



## **INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Planning and Community Development**

**FROM: Nora Gierloff, DCD Director, AICP**

**BY: Max Baker, DCD Development Supervisor, AICP**

**CC: Mayor Ekberg**

**DATE: August 2, 2021**

**SUBJECT: Zoning Code amendments to TMC 18.41 and new design guidelines for multifamily development in the Tukwila South Overlay (TSO) district.**

### **ISSUE**

New multifamily design guidelines must be adopted and existing multifamily development standards amended to allow residential development on certain lands covered by the Tukwila South Overlay (TSO) district. Staff is requesting the PCD review recommendations provided by DCD staff and those of the Planning Commission and forward recommendations to the City Council.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### Requirements for Adoption of Multifamily Design Guidelines in Tukwila South

Per TMC 18.41.090.A.2 and Table 18-6, the development of residential dwelling is permitted on lands other than those with the underlying LDR zoning in the TSO district only after additional standards and residential design manual with criteria for approval is adopted. In 2018, the City adopted standards that apply only to multi-family development in the underlying Low Density Residential (LDR) zone of the TSO district. Since the design manual does not apply to lands other than those with the underlying LDR zoning, multifamily development is not permitted in these areas until design guidelines and standards are adopted.

#### City + Consultant Review

As part of the City's review, DCD staff worked with an urban design consultant, NBBJ, to provide a peer review of the proposed standards and guidelines. This collaboration significantly guided many of staff's recommendations presented to the Planning Commission.

#### Planning Commission Review

The proposal was forwarded to the Planning Commission (PC) by the PCD on February 1, 2021. Following public hearing, the PC moved to approve the proposal with commission recommendations on June 10, 2021. These recommendations may be found as part of the meeting minutes, Attachment B, and in an accompanying matrix, Attachment C, that compares PC recommendations to the original staff recommendations.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### Proposed Code Amendments and Design Guidelines

The applicant has proposed draft Zoning Code text amendments that revise the existing multifamily residential standards, and new draft multifamily design guidelines for the entire Tukwila South Overlay (TSO) district. The code amendments provide guidance on the following:

- Development area
- Heights

- Setbacks
- Vehicle parking
- Recreation space

The Design Guidelines would provide guidance on overall design intent and criteria for evaluating new multifamily developments within the TSO district, including but not limited to pedestrian/vehicular access, building layout, recreation space design, etc.

The proposed code amendments and design guidelines would apply to all lands and underlying zoning within the TSO district, including replacing those adopted in 2018 for the underlying LDR zone.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Amendments to TMC Title 18 and adoption of design guidelines are legislative decisions. As required, a public hearing and review by the Planning Commission took place and was completed on June 10, 2021. No public comments were received.

City Staff and the Planning Commission's recommendations are being presented to the Planning and Community Development Committee to be forwarded to the City Council for a public hearing, review, and adoption.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

None.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Council is being asked to consider this item at the September 13, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Planning Commission Packet June 10, 2021
- B. Planning Commission Minutes June 10, 2021
- C. Matrix comparing DCD and Planning Commission recommendations



CHAIR LOUSIE STRANDER; VICE-CHAIR KAREN SIMMONS; COMMISSIONERS DENNIS MARTINEZ, SHARON MANN, DIXIE STARK, ANDREA REAY, AND APNEET SIDHU

CITY OF TUKWILA  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING  
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MICROSOFT  
TEAMS  
JUNE 10, 2021 - 6:30 PM

**To Participate in the Virtual Meeting at 6:30 pm:**

**By Phone:** Dial +1 253-292-9750 Access Code 512 345 560#

**Online:** To join the meeting online click here [Click here to join the meeting](#)

**FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT DURING THE MEETING YOU MAY CALL 1-206-433-7155.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ATTENDANCE
- III. ADOPT 5/27/21 MINUTES

- IV. CASE NUMBERS: L19-0115
- PURPOSE: Adoption of design standards and guidelines for residential development in the Tukwila South Overlay District.
- LOCATION: Tukwila South Overlay District; north of S 204th St, west of Duwamish River, south of S 180th, east of Orillia Rd/I-5

- V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- VI. ADJOURN







**CITY OF TUKWILA  
PLANNING COMMISSION (PC) WORK SESSION  
MINUTES**

**Date:** May 27, 2021  
**Time:** 6:30 PM  
**Location:** Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

**Present:** Chair Louise Strander; Vice Chair Karen Simmons; Commissioners Sharon Mann, Dennis Martinez, Dixie Stark, Andrea Reay, and Apneet Sidhu

**Staff:** Department of Community Development (DCD) Director Nora Gierloff, Acting Planner Supervisor Nancy Eklund, Associate Planner Meredith Sampson, and Planning Commission Secretary Wynetta Bivens

**Welcome:** Chair Strander welcomed the new Commissioner Apneet Sidhu to the PC Board. Commissioner Sidhu said he is looking forward to the opportunity to serve.

**Adopt Minutes:** Commissioner Mann moved to adopt the 4/22/21 minutes  
Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Chair Strander** called the meeting to order.

**Agenda**

**Item:** Transit Oriented Development Housing Action Plan (TODHAP)

**Meredith Sampson**, Associate Planner, DCD, gave the presentation for staff. She gave an overview of the process for the TODHAP moving forward, including PC review of the analysis and draft recommendations outlined; She outlined that this plan is a guidance document, and the outcome will serve to guide future Comprehensive Plan amendments and code changes, but will not change any codes. She provided background information and gave an overview on what the housing action plan does; provided housing community data; and gave an explanation on area median income (AMI). She also noted that data from the study showed that Blacks and Hispanic renters are cost-burdened (cost-burdened means 30% or more of income is spent on rent) at a higher rate than other racial groups, which is disproportionate for the share of the population these groups make up. She said the direction of the Plan is to identify pathways to increase residential building capacities while minimizing displacement of existing residents in the TIB Station Area. The TIB Station Area is a half mile walkshed around the TIB Light Rail Station.

The three objectives of the Plan are: providing higher density development; ensuring anti-displacement and community stabilization; and improving station area planning and infrastructure. These objectives are supported based on what staff heard as community needs during the Plan’s public outreach process, and on the grant requirements.

Public outreach has been a priority and started with the creation of a public engagement plan, which took the City’s Equity Policy into consideration. There were stakeholder interviews and focus groups completed as part of the

outreach process, as well as a virtual community open house held on the Plan on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Some of the key points and concerns attendees at public outreach events expressed were:

- that there are not enough multi-family units;
- that developers are generally constrained by City parking requirements;
- that open space is important in urban areas and that it can contribute to a higher quality of life;
- that the lack of housing and affordable options seems to be a regional issue, and if not addressed quickly, the situation will become more dire; and
- participants love living in Tukwila and want to continue to live in the City without getting priced out or displaced.

The public outreach resulted in the development of 18 draft recommendations that staff reviewed with the PC to get their feedback and direction.

At the PC request, staff clarified that the dotted line around the TIB Link Light Rail Station represented a half mile perimeter “as a crow flies” from the station and that the shaded grey area represented the half mile walkshed around the TIB Link Light Rail Station, i.e., a half mile walking on surface streets from the station. Staff also stated that the plan did not address properties within SeaTac, although some may be within a half mile of the station; the Plan only focuses on areas in Tukwila. The Commission also requested that staff highlight which of the recommendations focused specifically on the TIB area, versus those that were focused Citywide.

### **Draft Recommendations – Revisions/Requests:**

The PC suggested revisions and/or requests to the following draft recommendations proposed by staff. Staff will incorporate revisions and/or requests, which PC will review at the June 24 PC public hearing.

#### **A2) Reduce Parking Ratios**

PC Recommendation: Revised language for parking requirements broken down by studio units, one-bedroom units, and two-bedroom units.

#### **A4) Adjust Recreational Space Requirements**

PC Requests: 1) Staff provide status on the vacant lot owned by the City on TIB; 2) staff provide information on what other communities have 10% requirements and how it compares to Tukwila.

#### **B1) Consider a 12-year MFTE Program**

PC Request: Spell out MFTE (multi-family tax exemption) in the PowerPoint slide title sentence.

#### **B2) Identify Opportunities to Increase Homeownership**

PC Request: Add language to provide incentives for medium priced housing, to help with homeownership; and specify which organizations will be included in the process.

#### **B3) Support Community and Faith Based Institutions’ Efforts to Develop Affordable Housing**

PC Requests: 1) Provide examples of impact fees that the developer will pay; 2) provide language for community hire consideration (i.e., that local talent be hired for development projects); 3) Provide options, to strike the language or revised language for PC to consider.

**B4) Expand Tenant Support**

PC Request: 1) Add the following language to the PowerPoint slide under next steps: “The City will consider a good landlord incentive program.”; 2) include language that supports landlords in improving the quality of their properties.

**B5) Monitor and Track Regulated Affordable Housing**

PC Request: Confirm that this recommendation aligns with the 12-year MFTE Program.

**B6) Monitor and Track Unregulated Affordable Housing**

PC Request: Confirm that this recommendation aligns with the 12-year MFTE Program.

**B7) Offer Tools and Strategies for Housing Preservation**

PC Request: 1) Revise language for a 7-year home repair grant, loan, or assistance program; 2) provide language that strikes mention of intent to sell notice.

**B8) Evaluate a Preservation Funding Program in Exchange for Affordability Restrictions.**

PC Request: Add language noting restrictions of the partnership.

**C1) Create a Development Framework and Planned Street Network for Parcels South of SR518**

PC Request: 1) Add language, “propose development framework.” instead of “consider” that promotes flexibility; 2) Staff will revise language, and/or add option to strike.

**Next Steps:**

A public hearing will be held on the TODHAP on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The PC will make their recommendations to be forwarded to the City Council for their consideration. This item will go to City Council on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Director’s Report:**

- DCD is currently in the process of filling five staffing positions, which were vacant or frozen positions.
- Director Gierloff said she knows there is a lot of concern around the permit backlog, which developed due to low staffing. And that staff are working diligently toward correcting and getting back to the previous level of permit processes. She said she has been attending the Community and Development Committee meetings and giving them updates.
- There will be an extra PC meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> on the Tukwila South Residential Design Standards.

Adjourned: 9:35 p.m.  
Submitted by: Wynetta Bivens  
Planning Commission Secretary





**STAFF REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Prepared June 1, 2021**

- FILE NUMBER:** L19-0115 Comprehensive Plan/Zoning Code Amendment
- ASSOCIATED FILES:** E19-0011 SEPA Checklist
- REQUEST:** Zoning Code amendments to TMC 18.41 and new design guidelines for multifamily development in the Tukwila South Overlay (TSO) district.
- Planning Commission (PC) will hold a future public hearing on the proposed amendments and make recommendations to the City Council for review and adoption.
- PUBLIC HEARING:** The June 10, 2021, meeting is a continuation of the public hearing that commenced on March 18, 2021.
- LOCATION:** Lands within the Tukwila South Overlay district.
- STAFF:** Max Baker, Senior Planner
- ATTACHMENTS:**
- A. 4.22.2021 PC Meeting Staff Report – Applicant Comments Provided 4.22.2021 + Staff Responses
  - B. Draft Design Guidelines – Provided at 4.22.2021 PC Meeting

**BACKGROUND**

Segale Properties LLC, the applicant, requests amendments to Title 18, Zoning Code of the Tukwila Municipal Code (TMC) to set development standards and design guidelines for residential uses. The proposed amendments are to adopt development standards and guidelines for all residential uses on parcels within the Tukwila South Overlay district (TSO). These standards and guidelines would apply to all lands and underlying zoning within the TSO district, and would replace those standards adopted in 2018 for the underlying Low Density Residential (LDR) zone.

Per 18.80.050, the Tukwila City Council will consider proposed amendments to the Tukwila Zoning Code and take action. Prior to deliberating on an amendment, the Council may forward the proposed amendments to the City Planning Commission for review and a recommendation. The City Planning Commission began review of the proposed amendment at a work session on February 25, 2021, and opened a public hearing at the March 18, 2021, Planning Commission meeting; this meeting is a continuation of that public hearing.

At the time of the April 22, 2021, PC meeting the applicant provided comments on the proposed development standards (Attachment A). The Planning Commission voted to hold a follow-up meeting

and reopen the public hearing to allow City staff time to review the applicant's comments and to provide responses. The subsequent public hearing date was later set for June 10, 2021.

Staff provided their review and recommendations to the applicant on May 21, 2021. The applicant was invited to submit a formal response to be included in the June 10<sup>th</sup> PC meeting packet. No response was received from the applicant prior to finalization of the packet.

The primary focus of this staff report and the June 10<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting is to address the applicant's April 22<sup>nd</sup> comments and City staff's responses/recommendations.

### **DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CHANGES**

#### **Planning Commission Review of the Proposed Development Standards and Design Guidelines**

At the April 22, 2021, Planning Commission meeting, the applicant provided comments regarding the staff report, including revisions to the proposed development standards. This staff report along with the applicant's revisions/comments and responses provided by City staff is included as Attachment A.

Revisions to the language within the April 22<sup>nd</sup> staff report provided by the applicant are indicated by **red** and **green** strikeout/underline. Unless otherwise indicated by staff, proposed applicant revisions are considered acceptable. Any additional revisions provided by City staff are indicated in **blue** strikeout/underline.

#### **Applicant Comments and Staff Response**

The following comments were provided by the applicant as reflected in Attachment A, staff responses follow.

- Pg. 3
  - Applicant: The existing TSO rec space requirements were established for a hillside project that was primarily in Seatac and the recreation standards adopted at that time were mirroring Seatac's requirements. Should not be used for rest of Tukwila South.
  - Staff Response: Staff agrees with this comment and has presented this information as part of their presentation at the 4/22/2021 PC meeting.
- Pg. 4
  - Applicant: Senior citizens recreation space to be onsite or offsite? I would suggest all onsite with 50% indoor and 50% outdoor breakdown.
  - Staff: Staff agrees, see tracked change for new language. Staff recommended 40-60% for indoor/outdoor ratio to provide some flexibility in locating senior citizen recreation areas onsite, a strict 50/50 requirement would be too difficult to enforce.
- Pg. 4
  - Applicant: Segale does not support the last sentence of note #4. We don't understand why the city would want to make it harder to provide more recreation area closer to the residential units.

- Staff: Staff accepts the change. It should be noted that the Director is still the decision-maker regarding the approval of off-site space on-site; their decision as part of administrative design review is final and subject to the appeal standards set forth in TMC 18.116: Appeal Processes.
- Pg. 4
  - Applicant: Segale request that the point of measurement for the ¼ to ½ mile offsite recreation area determination be changed from the “majority of the residential units” to the “closest perimeter of the residential project, which we believe will be easier to identify and measure.”
  - Staff: Staff recommends that language be revised to the following: “Off-site recreation areas must be accessible within ¼ mile for a children’s play area replacing the onsite requirement. to ½ mile for all other offsite recreation area as measured from the closet structure containing residential units; accessory buildings such as fitness centers, parking garages, utility structures, etc. will not qualify.”
- Pg. 5
  - Applicant: Moved this section here to avoid confusion associated with acreage limitations.
  - Staff: Staff finds this revision acceptable.
- Pg. 5:
  - Applicant: Segale request changing the 2.5 acres to 2.0 acres to better correspond to actual planned park areas after the highlighted areas below are removed from our park/recreation project site.
  - Staff: The recommendation for a 2.5 acre standard for a larger offsite recreation area was provided following consultation with the City of Tukwila Parks and Recreation Department and the staff’s consultant, NBBJ.

