

## ORNAMENTAL TURF

Non-functional turf, also called 'ornamental grass', requires significantly more water than native vegetation and it is often only used for decorative purposes. City of Tucson is encouraging the community to find new, beautiful, but more water-efficient ways to landscape our Sonoran Desert city while keeping public use areas inviting.

City of Tucson Landscape Standards (UDC Section 7.6.4) prohibits all ornamental turf in new development. It affects:

- Commercial properties
- Industrial properties
- Common area spaces within residential areas

The following is clarification on exactly what non-functional, or ornamental turf, is, and includes the definition of ornamental turf developed for the Arizona Municipal Water Users' Association (AMWUA).

- Grass areas with any single dimension of eight feet or less
- Grass areas exceeding a 4-to-1, or 25%, slope
- Grass areas that are not accessible by paved pathways and/or are restricted by physical barriers that prohibit accessibility
- Grass areas installed closer than ten feet to a street and/or in front entryways to residential neighborhoods or subdivisions where other recreational amenities do not exist
- Grass areas that are not utilized for active recreational purposes

City of Tucson Landscape Standards (UDC Section 7.6.4) does not affect active recreation areas such as:

- Schools
- Parks Sports Fields
- Dog parks
- Golf courses, or
- Similar areas that commonly use turf for functional and recreational uses