

C. Sound Walls

Sound walls in the Rural Design Segment should be designed so that they do not compete with the natural beauty of the Rural Segment.



Sound Wall in Rural Design Segment

The recommended material is precast or cast-in-place concrete panels that are earth tone in color. Wall ornamentation should be kept at a minimum. These walls should be simple and should step back into the landscape, rather than dominate it. Sound walls should be constructed using the unifying natural accent rock and matching the size and jointing of the US 24/Ridge Road Bridge. Please see the Sound Wall in Rural Design Segment sketch on this page for the desired appearance of these walls.

D. Landscape Elements

Proposed new landscaping within this design segment should consider the implications to the natural setting. Ideally, new plantings should enhance and contribute to the existing character of the corridor and not compete with it. The implementation of any new landscaping should aid in blending the highway with the adjoining Fountain Creek and Red Rock Canyon landscape.

Highway Right-of-Way

Native grasses will be used along all roadway shoulders. Where stabilization is required and in all areas where other aesthetic treatments have not been identified, xeric plantings from the Highway R.O.W. Xeric Plantings schedule should be installed to blend with the existing non-irrigated landscape. See the Appendix.

If plantings of trees and shrubs are desired, they should be installed in a naturalized unpatterned way. An informal planting scheme that may consist of a mixture of evergreen trees and shrubs should be used in these areas. Plantings should be in keeping with what was removed. If implemented accordingly, maintenance of these areas will be minimal.

Riparian/Drainage Areas

Landscape materials installed along US 24 adjacent to Fountain Creek should consist of native grasses that can take advantage of local runoff.

To preserve the natural appearance of this corridor, the areas where US 24 encroaches into Fountain Creek and the associated riparian areas should be revegetated with riparian and native plantings.

Plants for these areas should be selected from the Naturalized Plantings and Riparian Plantings schedules found in the Appendix. Please see the Riparian/Drainage Area Planting Concept on this page to understand where the different planting schedules apply.

As a best management practice, and in order to capture runoff before it enters Fountain Creek, swales will be constructed adjacent to the highway. These swales should be vegetated with grasses and herbaceous plants selected from the Riparian Planting schedule found in the Appendix.



E. Irrigation

Irrigation has been identified for installation only at the proposed gateway into Red Rock Canyon Open Space. All other landscaped areas will rely on natural rainfall and natural drainage patterns. As identified on the plant schedules located in the Appendix of this document, plants and vegetation have been carefully selected to withstand periods of drought and to rely solely on natural rainfall for their source of water.

F. Color and Materials

Color and materials for the Rural Design Segment will focus on the surrounding area. Newly constructed elements are intended to bleed into the natural surroundings. No accent colors are to be used. The natural red rock outcrops of the Garden of the Gods and Red Rocks Canyon Open Space are more predominant in this segment. Stone should be the dominant finish for all elements in this design segment. Stone will help to integrate the roadway with the surrounding area.



Riparian/Drainage Area Planting Concept