

Colorado Springs School District 11

Grounds Maintenance Standards

This Standard provides guidance on maintaining District 11 property that is outside our building structures.

Any work that alters District property, whether performed by school staff, students, volunteers, or paid contractors, must be approved in writing by the Director of Facilities or their designated representative in accordance with District 11 Board of Education Policy FEK, Facilities Self-Help Program and its implementing regulation. Approval will be requested by submitting a work order to the Work Order Desk at 477-6000 (or through the work order website) prior to starting any self-help projects.

Turf Maintenance. This includes sports fields, playground areas, and other areas where grass is intentionally grown and maintained. Per City ordinances, grass will not be taller than six inches. Play areas should be cut frequently enough to maintain a minimum height of three inches as per industry standards. The allocation of this maintenance responsibility is shown in the District's turf maps for each campus. All tripping hazards and uneven ground will be corrected as soon as possible.

Irrigation Systems. These systems will be maintained in working condition under the supervision by an appropriately State of Colorado licensed Plumber or properly credentialed supervisor. All applicable local, State and Federal laws and regulations will be adhered to. Systems maintained by non-District 11 entities will do so under their own bonding and insurance programs.

Native Landscape Maintenance. Native landscaping will be maintained in accordance with all local, State, and Federal laws and regulations. Grasses will be maintained at a height not to exceed 9 inches and shrubs pruned to minimize wildland fire danger.

Weed Control. Chemical treatments for weed control will be applied at least once annually during the growing season in accordance with local, State, and Federal laws and regulations. These products must follow manufacturer guidelines with appropriate personal protective equipment. The District prohibits the use of any pesticide or herbicide that contains glyphosate or dicamba. Manual removal of weeds is permitted in lieu of chemical treatments in accordance with a locally approved weed control plan.

Hardscape Maintenance. Hardscape will be regularly maintained in an effort to kept the areas free of trash and weeds. Areas within the 50-yard perimeter of the main building will be maintained by the Building Manager or designated campus staff. Areas outside the 50-yard perimeter will be maintained by Facilities Department or properly credentialed and insured contractors.

Playground Maintenance. Annual inspections of play structures and areas will be completed by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector from the Grounds Maintenance Shop. Fall protection areas will be maintained by the Grounds Maintenance Shop to provide a quality surface and proper surface depth levels. Weekly maintenance by the Building Manager will include cleaning of foreign materials and raking to redistribute surface materials evenly within the intended areas.

Fence Maintenance. Fences will be inspected at least once annually. They will be maintained to keep them in a safe condition and to provide entry control to District property. An attractive appearance is importance and trash needs to be regularly removed by building staff.

Parking Lot Maintenance. Parking lots will be kept clean of debris to promote safe access by vehicles, buses, visitors, and pedestrians. Striping will be maintained to promote directional control of vehicles, marked parking stalls, and pedestrian cross walks. Striping should normally occur every three years or as needed to remain visible.

Snow Removal. All local and State ordinances will be followed, to include the removal of snow on public sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow event. All District property will have snow removed as soon as practical, and prior to the planned arrival of staff, students, and visitors. This includes the removal of snow on school sidewalks and parking lots in accordance with the District's snow removal maps for each campus. Icy areas will be treated for traction control (e.g. sanding) or physical removal of ice as appropriate to keep walkways and driving areas safe.