Streetscape and Landscape Features

In some cases, streetscape and landscape features that are located in or visible from the public right-of-way contribute to the significance of historic districts. Along with architectural style, these features create a district's coherent appearance. Signficant character-defining features may vary among districts but should be identified in the historic district survey. These features may include: driveways, sidewalks, walkways, streetlamps, trees, and parkways. The City is responsible for the preservation and maintenance of many of these features.

In most areas of Glendale, landscaping on private property will not be a significant historic feature, unless there is a prominent, planned, and uniform planting pattern that is an identified part of the historic fabric of the district. Driveways, sidewalks, and walkways will be historically significant only when there is a strong pattern of materials or location that is repeated on the great majorityof properties.

Left: This block of houses consists of mostly one-story residences and is further defined by the line of palms and the consistent setback of buildings.

Right: Glendale's neighborhoods often exhibit a mix of styles. This street has the common curb, green strip or parkway, and sidewalk configuration.
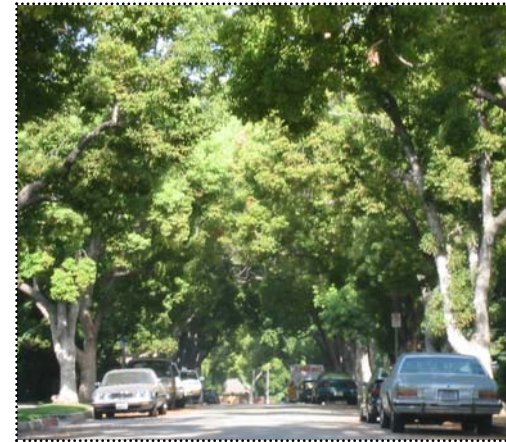
streetscape & landscape

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character-defining features

Identify the steetscape and landscape elements of your property that contribute to the historic character of the district and the rhythm of the streetscape:

- Does the street have a parkway--a grassy median or green strip between the sidewalk and the curb?

- Are there uniform street trees along the block?

- What is the traditional parking pattern for the district?

    - are there driveways from the street?
    - do the driveways have a grassy medians?
    - are there uniform curb cuts along the street?
    - is access from a rear alley?
    - was parking originally accommodated on the street?

- Does the district have historic street lamps?

- Do property walkways relate visually to the sidewalk, either through pattern or materal?

Above: Mature tree canopies help define many of Glendale's neighborhoods.

Below: These houses in Verdurgo Woodlands are enhanced by the streetscape consisting of mature trees.

Above: This corner is marked by a streetlamp with attached street sign.

Below: Streetscapes are defined by the placement of curb cuts for driveways and by the use of greenways to soften the street edge before the sidewalk.

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design guidelines

- Historic street lamps should be preserved and maintained, if feasible.

- Healthy mature street trees, where they are significant to the district, should be preserved and maintained.

- Diseased street trees should be replaced in kind, when possible.

- Historic landscaped buffer zones, such as the grassy median between the sidewalk and curb, should be preserved and maintained.

- Historic retaining walls should be preserved where they exist.

- Significant sidewalk and driveway features should be preserved when they contribute to the historic character of the district.

- Original driveway locations and curb cuts should be preserved and maintained when they contribute to the historic character of the district.

- Replace only those portions of character-defining streetscape and landscape features that are deteriorated beyond repair.

- Replacement materials for character-defining features should match as closely as possible to the original in color, texture, size and finish.

- New sidewalks should align with those already on the block.

- Replacement or new sidewalks should exhibit scoring lines and brush patterns consistent with the historic material when those elements contribute to the historic character of the district.

- Large paved areas, for parking or otherwise, are generally inappropriate in areas visible from the public right-of-way.

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design guidelines

- When it is necessary to repave sidewalks or driveways, the use of plain asphalt or blacktop is generally inappropriate.

- When parking is not located in a garage, consider screening it from view from the public right-of-way with the use of a fence, hedge, or other landscape element.

Above: The street shape provides character to these Ranch style house on a cul-de-sac.

Below: This is a typical street scene in the Pelanconi neighborhood.