

Parkway Trees

The City of Fountain Valley has been named a "Tree City USA" city because of its commitment to its urban forest. As part of its urban reforestation plan, the City requires a tree to be included in the plan for parkway landscape improvements. If there is not an existing parkway tree, residents may purchase an authorized tree of their choice from the City. However, if there is an existing tree that the resident wants to remove, residents may pay the City to remove the undesirable tree and replace it with a City authorized tree of their choice.

Only City authorized trees are allowed to be planted in the parkway. Samples of the authorized trees have been planted at Cordata Park around the reservoir, and an authorized tree list is available at City Hall and online at fountainvalley.gov/171/Parkway-Trees.

New trees should be planted and staked near the center of the parkway, halfway between the curb and sidewalk, and at least ten feet from driveways, streetlights, property lines, and fire hydrants in accordance with City Standard Plan Nos. 605-607. If pavers are being used, a border equal to the width of the parkway should be left around the tree.

Inspection and approval is required before adding or removing and replacing a parkway tree. Please call the Public Works Department at 714-593-4433 or 714-593-4600 for current fees and to request a parkway tree inspection.



Water Efficiency Rebates & Resources

In the interest of water conservation, residents are encouraged to remove turf, install drip irrigation, and utilize drought-tolerant plants in the parkway.

The City offers a wide variety of rebates and programs through the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) to help residents reduce their water use and save money. Rebates for turf removal, rotating sprinkler nozzles, smart irrigation timers, spray to drip irrigation systems, and more are available. However, funding is limited and may run out at any time.

Visit ocwatersmart.com for information about rebates, plants, trees, irrigation, and more.



Residential Parkway Landscaping Requirements

The purpose of this brochure is to provide residents with information about landscape improvements that are allowed within the part of the street right-of-way called the parkway. The term "parkway" refers to the area between the curb and sidewalk that is typically landscaped.



**City of Fountain Valley
Public Works Department**
10200 Slater Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
714-593-4433 / 714-593-4600
FountainValley.gov

PW-102025

What You Need to Know Before Getting Started

- Parkway landscaping may include turf, drought-tolerant plants, synthetic turf, and other permeable materials.
- At least 50% of the parkway area must be covered with approved living plant material or synthetic turf. Living plant material must be planted at a spacing that will allow for coverage of the required area within 18 months of planting. No bare dirt is allowed.
- Stepping stones or decorative pavers must be pervious and not exceed more than 50% of the parkway area.
- Plants must not obscure the line of sight for traffic or obstruct the sidewalk.
- Landscaping shall be continuously maintained free of weeds, debris, litter, and temporary signage. Mulch and plants must be kept off the street and sidewalk.
- The soil surface shall be ½ - 1 inch below the curb and sidewalk to allow for mulch to be contained.
- Fences, mailboxes, decorative rocks, gravel, concrete, colored mulch, thorny plants, and/or vegetable gardens are not allowed in the parkway.
- All irrigation and plants must adhere to the City of Fountain Valley Standard Plans which are available online at fountainvalley.gov/448/City-Standard-Plans and at City Hall.
- Residents who are making landscape improvements to the parkway are required to have a parkway tree. Only authorized parkway trees are allowed to be planted in the parkway.
- Before starting work, residents are required to get a Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit.



Call Dig Alert Before You Dig
Dial 811

Be safe! Always call Dig Alert before you dig anywhere, even if it is on your own property or in your backyard.

The parkway is part of the public right-of-way which means that it is subject to special restrictions that ensure public access and safety. To make sure that these restrictions are followed, the City of Fountain Valley requires that residents get an Encroachment Permit before starting to work in the parkway.



How to Get a Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit

- Encroachment Permit forms are available online at fountainvalley.gov/470/Permits-Fees and at City Hall. The resident and contractor, if one is being used, both need to complete and sign the form. The contractor must have a valid CA contractor's license, have a Fountain Valley business license, and provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance that names the City of Fountain Valley as an additional insured. (Please note that a licensed contractor is required for the installation of synthetic turf.)
- The completed form and a design plan need to be submitted to the Public Works Department at City Hall or via email to PW.permits@fountainvalley.gov. The design plan for the parkway needs to show the types of landscape materials to be used, quantities, and locations.
- The Encroachment Permit will be issued after all necessary information has been provided and the fees for the Public Right-of-Way and Encroachment Permit Review/Processing have been paid. If the parkway improvements support water conservation, the City Council has voted to waive the Public Right-of-Way fee.
- After the project has been completed, the resident needs to call the Public Works Inspector at 714-593-4442 to request a final inspection.