

ORDINANCE NO. 2008- ///

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2  
3 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA,  
4 AMENDING CITY OF TAMPA CODE OF ORDINANCES,  
5 CHAPTER 13, LANDSCAPING, TREE REMOVAL & SITE  
6 CLEARING, ARTICLE I, ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS,  
7 SECTION 13-4; ARTICLE III, TECHNICAL PROVISIONS,  
8 SECTION 13-162; MAKING COMPREHENSIVE REVISIONS  
9 TO THE CODE PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO DEFINITIONS  
10 AND LANDSCAPE AND TREE PLANTING STANDARDS  
11 REGARDING IRRIGATION; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF  
12 ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING AN  
13 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
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15 WHEREAS, the City of Tampa finds that the public welfare will be served by  
16 assuring that further development is consistent with the City's desire to create a  
17 more sustainable community; and  
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19 WHEREAS, the City finds it is valuable to regularly review its various land  
20 development regulations to make them more resource efficient; and  
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22 WHEREAS, the City finds that a policy of sustainability incorporates the  
23 fundamental philosophy that the needs of the present generation do not compromise  
24 the needs of future generations;  
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26 WHEREAS, the City encourages resource conservation; and  
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28 WHEREAS, the City finds that many homeowners, businesses, and building  
29 professionals have voluntarily sought to incorporate green building techniques into  
30 their projects; and  
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32 WHEREAS, the City of Tampa desires to continue to be recognized as a  
33 diverse, progressive city celebrated as the most desirable place to live, learn, work,  
34 and play; and  
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36 WHEREAS, the reduction of turf grass areas will contribute to conserving the  
37 City's water resources; and  
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39 WHEREAS, the City recognizes that encouraging the use of "Florida  
40 Friendly Landscape" will contribute to conserving the City's water resources; and  
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42 WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing as required by law was held by the  
43 City Council, at which all residents and interested persons were given an opportunity  
44 to be heard.  
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NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA,**

**Section 1.** That the recitals set forth above are hereby incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

**Section 2.** That “**Section 13-4. Definitions.**” is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and deleting the stricken language as follows:

**“Sec. 13-4. Definitions.**

Automatic irrigation controller means a timer mechanism and its mounting box. The controller signals the automatic valves to open and close on a pre-set program or based on sensor readings. Control systems shall provide the following minimum capabilities: ability to be programmed in minutes, by day of week, season, and time of day; ability to accommodate multiple start times and programs; automatic shut off after adequate rainfall; ability to maintain time during power outages for a minimum of three (3) days; and operational flexibility to meet applicable year-round water conservation requirements and temporary water shortage restrictions.

~~timer, capable of operating solenoid valves, to set days and lengths of time for proper application of water in each irrigation zone.~~

Drought tolerant plant means a plant, once established, that survives on natural rainfall with occasional irrigation during dry periods, as identified by the University of Florida IFAS Extension Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Florida-Friendly Plant List 2006, as may subsequently be revised.

Emitter means a device that applies irrigation water which is used to control the discharge of irrigation water from lateral pipes. This term is primarily used to refer to the low flow rate devices used in micro low-volume irrigation devices.

Florida Friendly Yard or Landscape (as provided for in F.S. § 373.185) means a landscape that incorporates the Best Management Practices and philosophies described in “A Guide to Florida-Friendly Landscaping”, Third Edition, 2006, as may subsequently be amended, and conserves water and protects the environment and are adaptable to local conditions and which are drought tolerant. Florida-friendly landscape principles include planning and design, appropriate choice of plants, soil analysis which may include the use of solid waste compost, efficient irrigation, practical use of turf, appropriate use of mulches, and proper maintenance.”

Irrigation means a permanent underground watering system equipped with surface, subsurface or overhead emitters and which provides one hundred (100) percent water coverage.

Irrigation zone means a control valve circuit containing emitters and/or sprinklers irrigation devices with consistent application rates.

1 ~~Micro-irrigation~~ Low-volume irrigation means an irrigation system with a maximum  
2 flow rate per emitter of thirty (30) gallons per hour or less. These systems are not  
3 approved for turfgrass applications.  
4

5 Soil moisture sensor means a calibrated device that is designed to measure the  
6 quantity of water contained in a material, such as soil on a volumetric or gravimetric  
7 basis and override the irrigation cycle of the irrigation system at a pre-determined soil  
8 moisture level appropriate to site specific conditions.  
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10 **Section 3.** That **“Section 13-162. Landscape and tree planting**  
11 **standards.”** is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and deleting the  
12 stricken language as follows:  
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14 **“Sec. 13-162. Landscape and tree planting standards.**

