Hello
My name is
Dumping Preventer

The Dumping Preventer is designed to reduce the risk of illegal dumping on your lot. A planted barrier prevents vehicles and people carrying debris from accessing the lot from the street and through the alley. The planted hedge is spiny, thick, and is two to four feet in height, making it difficult to enter the lot. Two multi-stemmed trees are planted within the hedge. The colorful, hardy plants in this lot design create a clean edge without having to plant the entire lot.

For more information, refer to UNI Vacant to Vibrant: A Guide to Working with Lots, www.uni-kc.org

What is the lot design likely to cost?
The estimated cost of the Dumping Preventer is moderate ($1,000 – $2,500 or less) and based on 1.5-inch diameter trees, potted plants and utilizing volunteer labor. To save money you can buy smaller trees or pots. The cost assumes that residents or volunteers have access basic safety gear and garden tools.

How much upkeep will this lot design require?
This is a low maintenance lot design. Maintenance will include watering hedges and newly planted trees, particularly during times of drought and excess heat. You can prune hedges at any time to create desired height.

Will installation of this lot design require a professional?
The installation of this lot design should not require professional assistance if you, with the help and support of friends, family or neighbors would like to construct this lot design. Please refer to the Step-By-Step section for guidance. If you do not have the required support or feel unable to tackle this lot design, please seek professional assistance.

How long will it take to install this lot design?
While people tackle projects in different ways and at different speeds, the UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide estimates installation time of this lot design to be one full weekend with the help of at least three to five healthy adults or youth. The Guide assumes the lot is ‘construction ready,’ and all equipment and materials required for the lot design have been acquired and are ready to use.

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<th>Cost</th>
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<td>Location</td>
<td>Location Single or Multiple Lots in Full Sun to Shade (Lots with Illegal Dumping are Ideal)</td>
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Dumping Preventer

This design includes directions for properties with both street and alley access. If you do not have an alley or have other access problem to your site, the right portion of the lot does not need to be planted.

Examples of Dumping Preventer Plantings

Where Do I Grow?

The Dumping Preventer can be constructed on single or multiple lots. Multiple lots can help create a comfortable urban edge along roads and alleys. If desired, a few plants can be removed to make a pathway into lot and to allow mowing access. The images above show two plants: the Bayberry Hedge and a Serviceberry Tree—both plants with wonderful fall color!

Image Source: 1) Bayberry (Myrica pensylvanica) by Leonora (Ellie) Enking, (CC BY-SA 2.0); 2) Serviceberry, National Park Service, nps.gov.
Before You Start

Test Your Soil
Harmful pollutants have made their way into many urban soils. To proceed with awareness, consider having your soil tested before construction.

University of Missouri Extension provides soil testing for a small fee. They can test for individual contaminants or for certain categories of contaminants, such as heavy metals. A Soil and Plant Environmental Analysis Form is available at http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/miscpubs/mp0953.pdf. Additional information can be found at University of Missouri Extension’s Soil and Plant Diagnostic Services page, http://soilplantlab.missouri.edu/soil/, or by contacting the Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory, at soiltestingservices@missouri.edu or 573-882-0623.

Remove Your Grass
Need to remove grass in areas where you are constructing your lot design?

There are many ways to remove unwanted grass. The first is to remove the grass and its root system by digging up the grass. Another option is to cover your lot with cardboard or a plastic tarp to smother your grass in darkness. It will take several weeks, but after being covered, the dead grass will be easier to remove.

Till Safely
Before you till, inspect your lot for signs of buried concrete or rubble that was not removed during the cleanup stage. Large debris can ruin tiller blades.

When tilling, wear appropriate safety gear, such as covered boots with socks, long pants, safety glasses, dust mask, and ear protection. Make sure you understand the safe operating procedures of your tiller. Refer to the user’s manual.

Call Before You Dig
Locate underground utilities before beginning your lot design. Call 1-800-DIG RITE (800-344-7483) or 811 at least three days before you plan to start digging on your lot.
What You Need: Shopping List

Shopping List

The shopping list provides a breakdown of potential materials, tools, and resources required to construct this lot design.

