

Attachment 3: Jurisdictional Scan of Municipal Regulation of Soft Landscaping

City	Definitions			Notes
	Landscaped Area	Soft Landscaping	Hard Landscaping	
Vaughan, Ontario	Landscape means the area of a lot used exclusively for soft landscape or hard landscape.	Landscape, Soft means open land used for the growth and maintenance of grass, flowers, shrubs, trees, and similar vegetation or horticultural elements, and may include granular geological materials.	Landscape, Hard means an area of land surfaced by materials such as artificial turf, unit pavers, patio stones, concrete, decorative stonework or other architectural elements designed and used to enhance the visual amenity of a property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulations apply to low-rise residential zones and includes standards related to the quantity, quality, and location of soft landscaping. Standards differ according to zone and lotting characteristics.
Mississauga, Ontario	Landscaped Area means any outdoor area on a lot, located at grade, including the landscaped buffer, that is suitable for the growth and maintenance of grass, flowers, shrubs, trees and other vegetation, as well as other landscape features, and may include walkways, berms, retaining walls and outdoor amenity areas,	Landscaped Soft Area means any outdoor area on a lot, located at grade, that is suitable for the growth and maintenance of grass, flowers, shrubs, trees and other vegetation, and including landscaping materials such as rocks and edging materials, but shall not include hard		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential zones include requirements for soft landscaping as a portion of a total landscape requirement as a percentage of the total lot area.

City	Definitions			Notes
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	but shall not include, driveways, aisles, ramps or condominium roads, parking areas whether surfaced or not, bicycle parking space - class b, curbs, any open space beneath or within any building, structure or part thereof, or any exterior garbage storage or handling area.	surfaced areas, such as driveways, aisles, parking areas, interlocking stone, and walkways.		
Markham, Ontario	<p>Landscaping means trees, shrubs, flowers, grass or other horticultural elements, decorative stonework, screening or other architectural elements, all of which are designed to enhance the visual amenity of a property and shall not be used for the parking of motor vehicles or outdoor patios.</p> <p>Landscaped Open Space means an area on a lot that is used exclusively for landscaping.</p>	<p>Landscaping, Soft means that portion of a lot that consists of any combination of trees, shrubs, flowers, grass or other horticultural elements that is not covered by architectural elements including but not limited to: interlocking pavers or stones, asphalt, buildings, brickwork, concrete, stonework or structures.</p>	<p>Landscaping, Hard includes any combination of brickwork, stonework, interlocking pavers or stones, or other impervious surfaces that are not covered by horticultural elements such as flowers, grass, shrubs, sod, or trees. A deck constructed over an impervious surface is considered hard landscaping.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulations include limits on the amount of hard landscaping in front and rear yards and requirements for soft landscaping strips in residential zones.

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Hamilton, Ontario	<p>Landscaping shall mean outdoor space for use, enjoyment and recreation and shall include natural vegetation areas and constructed areas such as patios, decks, playgrounds, pathways, outdoor recreational amenities, fencing, decorative architectural features and retaining walls.</p> <p>Landscaped Area shall mean any portion of a lot which: a) Contains no building thereon; b) Is not used for parking, access to parking, driveways or loading space; c) Is used for the purpose of landscaping; and, d) Landscaped areas may include bell pedestals and light standards but shall not include courier or mail boxes.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential zones include requirements for a certain amount of landscaping as a percentage of the total lot area.
Burlington, Ontario	<p>Landscaped Open Space Area means an open, unobstructed</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential zones include requirements for a certain amount of landscaping as a

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	space between a property line and a building elevation facing a street, excluding any permitted encroachment into a required yard, which is dedicated to the growth and maintenance of grass, flowers, shrubs, trees, and other landscaping, but does not include a walkway, driveway, ramp, or parking area, whether surfaced or not, or any open space beneath a building or structure. A walkway shall not be used as a driveway or parking area.			percentage of the total lot area.
Milton, Ontario	Landscaped Open Space means the open unobstructed space from ground to sky at grade which is suitable for the growth and maintenance of grass, flowers, bushes and other landscaping and includes any surfaced walk, patio or similar area but does not include any driveway,	Landscaping, Permeable Residential means the landscaped surface areas (level or otherwise) that permit the infiltration of water into the ground such as grass, trees, shrubs, flowers or other plants, berms, river rock, and		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential zones include minimum requirements for “permeable residential landscaping” as a percentage of the total lot area.