2.5 acres has been found to accommodate the activities and structures that typically provide for a successful and well-used community park. For comparison, Cascade View Park in the Tukwila International Boulevard neighborhood is of a similar size at 2.4 acres. Additionally, the City of Tukwila’s 10 local parks average 4.8 acres in size, well above the 2.5 acre recommended offsite recreation area.

There are currently no residential projects or offsite recreation areas in the TSO district which will allow for more opportunity to provide an offsite recreation area of this size. Additionally, the option to create a larger, consolidated recreation area does not preclude an applicant’s ability to develop a smaller offsite recreation instead, the only difference would be that an unconsolidated recreation area less than 2.5 acres would need to be constructed at the time of development rather than be banked for an indefinite period.

Staff recommends the 2.5 acre standard remain.

- Pg. 5:
  - Applicant: Not sure what constitutes a steep slope? What if we put a soft rail through the hillside open space which is allowed? What is measured as offsite recreation space?
  - Staff: Staff has provided clarifying language. Additionally, Section E. provides the following clarification for recreation areas within sensitive area tracts that would qualify as recreation space: “Only the areas of improvement within a sensitive area tract would count towards the recreation space requirement, not the entire tract.”
- Pg. 6:
  - Applicant: The ¼ mile measurement is for a child’s play area, which wouldn’t be satisfied by this specific type of recreation space in a sensitive area.
  - Staff: Staff concurs.
- Pg. 6:
  - Applicant: Segale suggests this redlined language may be easier to measure as the perimeter is easy to find, as opposed to 50% of the proposed units.
  - Staff: Staff recommends using suggested language for proximity to recreation areas: “The closet structure containing residential units (not including accessory buildings such as fitness centers, parking garages, utility structures, etc. must be located within ¼ mile...”
- Pg. 6:
  - Applicant: Unless I am mistaken, the connectivity and circulation language is a guideline and not a standard. Given that, should the opening sentence read “in addition to the development standards revisions discussed above, staff recommends additional guidelines to aid in ensuring residential connectivity is provided through the residential component of the project.
  - Staff: This language is intended to act as guidance for language that would be incorporated in TMC 18.41 - Tukwila South Overlay District Development Standards. Regulations for connectivity are typically located within the Tukwila Municipal Code. For example, the Tukwila Urban Center chapter contains multiple sections that set forth requirements for connectivity: TMC 18.28.080, Maximum Block Length: TMC 18.28.130, Corridor Regulations; TMC 18.28.140, New Streets, etc.  
  
As these connectivity requirements are similar to other development standards, such as height and setbacks, it is recommended that they be incorporated as part of TMC 18.41.
- Pg. 8:
  - Applicant: Segale is concerned about this requirement being too restrictive and at odds with other design standards and guidelines. Envision that the north/south street in the diagram Southcenter Parkway and the east/west street is 200th. The river is on the



right hand side. It is approximately 700 feet from Southcenter Parkway to the river until the river bulges out in the oxbow further north.

With the 700 foot block face on either side of the block, a sidewalk/bicycle path interval in this example would be a minimum of every 200 feet to meet the 1,800 linear feet requirement. That's a very dense network of bike/pedestrian facilities that is way in excess of the 8 public trails the Tukwila South Development Agreement stipulates Segale must provide to connect from Southcenter Parkway to the future trail on the river levy to be constructed by the city.

Strict adherence to this pedestrian bike path interval effectively limits the size of a north/south oriented building in this example to no more than 160-170 feet when street pavement, planters and sidewalks are accommodated. This is in conflict with the residential design standards that provide for buildings up to 200 feet long. This 200 foot interval for sidewalks is also in conflict with the 300 foot guideline limit in the Section 2.2 of the residential design guidelines

A potential solution to this issue is to maintain the current language but increase the maximum block perimeter from 1800 feet to 2000 feet, which would provide for a pedestrian/bicycle connection every 300 feet instead of 200 feet, which is consistent with Section 2.2 of the Residential Design Guidelines (Pedestrian Circulation) and also allow for development of a 200-foot-long building within the block example shown here. This change, along with the Director's Modification in G. of the connectivity and circulation language, should provide enough flexibility to respond to unexpected development scenarios.

- Staff: Maximum block lengths are meant to provide a mechanism to ensure that travel distances for non-vehicular traffic are not too great, helping to ensure a more pleasant public realm. The recommendation for an 1,800 foot block perimeter was provided following numerous meetings between the City staff, consultants, and the applicant, the last of which took place on April 2nd, ahead of the 4.22.2021 PC Meeting. The block perimeter standard was considered as one of the less burdensome connectivity options suggested and will provide projects with flexibility to meet connectivity requirements. The standard also allows for up to two pedestrian/bicycle paths to count towards the perimeter block face in place of vehicular streets, providing additional flexibility. Increasing this measurement from 1,800' to 2,000' would increase block perimeters 10+% overall.

Staff recommends the maximum block perimeter of 1,800 feet remain.

#### **REQUESTED ACTION**

Recommend to the Planning Commission that, upon completion of the Public Hearing, they review the proposed development standards and design guidelines and forward a recommendation to the Tukwila City Council that they approve amendment of Chapter 18.41 of the Tukwila Zoning Code.





**STAFF REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**Prepared April 12, 2021**

- FILE NUMBERS:** L19-0115 Comprehensive Plan/Zoning Code Amendment  
E19-0011 SEPA Checklist
- REQUEST:** Zoning Code amendments to TMC 18.41 and new design guidelines for multifamily development in the Tukwila South Overlay (TSO) district.
- Planning Commission (PC) will hold a future public hearing on the proposed amendments and make recommendations to the City Council for review and adoption.
- PUBLIC HEARING:** The April 22, 2021 PC meeting is a continuation of the public hearing that commenced on March 18, 2021.
- LOCATION:** Lands within the Tukwila South Overlay district.
- STAFF:** Max Baker, Senior Planner
- ATTACHMENTS:**
- A. 2.25.2021 PC Work Session Staff Report
  - B. 3.18.2021 PC Meeting – Public Hearing Staff Report
  - C. Proposed Tukwila South Residential Design Guidelines with PC Revisions, Strikeout/Underline
  - D. TMC 18.41 Tukwila South Overlay District Existing and Proposed Development Standards, Strikeout/Underline

**Attachment A**

### **BACKGROUND**

Segale Properties LLC, the applicant, requests amendments to Title 18, Zoning Code of the Tukwila Municipal Code (TMC) to set development standards and design guidelines for residential uses. The proposed amendments are to adopt development standards and guidelines for all residential uses on parcels within the Tukwila South Overlay district (TSO). These standards and guidelines would apply to all lands and underlying zoning within the TSO district, and would replace those standards adopted in 2018 for the underlying Low Density Residential (LDR) zone.

Per 18.80.050, the Tukwila City Council will consider proposed amendments to the Tukwila Zoning Code and take action. Prior to deliberating on an amendment, the Council may forward the proposed amendments to the City Planning Commission for review and a recommendation. The City Planning Commission began review of the proposed amendment at a work session on February 25, 2021, and opened a public hearing at the March 18, 2021, Planning Commission meeting; this meeting is a continuation of that public hearing.

At the time of the March 18, 2021, public hearing, staff and the applicant had not yet finalized discussions on potential development standards, including but not limited to recreation space standards and street circulation. The primary focus of this staff report and the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Planning Commission meeting is to consider the outcome of those discussions.

### **DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CHANGES**

#### **Planning Commission Review of the Proposed Development Standards and Design Guidelines**

At the February 25, 2021, Planning Commission work session, the following revisions to the Design Guidelines were recommended by the Planning Commission:

- Provide additional clarification for who has authority to approve modifications from design guidelines.
- Revise Figure 2.4.B to better clarify between individual and common recreation spaces.
- Revise Utility Screening section and Figure 2.6.B to require screening of rooftop utilities from above if potentially visible from future adjacent developments projects.
- Provide option for 100% glazing for bathrooms facing public spaces.

These revisions have been incorporated into the Proposed Tukwila South Residential Design Guidelines, Attachment C.

The entirety of the proposed code amendments to the TMC 18.41 Tukwila South Overlay District Development Standards are provided in ~~strikeout~~/underline form as Attachment D. Subject areas requiring additional explanation are provided in the following sections.

**1. Onsite and Offsite Recreation Space Square Footage**

Several zones, including TSO within the City of Tukwila, require provision of recreation space and/or open space on-site. TMC 18.06.665 defines Recreation Space to mean “covered and uncovered space designed and intended for active and/or passive recreational activity including, but not limited to, tennis courts, swimming pools, cabanas, playgrounds, playfields or wooded areas, and specifically excluding any parking area, driveway or rockery.” Existing TSO standards are prescribed at a ratio per residential unit and itemized in Table 3 below.

Existing TSO Recreation Space Requirements for Underlying LDR Zone			
Standard	TSO Townhouses & Lowrise (3 stories or less)	TSO Midrise (4-7 stories)	TSO Highrise (8 or more stories)
<b>Recreation Space per Unit, Minimum</b>			
<u>Existing TMC 18.41.090.A</u>	Must meet the requirements of TMC Section 18.14.030, subparagraphs 2, 3 and 4.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studio</li> <li>• 1 bedroom</li> <li>• 2 or more bedrooms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 120 SF</li> <li>• 160 SF</li> <li>• 200 SF</li> </ul>		

**Commented [MP1]:** The existing TSO rec space requirements were established for a hillside project that was primarily in Seatac and the recreation standards adopted at that time were mirroring Seatac’s requirements. Should not be used for rest of Tukwila South.

**Commented [MB2R1]:** Staff agrees with this comment and has presented this information as part of their presentation at the 4/22/2021 PC meeting.

Several zones within the City limits require provision of recreation space and/or open space on-site as well, a selection of examples for comparison are as follows:

Recreation Space Requirements for Other Tukwila Districts	
Standard	All Residential Building Types, Per Unit
<b>Recreation Space per Unit, Minimum</b>	
• Medium Density Residential (MDR)	• 400 sf/unit, 1,000 sf minimum
• High Density Residential (HDR)	• 400 sf/unit, 1,000 sf minimum
• Neighborhood Commercial Center (NCC)	• 200 sf/unit, 1,000 sf minimum • 100 sf/unit – senior living units
• Tukwila Urban Center	• No recreation space req., measured instead as “open space.” • 10% of residential floor area

The following table proposes a consistent rate of recreation space required per residential unit, rather than number of bedrooms (per unit), and which is not specific to the housing typology (Townhouse/Lowrise, Midrise and Highrise).

**Proposed TSO Recreation Space Requirements**

Standard	TSO Townhouses & Lowrise (3 stories or less)	TSO Midrise (4-7 stories)	TSO Highrise (8 or more stories)
<b>Recreation Space per Unit, Minimum<sup>1,2</sup></b>			
<u>Proposed</u>	Residential development must provide on-site <sup>3</sup> and off-site <sup>4</sup> recreation space at the following standard: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 SF total.</li> <li>• 75 SF per unit, on-site.</li> <li>• 125 SF per unit, off-site.</li> </ul>		

1. Senior citizen housing must provide 100 square feet of recreation space per unit. The required recreation area for such units may be provided entirely onsite, with at least 40%-60% being indoor recreation space and the remaining recreation area being outdoor.
2. Developments with 10 or more dwelling units must provide a children's play area in the on-site recreation space. A children's play area is not required for senior citizen housing or if the proposed structure, or related development project, is within ¼ mile, measured along constructed sidewalks and/or trails, of the perimeter of a recreation facility for children that is open to residents of the proposed structure.
3. Recreation area provided on-site must be functional space for active and passive recreation purposes and located within the same parcel or tract as the proposed development.
- ~~4. The Director may approve the required off-site recreation area to be located on-site provided that the recreation space meets the design guidelines set forth in this chapter. If off-site recreation space is approved to be located on-site, that space must be active, outdoor recreation space. As part of any proposal to allow off-site recreation area to be constructed on site, the applicant shall demonstrate why off-site recreation space is impractical to be provided, due to geography, accessibility, or costs.~~

**Commented [MP3]:** Senior citizens recreation space to be onsite or offsite? I would suggest all onsite with 50% indoor and 50% outdoor breakdown

**Commented [MB4R3]:** Staff agrees, see tracked change for new language. Staff recommended 40-60% for indoor/outdoor ratio to provide some flexibility in locating senior citizen recreation areas onsite, a strict 50/50 requirement would be too difficult to enforce.

5.4.

**2. Off-Site Recreational Area Requirements**

The following requirements would apply to Off-Site Recreational Areas within the TSO district:

**A. Off-Site Recreational Area Conditions**

Off-site recreation areas must be accessible within ¼ mile for a children's play area replacing the onsite requirement, to ½ mile<sup>1</sup> for all other offsite recreation area as measured from the closet perimeter of the residential project area of the majority of the proposed residential units, as measured along constructed sidewalks or to be constructed sidewalks and/or trails and located within the Tukwila South Overlay District. The entire area of any offsite recreation space shall be credited toward meeting the offsite recreation space requirement if any portion of it is within the ½ mile perimeter measurement of the proposed residential project as measured along existing or future sidewalks and trails.

**Commented [MP5]:** Segale does not support the last sentence of note #4. We don't understand why the city would want to make it harder to provide more recreation area closer to the residential units.

**Commented [MB6R5]:** Staff accepts the change. It should be noted that the Director is still the decision-maker regarding the approval of off-site space on-site; their decision as part of administrative design review is final and subject to the appeal standards set forth in TMC 18.116: Appeal Processes.

**Commented [MP7]:** Segale request that the point of measurement for the ¼ to ½ mile offsite recreation area determination be changed from the "majority of the residential units" to the "closest perimeter of the residential project, which we believe will be easier to identify and measure.

**Commented [MB8R7]:** Staff recommends that language be revised to the following: "Off-site recreation areas must be accessible within ¼ mile for a children's play area replacing the onsite requirement. to ½ mile<sup>1</sup> for all other offsite recreation area as measured from the closet structure containing residential units; accessory buildings such as fitness centers, parking garages, utility structures, etc. will not qualify."

A recreation area constructed in fulfillment of this requirement should be designed to serve the neighborhood in which it is located. The space may be privately-owned, provided residents living

<sup>1</sup> This is a standard adopted in the City's Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan.

in the area have access. New improvements must be located adjacent to, and highly visible from, a street (public or private) or public trail.

The exact facilities to be located will be evaluated during the design review and/or platting process and will be scaled appropriately to the overall size of the recreation area provided.