This shopping list is designed for a single lot (30 by 100 feet).

Materials List

Materials
- Mulch or Wood Chips, 1 cubic yards
- Compost, 2 cubic yards

Planting Option 1: Sun
- Gro-Low Sumac, 70 pots
- Bayberry, 40 pots
- Serviceberry, 4 pots
Note: these plant numbers are based on front and back plantings. Adjust accordingly.

Tools + Resources

Suggested Tools
- Marking Paint and Tape Measure
- Safety Gear: Gloves, heavy work boots, tall socks, pants, long sleeve shirts, dust masks, protective eye wear, ear plugs, and hard hats (if using heavy machinery)
- Garden Tools: Spades, Shovels, Rakes, Trashbags, and Wheelbarrows
- Ball Cart, for moving heavy trees

Potential Water Sources
- Garden Hose with potential extension hose
- Sprinkler
- Rain Barrel in addition to other water source

Resources

Remaining Lot (Optional)

Groundcover
- Low-Maintenance Fescue Mix, 15 pounds of seed
- Compost Blanket

Image Source: Amelanchier arborea growing in Oak Maple woods on sandy bluff of Sangamon River, Springfield, Illinois U.S.A. by Amos Oliver Doyle, (CC BY-SA 3.0).
Let’s Start

Want to create the Dumping Preventer but don’t want to hire a professional? Here are a few guiding principles to help you construct your lot design.

☑ Check off tasks as you go along.

Lot Design Steps

Volunteer Opportunities:

☐ Prepare Your Lot
☐ Plant Hedge
☐ Plant Trees
☐ Maintain Your Lot Design
☐ Sow Remaining Lot

☐ Prepare Your Lot

Decide on the best location for your hedge. Use marking paint to map out the size, shape, and dimensions of your design. The UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide recommends two planting beds approximately 4.3 by 30 feet or the width of the lot.

☐ Plant Hedge

A sunny to shade planting option is recommended for Dumping Preventer.

Place plants in desired location and remove plastic pots, loosen roots and plant.

The UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide recommends adding three inches (one cubic yard) of wood chips or mulch to planting beds. Adding wood chips or mulch will help suppress weeds.

☐ Plant Trees

The UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide recommends planting 1.5-inch-diameter trees; however, smaller or larger trees can be planted if preferred. Trees can be purchased in pots or balled and burlapped. If you decide to plant larger trees, speak with a professional as older trees can be more difficult to establish.

Plant trees as soon as possible after purchasing. If you cannot plant them the same day, do not leave unplanted trees in direct sunlight. Keep them in shade and well watered until you can plant them. (Trees dry out fast!)

Identify the location where you wish to plant the trees. Dig a hole three times the width of the root ball and equal to the depth.

Pots should be removed before placing the tree in the planting hole. Balled and burlapped root balls should remain wrapped until placed in hole. Unwrap the top 1/3 of the root ball and peel back the burlap once planted. Remove any twine, nails, or stakes. The root flare should be level with the ground when you place the tree in the hole.

Water the root ball, then backfill the hole with the soil previously removed from planting. Add water to the tree every six inches as you backfill the hole. Compact the soil lightly after each watering until the hole is filled with soil and level with the adjacent ground.

The UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide recommends adding three foot diameter by three inch depth of wood chips or mulch around trees. Keep mulch or wood chips a few inches away from tree trunks.

The Dumping Preventer plan shows two trees approximately 7.5 feet from planting bed edge.

For more guidance on tree planting, refer to the UNI Vacant to Vibrant Step-by-Step Planting Fact Sheet at www.uni-kc.org.
Maintain Your Lot Design

Trees and plants require care and attention to thrive. Planting beds are low-maintenance; however, water and weed around trees and hedges while they are becoming established during the first two years. Once your hedge is established, it will shade out the majority of the weeds, and can be pruned at any time to keep the ideal height.

The UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide recommends connecting with an arborist or taking a workshop on proper tree health and maintenance.

Sow Remaining Lot

If you are seeking a lower maintenance alternative to a traditional lawn, the UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide recommends a fescue seed mix. If you follow Dumping Preventer lot design you will need approximately 15 pounds of fescue seed mix for the remaining lot (2,742 square feet) and compost blankets.

