



JORDAN VALLEY WATER  
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

## Creating waterwise PARK STRIPS

*Helping you keep your landscapes efficient and beautiful*



### PARK STRIPS

*are hot, narrow, and can face unique challenges like road salt, dog waste, and pedestrian traffic. by designing park strips to meet these special needs, cities can create beautiful waterwise park strips with manageable maintenance and high curb appeal.*

### Irrigation:

Because park strips are typically less than 8 feet wide, irrigating with overhead sprinklers can cause overspray, water waste, shallow roots, and sidewalk damage. Using a drip system in park strips provides a solution to many of these challenges.



Overhead Sprinklers



Inline Drip



Point Source Drip

Today's drip irrigation technology has reached a state of high-level performance and is widely accepted throughout the western United States as the standard for irrigating plant material other than turf. Many cities in California, Arizona, and Nevada even require drip irrigation rather than spray in narrow landscaped areas such as park strips and parking lot islands. Two recommended types of drip irrigation are point source and inline.



## Drip Irrigation Benefits:

- *Provides the exact amount of water needed by each plant or tree directly to the root zone*
- *Eliminates watering the sidewalk and street*
- *Reduces weeds by only watering the plants you want to grow*
- *Reduces stress caused by wet and dry cycles or soil temperature fluctuations*
- *Allows water to go deeper helping to minimize surface rooting that can damage sidewalk*

## Irrigation Best Practices:

- Delay watering as long as you can. Typically, your plants will not need any water until at least May 1st. Stop all seasonal watering by October 1st.
- Drip irrigate perennials deeply once per week for 60 minutes in clay soil and twice per week for 30 minutes in sandy soils.
- New plants require extra water to become established during their first season.
  - **Weeks 1-4:** Water 3x per week.
  - **Weeks 5-12:** Water 2x per week.
- When temperatures exceed 90 degrees during the first growing season, increase watering to 3x per week.

## Inline:

(Recommended for most park strip scenarios)

Use inline drip to create a grid pattern throughout the park strip or a ring formation under tree canopies. An Inline drip system will water the entire park strip evenly and won't have to be adjusted as plants grow in size.



## Point Source:

(Recommended for low-density)

A point source system is designed to water individual plants and not the entire park strip. More emitters may need to be added as plants grow and mature. Extra durable point source with hard pipe and commercial grade materials is available for larger applications.





## Planting:

Park strips should allow for vehicle and pedestrian traffic without impeding vision, causing root damage to curbs and sidewalks, or dropping excessive amounts of fruit and debris on the sidewalk and street. Because of this, we recommend the following guidelines for park strip plantings:

- Choose plants that are less than 24 inches in height at maturity. Taller plants block views, impede safety, and can interfere with city maintenance.
- Use a thick coat of mulch at least 3-4" deep. The mulch will shade the soil and reduce germination of weed seed.
- Include paths between planting areas to provide access for foot traffic between the street and sidewalk.

## Tree Guidelines:

Conifers and other trees with weak branches, low branching, shallow roots, high water needs, and continuous debris are not recommended for park strips. While no tree is perfect, the following trees are recommended for park strips or street frontages.

Tree	Botanical Name	Height
Sensation Boxelder	<i>Acer negundo</i> 'Sensation'	30'
Crimson Sentry Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i> 'Crimson Sentry'	25'
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	30'
Goldenrain Tree	<i>Koeleruteria paniculata</i>	30'
Frontier Elm	<i>Ulmus</i> ( <i>carpinifolia</i> x <i>parvifolia</i> ) 'Frontier'	25'
Prairie Fire Crabapple	<i>Malus</i> 'Prairie Fire'	20'
Spring Snow Crabapple	<i>Malus</i> 'Spring Snow'	25'
Prospector Elm	<i>Ulmus wilsoniana</i> 'Prospector'	40'
Ivory Silk Tree Lilac	<i>Syringa reticulata</i> 'Ivory Silk'	20'
City Sprite Zelkova	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'JFS-KW1'	25'
Golden Candle Goldenrain Tree	<i>Koeleruteria Paniculate</i>	20'
Prairie Sentinel Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> 'JFS-KSU1'	45'

## Spring Maintenance

### Ornamental Grasses

- Cut back 6-12 inches above the ground.
- If the centers are starting to die out, dig up, divide and replant the grasses. Throw away or give away the ones you don't need.

### Perennials

- Cut back 2-6 inches above the ground.

### Mulch

- Replenish as needed to maintain 3 to 4-inch thickness.

### Herbicide

- Apply pre-emergent herbicide to reduce weed seed germination.

## Weekly Maintenance

- Pull weeds or spot spray as necessary. Avoid spraying on windy days or getting too close to plants.
- Remove any dead flowers or stems.