### B. Minimum Off-Site Recreational Area Design

Minimum size requirements apply: ¼ acre of usable off-site recreation space must be provided to meet the standard. This qualifies as the minimum size for an off-site recreation area. These quarter-acre spaces should provide active and passive recreational facilities such as those depicted in the list below:

- Children’s play equipment
- Picnic areas and/or tables
- Benches
- Pea patch/other specialized community garden
- Grassy area for active recreation
- Trails
- Other amenities the Director determines meets the goal of providing active recreation opportunities.

### C. Larger Off-Site Recreational Areas

Any offsite recreation area developed in excess of the offsite recreation area requirement for a given development, regardless of their size and subject to the ¼ acre size minimum, may be banked toward future development for an indefinite period.

Should a larger, consolidated recreation area of 2.0-¼ acres or more be provided, the improvements can be used to fulfill current development proposal requirements. See “Timing of Recreation Space Provision” below for more information.

If a project constructs a recreation area of less than 2.0-¼ acres but greater than a development’s required offsite recreation amount, the area developed in excess may be banked only if the offsite recreation area is constructed at the same time as the residential project.

~~Any offsite recreation area developed in excess of the offsite recreation area requirement for a given development may be banked toward future development for an indefinite period.~~

To qualify, the proposed recreation area must be located adjacent to, and highly visible from, a street (public or private) or trail and provide a range of active and passive recreational opportunities (as outlined above) for multiple ages and physical abilities. Only those areas that are usable may count towards the off-site recreation space requirement. The following areas are excluded: parking lots, utility sheds, inaccessible natural/planted areas, any landscaped area required by code, and unimproved steep slopes as defined in TMC 18.45.120.

**Commented [MP9]:** Moved this section here to avoid confusion associated with acreage limitations.

**Commented [MB10R9]:** Staff finds this revision acceptable.

**Commented [MP11]:** Segale request changing the 2.5 acres to 2.0 acres to better correspond t actual planned park areas after the highlighted areas below are removed from our park/recreation project site.

**Commented [MB12R11]:** The recommendation for a 2.5 acre standard for a larger offsite recreation area was provided following consultation with the City of Tukwila Parks and Recreation Department and the staff’s consulting party, NBBJ. 2.5 acres has been found to accommodate the activities and structures that typically provide for a successful and well-used community park. For comparison, Cascade View Park in the Tukwila International Boulevard neighborhood is of a similar size at 2.4 acres. Additionally, the City of Tukwila’s 10 local parks average 4.8 acres in size, well above the 2.5 acre recommended offsite recreation area. There are currently no residential projects or offsite recreation areas in the TSO district which will allow for more opportunity to provide an offsite recreation area of this size. Additionally, the option to create a larger, consolidated recreation area does not preclude an applicant’s ability to develop a smaller offsite recreation instead, the only difference would be that an unconsolidated recreation area less than 2.5 acres would need to be constructed at the time of development rather than be banked for an indefinite period. Staff recommends the 2.5 acre standard remain.

**Commented [MP13]:** Not sure what constitutes a steep slope? What if we put a soft rail through the hillside open space which is allowed? What is measured as offsite recreation space?

**Commented [MB14R13]:** Staff has provided clarifying language. Additionally, Section E. provides the following clarification for recreation areas within sensitive area tracts that would qualify as recreation space: “Only the areas of improvement within a sensitive area tract would count towards the recreation space requirement, not the entire tract.”

**Formatted:** Not Highlight

Larger off-site recreational areas are typically characterized by recreational activities that serve a range of individuals and groups, such as field games, court games, crafts areas, playground apparatus, picnicking, and space for quiet/passive activities. Neighborhood recreation areas may contain active recreational facilities such as softball, basketball, volleyball, handball, tennis, children’s play structures, trails, grass areas for activities and/or picnic facilities. The exact facilities to be located will be determined during the design and/or platting process and will be scaled appropriately to the overall size of the recreation area provided.

D. Timing of Recreation Space Provision

Off-site recreation space construction permits must be applied for within two years of the associated residential project(s) having received certificate(s) of occupancy. However, offsite recreation projects less than 2.0 ~~¼~~ acres in size, but greater than a development’s required offsite recreation amount, must be constructed concurrently with a residential project in order for the excess recreation space to qualify for banking.

For offsite recreation space in excess of 2.0 ~~5~~ acres, that will not be constructed at the time a project claiming at least a portion of said offsite recreation area to satisfy its recreation space requirement is approved, the City will require a financial guarantee (bond, assignment of account, irrevocable standby letter of credit, or cash), acceptable to the Director, for the off-site recreation improvements, which will provide a legal mechanism for the City to acquire property, at no cost, to allow the City to construct the improvements. It is assumed construction of the recreation improvements would follow within a timely manner from permit approvals. If adequate provisions, as determined by the Director, cannot be put in place to ensure the future construction of the off-site recreation space, then the space shall be constructed prior to the issuance of any certificate of occupancy for any developments using the off-site area to meet recreational space requirements.

E. Sensitive Area Tracts

Off-site recreation space credit can be given for any trails, lookouts, or other passive recreation activities constructed within sensitive area tracts, subject to compliance with the City’s Sensitive Area Master Plan for Tukwila South and the City’s Environmental Areas Ordinance. The sensitive areas tracts would need to meet the locational requirements outlined above (~~¼ to ½~~ mile from closest perimeter of a residential project ~~majority of the units where the credit would apply~~). Only the areas of improvement within a sensitive area tract would count towards the recreation space requirement, not the entire tract.

**Commented [MP15]:** The ¼ mile measurement is for a child’s play area, which wouldn’t be satisfied by this specific type of recreation space in a sensitive area

**Commented [MB16R15]:** Staff concurs.

**3. Parking Standard**

The following parking ratios are proposed for residential developments within the TSO, based upon a bedrooms/unit ratio.

Parking spaces per dwelling unit, minimum <sup>1</sup>			
Standard	TSO Townhouses & Lowrise (3 stories or less)	TSO Midrise (4-7 stories)	TSO Highrise (8 or more stories)
Studio	1	1	1



1 bedroom	1	1	1
2 bedroom	1.5	1.5	1.5
3 bedroom	2	2	2

<sup>1</sup>Senior Citizen Housing: 1 space per unit for the first 15 units, 0.5 space per unit for additional units.

These standards are equivalent to those set for the adjacent Tukwila Urban Center in TMC 18.28 Table 5 and are considered by staff to be appropriate for the Tukwila South District’s location within the City.

A parking requirement deviation may be approved by Director when transit level of service expectations set forth in the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED – Neighborhood Development Guide are met:

- ~~The closest perimeter of a residential project site~~ Fifty percent of proposed dwelling units must be located within ¼ mile of a bus stop; a qualifying bus stop is one that provides at least 60 trips/weekday and 40 trips/weekend day (i.e., minimum weekday and weekend transit trips).

**4. Connectivity and Circulation Guidelines**

In addition to the development standard revisions discussed above, staff recommends an additional section setting forth requirements related to multi-modal connectivity and circulation for a residential project in the TSO. The recommendations are as follows:

**A. Add a Multi-Family Residential Locational Requirement**

Any development with a residential component shall front a roadway that meets City approved public or private street standards.

**B. Multi-Modal Access**

Access to development sites needs to include provisions for non-motorized circulation, including dedicated pedestrian access that separates pedestrians from motorized traffic via curb and/or landscaped planter strip. Development along public rights-of-way should not preclude bus stops and bike infrastructure. Private street development, contained within tracts or easements, may be required to include shared and/or dedicated bike lanes, on-street parking, and/or drop-off/loading zones.

**C. Existing Curb Cuts**

Existing curb cuts from Southcenter Parkway and South 200<sup>th</sup> Street are to be used for access to the adjacent development sites and to extend private streets, contained within tracts or easements. If no curb cut exists along an existing road fronting a development site, City of Tukwila Public Works may will review and approve new curb cut location(s) along such street frontage, subject to intersection spacing and site distance standards.

**D. Establish a Maximum Block Face Length**

New streets are encouraged to connect to adjacent parcels at an interval no greater than 700 feet. Where nearby parcels and associated private streets have already been developed, proposed private streets, whether in tracts or easements, shall align and connect.

**Commented [MP17]:** Segale suggest this redlined language may be easier to measure as the perimeter is easy to find as opposed to 50% of the proposed units.

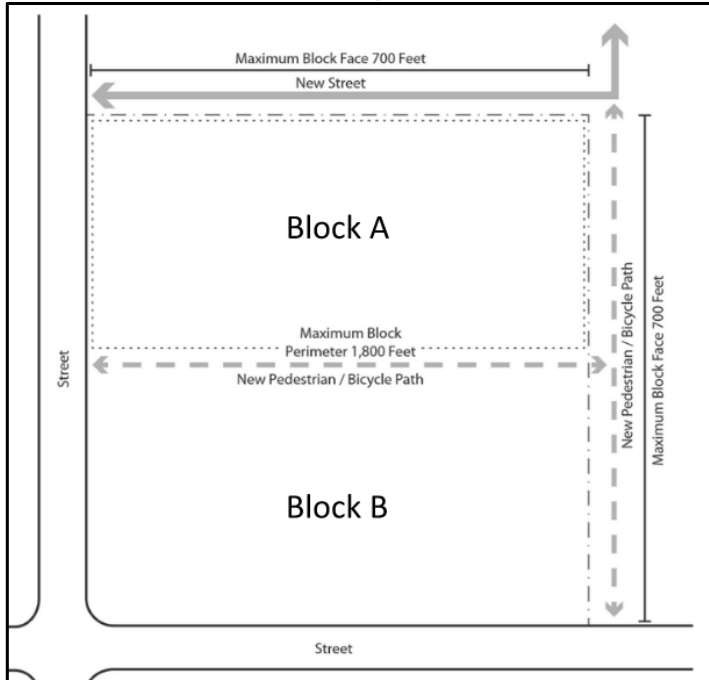
**Commented [MB18R17]:** Staff recommends using suggested language for proximity to recreation areas: “The closest structure containing residential units (not including accessory buildings such as fitness centers, parking garages, utility structures, etc. must be located within ¼ mile...”

**Commented [MP19]:** Unless I am mistaken the connectivity and circulation language is a guideline and not a standard. Given that, should the opening sentence read “in addition to the development standards revisions discussed above, staff recommends additional guidelines to aid in ensuring residential connectivity is provided through the residential component of the project.

**Commented [MB20R19]:** This language is intended to act as guidance for language that would be incorporated in TMC 18.41 - Tukwila South Overlay District Development Standards. Regulations for connectivity are typically located within the Tukwila Municipal Code. For example, the Tukwila Urban Center chapter contains multiple sections that set forth requirements for connectivity; 18.28.080: Maximum Block Length, 18.28.130: Corridor Regulations, 18.28.140: New Streets, etc. As these connectivity requirements are similar to other development standards such as height and setbacks it is recommended that they be incorporated as part of TMC 18.41.

**E. Establish a Maximum Block Perimeter**

Future block development is encouraged to create ~~limited to~~ a maximum block perimeter of ~~1,800-2,000~~ linear feet. The block will be defined with a minimum of two vehicle through connections. The remaining two sides of the block may be pedestrian/bicycle connections only or could accommodate vehicle traffic, see example below.



**F. General Design Considerations**

- Permanent dead-end streets should be avoided, if possible.
- All developments must meet minimum Fire Department and Public Works department access and grade requirements, including but not limited to minimum street clearance, turning radii, and turnaround design.

**G. Modifications**

The Director may provide exceptions to these guidelines in the event they are unable to be adhered to due to physical/topographical constraints, the creation of an unusable parcel(s) of land, or an inability to fulfill the requirements without significantly interfering with the proposed function(s) of the development given that the overall intent of the guidelines is still fulfilled.

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Recommend to the Planning Commission that, upon completion of the Public Hearing, they review the proposed development standards and design guidelines and forward a recommendation to the Tukwila City Council that they approve amendment of Chapter 18.41 of the Tukwila Zoning Code.

**Commented [MP21]:** Segale is concerned about this requirement being too restrictive and at odds with other design standards and guidelines. Envision that the north/south street in the diagram Southcenter Parkway and the east/west street is 200'. The river is on the right hand side. It is approximately 700 from southcenter parkway to the river until the river bulges out in the oxbow furth north.

With the 700 foot block face on either side of the block, a sidewalk/bicycle path interval in this example would be a minimum of every 200 feet to meet the 1,800 linear feet requirement. That's a very dense network of bike/pedestrian facilities that is way in excess of the 8 public trails the Tukwila South Development Agreement stipulates Segale must do to connect from Southcenter parkway to the future trail on the river levy to be constructed by the city.

Strict adherence to this pedestrian bike path interval effectively limits the size of a north/south oriented building in this example to no more than 160-170 feet when street pavement, planters and sidewalks are accommodated. This is in conflict with the residential design standards that provide for buildings up to 200 feet long. This 200 interval for sidewalks is also in conflict with the 300 foot guideline limit in the Section 2.2 of the residential design guidelines

A potential solution to this issue is to maintain the current language, but increase the maximum block perimeter from 1800 feet to 2000 feet, which would provide for a pedestrian/bicycle connection every 300 feet instead of 200 feet, which is consistent with Section 2.2 of the Residential Design Guidelines (Pedestrian Circulation) and also allow for development of a 200-foot-long building within the block example shown here. This change, along with the Directors Modification in G. of the connectivity and circulation language should provide enough flexibility to respond to unexpected development scenarios.

**Commented [MB22R21]:** Maximum block lengths are meant to provide a mechanism to ensure that travel distances for non-vehicular traffic are not too great, helping to ensure a more pleasant public realm. The recommendation for an 1,800 foot block perimeter was provided following numerous meetings between the City staff, consultants, and the applicant, the last of which took place on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, ahead of the 4.22.2021 PC Meeting. The block perimeter standard was considered as one of the less burdensome connectivity options suggested and will provide projects with flexibility to meet connectivity requirements. The standard also allows for up to two pedestrian/bicycle paths to count towards the perimeter block face in place of vehicular streets, providing additional flexibility. Increasing this measurement from 1,800' to 2,000' would increase block perimeters 10+% overall.

Staff recommends the maximum block perimeter of 1,800' remain.

**DRAFT**

# TUKWILA SOUTH RESIDENTIAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

March 9, 2021



Changes since the February 25, 2021 Planning Commission meeting are highlighted in yellow.

**Attachment B**

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# **PART 1 - INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 - Background**

These design guidelines (the “Guidelines”) were completed in compliance with the 2009 Tukwila South Development Agreement. Tukwila South is an approximately 512-acre site located between the Green River and Interstate 5, and approximately between South 204th Street and South 180th Street. The property is primed for development of a live/work/play community with a range of housing types. Consistent with community goals, these Guidelines will ensure residential buildings and sites are high-quality and enjoyable places to live for future residents.

## **1.2 - Intent of the Guidelines**

Thoughtful urban design is a critical strategy for realizing the vision and goals of Tukwila South. To that end, these Guidelines are intended to:

- A. Provide a high standard for site planning and building of residential development in Tukwila South.
- B. Provide clear objectives for the planning and design of individual developments in Tukwila South, as presented in the original master plan.
- C. Create the residential character and identity of Tukwila South.