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16 (3) *Irrigation.*

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18 a. All required landscaping, as described in 13-161, shall be equipped with an  
19 irrigation system except as specified below:  
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21 1. Retained native plant habitat is not required to have an irrigation system.  
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23 2. Single and two-family dwellings are not required to have an irrigation  
24 system. However, the addition of synthetic water absorbing polymers ~~should~~  
25 ~~be added~~ to topsoil prior to planting or sodding to increase water-holding  
26 capacity is encouraged.  
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28 3. ~~Xerophytic or Drought-tolerant~~ landscape material (see ~~Southwest Florida~~  
29 ~~Water Management District plant guide~~)the University of Florida IFAS  
30 Extension Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Florida-Friendly Plant List  
31 2006, as may subsequently be revised) planted in specific zones or beds is  
32 only required to be irrigated during established establishment (minimum  
33 thirty (30) days) and protracted drought periods. Irrigation shall be a ~~micro~~  
34 low-volume irrigation system.  
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36 b. The landscape and tree planting plan shall illustrate the proposed irrigation  
37 zones, delineating ~~micro~~ low-volume irrigation zones and areas utilizing  
38 irrigation techniques other than ~~micro~~ low-volume irrigation.  
39

40 c. ~~Fifty (50) percent of the on-site green space shall be allowed to~~ Irrigated turf  
41 areas shall utilize irrigation techniques other than ~~micro~~ low-volume irrigation.  
42 Turf areas shall be on separate irrigation zones from other landscape plant zones.  
43 In the case of expansion of an existing development, this limitation will apply to  
44 the area of new landscape, only.  
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46 d. In addition, in order to promote water conservation in the community, Florida  
47 Friendly Yards are strongly encouraged. ~~a~~ A maximum of fifty (50) percent green  
48 space may be planted with turfgrass configured with a permanent irrigation  
49 system (the maximum allowable new turf grass percentage will be reduced to  
50 45% in 2009, 40% in 2010, 35% in 2011, 30% in 2012 and 25% in 2013 and

1 thereafter.) Turf grass in excess of this limitation shall not be allowed to have a  
2 permanent or temporary irrigation system. ~~Micro-irrigation shall not be used on~~  
3 ~~turfgrass.~~ In the case of expansion of an existing development or the completion  
4 or continuation of a phased development, limitations identified for allowable  
5 new turf grass percentages, ~~this limitation~~ will apply to the area of new  
6 landscaping only.

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8 e. ~~Sprinkler~~ Turf zone head spacing shall achieve head to head coverage not  
9 exceed fifty five (55) percent of the sprinklers' diameter of coverage.

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11 f. Sprays and rotors shall not be combined on the same control valve circuit.  
12 Sprays and rotors shall have matching application rates within each irrigation  
13 zone.

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15 g. All irrigation systems shall be designed to avoid over spray, runoff, low head  
16 drainage, or other similar conditions where water flows onto or over adjacent  
17 property, non-irrigated areas, walkways, roadways, structures, or water features.  
18 Emitters and sprinkler heads are encouraged to be located at least two (2) feet  
19 from buildings and water should not hit the building while operating. Narrow  
20 areas (four (4) feet wide or less) shall not be irrigated unless ~~micro~~ low-volume  
21 irrigation is utilized.

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23 h. Irrigation control equipment shall include an automatic irrigation controller  
24 having program flexibility such as repeat cycles and multiple program  
25 capabilities. Automatic irrigation controller(s) shall have battery back-up or  
26 nonvolatile memory to retain the irrigation program(s). Automatic control  
27 systems shall be equipped with an operable rain sensor or other devices, such as  
28 soil moisture sensors, to prevent unnecessary irrigation.

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30 i. The irrigation system ~~should~~ shall be designed to "Standards and  
31 Specifications for Turf and Landscape Irrigation Systems," ~~Fourth Edition 2000~~  
32 Fifth Edition, 2005, Florida Irrigation Society, and as may subsequently be  
33 revised.

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35 j. All installations of new irrigation systems shall connect to the city's reclaimed  
36 water system if that system is available, as required by Tampa City Code,  
37 Chapter 26 and subsequent amendments.

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39 k. Sports fields, golf courses, cemeteries, and storm water management systems  
40 are exempt from the turf area limitation and ~~micro~~ low-volume irrigation  
41 requirements of this ordinance where functional need for turf is demonstrated.  
42 All other irrigation and landscape requirements of this ordinance apply."

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44 **Section 4.** That if any part of this ordinance shall be declared  
45 unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining  
46 provisions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

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48 **Section 5.** That all ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to  
49 the extent of any conflict with the terms of this ordinance.  
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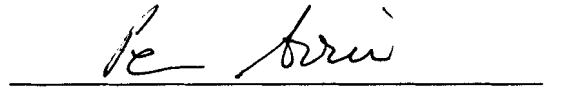
**Section 6.** That this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon becoming a law.

PASSED AND ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA ON JUN 26 2008.

ATTEST:

  
~~CITY CLERK/DEPUTY CITY CLERK~~

  
~~CHAIRMAN/CHAIRMAN PRO TEM CITY COUNCIL~~

  
APPROVED BY ME ON JUL 02 2008  
PAM IORIO, MAYOR

PREPARED AND APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY BY:

                   E/S                     
REBECCA KERT  
ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY