frequently than street trees. Parks are mulched at least every second year. Leaf control is done on a regular basis during major leaf-drop with a final pickup made afterwards. Active open spaces total over 130 acres.
- **Rough Open Spaces** include hillsides, buffer areas and less-accessible, less-visible portions of parks. These spaces are typically un-irrigated and planted with low- or no-maintenance native plants. Maintenance work may or may not include the use of goat herds and is geared primarily towards managing invasive species. No leaf control is provided.
- **Passive Open Space** includes the 1,287 acres of natural area comprising Grand Ridge Park and over 150 acres of city-owned space. Most of these spaces receive no regular maintenance though invasive species management may occur, often in coordination with governing agencies.

- **As a reminder, any changes to the exterior of homes or yards need approval from the Architectural Review Committee. Please contact Erika North, [Erika.n@ihcommunity.org](mailto:Erika.n@ihcommunity.org), for information.**