## **1.3 - Applicability**

- A. These Guidelines apply to new townhouses, single-purpose multi-family development, and mixed-use buildings within the Tukwila South project area.
- B. Individual design criteria may also have more specific applicability statements.
- C. Relationship to other codes and documents. Where provisions of this division conflict with provisions in any other section of the Tukwila Municipal Code (“TMC” or “Code”), these guidelines prevail unless otherwise required by law.

## **1.4 – Interpretation**

The words “shall” or “must” are intended to be mandates; and where the word “should” or “encouraged” is used, it is intended to be a recommendation. In determining the degree of applicability of design criteria or in case of conflict or site impracticality, priority should be given to criteria related to the “public realm.” Not all criteria will be applicable to every project.

Photographs and illustrations are often included as visual examples of how developments can comply with the guidelines. In many cases, multiple examples are included to illustrate that there can be numerous ways of meeting the Guidelines. Bad examples are also often included to clarify unacceptable designs.

## **1.5 - Modifications to Development Standards, and Design Modifications to Design Guidelines**

Pursuant to TMC 18.41.100, Code-based development standards mandated in TMC 18.41.090, may be modified when the modification results in a more thoughtful urban design for the project consistent with the Tukwila South Residential Design Guidelines, or if certain code criteria are met.

In addition to modifications of Code-mandated development standards, individual Residential Design Guidelines may also be modified by corresponding design modifications detailed herein. All available modification opportunities for Design Guidelines are noted within each section by the capitalized term DESIGN MODIFICATIONS. In the case of any design modification for a Design Guideline, the Director must document the reasons for approving the design modification, to be maintained with project application records, and to inform and provide consistency in decision-making by the City.



## 1.6 - Definitions

**Introduction.** All words used in these design guidelines carry their customary meanings, except for those defined below or in TMC Chapter 18.06. Where there is a conflict between the definitions herein and within TMC Chapter 18.06, the definitions herein apply.

“Articulation” means the giving of emphasis to architectural elements (like windows, balconies, entries, etc.) that create a complementary pattern or rhythm, dividing large buildings into smaller identifiable pieces. See section 3.1 for articulation provisions.

“Articulation interval” means the measure of articulation, the distance before architectural elements repeat. See section 3.1 for articulation provisions.

“Blank wall” means a ground floor wall or portion of a ground floor wall as described in section 3.5 that does not include a transparent window or door.

“Building frontage” refers to the “façade” or street-facing elevation of a building. For buildings not adjacent to a street, it refers to the building elevation(s) that features the primary entrance to the uses within the building. Depending on the context the term is used in, it may also refer to the uses within the building. For example, a “storefront” is a type of building frontage.

“Cornice” means a horizontal molding projecting along the top of a wall, building, etc. See section 3.2.A for related guidelines.

“Dwelling, multi-family” means a building that contains three or more dwelling units, but excludes townhouse developments. The term also includes any dwelling units that are within a mixed-use building.

“Façade” means the entire street wall of a building extending from the grade of the building to the top of the parapet or eaves and the entire width of the building elevation. For buildings not adjacent to a street, the façade refers to the building elevation containing the main entrance or entrances to the building.

“Green River connector trails” refers to pedestrian corridors and connections that are required by the 2009 Tukwila South Development Agreement to connect Southcenter Parkway and the future Green River trail.

“Internal pathway” refers to any pedestrian path or walkway internal to a development. This includes sidewalks along private streets.

“Mixed-use” means a building that includes a mix of permitted residential and non-residential uses.

“Modulation” means stepping forward or backwards a portion of the façade as a means to articulate or add visual interest to the façade.

“Planned recreation space” means recreation space provided for general use within Tukwila South, such as the potential cross-levee park and riverfront recreation area and edge trail.

“Recreation space” means covered and uncovered space designed and intended for active and/or passive recreational activity including but not limited to rooftop decks, balconies, courtyards, indoor recreation rooms, tennis courts, swimming pools, cabanas, playgrounds, playfields, or wooded areas, and specifically excluding any parking area, driveway, or rockery. Refer to section 2.4 for recreation space guidelines. See also the covered and uncovered recreation space definitions in TMC 18.06.670 and 18.06.675, respectively.

“Roofline” means the highest edge of the roof or the top of a parapet, whichever establishes the top line of the structure when viewed in a horizontal plane.



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“Private street” means a street placed in a separate tract owned and controlled by the owner’s association.

“Public and semi-public realm” means sidewalks, internal pathways, Green River connector trails, and common outdoor recreation areas. See section 2.1.C.

“Setback” means, unless otherwise noted herein, the distance that buildings or uses must be removed from their lot lines (or the edge of the right-of-way) except that roof eaves may intrude a maximum of 24 inches into this area. A maximum 24-inch overhang may also be allowed for portions of a building (such as a bay window) if approved as part of design review approval where the overhang provides modulation of the façade.

“Street, arterial” means public streets designated by the City of Tukwila as arterial streets or having a speed limit of at least 30 miles per hour. The arterial streets in Tukwila South include Southcenter Parkway, Orillia Road South, South 180th Street, South 184th Place, and South 200th Street.

“Streetscape” means the space between the buildings on either side of a street that defines its character. The elements of a streetscape include building façades, landscaping (trees, yards, bushes, plantings, etc.), sidewalks, street paving, street furniture (benches, kiosks, trash receptacles, fountains, etc.), signs, awnings, and street lighting.

“TMC” means the Tukwila Municipal Code.

“Vertical building modulation” means a stepping back or projecting forward vertical walls of a building face, within specified intervals of building width and depth, as a means of breaking up the apparent bulk of a structure’s continuous exterior walls. Vertical building modulation may be used to meet façade the articulation guidelines in (section 3.1).

“Weather protection” means a permanent horizontal structure above pedestrian areas such as sidewalks and building entries that protects pedestrians from inclement weather.

## **PART 2 - SITE PLANNING**


### **2.1 - Building Frontages**

#### **Intent**

- To emphasize the landscaped boulevard character of Southcenter Parkway and enhance its importance as the main arterial street in Tukwila.
- To enhance the pedestrian environment in multi-family areas.
- To minimize potential negative impacts of parking lots and garages on the streetscape and residential environment.
- To promote good visibility between buildings and the street for security for pedestrians and to create a more welcoming and interesting streetscape and residential environment.
- To enhance the privacy of ground level residential units adjacent to streets, pathways, and open spaces.
- To promote active and vibrant shopping and dining areas where commercial uses are present.
- To make walking a comfortable and preferred mode of transportation in all weather conditions.

#### **Design Criteria**

- A. Residential frontages.** All multi-family development on sites adjacent to public streets must comply with the building frontage guidelines in Table 2.1.A below:

<b>Table 2.1.A</b>		
<b>Residential building frontage guidelines.</b>		
The ➡ symbol refers to DESIGN MODIFICATION opportunities in subsection (B) below.		
<b>Element</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>	<b>Examples and Notes</b>
<b>Building placement/Setbacks</b> ➡	Entry features such as porches and stoops may project into the required setback by up to 6'	Example landscaped building frontages appropriate for Southcenter Parkway and S. 200 <sup>th</sup> Street.
<b>Building entrances</b>	At least one building entrance must face and connect to the street. This may include common and/or individual entrances. For corner buildings, primary entrances may face the street corner.	
<b>Façade transparency</b> <i>This includes windows and doors</i>	Southcenter Parkway and S. 200 <sup>th</sup> Street: At least 15% of the building elevations facing the street must be transparent. All other streets: At least 10% of the building elevations facing the street must be transparent.	
<b>Weather protection</b>	Weather protection must be provided over all building entries: At least 3' deep for private residential entries and at least 5' deep for common building entries.	
<b>Landscaping</b>	All areas between the sidewalk and the building must be landscaped, except for pathways, porches, decks, and other entry and useable recreation space features. Fencing in applicable areas is limited to 42" in height.  Landscaped areas must meet the intent and contain Types I and/or II Landscaping (as defined in TMC 18.52.020, Landscaping Types). ➡	
<b>Parking location and vehicle access</b>	<b>Southcenter Parkway and S. 200<sup>th</sup> Street:</b> Parking may be located to the side or rear of buildings, but no more than 50% of the lot frontage can be occupied by off-street parking and driveways. ➡  Off-street parking areas are not allowed between the street and building frontages, except for a porte cochere access for passenger loading for hotels and senior citizen housing. Such areas	

<b>Table 2.1.A</b>		
<b>Residential building frontage guidelines.</b>		
The ➡ symbol refers to DESIGN MODIFICATION opportunities in subsection (B) below.		
Element	Guidelines	Examples and Notes
	may not be designed for vehicles longer than 30 feet and may not occupy more than 125' of the lot frontage (between outer edges of curb cuts). <b>Other streets:</b> Parking may be located to the side or rear of buildings, but no more than 50% of the lot frontage can be occupied by off-street parking and driveways. ➡	

**B. DESIGN MODIFICATION criteria.** Departures from the guidelines in Table 2.1 that feature the ➡ symbol will be considered per section 1.5 provided the alternative proposal meets the intent of the guidelines and the following criteria:

1. Building placement/Setbacks. Minimum setbacks may be reduced provided the design meets the guidelines of 2.1.C below.
2. Parking location. Corner lots and unusual lot shapes warrant some flexibility (more so for side streets and not Southcenter Parkway or South 200th Street). There must be an acceptable tradeoff in terms of the amount and quality of frontage that is integrated with the development and the applicable parking location departure. In addition, the modification must include design features to successfully mitigate the visual impact of additional parking areas along streets, such as wider landscaped buffer, integration of a decorative low wall, elevated planter, or trellis.
3. Landscaping. Modified landscaping designs may be considered provided they help to create an effective transition between the building and the street, and where landscaped elements help to screen foundation walls and other blank wall areas.

**C. Dwelling units adjacent to sidewalks, internal pathways, Green River connector trails, and common outdoor recreation areas** (hereafter collectively referred to as “public and semi-public realm”). Design treatments must be integrated to enhance the safety and character of the public and semi-public realm areas while respecting the privacy of adjacent residential units. Design criteria:

1. Direct pathway/open space access. Units adjacent to public and semi-public realm areas must all have individual ground-related entries accessible to those elements.
2. Unit setback and elevation. Provide privacy for people living in the adjacent dwelling units through all of the following measures:
  - a. Provide a 5-foot minimum setback from public and semi-public realm areas. The setback must be measured from the edge of pathways. When adjacent to an applicable public and semi-public realm area with no pathway, the setback must be measured from the outside edge (facing away from the dwelling unit) of a physical threshold feature, as defined in subsection (3)(a) below, that separates semi-private outdoor space with the public and semi-public realm area as determined by the Director.
  - b. Where the façade is within close proximity to public and semi-public realm areas , elevate ground levels as set forth in Table 2.1.C.2 to help to improve privacy and enhance their relationship to the street. On sloped sites, the minimum and maximum heights shall be calculated using the average elevation of the slope adjacent to the façade.

Elevated ground-floor units are encouraged to have secondary access from a wheelchair accessible route within the building which meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The route should be clearly signed and marked.

<b>Table 2.1.C.2</b>	
<b>Guidelines for elevating residential units located within close proximity to public and semi-public realm areas.</b>	
<b>Façade setback</b>	<b>Elevate the ground level of adjacent residential units</b>
Front façade: < 10’ from sidewalk (along a public street); or < 5’ from an internal pathway or open space	At least 3-5’ above the grade of public and semi-public realm areas
Front façade: 10-15’ from sidewalk (along a street); or 5-10’ from an internal pathway or open space	30”-5’ above the grade of public and semi-public realm areas

- c. Up to 25% of units may be exempted from the elevation standards of subsection (b) provided the exempt units are designated for occupancy only by seniors or people with disabilities for the life of the building and other design treatments are integrated to meet the intent of the guidelines.
3. Enhance the privacy of residents and provide an effective transition between the public and private realm by integrating all of the following measures:

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- a. Provide a physical “threshold” feature such as a hedge, retaining wall, rockery, stair, gate, railing, or a combination of such elements on private property that defines and bridges the boundary between public right of way and the private entry, porch, yard, or patio. Thresholds may screen but not completely block views to and from the public and semi-public realm areas.
- b. Provide an outdoor space at least four feet deep and six feet wide (24 square feet minimum area) in the front setback such as a porch, patio, deck, or stoop. Where feasible, this space must be at the same level as the interior of the unit.
- c. Provide a covered area, porch or protected entry space, or other architectural weather protection at least three feet deep that provides cover for a person entering the unit and a transitional space between outside and inside the dwelling.
- d. Landscaping planters (in-ground or constructed and raised) must be integrated into transitional areas between the dwelling unit and the adjacent public and semi-public realm areas (see Figure 2.1.C.1-2 for examples).

Overhead building projections may cantilever over up to 50-percent of the ground level setback to public and private realm areas .

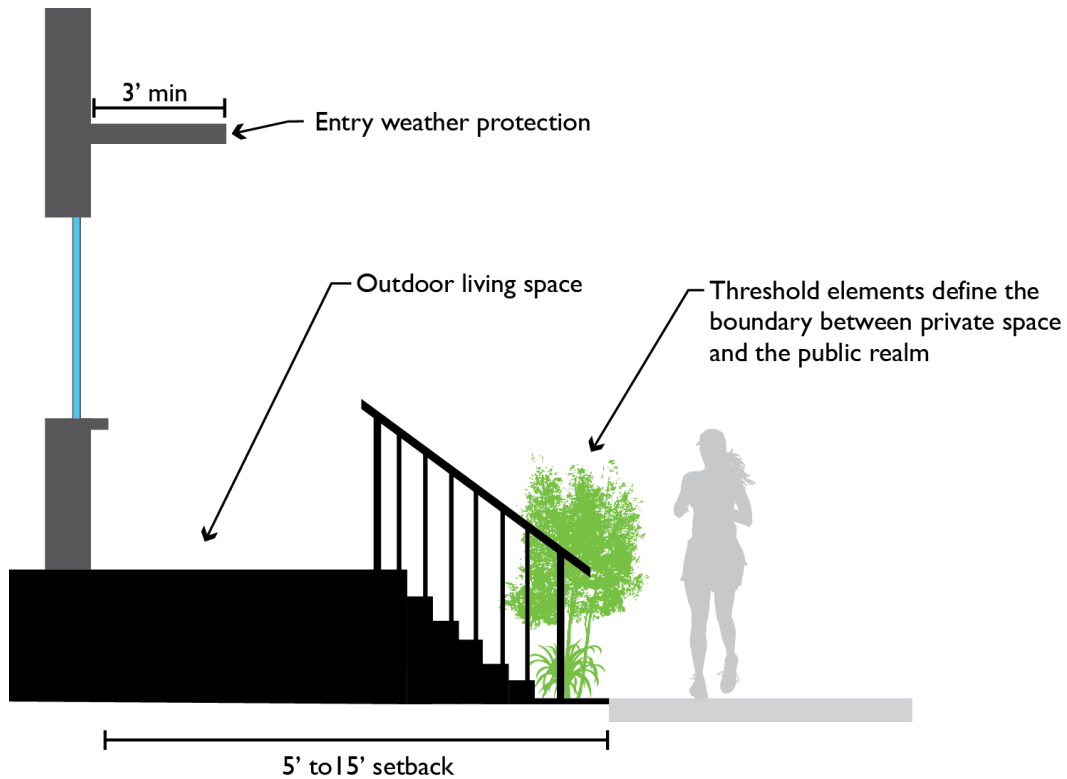
DESIGN MODIFICATIONS may be proposed for the design criteria in subsections (C)(1-3) above provided the design enhances the privacy of adjacent units and provides an effective and attractive transition between the public and private realm. While unique circumstances such as challenging topography may play a role in setbacks and building elevations, design treatments must be integrated to mitigate negative impacts and help meet the intent of the guidelines.

