



TOLEDO - LUCAS COUNTY PLAN COMMISSIONS

One Government Center, Suite 1620, Toledo, OH 43604 P: 419 245-1200 F: 419 936-3730

DATE: June 14, 2024

REF: M-3-19

TO: President Carrie Hartman and Members of Council, City of Toledo

FROM: Toledo City Plan Commission, Thomas C. Gibbons, Secretary

SUBJECT: Text Amendment removing detention/retention ponds and swales from front yards

The Toledo City Plan Commission considered the above-referenced request at its meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 2:00 P.M.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Subject

Request	-	Text Amendment removing detention/retention ponds and swales from front yards
Applicant	-	Toledo Plan Commission One Government Center, Suite 1620 Toledo, OH 43604

Applicable Plans and Regulations

- Toledo Municipal Code Part Eleven: Planning and Zoning

STAFF ANALYSIS

The Toledo Plan Commission is requesting review of an amendment to remove traditional detention/retention ponds and swales from front yards. Currently, traditional detention/retention ponds are prohibited in the frontage greenbelt per TMC§1108.0206 Bioretention Areas (Rain Gardens). This section was amended in 2016 due to growing concerns over improper installation and lack of maintenance of stormwater treatment facilities. The amendment language was developed in consultation with the Division of Engineering Services, Division of Environmental Services and the Plan Commission. The modifications were designed to bring all three agencies to a consensus when working with developers what is expected in the design, location, installation, maintenance, and overall best management practices in concern to bioretention areas or stormwater treatment facilities.

While there have been improvements in the installation and maintenance of stormwater facilities as a result of the amended regulations, there is still a concern with the aesthetics and maintenance of traditional detention/retention ponds and swales that have been installed. Hence, an amendment is proposed to prohibit traditional detention/retention ponds and swales from the front yard. The front yard is defined by TMC§1116.0137 as the area between the right-of-way and

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STAFF ANALYSIS (cont'd)

the principal building. This change will ensure that retention/detention facilities and swales will not encroach upon any frontage greenbelts and landscaping. This is important because frontage greenbelts and landscaping provide protection of adjacent land uses and improve visual aesthetics. In addition, the location of detention/retention ponds and swales behind the front building façade will also decrease their visibility and potentially negative impact on views to and from sites.

Engineering Services staff has expressed concern with the proposed amendment in that it may limit the ability of developers to situate stormwater facilities based on the conditions of individual sites. In addition, it was noted that a closer review of conditions of existing stormwater facilities may be warranted to determine what the cause is of the current issues and how best to address them. Following discussions of the proposed amendment, staff is proposing to move forward with the amendment at this time and reassess conditions in the future as needed.

PLAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Toledo City Plan Commission recommends approval of M-3-19, a text amendment to the Planning and Zoning Code to remove detention/retention ponds and swales from front yards, to Toledo City Council.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas C. Gibbons
Secretary

LK
Three (3) Exhibits follow

CC: Lisa Cottrell, Deputy Director
Lisa Karcher, Planner

Exhibit "A"
Existing Regulations

1108.0206 Bioretention Areas (Rain Gardens)

- A.** A Stormwater Treatment Facility is defined by 941.01. In all zoning districts except the Downtown Overlay District (DOD), Stormwater Treatment Facilities may be located within the required landscaping areas, frontage greenbelt area, buffer area, parking lot screening area, or landscape islands provided the following criteria are met:
1. Traditional detention/retention ponds are prohibited in the frontage greenbelt.
 2. Facilities must be designed to infiltrate to drain dry or have a bottom slope minimum of 1% to drain dry.
 3. Side slopes shall have a maximum side slope no more than 3:1 (three units horizontal to one unit vertical).
 4. If located within the frontage greenbelt the stormwater treatment facility may only occupy up to 50% of the actual available green space.
 - a. Footprint of stormwater treatment facility is defined by the top of any slope that is 5:1 or steeper.
 - b. Footprint of stormwater treatment facility may cross the greenbelt boundary.
 5. Concrete drainage structures must be located to provide maximum benefit for stormwater treatment effectiveness, and must also be mostly concealed within the side slope, and be surrounded by landscape screening rather than visibly protruding into the landscaping.

Exhibit "B"
Proposed Modifications

(Additions in italic highlight. Deletions in bold strikethrough.)

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1. Traditional detention/retention ponds *and swales* are prohibited in the *front yard* ~~frontage greenbelt~~.
 2. Facilities must be designed to infiltrate to drain dry or have a bottom slope minimum of 1% to drain dry.
 3. Side slopes shall have a maximum side slope no more than 3:1 (three units horizontal to one unit vertical).
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 - a. Footprint of stormwater treatment facility is defined by the top of any slope that is 5:1 or steeper.
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Exhibit "C"
Proposed Regulations

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