City	Definitions			Notes
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	sidewalk, or ramp, whether surfaced or not, any curb, retaining wall, parking area, interior courtyard, or any easement for the purposes of underground or overhead utilities or services where located within a front yard or exterior side yard.	decorative stone, but does not include gravel or artificial turf, on a lot having a residential use containing four (4) or fewer dwelling units.		
Oakville, Ontario	Landscaping means an outdoor area on a lot comprised of living trees, plants, permeable surfaces, fences and walls, or any combination thereof, without access by motor vehicles (except emergency access by vehicles such as fire trucks or ambulances).			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regulations include requirements for landscaped areas and planting strips. – Residential zones include requirements for a certain amount of landscaping as a percentage of the total lot area.
Kitchener, Ontario	Landscaping means outdoor space for use, enjoyment, recreation and utility, and may include natural vegetation areas and constructed areas such as patios, decks, playgrounds,			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Residential zones include requirements for a certain amount of landscaping as a percentage of the total lot area.

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	<p>pathways and outdoor recreational amenities.</p> <p>Landscaped Area means any portion of a lot which: i) has no building thereon; ii) is not used for parking, access to parking, driveways or loading space; iv) is used for the purpose of landscaping.</p>			
Waterloo, Ontario	<p>Landscaped Open Space means a portion of a lot predominantly used for the growth of trees, shrubs, grasses, and or other vegetation (the “Green Space”). Includes common outdoor area and outdoor hardscapes that are accessory to the Green Space, such as a surface walkway for the Green Space, common patio for the exclusive use of residential uses on the lot, or common deck for the exclusive use of residential uses on the lot. Exclusions include,</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential zones include requirements for a certain amount of landscaping as a percentage of the total lot area.

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	<p>but are not limited to: a.) Buildings and structures (except for a common deck for the exclusive use of the residential uses on the lot) b.) parking areas, including parking decks c.) Driveways d.) Loading spaces e.) Bicycle parking f.) curbs and retaining walls g.) garbage enclosures h.) rooftop amenity areas, rooftop decks, rooftop terraces constructed after the effective date of this by-law, unless otherwise stated in this by-law i.) stairs and ramps j.) utilities</p>			
Guelph, Ontario	<p>Landscaped open space means land that contributes toward stormwater management, tree canopy cover, and biodiversity by being used for the growth and maintenance of grass, flowers, trees, shrubbery, natural vegetation and native species and other</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential zones include requirements for a certain amount of landscaping as a percentage of the total lot area.

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	landscaping and includes any buffer strip, surfaced walk, surface patio, green roof, swimming pool or similar area, but does not include any access driveway, ramp, parking area or any open space within any building or structure.			
Ottawa, Ontario	<p>Landscaped Area means that part of a lot located outdoors that is used for the placement of one or more of the following:</p> <p>1. Soft Landscaping, means principally organic materials and vegetative in-ground plantings such as trees, shrubs, hedges, ornamental flowers and grasses, and may also include some accessory ground cover, such as riverwash stone, mulch or similar pervious material located in and around plantings, and excludes nonorganic surfaces including artificial grass; and “soft-landscaped area” has the corresponding meaning;</p> <p>2. Hard Landscaping, means non-vegetative materials such as brick, pavers, rock, stone, concrete, tile and wood, excluding any area used for parking, and including such features as a walkway, patio, deck or in-ground pool;</p> <p>3. Architectural Elements, means decorative fencing, walls, sculptures, gazebos, trellises, planters, benches and other similar features in a landscaped area.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regulations apply to low-rise residential zones and includes standards related to the quantity, quality, and location of soft landscaping required for different types of low-rise residential lots (corner, interior, etc.). – Exceptions included for permitted hard surfacing, such as walkways, driveways, parking spaces, etc.

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Kingston, Ontario	<p>Landscaped Open Space means an outdoor area on a lot that is used for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soft landscaping that allows water to permeate into the ground (vegetation such as trees, shrubs, hedges, ornamental plantings, grass, groundcover or other similar plantings); 2. Hard landscaping (brick, gravel, pavers, rocks, stones, walkways, fences or outdoor patios); 3. Exterior stairs; 4. Porches without a perimeter foundation; 5. Decks without a perimeter foundation; 6. Swimming pools; and 7. An area above a private sewage system. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Despite defining hard and soft landscaping, the Zoning By-law only includes an overall requirement of landscaped space as a percentage of the total lot area.
Peterborough, Ontario	<p>Landscaped Open Space means open unobstructed space at ground level on a lot used only for the cultivation and maintenance of grass, flowers and other growth and landscaping or as surfaced walk, patio, pool, or similar area and not for vehicular traffic or parking.</p>	<p>Where proposed, any planting strip shall consist of an unpierced and unbroken hedgerow of suitable evergreens or perennial shrubs and shall conform to the following regulations: (a) minimum width of planting strip 1.5 metres (b) minimum planned height of</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Residential zones include requirements for a certain amount of landscaping as a percentage of the total lot area.