4. See section 3.3 for window design standards for ground floor residential units.



Figure 2.1.C.1

Guidelines and examples of ground-level residential frontages close to public and semi-public realm areas.



The above images show ground-level residential frontages with setbacks of approximately 10 feet (left image) and 5 feet (right image) along different street frontages for the same corner apartment building. These ground level units all have their own private unit access from the sidewalk and are elevated above the sidewalk to enhance the privacy to the units. The landscaping elements, brick posts, split-faced concrete block stoop walls, and black metal railings help to provide an attractive and effective transition between the public and private realms.

Figure 2.1.C.2

Additional examples of ground-level residential frontages close to public and semi-public realm areas.



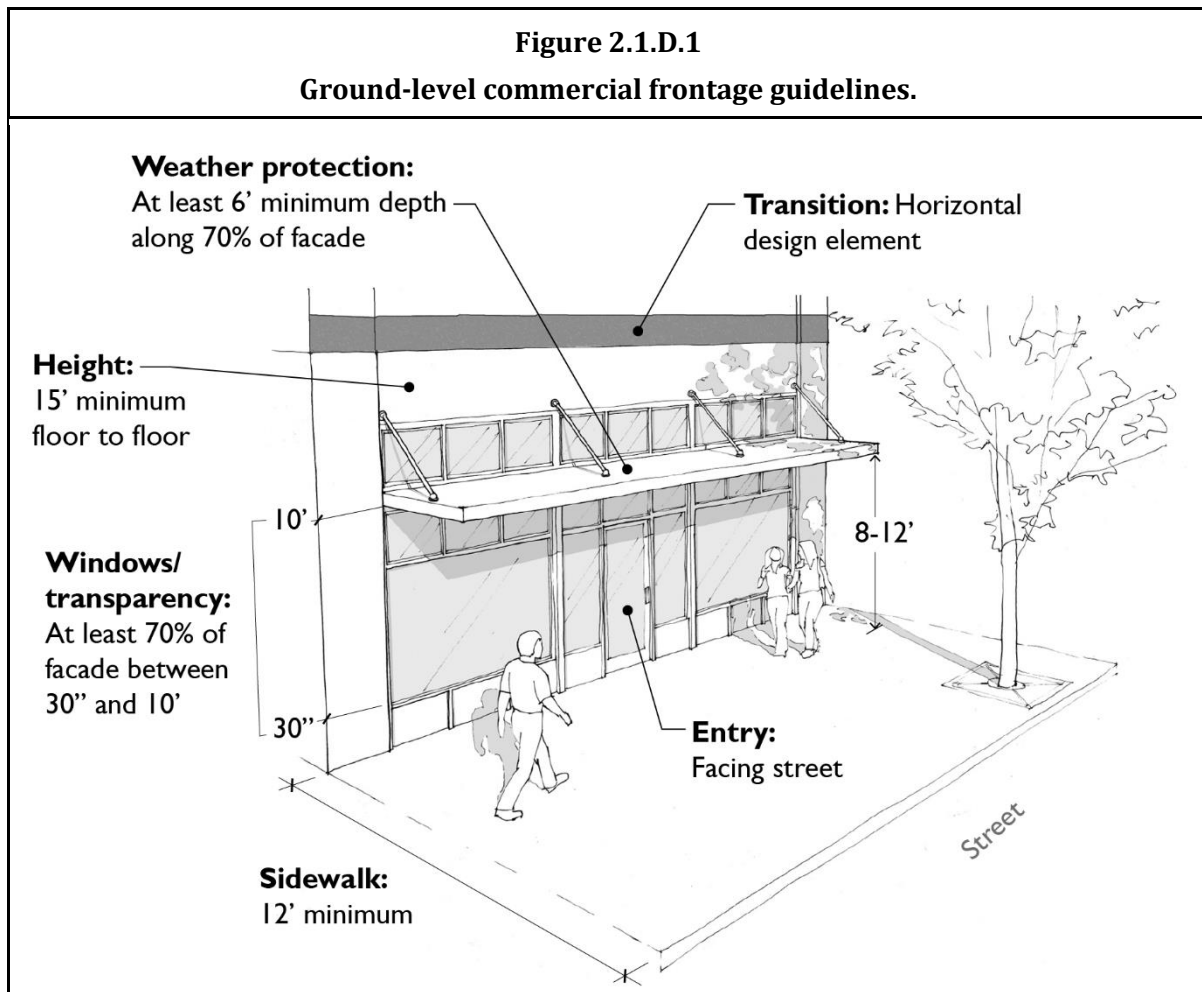
Good examples: Image A includes a stoop design with brick terraced planters and low wrought iron fences. Images B and C includes low wrought iron fences that separate the sidewalk/internal pathway from the private open space. Images D and E include stoop designs with sidewalk level planters and concrete terrace planters.



Bad examples: Despite the raised ground level, the shallow setback design in Image F is insufficient to meet the intent of the guidelines. In Image G, the upper level building cantilever doesn't meet the guidelines and creates a cold "cave stoop" like form. The large areas of unscreened concrete walls in both examples are undesirable.



- D. Commercial frontages in mixed-use buildings.** The following guidelines apply where a commercial use is included on the ground floor of a multi-family building. Refer to TMC Chapter 18.09, Land Uses Allowed by District, for permitted commercial uses.



1. Sidewalk width. 12 feet minimum between the curb edge and the commercial façade (including clear/buffer zone with street trees).
2. Building entrances. At least one entrance to the commercial use must face the sidewalk or internal pathway. For corner buildings, entrances may face the corner.
3. Façade transparency. At least 70 percent of the commercial use façade between 30 inches and 10 feet above grade must be transparent windows or doors. Glass roll up doors are encouraged. Generic storefront window systems that extend to the ground are discouraged (see the crossed-out examples in Figure 2.1.D.2).
4. Interior dimensions.
  - a. Minimum internal floor to ceiling height: 15 feet.
  - b. Minimum depth from the façade: 35 feet.

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5. Weather protection along at least 70-percent of the façade that is at least six feet wide with a vertical clearance of between eight and 12-feet is required. Weather protection should be made of permanent, durable materials. Glass is acceptable.
6. A horizontal design feature above the storefront that emphasizes transition between residential and non-residential uses. This may include a change in materials, horizontal banding, or other technique that effectively defines the transition.
7. DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be considered for the commercial frontage elements provided they meet the intent of the Guidelines, integrate a functional and leasable space for a variety of commercial uses, and creates a high-quality pedestrian environment. For example, if 80-percent of the proposed commercial space meets the interior dimension guidelines and only 20-percent of the spaces are slightly smaller than the above dimensions, then the overall plan would meet the intent for creating functional and leasable commercial spaces.

**Figure 2.1.D.2**

**Ground-level commercial frontage examples.**



Good examples. The upper left example includes openable storefront windows, which are desirable.

**Figure 2.1.D.2**

**Ground-level commercial frontage examples.**



Bad examples: Generic storefront window systems that extend to the ground like these are discouraged. Better design alternatives include roll-up glass doors or storefront window designs integrating decorative kick-plate or base panels designs, or solid walls between the near the ground level.

## 2.2 - Pedestrian Circulation

### **Intent**

- To provide accessible, effective, and efficient pedestrian circulation within individual developments and to connect to adjacent pedestrian routes and streets.
- To incorporate a connected system of attractive trail corridors upon which developments can be structured around.
- To improve the pedestrian environment by making it accessible, safe, and comfortable.
- To provide pedestrian access to transportation resources such as sidewalks, bikeways, crosswalks, and bus shelters connecting to all modes of transportation.

### **Applicability**

Per the 2009 Tukwila South Development Agreement section 4.5.1, a minimum of eight “pedestrian corridors and connections” are required to connect Southcenter Parkway and the future Green River trail, which is to be built and maintained by the City of Tukwila. For the purposes of this document, these eight facilities are known as “Green River connector trails”. The design criteria in this section apply to Green River connector trails where they are adjacent or pass through residential development sites.

### **Design Criteria**

#### **A. General pedestrian connectivity.**

1. Residential developments must provide an integrated and connected pedestrian circulation network that encourages walking and functions as one of the defining features of the development. Routes that minimize walking distances must be utilized to the extent practical. In addition to the Green River connector trails, required connections include:
  - a. Shared and individual entrances to streets, trails and recreational areas, parking areas, and other pedestrian amenities.
  - b. Between on-site residential buildings.
  - c. To internal pedestrian circulation networks on adjacent sites, when desirable and feasible.
  - d. Safe and attractive connections to and from street corners, particularly signalized street corners.

For townhouses or other residential units fronting streets, connections to the sidewalk may be used in part to meet this Guideline.

2. For large multi-building developments, pedestrian connections must be made at intervals no greater than 250 feet. DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be considered where one or more of the following exist:
  - a. Topography or other physical site constraints make connections impossible or unnecessary.
  - b. Greater intervals allow a more desirable site/building configuration that creates a distinct focal point.



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- c. Site dimensions and building types make slightly larger dimensions more practical, while the overall connectivity of the site and the quality of connections meet the intent of the guidelines.
3. Green River connector trails may not have barriers or gates that deny pedestrian access. Other internal pathways may have security gates that limit access to employees and residents.

**Figure 2.2.A**

**Examples of residential developments with an integrated and connected pedestrian network.**



The example above (Issaquah Highlands) integrates sidewalks and pathways throughout the development, connecting all buildings and open spaces.

Figure 2.2.B

Examples of attractive pedestrian connections through a residential development.



Good examples. Images A and D are examples of attractive internal pathways between buildings. Image B is a pathway separating two different developments. Image C is nature trail that connects residents of the development to the adjacent street and trail system.

**B. Pedestrian facility design.**

The following are minimum dimensions. Larger dimensions may be appropriate for high-volume facilities and for facilities located adjacent to high-activity land uses.

1. Green River connector trails: 14 feet wide corridor with ten feet wide paving.
2. Primary pathways (direct connections from sites to public streets): Six feet wide paving.
3. Secondary pathways (no direct connection to public streets and internal site connections between buildings): Five feet wide paving.

**C. Trail corridor landscaping, lighting, and design.**

1. Trail corridors should include lush and vibrant landscaping elements that enhance the character and identity of trails (and surrounding development) while maintaining visibility for safety. This includes trees, shrubs, and ground cover. Ornamental grasses and perennials can also be very attractive along trails.
2. Shrubs and hedges should be limited to 42 inches in height to maintain visibility.
3. Turf grass might be desirable in some areas — but should generally be limited to areas intended for active recreational uses.



4. Designers are encouraged to create different landscaped “themes” for different trail corridor segments to enhance the “sense of place.”
5. The use of native, drought-tolerant and low maintenance plant materials is encouraged.
6. Lighting should be integrated along the trail for safety. Utilize techniques that light the trail, but minimize lighting glare impacts on adjacent residential units. Refer to section 2.9 for additional lighting guidelines.
7. Trails and pathways are encouraged to be configured and aligned to highlight distinct views (e.g., Mt. Rainier or terminal vista of distinct building feature).

**D. Bicycle facilities.**

1. For required quantity, see the multi-family bicycle parking standards in TMC 18.56.130, Development Standards for Bicycle Parking, and TMC Figure 18-7.
2. General design guidelines.
  - a. Racks should be oriented to maximize their efficiency and aligned to keep obstructions away from pedestrian thoroughfares.
  - b. Clustered arrangements of racks should be set back from walls or street furniture to allow bicycles to be parked at both ends or from either side.
  - c. Where more than one rack is installed, the minimum separation between aisles should be 48 inches (the aisle is measured from tip to tip of bicycle tires across the space between racks). This provides enough space for one person to walk one bicycle. In high traffic areas where many users park or retrieve bicycles at the same time, the recommended minimum aisle width is 72 inches.
  - d. Multiple buildings should be served by many small racks in convenient locations rather than a combined, distant rack area.
  - e. For outdoor parking, building overhangs, canopies, or other features should be used to provide weather protection.
  - f. Where bicycle parking is located indoors, building entries and associated pathways must be designed for bicycle riders to easily move bicycles in and out of the building. Factors include pathway width and design, doorway widths, door opening mechanisms, and distance between the entry and the bicycle parking area.
3. Short term parking guidelines (such as for deliveries and guests).
  - a. Racks should be easy to find and located near the primary building entrance.
  - b. Racks should be located within sight of gathering places or in busy pedestrian areas that provide constant, informal surveillance of parked bicycles.
4. Long term parking guidelines (for residents and on-site employees).
  - a. Long term bicycle parking is preferably located indoors. If outdoors, the parking area should be protected with a secure-entry enclosure.
  - b. Bicycle storage areas should be located in high visibility areas close to elevators, stairs, and entrances.
  - c. Bicycle storage areas should be located as close or closer to elevators or entrances than the closest car parking space.

