



Scenic City

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The mission of the Scenic City Certification Program is to support and recognize municipalities that implement high-quality scenic standards for public roadways and public spaces, with the long-term goal of improving the image of all cities.

A program of Scenic Texas, in consultation with the American Planning Association, Houston Council of Engineering Companies, Houston-Galveston Area Council, Regional Leadership in Development Standards, Scenic America, Texas Municipal League and Urban Land Institute. These organizations comprise our Scenic City Certification Program Advisory Committee.



Scenic City Certification Program Application Form

Instructions:

- 1) The Scenic City application is points-based. For each criterion that applies to your city, please check the corresponding box. **Please note** that the following criteria are required before being named a Scenic City; applicant cities without these programs need not submit an application:
 - a) trees and landscaping along major roadways, city streets, street medians and in parking lots
 - b) prohibition on new off-premises signage (billboards)
 - c) permitting process and height/size requirements for on-premises signage

All other criteria in the application are optional, and the more of them an applicant city has, the more points toward certification will be earned. Please refer to the glossary for a definition of terms.

- 2) Provide clearly-stated evidence that this criterion is contained either in an ordinance or is a component of a formal program. You may:
 - a) enter the relevant link(s) to a website containing this information – please provide the specific page where the information is found, not the home page. If link is to Municode, please cite the location within your code (see sample below).
 - b) give a link to an Adobe Acrobat (pdf) document containing the information
 - c) mail the documents on a CD with file names noting the applicable section
 - d) mail the documentation in a binder with tabs or title pages noting the applicable section

Here is an example of how to fill out the form:

The dumpster area is screened on three sides using material consisting of stone, brick, block, wood or a continuous planting of evergreens.

<http://www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=10123&sid=43>
see Chapter 39, Article VI, Sec 39-101 item (c)

Candidate Scenic City:



Application submitted by *(city department or organization):*

Contact name: _____
[All communication regarding evaluation of this application will be directed to this contact.]

Title: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____

Section 1



Streetscape: protection of native and established trees, landscaping and sidewalks

Trees and landscaping along major roadways, city streets, street medians and in parking lots are required. *[Mandatory requirement]*

Require upkeep of landscaping to ensure viability of plants.

Landscape requirements apply to all public, private and institutional developments and must be installed in a sound manner and in accordance with accepted good planting procedures.

Landscaping and screening required to be installed as a part of project construction. Existing landscape areas to be retained shall be protected from vehicular encroachment during and after the construction phase by appropriate barriers.

Sidewalks required to be a minimum of 5 feet in width; 8 feet in transit corridors; 10 feet in downtowns and high-density areas. Sidewalks must be maintained in good condition and have pedestrian buffers with a minimum width of 2 feet.

Section 3



On-premises sign ordinance (permanent only with size, placement, and quantity restrictions)

- All permanent signs require permits separate from the building permit. *[Mandatory requirement]*
- The maximum number of permitted signs per business is 5 or fewer. An incentive exists that encourages business owners to use fewer than the maximum. *[Mandatory requirement]*
- Ground signs are limited to a height of no more than 8 feet, to a size no larger than 60 square feet, to no more than two signs for each front line of the lot, and require a site plan showing the exact location of the sign. *[Mandatory requirement – the more restrictive the height and size requirements, the more points will be awarded]*
- Wall signs are limited in number per business, and may have an area no larger than 50 square feet or 25% of the wall(s) to which affixed, whichever is smaller.
- Banned signage: All wind devices, roof signs and portable signs.
- Restricted digital signage: All electronic changeable message (digital) signs should be banned outright or restricted to special districts within city limits.
- If digital signs are allowed, clearly-stated regulations must strictly limit size, height, and brightness of such signs, and prohibit moving images and frequent rotation of fixed images on such signs. Regulations written in such a manner that will result in signs that are designed to be in context with the natural and built environment.
- A mechanism exists to bring existing (grandfathered) signs into conformity with the municipality's current sign code.
- A process exists to enforce removal of any sign that is significantly damaged, destroyed or abandoned.

Section 5



Lighting standards for streetscapes and public spaces

Street lighting program that places emphasis on the selection of lighting equipment and the location of street lighting so as to provide sufficient visibility, increased safety, and improved security for pedestrians and vehicles.

Adequate illumination that meets the level-of-use standards set for the municipality is required.

A conservation program is in place to maximize energy efficiency, decrease the light pollution effect, and minimize expenditure.

Cost-sharing program exists between the city and power provider(s) to upgrade light fixtures.

Section 7



Protection of landscaping during construction activities

Require that protective barricades are installed around all protected trees and grand trees prior to any construction activities on a development site.

Barricades are to be installed a minimum of 10 feet from a protected tree or at the designated protective root zone.

Materials used for protective barricades shall be made of wood, fencing or solid material.

Vertical barricades no less than 3 feet in height and no more than 6 feet apart. Horizontal members consisting of wood no less than 3 feet above existing grade and securely attached to the vertical members.

Protective barricades removed only to prepare the development site for final landscaping activities.

No parking or storing of vehicles, equipment or materials allowed within the protective root zone.

Section 9



Litter and graffiti

Littering is expressly prohibited and fined, including pedestrian trash as well as that thrown from motor vehicles.

Publicly supported cleanup efforts and education program for trash and graffiti.

Graffiti is expressly prohibited and fined, and a program exists to enforce effective removal.

Public trash receptacles have a protective covering to prevent trash from blowing out of can.

Trash can only be placed for collection on certain designated days, and not before or after within a period of 15 hours.

Strict prohibition on dumping.

Section 11



Dumpster screening

The dumpster area is screened on three sides using material consisting of stone, brick, block, wood or a continuous planting of evergreens.

The opening for removal of the dumpster for collection is a minimum of 12 feet to allow for proper access when it is serviced. For every dumpster added, an additional 10 feet in width is required.

All dumpster enclosures are approved by the city prior to construction.

Require that durable materials complement the building.

Require that the owner incorporate landscaping to make the screen more effective.

Require that location of the opening to the area be away from the sidewalk.