This family of floppy grasses is drought-resistant and requires one cutting (in August or September) per year. Fescue can be established in full sun to shade and should be seeded in spring (mid-March to mid-May) or fall (August to September).

Soil should be prepared for seeding by scarifying, raking, or tilling the soil four to six inches deep to loosen any compaction, allowing for easier seed germination and better water infiltration. Apply seed mix to a damp lot.

Sow seed across the remaining lot by using a seed spreader or by hand. The UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide recommends a seed rate of five pounds per 1,000 square feet. Gently water seedlings daily until they are four to six inches in height. Placing a thin layer of straw or a compost blanket over seeded areas will help ensure that your seed establishes by keeping seeds from blowing away and protecting them from birds. Compost blankets or straw can be purchased at most nurseries and garden stores.

When established, grass will not require supplemental watering except during unusually dry periods.

Other UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide lot designs can be used as groundcovers. Visit www.uni-kc.org for additional options and ideas.

Next Level: If you would like to bring additional color to your grass, you can always plant bluebells, crocuses and/or daffodils to create a decorative show in spring. Bulbs should be planted in the fall.

For more guidance on bulb planting refer, refer to the UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide Step-by-Step Planting Fact Sheet at www.uni-kc.org.
Strengthen your neighborhood’s identity! Align your garden with the front setback line of adjacent houses.

Refer to the Construction Package for more details - located at UNI Vacant to Vibrant: A Guide to Working with Lots, www.uni-kc.org

1. Small Shrub (Gro-Low Fragrant Sumac)
2. Large Shrub (Bayberry)
3. Small Tree Serviceberry
4. Grass or Optional Groundcover
5. Mulch
Planting Sun or Shade

**Gro-Low Fragrant Sumac**
*Rhus aromatica ‘Gro-Low’*
- 24” Height x 3’ Width
- Dense - low growing
- **Quantity:** 70 pots

**Bayberry**
*Myrica pensylvanica*
- 10’ Height x 10’ Width
- Narrow, leathery leaf
- **Quantity:** 40 pots

**Serviceberry**
*Amelanchier arborea*
- 15’ Height x 15’ Width
- Blooms April
- **Quantity:** 4 pots or 4 balled and burlapped

**Plant Sizes**

**Pots:** Plants can be purchased in one to three gallon pots. Size of pots can vary based on availability.

1.5-inch diameter trees are available at commercial landscape supply stores in pots or balled and burlapped (B & B).

**Key**

1. **Gro-Low Sumac** (Space approximately one foot apart.)
2. **Bayberry** (Space approximately two feet apart.)
3. **Serviceberry** (Space approximately 12 feet apart.)

**Image Source:**
1) Battery Park City - South Cove Park, *Rhus aromatica ‘Gro-Low’* by cultivar413, (CC BY 2.0);
2) Photograph of a leaf cluster of the Northern Bayberry (*Morella pensylvanica*). Photo by Derek Ramsey (Ram-Man), GNU Free Documentation License, version 1.2;
3) Downy Serviceberry, National Park Service, nps.gov.
Did You Know?

Professionals Can Help!
The UNI Vacant to Vibrant: A Guide to Working With Lots provides a Construction Package for each lot design. The Construction Package includes information and details required for a professional to construct this design. More information is available in the UNI Vacant to Vibrant Guide at www.uni-kc.org.

Helpful Facts

• While its primary purpose is to reduce the risk of illegal dumping, the hedge also provides habitat for a variety of birds.

Planting Tips

• Call ahead to make sure the nursery or garden store has the plants you need for your lot design.

• The best time to plant is in spring or fall.

• Do not plant in extreme heat.

• Water after planting and as needed. Do not let plants dry out.

• Weed weekly or as needed.

• If you do not have a back alley and do not wait to plant the back of your lot, just cut the planting list in half.

• To create access to the lot, a pathway can easily be created by removing one hedge.

• Add crocus and snowdrops to existing grass for a colorful lawn in spring.

• Do not plant trees under overhead wires.