## 2.3 - Vehicle Access & Circulation

### **Intent**

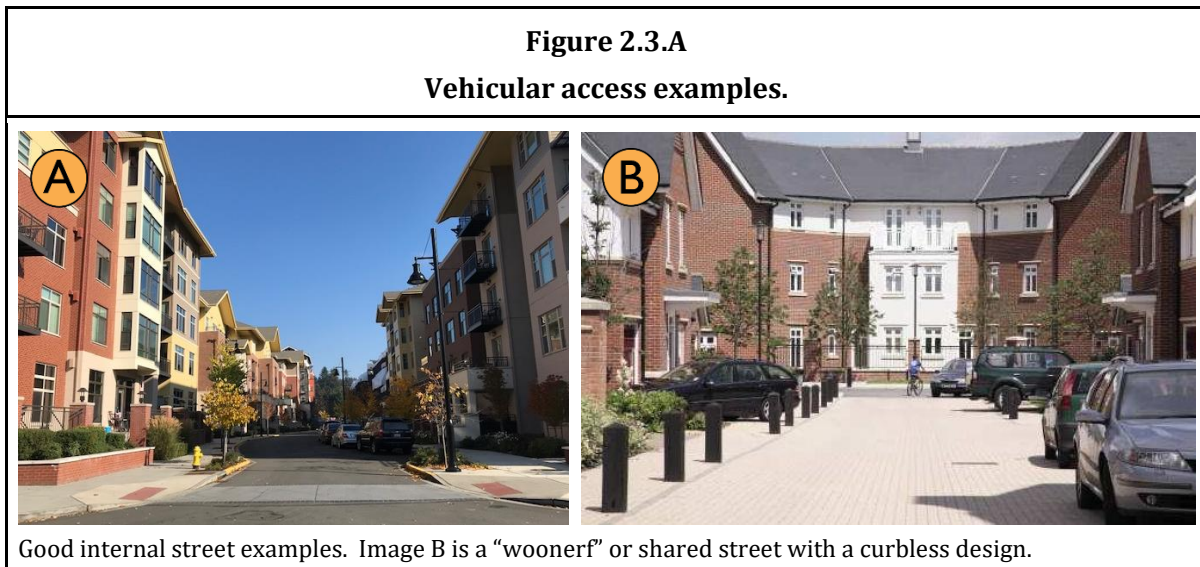
- To create a safe, convenient, and efficient network for vehicle circulation and parking.
- To enhance the visual character of interior access streets.
- To minimize conflicts with pedestrian circulation and activity.
- To improve the pedestrian and bicycling environment by making it easier, safer, and more comfortable to walk or ride among residences, to businesses, to the street sidewalk, to transit stops, through parking lots, to adjacent properties, and connections throughout the city.
- To enhance access to on- and off-site open space areas and pedestrian/bicycle paths.

### **Applicability**

The guidelines herein supplement the provisions of TMC Chapter 18.56, Off-Street Parking and Loading Regulations.

### **Design Criteria**

- A. Developments must provide a safe and convenient network of vehicular circulation that connects the surrounding road access network and creates safe connections to driveways. Vehicle circulation shall be designed to provide opportunities for future connections to adjacent parcels, where applicable.
- B. Shared street (i.e., Woonerf) designs may be appropriate in low traffic areas to function for both pedestrians and vehicles. See Figure 2.3.A for examples.
- C. Developments are encouraged to configure internal roadways and parking areas to minimize paved areas.





**Figure 2.3.A**  
**Vehicular access examples.**



Image C uses decorative pavement pattern to add visual interest to internal drives. Avoid designs in Image D with an excessive amount of paving.

## 2.4 – Recreation Space

### **Intent**

- To create useable space that is suitable for leisure or recreational activities for residents.
- To create recreation space that contributes to the residential setting.

### **Design Criteria**

- A. Multi-family recreation space required in TMC 18.41.090 may be provided in a combination of ways. Table 2.4 below lists how those requirements may be met, and subsections (A)(1) through (5) provide the design guidelines for each type.

<b>Table 2.4 Useable recreation space types.</b>	
<b>Recreation space type</b>	<b>Maximum allowable percentage of required useable recreation space</b>
Common outdoor recreation areas	100%
Ground level individual outdoor area	100% (for adjacent units only)
Balconies	50%
Shared roof decks	100%
Common indoor recreation areas	75%

1. Common outdoor recreation areas. This can include landscaped courtyards, decks, entrance plazas, gardens with pathways, children’s play areas, swimming pools, and water features provided they are accessible to all residents of the development.

Design criteria include all of the following:

- a. The minimum area is 500 square feet. The space must feature dimensions necessary to provide functional leisure or recreational activity (unless otherwise noted herein).
- b. Shared porches may qualify as recreation area, provided they are at least eight-feet in depth and 96-square-feet in total area.
- c. Required setback areas must not count as common outdoor recreation areas, except for building entry plazas located in front setbacks. Vehicular circulation areas must not count as common outdoor recreation areas.
- d. Areas must be located in accessible areas that are visible from units within the development.
- e. When possible, the recreation areas should be oriented to receive sunlight, facing east, west or preferably south.
- f. Areas must feature paths or walkable lawns, landscaping, seating, lighting, and play structures, sports courts, or other pedestrian amenities to make the area more functional and enjoyable for a range of users.

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- g. Areas must be separated from ground level windows, streets, vehicular circulation areas, service areas, and parking lots with landscaping, fencing, and/or other acceptable treatments that enhance safety and privacy for both the recreation areas and dwelling units.
- h. Stairways and service elements located within or on the edge of the space must not be included in the recreation area calculations.
- i. The areas must be accessible to all residents of the development.
- j. Any children's play areas integrated as a part of a common outdoor recreation area must meet all the following (in addition to the design criteria listed above):
  - i. Measures necessary to protect children's safety from vehicular traffic must be included, such as low fencing or landscaping to provide a physical barrier.
  - ii. Shade and rest areas for supervision shall be provided through the use of deciduous landscaping, architectural elements, temporary structures, or other means.
  - iii. Natural, creative play elements should be provided. For instance, ground slides from one level to another, tricycle tracks, swings hung from arbors or trees, paths that meander and are of varying materials and widths, water that can be manipulated, outdoor rooms made from landscape or rocks, and berms and hills.
  - iv. Play areas must be designed for a variety of ages, activities, and motor skills.

DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be considered for the Guidelines above provided they meet the intent and fill a recreational need for the residents of the development. The use and design of the space must be integrated with the surrounding site and building features in a manner that's complementary to the development and any adjacent streetscape.

- 2. Ground level individual outdoor area. All of the required recreation space for a unit may be provided by ground level outdoor space that is adjacent and directly accessible to the subject unit. Design criteria include all of the following:
  - a. Outdoor spaces may be located in the front, side, or rear yard provided they are generally level, feature no dimension less than 10-feet, and enclosed by a fence and/or hedge at least 32-inches in height to qualify  

DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be considered provided the space(s) meet the intent of the guidelines as a usable recreation space.
  - b. Private porches may qualify as outdoor space provided they are at least 36-square-feet in area, with no dimension less than six-feet.
  - c. Individual ground level outdoor area that is in excess of minimum guidelines must not be used in the calculations for determining the minimum usable recreation area standards for other units in the development.
- 3. Balconies.
- 4. Shared roof decks.
  - a. Must be available to all residents.
  - b. Space must feature hard-surfacing and provide amenities that encourage use, such as seating, outdoor grills, and weather protection elements.

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- c. Space must integrate landscaping elements that enhance the character of the space and encourage its use.
- d. Space must incorporate features that provide for the safety of residents, such as enclosures, railings, and appropriate lighting levels.
- 5. Common indoor recreation areas. Examples include exercise rooms, swimming pools, game rooms, movie theatre rooms, and libraries.
  - a. The space must meet ADA guidelines and must be located in a visible area, such as near an entrance, lobby, or high traffic corridors.
  - b. The space must be designed specifically to serve interior recreational functions and not merely be leftover unrentable space used to meet the recreation space requirement.
  - c. Such space must include amenities and design elements that will encourage use by residents.

**Figure 2.4.A.1**

**Common outdoor recreation area examples.**



Image A includes a combination of open lawn area for informal recreation plus pathways and decorative landscape areas to enhance the setting for residents. Image B is a courtyard with includes pathways, seating areas, landscaped beds, and semi-private spaces for adjacent ground level units.

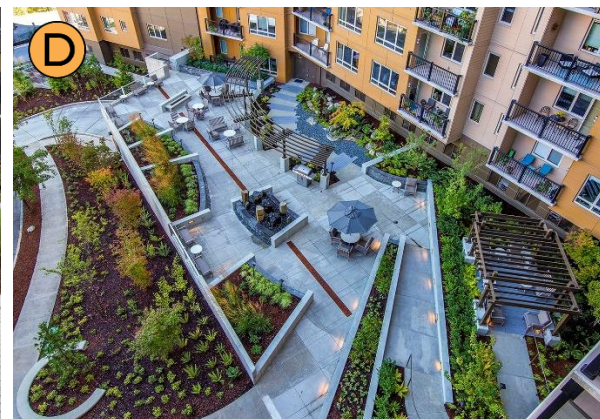


Image C includes a covered gathering space with outdoor grills adjacent to a landscaped commons with a central pathway. Image D includes a landscaped plaza with multiple seating areas and an outdoor fireplace.



**Figure 2.4.A.1**

**Common outdoor recreation area examples.**

Image E shows a courtyard with a shared pool. Image F below includes a common green area and separate fenced off-leash dog area.



**Figure 2.4.A.2**

**Rooftop deck examples.**



Figure 2.4.A.3

Common indoor recreation area examples.



**B. Townhouse recreation space guidelines.**

1. Townhouse developments shall provide recreation space requirements consistent with multi-family developments (based on the number of bedrooms) as set forth in TMC 18.41.090. Such townhouse recreation space may be provided by one or more of the following:
  - a. Private ground level recreation area that is directly adjacent and accessible to dwelling units. Such area must have minimum dimensions of at least 12-feet on all sides and be configured to accommodate activity such as outdoor eating, gardening, toddler play, etc. Street setbacks may be used to meet this guideline, provided they are defined with a fence (meeting guidelines of section 2.8).
  - b. Private balconies, roof decks, or porches.**
  - c. Common outdoor recreation area that meets the design criteria of section 2.4.A.1.
2. Individual private recreation area for one unit that exceeds the recreation space Guidelines may not be used to help meet the recreation guidelines for other dwelling units. Common recreation spaces that meet the guidelines of subsection (1)(c) above, however, may be used to supplement private recreation areas meeting subsections (1)(a-b) above to help dwelling units meet the recreation area guidelines herein.

Figure 2.4.B

Examples of how townhouse recreation area may be integrated.



A: Common outdoor recreation area between townhouse buildings and private stoop/entries.

B: Private ground-level area in front of townhouses.

C: Townhouses with private balconies and rooftop decks.



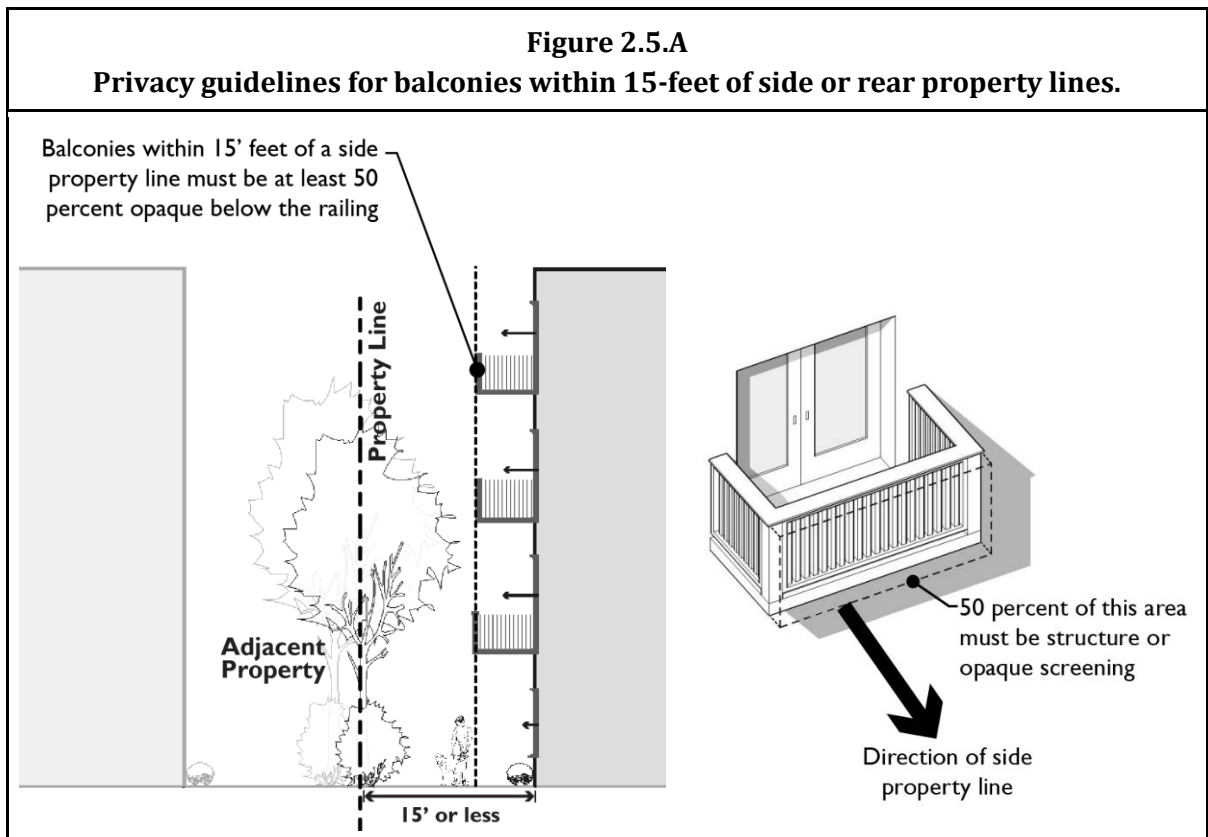
## 2.5 - Solar Access & Privacy

### Intent

- To promote the functional and visual compatibility between developments.
- To protect the privacy of residents in adjacent buildings.
- To enhance access to natural daylight for residents.

### Design Criteria

- A. Balconies at the side and rear of buildings.
1. Balconies and rooftop decks above the ground floor and within 15 horizontal-feet of a side or rear property line must feature a railing system that is at least 50-percent opaque. Specifically, 50-percent of the area below the top edge of the railing must be a sight-obscuring structure.
  2. DESIGN MODIFICATIONS to this Guideline will be allowed if the balcony will not cause visual or privacy impacts due to its location, orientation, design or other consideration.

