



FOR PROPOSALS TO THE 2019 DENVER BUILDING CODE AMENDMENTS AND THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL CODES

DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

2021 CODE DEVELOPMENT CYCLE

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2) One proposal per this document is to be provided with clear and concise information.

Is a separate graphic file provided ("X" to answer): ___ Yes or X No

3) Highlight the code and acronym that applies to the proposal

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Code Name</u>	<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Code Name</u>
DBC-AP	Denver Building Code–Administrative Provisions	IPC	International Plumbing Code
IBC	International Building Code	IRC	International Residential Code
IECC	International Energy Conservation Code	IFGC	International Fuel Gas Code
IEBC	International Existing Building Code	IMC	International Mechanical Code
IFC	International Fire Code	DGC	Denver Green Code

AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Please provide all the following items in your amendment proposal.

Code Sections/Tables/Figures Proposed for Revision:

Instructions: If the proposal is for a new section, indicate (new), otherwise enter applicable code section.

Chapter 5 Site Sustainability, Declining Species Support (NEW)

Applies to nonresidential occupancies including new construction, additions when in scope, alterations when in scope; adaptive reuse (change in occupancy); multifamily; residential including new construction, additions when in scope, alterations when in scope

Proposal:

Instructions: Show the proposal using ~~strikeout~~, underline format.

Place an "X" next to the choice that best defines your proposal: ___ Revision X New Text ___ Delete/Substitute ___ Deletion

501.X Declining Species Support. Preserve threatened or endangered (T & E) species and their habitats as identified in Chapter 103.X Ecological Impact Statement by avoiding development of areas that contain habitat or migration corridors for plant and animal species identified on Colorado state endangered lists or on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species as critically endangered or endangered. Comply with 501.X.1 through 501.X.5.

501.X.1 Do not develop greenspace within ¼ mile (1320 Feet (402 m)) of areas designated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as riparian corridors, lakes or wetlands defined as critical habitat for threatened or endangered species, except if part of a conservation effort.

501.X.2 Do not develop greenspace within 100 feet (30.48 m) of areas designated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as riparian corridors, lakes or wetlands defined as habitat not defined as critical for threatened or endangered species, except if part of a conservation effort.

501.X.3 Designate the full extent of threatened and endangered species habitat on the site as a vegetation and soil protection zone (VSPZ). All listed animals and plants must be protected from damage or removal. If threatened and endangered species are identified on site, all construction, development and maintenance activities within the VSPZ shall only occur during seasons/times when the animal species is not present to minimize impacts.

501.X.2.1 Vegetation and soil protection zones (VSPZ) must meet the following requirements:

- a. Construction impacts from overall site development shall not decrease the capacity of the VSPZ to support the desired vegetation or wildlife habitat. For example, construction activities outside of the VSPZ should not change drainage patterns and microclimate effects within the VSPZ.
- b. VSPZ shall be protected with a fence or other physical barrier that cannot be easily moved (wildlife-permeable barrier, if appropriate) that protects the zone during construction from equipment parking and traffic, storage of materials, and other construction activities.
- c. Educate all construction and maintenance personnel about the locations and protective measures of the VSPZ. In construction documents, outline educational measures to be administered to contractor
- d. VSPZ can encompass one plant or can include several plants in a group. VSPZ boundaries for trees shall extend out from the trunk, to a distance of 2 feet radius (measured at ground level) per inch of diameter at 4 ½ feet high or the full lateral extent of the actual root system as determined by ground-penetrating radar. VSPZ boundaries for shrubs shall extend out from the stem to twice the radius of the shrub. VSPZ boundaries for herbaceous vegetation shall extend to encompass the diameter of the plant.
- e. No more than 10 percent of the total area of the VSPZ can contain development. Only minimal impact site development is allowed within the VSPZ.

501.X.4 Develop a plan for site maintenance that defines the process avoiding impacts during site maintenance to threatened and endangered species and their habitats. The plan shall include the coordination and collaboration with State wildlife agency and City agency to exchange information and acquire expertise in determining potential impacts to species of concern, and threatened or endangered animal and plant species. Restoration activities may occur within this zone to increase the quality of the habitat.

501.X.5 Pollinator Support. Select landscaping that supports pollinator diversity and health for 75% of plantings.

501.X.5.1 Plant native and adapted species that flower at different times of year and plant in clumps rather than single plants in accordance with section 501.3.3.4.

501.X.5.2 Avoid pesticide use in compliance with 501.X.X Exterior Applied Chemical Management

Supporting Information:

All proposals must include a written explanation and justification as to how they address physical, environmental, and/or customary characteristics that are specific to the City and County of Denver. The following questions must be answered for a proposal to be considered.

- Purpose: What does your proposal achieve?

This proposal takes action to protect species that are identified to be in decline in Denver. When species become extinct in a complex ecosystem that has developed over time, the ecosystem can fall out of balance and lead to collapse of the system. This can have a domino effect that destabilizes ecosystem health regionally

- Reason: Why is your proposal necessary?

Species identified as endangered or species of concern, are known to inhabit areas in Denver, and areas designated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) as riparian corridors, lakes and wetlands are some of the most biologically productive natural ecosystems in the world and are considered to have high ecological and societal value. Per Vicki Vargas-Madrid of Denver Parks and Recreation, “They provide essential habitat for Denver’s urban wildlife, serving as feeding grounds, movement corridors, and shelter for resting and rearing young. In addition to supporting biodiverse wildlife and native plant communities, these resources also improve water and air quality, reduce the heat island effect, and support the mental and physical wellbeing of our residents.”

- Substantiation: Why is your proposal valid? (i.e. technical justification)

The proposed language uses established standards by the Sustainable Sites Initiative as well as guidelines from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW), and National Audubon to preserve areas of endangered and valuable habitats and encourage improvement of habitats on developed sites.

Bibliography and Access to Materials (as needed when substantiating material is associated with the amendment proposal):

Fish and Wildlife Service Pollinators: <https://www.fws.gov/pollinators/pollinatorpages/yourhelp.html>

National Wildlife Federation 10 Ways to Save Pollinators: <https://blog.nwf.org/2021/06/10-ways-to-save-pollinators/>

Colorado Parks and Wildlife: <https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/CNAP/RevegetationGuide.pdf#search=riparian%20management>

National Wildlife Federation. <https://www.nwf.org/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2013/AprilMay/Gardening/Bird-Friendly-Urban-Landscapes>; <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Wildlife>

National Audubon: <https://www.audubon.org/lights-out-program>

USDA-NRCS - <https://conservationwebinars.net/webinars/environmental-evaluation-series-planning-for-floodplain-and-riparian-area-special-environmental-concerns/?searchterm=environmental%20evaluation>)

<https://planningforhazards.com/stream-buffers-and-setbacks>

Other Regulations Proposed to be Affected

***For proposals to delete content from the 2019 Denver Green Code in conjunction with adding it to other mandatory Denver codes and/or regulations, only.**

Please identify which other mandatory codes or regulations are suggested to be updated (if any) to accept relocated content.

Referenced Standards:

List any new referenced standards that are proposed to be referenced in the code.

The Sustainable Sites Initiative: Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks
https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc31157/m2/1/high_res_d/Guidelines%20and%20Performance%20Benchmarks_2009.pdf

Impact:

How will this proposal impact cost and restrictiveness of code? ("X" answer for each item below)

Cost of construction: Increase ___ Decrease ___ No Impact
Cost of design: ___ Increase ___ Decrease No Impact
Restrictiveness: Increase ___ Decrease ___ No Impact