

Draft- Proposed New City of Buckeye Water Conservation Codes for Comment

Please note: *It is the intention that Sections 17-5-12 through 17-5-24 and 17-5-26 would only apply to the City of Buckeye water service area, City of Buckeye water customers, City of Buckeye facilities, and City of Buckeye employees and officials. It is also the intention that Section 17-5-25 would only apply to the City of Buckeye sewer service area, City of Buckeye sewer customers, City of Buckeye facilities, and City of Buckeye employees and officials.*

Section 17-5-12 - Prohibition of New Natural Turf at Model Homes and City of Buckeye Facilities

The installation of new natural turf is prohibited in landscaped areas of model homes and City of Buckeye-owned buildings constructed after [insert date]. This section does not apply to City of Buckeye Community Services Department facilities where recreation programs or programming may be conducted.

Section 17-5-13 - Prohibition of New Natural Turf in Front Yards and Common Areas of Multi-Family Residences

The installation of new natural turf is prohibited in common areas or front yards of multi-family residences constructed after [insert date]. This section does not apply to parks, playgrounds, buffers surrounding playgrounds, dog parks, or dog runs.

Section 17-5-14 - Prohibition on New Natural Turf in Front Yards of Single-Family Residences

The installation of new natural turf is prohibited in single-family residential front yards of residences constructed after [insert date]. This section does not apply to Rural Residential (RR) lots, Single-Family Residential 18 (SF-18) or larger (minimum lot size of 18,000 square feet or larger), Single-Family Rural Residential (SF-43) lots (minimum lot size of 43,000 square feet), or lots that are irrigated by non-potable water or reclaimed water, including non-potable water or reclaimed water supplied by the City of Buckeye or by irrigation districts including, but not limited to, Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District, Roosevelt Irrigation District, or Arlington Canal Company.

Section 17-5-15 - Limits on New Natural Turf in Rear Yards and Side Yards

New natural turf may be installed in the rear yard and side yards of single-family residential lots, but the natural turf area must not exceed 50% of the total area of the side yard and rear yard. A maximum total of 5,000 square feet of new natural turf is allowed. New natural turf may be installed in the rear yard and side yards of Rural Residential (RR) lots, Single-Family Residential 18 (SF-18) or larger (minimum lot size of 18,000 square feet or larger), Single-Family Rural Residential (SF-43) lots (minimum lot size of 43,000 square feet), or lots that are irrigated by non-potable water or reclaimed water, including non-potable water or reclaimed water supplied by the City of Buckeye or by irrigation districts including, but not limited to, Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District, Roosevelt Irrigation District, or Arlington Canal Company, without restriction to size.

Section 17-5-16 - Prohibition of New Natural Turf in Non-Residential Developments

The installation of new natural turf in non-residential developments constructed after [insert date] is prohibited, except in public recreation areas, plazas, forecourts, or special landscaping designs approved by the City of Buckeye's Development Services Department (the size of the new natural turf area may not exceed 10% of the total area of the non-residential development). This section does not apply to schools, parks, playgrounds, sports fields, amphitheaters, cemeteries, golf courses, driving ranges, or other recreational facilities of similar nature that require turf.

Section 17-5-17 - Maximum Slope of New Natural Turf Areas

The maximum slope of a new natural turf area constructed after [insert date] must not exceed a 6:1 slope or 17%.

Section 17-5-18 - Distance of New Natural Turf from Street Curb or Paved Surface

New natural turf areas constructed after [insert date] that are watered with spray irrigation must not be located within 6 feet of a street curb or paved surface, other than a driveway or

sidewalk of a residence. This section does not apply to schools, parks, playgrounds, sports fields, amphitheaters, cemeteries, golf courses, driving ranges, or other recreational facilities of similar nature that require turf.

Section 17-5-19 - Minimum Width of New Natural Turf Area

The minimum allowable width for a new natural turf area constructed after [insert date] that is watered with spray irrigation is 10 feet. The width may be less than 10 feet, if the natural turf area is adjacent to a planter bed or other landscape area which will catch overspray. This section does not apply to schools, parks, playgrounds, sports fields, amphitheaters, cemeteries, golf courses, or driving ranges, or other recreational facilities of similar nature that require turf.

