

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 18.135  
OF THE EVANSVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE**

WHEREAS, the Area Plan Commission has proposed an amendment to the Evansville Municipal Code concerning landscaped islands in new large parking lots; and

WHEREAS, such islands help to reduce the environmental impact of large parking lots by providing shade, lessening overall heat, allowing rainfall to percolate the soil, and assist in drainage and filtration of water; and

WHEREAS, such islands can also improve the aesthetic value of large developments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Evansville, Indiana, as follows:

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF SECTION 18.135.040 (D) (3)**

Section 18.135.040 (D) (3) of the Evansville Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

(D) (3) When the front end of a parking space is adjacent to the perimeter of the parking area, a bumper guard shall be provided to prevent any part of a parked vehicle from extending beyond the parking area.

**SECTION 2. NEW SECTION 18.135.120**

Chapter 18.135 of the Evansville Municipal Code is amended by the addition of a new Section 18.135.120 which shall read as follows:

**18.135.120 Interior parking area green space.**

(A) Interior parking area green space shall be provided in landscaped islands, bumpouts and/or strips within all new surface parking areas or expansions of existing parking areas having 30 or more parking spaces to reduce the visual and environmental impact of large parking lots. The term "Landscaped Island" shall refer to this required parking area green space. These requirements are in addition to any required front, side and rear yard setbacks, and shall meet the following standards:

- (1) Parking lots shall provide one landscaped island for every 15 parking spaces. When computing results in a fraction of 0.5 of an island or higher, the fraction shall be rounded up to the next whole number.

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The parking area shall be considered as the pavement devoted to parking spaces and adjoining aisles. To the extent possible, islands should be dispersed throughout the parking area. Paved areas for site loading/unloading and opaque fenced storage areas are exempt from this Section.

- (2) The minimum size of a landscaped island that can be applied towards these requirements shall be 136 square feet. The minimum dimension for an island without a tree is 6 feet. The dimensions for an island shall be measured from the inside of the curb or other barrier provided.
- (3) Barriers such as permanent curbing or wheel stops shall be installed around islands to minimize damage to landscaping and for easier parking area maintenance. Pavement (at or below the surface) is prohibited inside the island barriers. However, light pole standards, storm inlets, electrical boxes and other utility/drainage facilities are allowed within landscaped islands provided they do not occupy more than 25% of the island area, do not block a drainage way and they meet any applicable drainage requirements.

(B) The preferred design option for landscaped islands is an island strip placed in the parking area between rows of head to head parking (see Figure A).

- (1) To encourage this form of landscaped island, a credit will be provided for the area where a vehicle could overhang the island strip as long as the strip is at least 10 feet wide. This credit allows two feet of the island adjacent to the front end of the parking spaces to be counted as part of the parking spaces, reducing the paved length of the spaces from 18' to 16' (see Figure B). Only ground cover plants are allowed within the overhang area.
- (2) The design grade of landscaped strips can be above or below the parking lot surface (see Figure A). Island strips with an elevation below the parking lot also function as bio-swales that can be integrated into the project drainage system. Gaps must be provided in curb or other barriers around this type of an island to allow for storm water flow into the area. Bio-swale islands are a best management practice for dealing with storm water and can lower drainage system cost. Design criteria for bio-swales must meet applicable drainage requirements.

(C) Landscaped islands can also be used to safely separate parking spaces and pedestrians, and to define access drives that help direct vehicle circulation.

(D) Each island shall contain plantings and be maintained as green space. Appropriate ground cover species, flowers, shrubs and/or trees, shall be used to create an appealing landscape with shade and color. Trees are strongly encouraged, as well as use of native plantings. Lists of native trees by size recommended for planting can be obtained from the City of Evansville Arboricultural Specifications Manual. This document also offers guidance on planting procedures, soil treatment, irrigation and maintenance. Additional advice can be obtained from the City Arborist in the Evansville Urban Forestry Office, and from the County Extension Horticulture Educator.

- (1) Site plans for new development must show islands and indicate the species of trees to be planted.
- (2) The island plantings must be installed on a site of new or expanded development within 6 months of the date a Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) is issued. For attached multi-tenant businesses in a common structure, the 6 months shall start from the date a C of O is issued for the first business in the structure. After 6 months, enforcement actions will be taken including the possibility of fines if plantings have not been installed per these requirements.
- (3) In parking lots with 60 or more parking spaces, trees are required to be planted in islands at a rate of one tree for every 30 parking spaces. When computing results in a fraction of 0.5 of a tree or higher, the fraction shall be rounded up to the next whole number. All required trees are to be from the Medium and Large tree lists in the document referenced herein (no dwarf trees are allowed), unless other equivalent sized trees are approved by the City Arborist or the County Extension Horticulture Educator. At least 50% of required trees must be from the Large tree list. Any existing trees to be preserved that meet these requirements as shown on a site plan approved by the City Arborist or the County Extension Horticulture Educator shall also count toward the required tree total.
  - (a) Minimum size of islands containing trees:  
small/medium tree - 136 sq. ft. with a minimum dimension of 8 ft.  
large tree - 315 sq. ft. with a minimum dimension of 10 ft.
  - (b) Minimum distance from tree to pavement:  
small tree - 3 feet  
medium tree - 4 feet  
large tree - 5 feet