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		hedgerow 1.8 metres (c) a planting strip may form part of any required landscaped open space (d) a planting strip may be interrupted where a driveway or walkway crosses; i) a maximum distance of 3 metres from a driveway, ii) a maximum distance of 1.5 metres from a walkway.		
Windsor, Ontario	Landscaped Open Space means an area open to the sky and maintained with one or more of the following ground covers: bark; flowers; grass; mulch; ornamental stone, block or brick, excluding construction grade aggregate; shrubs; trees; water feature; wood chips; and may include outdoor recreational facilities accessory to a dwelling or dwelling unit.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential zones include requirements for a certain amount of landscaping as a percentage of the total lot area.

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London, Ontario	<p>Landscaped Open Space means the open space which is used for the growth and maintenance of grass, flowers, shrubbery and other landscaping and includes any surfaced walk, patio, swimming pool or similar area, but does not include any access driveway or ramp, parking area, bus parking area, roof-top area or any open space beneath or within any building or structure.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regulations include requirements for landscaped areas and planting strips. – Residential zones include requirements for a certain amount of landscaping as a percentage of the total lot area.

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Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	<p>Landscaping means the provision of horticulture and other related compatible features, or materials designed to enhance the visual amenity of a site or to provide a visual screen.</p> <p>Landscaping may consist of any combination of the following elements: (a) soft landscaping including vegetation such as trees, shrubs, vines, hedges, flowers, ornamental grasses, lawn and ground cover; (b) hard landscaping including non-vegetative materials such as concrete, unit pavers, brick pavers or tile, but does not include rock, gravel, shale or asphalt but may include pathways, walkways, non-necessary driveways or other similar hard surfaces in addition to what is required under this Bylaw.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulations apply across zone districts, and includes standards related to the quantity, quality, and location of landscaping, with limits on the amount of hard landscaping permitted. The Zoning By-law also defines “xeriscaping” (meaning “a landscaping technique that focuses on water conservation while creating lush, colourful and unique landscapes with native or naturalized drought resistant species”).
Calgary, Alberta	<p>Landscaped area means that portion of a parcel that is required to be a hard surfaced landscaped area or soft surfaced landscaped area.</p>	<p>Soft surfaced landscaped area means an area with a surface consisting of materials that: (a) are living, or derived from living organisms; (b) are not formed into a structure; and (c) may include, but are not limited to, mulch, native grasses, plants, shrubs, sod and trees.</p>	<p>Hard surfaced landscaped area means an area with a surface consisting of materials that: (a) are not living or derived from living organisms; or (b) were once living but are now formed into a structure; (c) may include, but are not limited to, brick, concrete, stone and wood; and (d) must not include asphalt.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential zones include minimum requirements for a certain amount of soft landscaping as part of a total landscape requirement, as a percentage of the lot area.

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Edmonton, Alberta	<p>Landscaping means the preservation or modification of the natural features of a Site through the placement or addition of any or a combination of the following: a. soft landscaping elements such as trees, shrubs, plants, lawns, gardens, and ornamental plantings; b. decorative Hard Surfacing elements in the form of patios, Pathways, and paths consisting of materials such as bricks, pavers, shale, crushed rock, or other suitable materials, excluding monolithic concrete and asphalt; and c. architectural elements such as decorative Fencing, walls, and sculpture.</p>	<p>Soft Landscaping means Landscape materials that allow water infiltration and absorption into the ground to reduce stormwater runoff and to be capable of supporting living plants, such as trees, shrubs, flowers, grass, or other perennial ground cover. This does not include materials that prevent water infiltration or materials such as artificial turf, decking, bricks, and pavers.</p>	<p>Hard Surfaced means ground that is covered with a durable, dust-free material constructed of permeable or Impermeable Material. Typical examples include concrete, asphalt, pavers, or similar material. Landscaping does not include decorative Hard Surfacing used for, or contained within, Parking Areas, Driveways, or vehicle access areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential zones include minimum requirements for a certain amount of soft landscaping as part of a total landscape requirement, as a percentage of the lot area.
Vancouver, British Columbia				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Zoning and Development By-law does not include minimum requirements for landscaped spaces.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Schedules and text identifies landscaped setbacks along streets, with associated regulations. – Regulations require certain yards in each zone district to be landscaped, typically to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning.
Victoria, British Columbia	Open Site Space means that portion of a lot which is landscaped and not occupied or obstructed by any building or portion of building, driveway or parking lot; excluding accessory garden structures, balconies and roof projections		Permeable means hard surfacing specifically designed to allow the movement of water to flow through the surface, but does not include unconsolidated materials such as crushed rock, gravel, grass, earth or other loose materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Victoria's Multiplex amendment ("Houseplex") includes requirements for unpaved landscaped space occupying at least 35 square metres or 6.5% of the total lot area.