

ORDINANCE NO. 4580

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF AMES, IOWA, BY AMENDING SECTION 29.403(3)(D)(7) THEREOF, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MODIFYING MINIMUM PLANTING STANDARDS FOR LANDSCAPE MULCH REQUIREMENTS, REPEALING ANY AND ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED, by the City Council for the City of Ames, Iowa, that:

Section One. The Municipal Code of the City of Ames, Iowa shall be and the same is hereby amended by amending Section 29.403(3)(D)(7) as follows:

**Sec. 29.403. LANDSCAPING AND SCREENING.**

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**(3) General Requirements All Sites.**

The following standards are required on all residential and non-residential sites.

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**(D) Minimum planting standards.**

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(7) All required planters, bufferyards, and islands must include living ground cover. Foundation planters may use inorganic or non-living materials for ground cover. Organic mulch may be used in lieu of living ground cover beneath or around shrubs and trees.

(a) An exception to utilize decorative landscape rock materials, in lieu of organic mulch, may be approved for areas within required planters immediately around decorative plantings, shrubs and trees. Details of the landscape rock material type and location shall be specified on the landscape plan. Decorative plantings may be required within planters along with the use of decorative landscape rock.

Decorative landscape rock in and of itself does not meet the definition of landscaping, therefore, it may not be utilized in lieu of landscape plantings and is to be confined to defined planter areas with shrubs, trees, and decorative plantings.

(b) Decorative landscape rock materials are subject to the standards and limitations of other zoning districts, such as CSC and the University Impact Overlays.

Section Two. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, if any.

Section Three. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Passed this 13 day of January, 2026.

Taylor Swanson  
Deputy City Clerk

John A. Haila  
John A. Haila, Mayor

First Reading: December 9, 2025

Second Reading: December 16, 2025

Third Reading: January 13, 2026

Passed on: January 13, 2026

I, Renee Hall, City Clerk of the City of Ames, Iowa, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of Ordinance No. 4580, passed by the City Council of said City at the meeting held on January 13, 2026 and signed by the Mayor on January 13, 2026, and published in the Ames Tribune on January 20, 2026.

Renee Hall  
Renee Hall, City Clerk