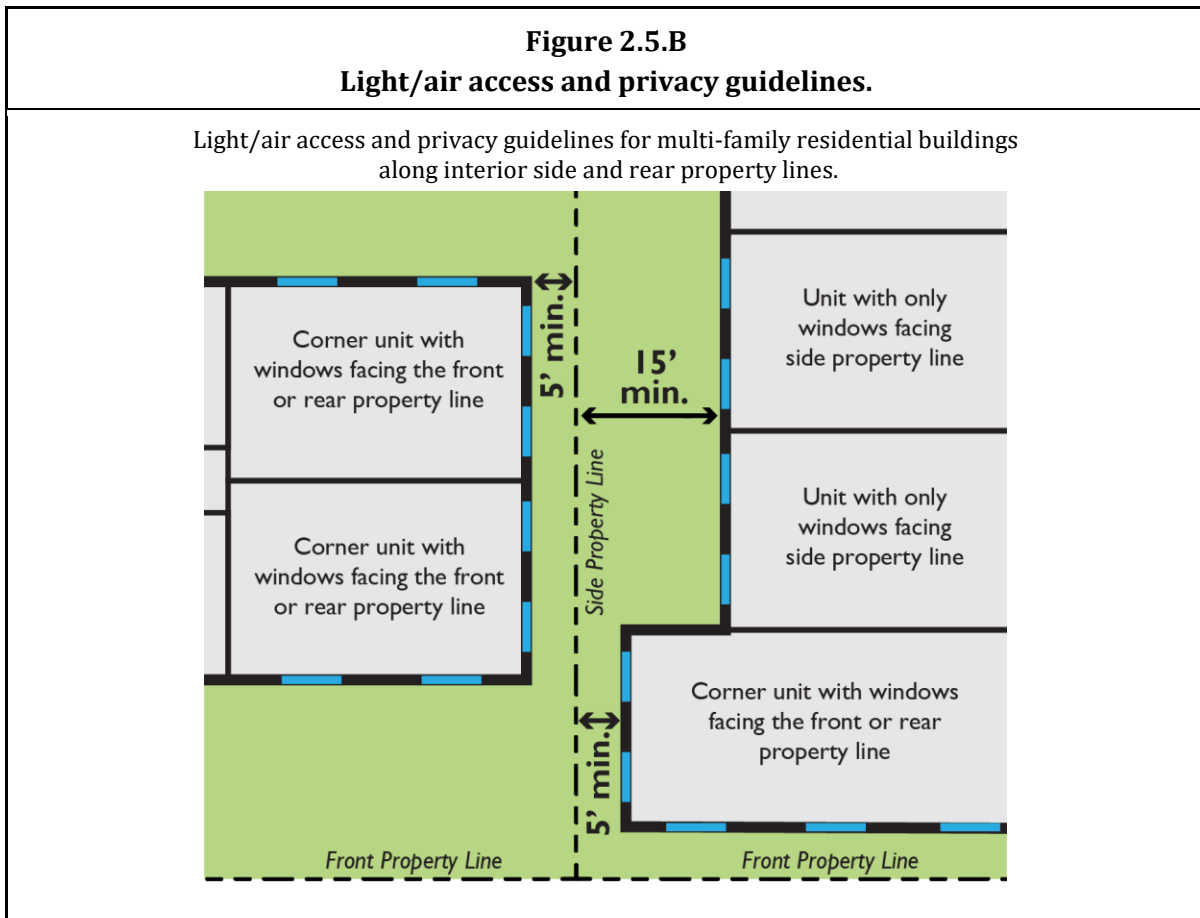


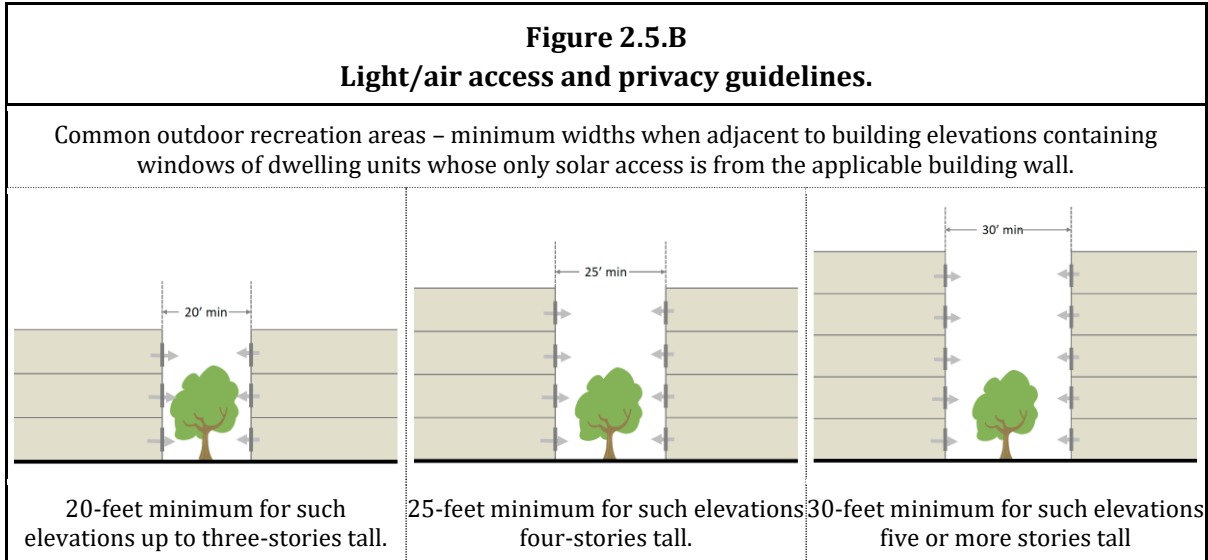


B. Light and air access and privacy guidelines.

1. Minimum width of common outdoor recreation areas. When a common outdoor recreation area is located between two building elevations and at least one of those building elevations features windows that provide the applicable dwelling unit's only source of solar access, then the minimum width of the common outdoor recreation area is based on the height of the applicable buildings:
  - a. 20-foot minimum for such elevations up to three-stories tall.
  - b. 25-foot minimum for such elevations four-stories tall (at least one of the elevations).
  - c. 30-foot minimum for such elevations five or more stories tall (at least one of the elevations).

DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be allowed to the standards and guidelines above where it is determined that the proposed design provides for adequate light and air access and privacy and will not create a compatibility problem in the near and long term based on the unique site context and design.





## 2.6 - Service Areas & Utilities

### **Intent**

- To minimize adverse visual, odor, and noise impacts of mechanical equipment, utility cabinets and service areas at ground and roof levels.
- To provide adequate, durable, well-maintained, and accessible service and equipment areas.
- To protect residential uses and adjacent properties from impacts due to location and utilization of service areas.

### **Relation to Other Codes**

- Refer to the requirements of TMC 18.50.180-185 for design of recycling storage space. TMC 18.50.190, Design of Collection Points for Garbage and Recycling Containers, are supplemented by this section.

### **Design Criteria**

#### **A. Ground-related service areas and mechanical equipment.**

1. Location.
  - a. Service areas. Loading docks, trash dumpsters, compactors, recycling areas, electrical panels, and mechanical equipment areas must be located for convenient service access while avoiding negative visual, auditory, olfactory, or physical impacts on the streetscape environment and adjacent dwelling units.
  - b. Utility meters, electrical conduit, and other service utility apparatus. These elements must be located and/or designed to minimize their visibility to the public. Project designers are strongly encouraged to coordinate with applicable service providers early in the design process to determine the best approach in meeting these guidelines. If such elements are mounted in a location visible from the street, pedestrian pathway, common outdoor recreation area, or shared auto courtyards, they must be screened with vegetation and/or integrated into the building's architecture. [See Figure 2.6.A.2 below].
  - c. Design for safety. Other provisions of this section notwithstanding, service areas used by residents must be located to avoid entrapment areas and other conditions where personal security is potentially a problem. Pedestrian-scaled lighting or other measures may be needed to enhance security.
  - d. Design to mitigate noise. Locate and/or shield noise producing mechanical equipment such as fans, heat pumps, etc., to minimize sounds and reduce impacts to adjacent dwelling units.
  - e. Dumpster storage areas.
    - i. Dumpster storage areas must be provided on-site for all multi-family development.
    - ii. Dumpster storage areas must be sized to accommodate the minimum dumpster sizes for garbage, recycling, and composting (see TMC 18.50.180, Recycling Storage Space for Residential Uses).

2. Screening.

a. Service area screening is required for all exterior service areas, as follows:

- i. A structural enclosure must be constructed of masonry, heavy-gauge metal, or decay-resistant material that is also used with the architecture of the main building. Alternative materials other than those used for the main building are permitted if the finishes are similar in color and texture or if the proposed enclosure materials are more durable than those for the main structure. The walls must be sufficient to provide full screening from the affected roadway, pedestrian areas or adjacent use, but must be no greater than seven feet tall. [See Figure 2.6.A.3 below].
- ii. Gates must be made of heavy-gauge, site-obscuring material. Chain link or chain link with slats is not an acceptable material for enclosures or gates.
- iii. Where the interior of a service enclosures is visible from surrounding streets, pathways, and residential units, an opaque or semi-opaque horizontal cover or screen must be used to mitigate unsightly views. The horizontal screen/cover should be integrated into the enclosure design (in terms of materials and/or design).
- iv. Collection points must be located and configured so that the enclosure gate swing does not obstruct pedestrian or vehicle vehicular traffic, or does not require that a hauling truck project into any public right-of-way. Ensure that screening elements allow for efficient service delivery and removal operations.
- v. The service area must be paved.

b. The sides and rear of service enclosures must be screened with landscaping at least five-foot wide in locations visible from the street, parking lots, and pathways to soften views of the screening element and add visual interest.

DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be considered provided the enclosure and landscaping treatment meet the intent of the guidelines and add visual interest to site users.

**Figure 2.6.A.2**

**Utility meter location and screening - good and bad examples.**



Place utility meters in less visible locations. The upper and lower left examples are successfully tucked away in a less visible location and/or screened by vegetation. The right images are poorly executed and would not be permitted in such visible locations. Such meters must be coordinated and better integrated with the architecture of the building.



Figure 2.6.A.2

Utility meter location and screening - good and bad examples.



Figure 2.6.A.3

Acceptable screening enclosures.



All examples use durable and attractive enclosures with trees and shrubs to soften views of the enclosures from the side. Image C and D use a trellis and weather protection structure on top – a desirable feature particularly where the top of the enclosures are visible from surrounding buildings, streets, and pathways (due to topography or building heights).

**B. Roof-mounted mechanical equipment.**

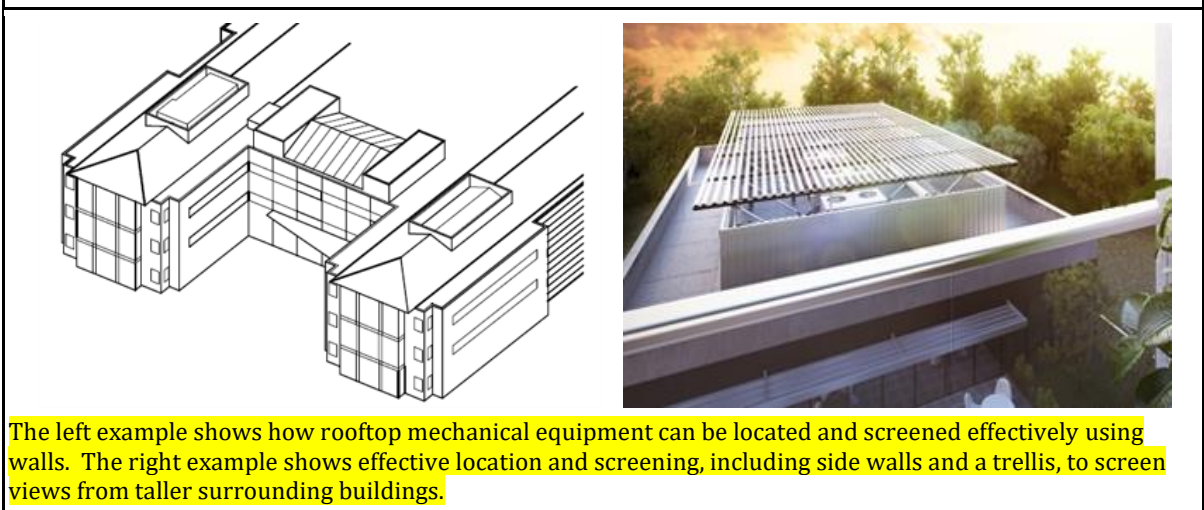
1. All rooftop mechanical equipment, including air conditioners, heaters, vents, and similar equipment must be fully screened from public view at the street level. Screening must be located so as not to interfere with operation of the equipment. **For developments with varying building heights, rooftop mechanical equipment on lower height buildings visible from existing or proposed taller buildings must integrate screening measures (see Figure 2.6.B for example).**

Exception: Roof-mounted wind turbines, solar energy systems, and rainwater reuse systems do not require screening.

2. For rooftop equipment, all screening devices must be well integrated into the architectural design through such elements as parapet walls, false roofs, roof wells, clerestories, or equipment rooms. Screening walls or unit-mounted screening is allowed but less desirable. Wood must not be used for screens or enclosures. Louvered designs are acceptable if consistent with building design style. Perforated metal is not permitted.
3. The screening materials must be of material requiring minimal maintenance and must be as high as the equipment being screened.
4. Locate and/or shield noise producing mechanical equipment such as fans, heat pumps, etc. to minimize sounds and reduce impacts to adjacent properties.

**Figure 2.6.B**

**Examples of roof-mounted mechanical equipment screening.**



## 2.7 - Landscaping

### **Intent**

- To create an attractive pedestrian environment throughout Tukwila South.
- To promote the use of native, low-maintenance, and drought-tolerant plants.
- To encourage abundant and colorful landscaping in site and development design.
- To utilize vegetation to reduce the impact of development on drainage systems and water quality.
- To mitigate the negative impacts of parking lots on the streetscape.

### **Design Criteria**

#### **A. General guidelines.**

1. Green roofs. Landscape plantings on roofs is encouraged.
2. Mature trees. Developments are encouraged to preserve mature stands of trees and integrate them into the development as an amenity. Developments must also comply with applicable tree requirements of TMC Chapter 18.54, Urban Forestry and Tree Regulations.
3. Foundation screening. All street-facing elevations should have landscaping along any exposed foundation, except those areas that provide access for pedestrians or vehicles to the building.

**Figure 2.7.A**

**Foundation planting examples.**



Left: Foundation with adequate landscape screening. Right: Foundation with inadequate landscape screening.



## 2.8 - Fences, Walls & Hedges

### **Intent**

- Minimize the negative visual impacts of fences, walls, and hedges on the street and pedestrian environment.
- Protect life and secure property while protecting the public from hazardous fences and walls.
- Increase visibility in appropriate circumstances to increase public safety and deter crime.
- Promote and enhance Tukwila South as a walkable place and enhance the pedestrian environment and general appearance of residential development.
- Reduce impacts on the pedestrian experience that may result from taller fences and walls.
- To ensure that site features such as walls, fences, hedges, gates, and screens are well constructed and easily maintainable.

### **Relation to Other Codes**

Refer to TMC 18.50.070(A), Yard Regulations, for other fence requirements near streets.

### **Design Criteria**

#### **A. General guidelines.**

1. Where provided, fences between the street and buildings should be limited to 36 inches in height to maintain visibility between the street and adjacent units for safety.
2. Chain link fence is not allowed except for enclosing active recreation facilities such as swimming pools, playgrounds, and off-leash pet areas. Where used, chain link fence should be vinyl-coated with a dark shade of black, brown, or green.
3. Fences and walls should be made of durable, easily maintainable, and vandal-resistant materials. To reduce the likelihood of graffiti, avoid walls with smooth surfaces unless they can easily be repainted or cleaned
4. Fences must be located on the interior side of any required perimeter landscaping.
5. The maximum height of screening walls and fences is seven feet.

#### **B. Retaining walls.**

1. Retaining walls taller than four feet and visible from a street should be terraced so that no individual segment is taller than four feet. Any segment within three feet of a sidewalk or trail shall be no taller than 30 inches.

DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be considered where large retaining walls are necessary. Design measures must be integrated to mitigate the visual impact of the wall. The greater the visibility of the wall to the general public, the greater the design treatments necessary to mitigate negative visual impacts of the wall. Treatments include but are not limited to wall texture, color, shape, wider terracing distances, and landscape screening.

