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930.01 General

Irrigation provides additional moisture to plants during their establishment (the first 3–5 years) or, in special cases, on a continuing basis. Irrigation is a high-maintenance and high-cost item; use only when absolutely necessary. Permanent irrigation is only used in semiurban and urban character classifications in Treatment Levels 2 and 3. (See the *Roadside Classification Plan* for more information.) Contact the region Landscape Architect or the Headquarters (HQ) Roadside and Site Development Section for assistance with irrigation plans.

930.02 References

(1) Design Guidance

Roadside Classification Plan, M 25-31, WSDOT

Roadside Manual, M 25-30, WSDOT

930.03 Design Considerations

(1) Project Planning Phase

During the project planning phase, make the following determinations:

- (a) Determine whether irrigation is necessary.
 - Analyze soils.
 - Determine local climate conditions and microclimates.
 - Consult with the HQ Horticulturist or region Landscape Architect, or the HQ Roadside and Site Development Section for regions without landscape architectural expertise, for site, soil, and plant recommendations to reduce or eliminate the need for irrigation.
 - Describe where irrigation is needed based on a functional design concept, such as “irrigation is needed to provide green lawn at a safety rest area.”
- (b) Determine the source of water and its availability, rate of flow and pressure, and connection fees.

Sources of water for irrigation use include municipal water systems and water pumped from a well, pond, or stream. When selecting a source of water, consider what permits and agreements may be needed as well as the cost and feasibility of bringing water from the source to the site.
- (c) Determine applicable laws and regulations regarding water and backflow prevention.

(2) *Design and Implementation Phases*

During the design and implementation phases:

- Coordinate with the local water purveyor.
- Select durable, readily available, easy-to-operate, and vandal-resistant irrigation components.
- Proprietary device selections require approval, as specified in the [Plans Preparation Manual](#).
- Determine power source and connection fees.
- Consider the need for winterization of the irrigation system to avoid freeze damage to system components.

Use this information to document design decisions for the Project File.

Show the location and type of water source on the irrigation plan.

For more detailed information on irrigation systems and irrigation documentation, see the [Roadside Manual](#).

930.04 Documentation

For the list of documents required to be preserved in the Design Documentation Package and the Project File, see the Design Documentation Checklist:

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