Section 17-5-20 - Smart Irrigation Controllers at Model Homes and City of Buckeye Buildings

Weather-based irrigation controllers, soil-moisture-based irrigation controllers or other self-adjusting “smart” irrigation controllers are the required irrigation control technology for landscaping at model homes, multi-family developments, non-residential developments, City of Buckeye buildings or facilities, City of Buckeye rights-of-way, City of Buckeye public utility easements, and common areas or HOA maintained areas within single family residential developments constructed after [insert date]. The Public Works Director shall review and approve all irrigation plans for City of Buckeye facilities (including but not limited to: buildings, rights-of-way, and/or public utility easements).

Section 17-5-21 - Water Conservation Information at Model Homes

Information must be provided at model homes constructed after [insert date] to educate future home owners about water efficient landscaping and irrigation techniques, and water saving practices and devices. The information must include:

- The low water use/drought tolerant plant list compiled by the Arizona Department of Water Resources for the Phoenix Active Management Area.

- Techniques on designing, installing, managing, and maintaining water efficient landscapes.
- Indoor and outdoor water saving devices and practices.
- City of Buckeye water conservation ordinances.

Section 17-5-22 - Low Water Use Plants

Plants used in City of Buckeye rights-of-way, City of Buckeye public utility easements, and landscaped areas of City of Buckeye buildings constructed after [insert date] shall be Arizona native plants listed in the low water use/drought tolerant plant list compiled by the Arizona Department of Water Resources for the Phoenix Active Management Area, and shall be approved by the City of Buckeye Public Works Director.

Section 17-5-23 - No Over-Seeding in Common Areas and Rights-of-Way

Landscaped common areas and right-of-ways planted with Bermuda grass must be allowed to go dormant in the winter and must not be over-seeded with ryegrass. This section does not apply to schools, parks, playgrounds, sports fields, amphitheaters, cemeteries, golf courses, driving ranges, other recreational facilities of similar nature that require turf, or areas that are irrigated by non-potable water or reclaimed water, including non-potable water or reclaimed water supplied by the City of Buckeye, or by irrigation districts including, but not limited to, Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District, Roosevelt Irrigation District, or Arlington Canal Company.

Section 17-5-24 - Water Conservation Plan for New Large Turf Areas

Because facilities with 10 or more acres of turf are issued a Maximum Annual Conservation Allotment by the Arizona Department of Water Resources, a brief written water conservation plan shall be submitted to the City of Buckeye Water Resources Director for review and approval for these proposed new large turf areas. The water conservation plan must describe: (a) the proposed number of acres of turf and low water use landscaping; (b) the annual water budget proposed to irrigate the turf areas and the low water use



CITY OF BUCKEYE
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

landscaping areas; (c) the source of the water (e.g. irrigation district water, water from the Buckeye Waterlogged Area, remediated water, Class A+ effluent, surface water, or non-potable groundwater); and, (d) steps proposed to use water efficiently and minimize waste.



Section 17-5-25 – Prohibition of Water Softening Appliance Brine Backwash

The discharge of water softening appliance brine backwash from any residence constructed after [insert date] into the City of Buckeye sanitary sewer system or to a City of Buckeye owned or operated wastewater treatment plant or water reclamation facility is prohibited. This section does not apply to residences which discharge to septic systems, or to wastewater treatment plants or water reclamation facilities which are not owned or operated by the City of Buckeye.

Section 17-5-26 – Prohibition of Irrigating During Measureable Rainfall

Irrigating turf and ornamental landscaping during measurable rainfall and within 48 hours following rainfall measured at 0.25 inches or greater (measured at the nearest weather station) is prohibited. This section does not apply to plant nursery stock, outdoor plants in moveable containers, and new or replacement landscaping (including grass seed or sod) for the first 21 days after planting.