2. Terraced wall segments should be separated by a landscaping bed at least two feet in width including one shrub for every three lineal feet of retaining wall. Alternative landscaping



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treatments will be considered provided they provide superior screening of the retaining wall and enhance the streetscape.

3. Fences should be located at least five feet from the top edge of retaining walls.

DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be considered provided they meet the intent of the Guidelines.

**Figure 2.8.B**  
**Appropriate retaining wall terracing.**



In Image A the retaining wall textures, landscaping, and terracing mitigate the height of the walls and their relationship to the pedestrian sidewalk. Image B shows walls of multiple scales - low terraces near a pathway, and larger terraces with landscaping bordering a large common outdoor recreation areas. Image C is a large wall located away from streets and trees but still highly visible from a distance, and uses a combination of terracing, texture, and landscaping to effectively soften the wall's appearance. Image D illustrates an acceptable alternative design with minimal terracing in a service and parking area located away from public streets.

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Image E has an unacceptable wall with large terracing intervals close to a street, landscape features which do not provide effective softening, and a lack of details to add visual interest.

## 2.9 – Outdoor Lighting

### **Intent**

- Protect against light pollution and reclaim the ability to view the night sky and thereby help preserve the quality of life and scenic value of this desirable visual resource throughout the region and nearby natural open spaces.
- Help protect and enhance human health and wellness and wildlife habitation and migration by minimizing light pollution and its impact on all forms of life.
- Promote lighting practices and systems to conserve energy, decrease dependence on fossil fuels, and limit greenhouse gas emissions.
- Ensure that sufficient lighting can be provided where needed to promote safety and security on public and private property, and to allow for reasonable lighting outdoor activities.
- Provide attractive lighting that supports and enhances the urban environment, emphasizes architectural elements, and encourage pedestrian activity and wayfinding beyond daylight hours, especially during the long nights of Pacific Northwest winters.

### **Applicability**

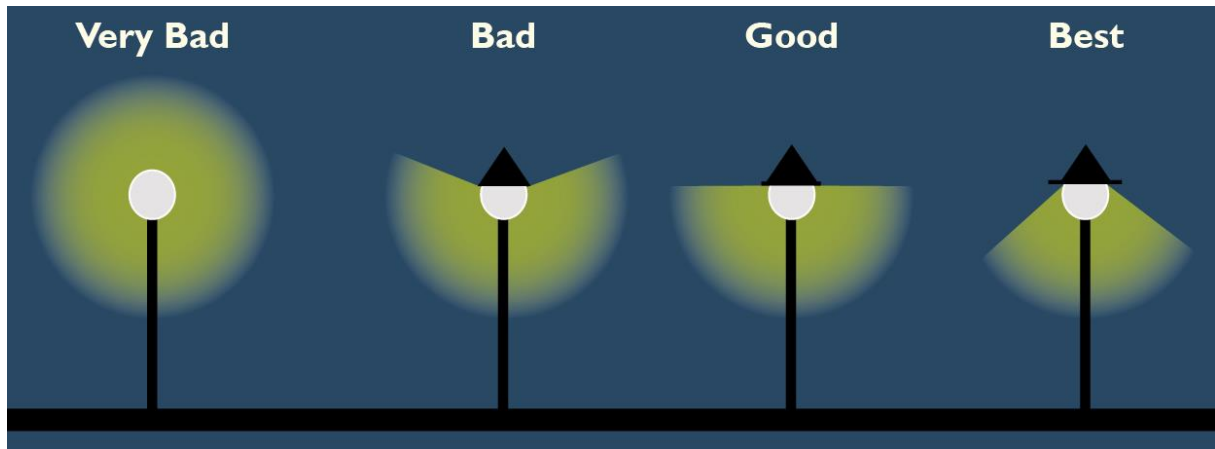
Refer to TMC Table 18.41.090 for additional standards for outdoor lighting.

### **Design Criteria**

- A. All light sources must be shielded to direct light away from the sky and from residential uses. See Figure 2.9.C for an illustration of appropriate light shielding.
- B. Exterior lighting must be installed so that the light is directed downward onto the property upon which it is located. Light trespass onto adjacent properties and the public right-of-way should be prevented and mitigated.
- C. Exterior lighting is encouraged to follow the color temperature, timing, intensity, technology, and other recommendations of the International Dark Sky Association and the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America.

Figure 2.9.C

Appropriate exterior light shielding.



The left two luminaires are unshielded and not permitted. The “good” luminaire is fully shielded above the horizontal. The “best” luminaire is fully shielded and minimizes its offsite impacts.

- D. Lighting color (chromaticity). The correlated color temperature of outdoor lighting shall be 3,500 Kelvin maximum or lower (refer to American National Standard Institutes publication C78.377 for guidance on LED lighting). Exceptions may be made for architectural floodlighting, accent lighting, or outlining.

Figure 2.9.D

Examples of appropriate exterior lighting.



These examples use shielded and low-level lighting to illuminate pedestrian pathways.

- E. Decorative lighting is permitted and should be limited to meet the intent of this section. Consider dimming or curfews for such lighting after midnight. Such lighting includes:
1. Landscape lighting.
  2. Architectural accent lighting and outlining.
  3. Lighting to illuminate flags, public art, water features, and similar edifices.

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4. Outdoor rope and string lights for outdoor seating and gathering areas.



## PART 3 - BUILDING DESIGN

### 3.1 - Building Massing & Articulation

#### Intent

- To employ façade articulation techniques that reduce the perceived scale of large buildings and add visual interest from all observable scales.
- To create clear and welcoming building entries.

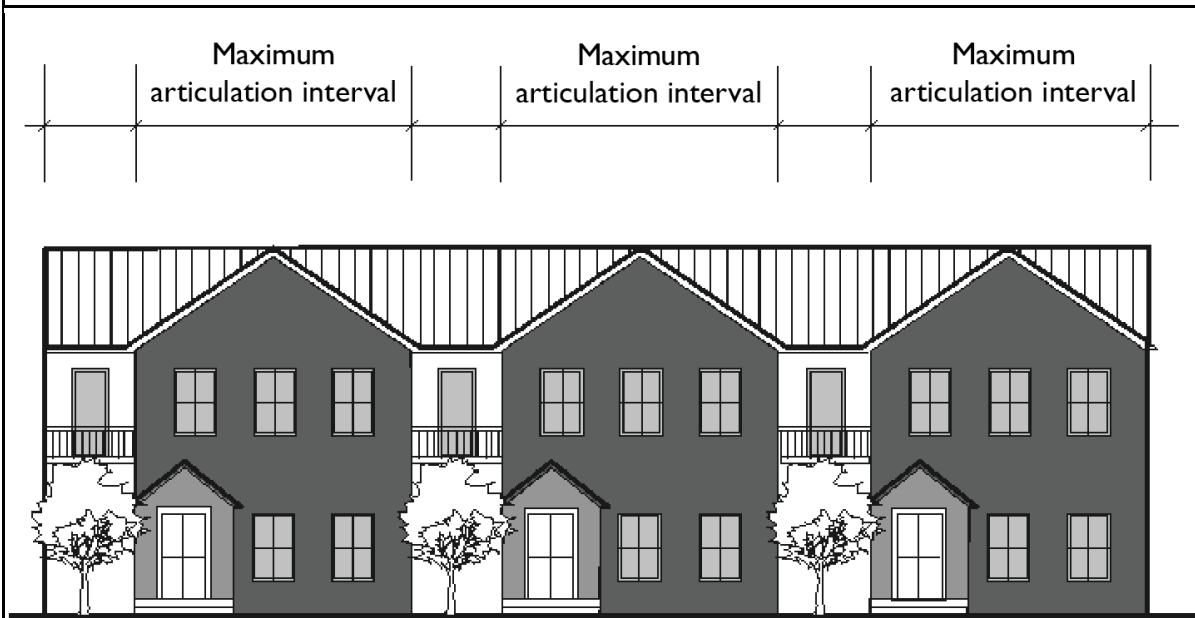
#### Design Criteria

- A. Façade articulation. Residential buildings must include façade articulation features at maximum 30-foot intervals to create a human-scaled pattern. This guideline applies to building elevations facing public streets, private roadways, parks and containing primary building entrances. At least three of the following articulation features must be employed:
1. Use of windows and/or entries.
  2. Use of weather protection features.
  3. Use of vertical piers/columns (applies to all floors of the façade, excluding upper level stepbacks).
  4. Change in roofline per subsection (D) below.
  5. Change in building material, siding style, and/or window pattern (applies to all floors of the façade, excluding upper level stepbacks).
  6. Vertical elements such as a trellis with plants, green wall, art element that meet the intent of the guideline.
  7. Providing vertical building modulation of at least 12-inches in depth if tied to a change in roofline per subsection (D) below or a change in building material, siding style, or color. Balconies may be used to qualify for this option if they are recessed or projected from the façade by at least 18-inches. Juliet balconies or other balconies that appear to be tacked on to the façade will not qualify for this option unless they employ high quality materials and effectively meet the intent of the guidelines.
  8. Other design techniques that effectively reinforce a pattern of facades compatible with the building's surrounding context.

DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be considered provided they meet the intent of the Guidelines and the design criteria in subsection (B) below.

Figure 3.1.A

Residential façade articulation examples.



Below Images A-C use a combination of vertical building modulation, window patterns, material changes, or roofline modulation. Image D does not feature at least three façade articulation features.





**B. DESIGN MODIFICATION criteria associated with articulation guidelines.** The following criteria will be considered in determining whether the proposed articulation treatment meets the “intent” of the Guidelines:

1. Consider the type and width of the proposed articulation treatment and how effective it is in meeting the intent given the building’s current and desired context (per the Comprehensive Plan and the Tukwila South Development Agreement).
2. Consider the size and width of the building. Smaller buildings warrant greater flexibility than larger buildings.
3. Consider the quality of façade materials in concert with doors, windows, and other façade features and their ability to add visual interest to the street from a pedestrian scale and more distant observable scales.
4. Consider the public visibility of the particular building elevation. Facades not visible from public streets, such as those abutting hillsides, warrant greater design flexibility.

**Figure 3.1.B**

**Example where flexibility to articulation guidelines are warranted.**

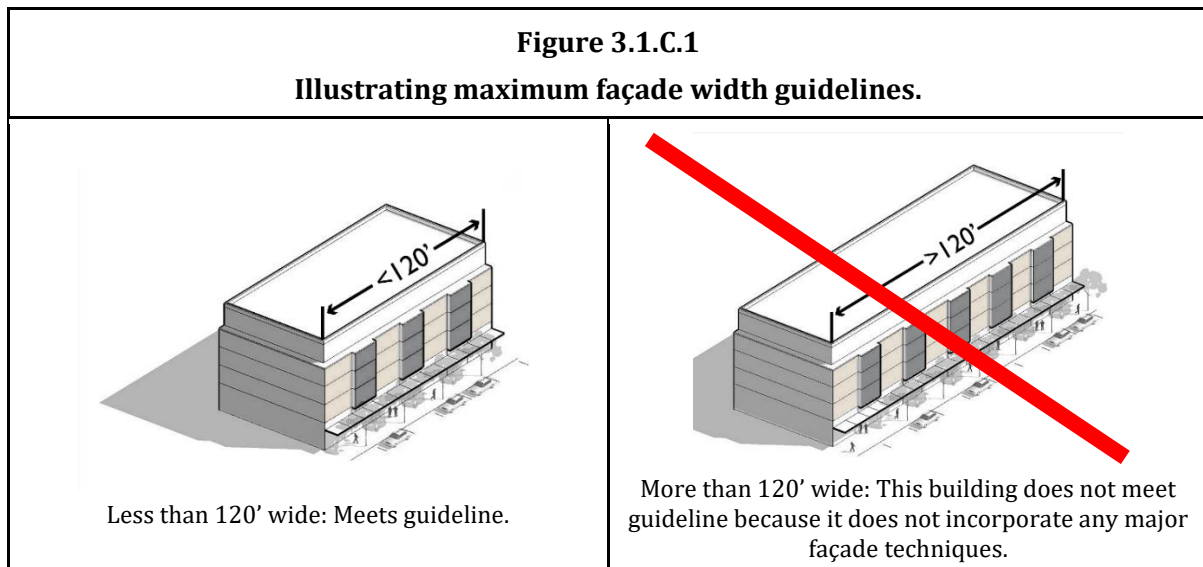


This secondary building elevation faces a forested hillside and is not visible from a public street. As such, it’s an example where some flexibility to the articulation guidelines is warranted (though some articulation features, such as the balconies, roofline changes and color/material changes add visual interest to this building elevation).

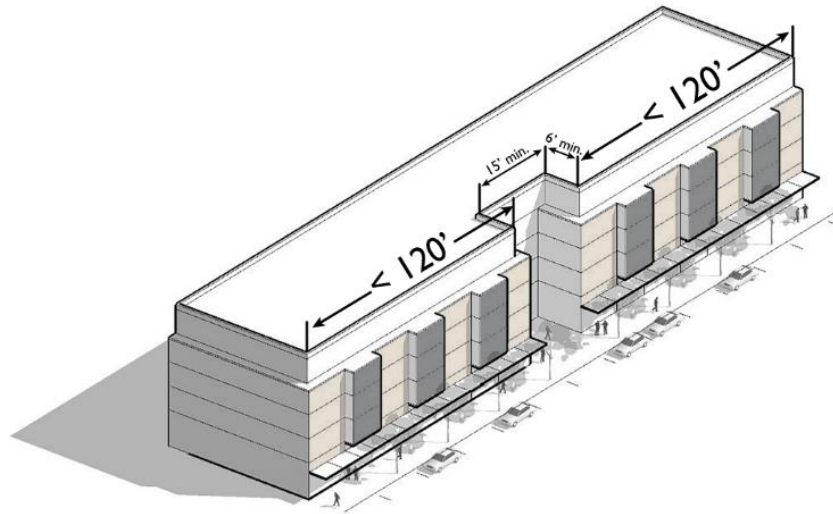
**C. Maximum façade width.** Building facades wider than 120 feet in length must include at least two major façade techniques to break up the massing of such a large building and add visual interest. This guideline applies to building elevations facing public streets or containing primary building entrances.

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1. Provide vertical building modulation at least six-feet deep and 15-feet wide. For multi-story buildings, the modulation must extend through at least one-half of the building floors. This option counts as two major façade techniques.
2. Use of a contrasting vertical modulated design component featuring all of the following:
  - a. Utilizes a change in building materials that effectively contrast from the rest of the façade.
  - b. Component is modulated vertically from the rest of the façade by at least 12-inches.This option counts as one major façade technique.
3. Façade employs building walls with contrasting articulation that make it appear like multiple distinct buildings. To qualify for this option, these contrasting façades must employ all of the following:
  - a. Different building materials and/or configuration of building materials.
  - b. Contrasting window design (sizes or configurations).
  - c. Contrasting components are modulated vertically from each other by at least 12-inches.This option counts as one major façade technique.
4. DESIGN MODIFICATIONS to subsections (C)(1-3) will be considered provided the design meets the intent of the Guidelines. The following are additional supplemental considerations for approving DESIGN MODIFICATIONS:
  - a. