

# Landscape Sustainability Primer IFS

## Sustainability Standards - June 2024 (v. 08)

Sustainability is a major emphasis for Church construction and maintenance efforts. This emphasis has become significantly more important within the Intermountain Facilities Service area and its pressing need to address water conservation.

The following are the top areas of emphasis that apply to all new and existing meetinghouse landscape work:

- Review Process – Send preliminary designs into the [Church AEC Landscape Architect](#) for review. For projects with 50% or more of the landscape being disturbed or with a budget of \$100,000 or more, the design team will also send the 90% construction drawings into the [Church AEC Landscape Architect](#) for review. For preliminary or construction drawings, consultants and FMs will respond in writing to directives that are not followed.
- The FM or PM will take a preliminary design with lawn and shrub areas defined to local Church leadership to evaluate appropriate functional turf areas and when pertinent seek guidance for areas to be preserved.
- Reduce water usage by 50%. This may include a reduction of lawn and implementation of smart controller technology. In some cases, a smart controller may already be in place, so other conservation means should be taken. Several different combinations of solutions are available. The focus of the goal is to save 50% in water from a traditional 90% lawn landscape. This does not require 50% of lawns to be removed or all savings to come from one solution. While the desired water savings may not be accomplished in one minor project, every project should work toward this goal. Demonstrate incremental or final savings through calculating pre and post-construction water need. Use the **Church supplied calculation sheet**.
- Functional Turf – While landscape aesthetics are very important, functional turf is understood to be turf that serves more than an aesthetic purpose. Functional turf could be where primary classes meet, games are played, or where general gatherings take place.
  - Non-functional turf should be minimized or removed.
- Weed Barrier Fabric – Weed barrier should be implemented when using rock mulch and as per [Table 4-2 AEC Design Guidelines Pg 4-8](#). It should be removed when using organic mulch.
- Boulders can be a valuable addition to the landscape and should be meaningfully placed.
- Irrigation –
  - Smart Controllers and hydrometers are to be used. The IFS region will be using WeatherTRAK as the default product. Other controllers will only be approved through justification and review process approval.
  - Provide matching equipment across zones and on larger projects, across the site.
  - Achieve overhead sprinkler distribution uniformity of 65%.
  - When removing lawn, adjust irrigation to meet tree needs as per [this link](#).
- Construction Administration
  - With record drawings, the consultant will provide square foot data for pre and post-construction conditions, e.g. lawn area, shrub area, unirrigated area, etc. Also, include pre and post-construction theoretical landscape water need using **Church supplied calculation sheet**.
- Carefully review soil conditions and plan for how to preserve and amend as much in place as possible.
- Reduce the heat island effect through thoughtful tree placement and shading of paved surfaces using trees with root systems that won't compromise paving.
- Download and apply the most up-to-date landscape architect and project manager checklists.
- As always, all landscape and irrigation work to be done in accordance with standard [Church specifications](#).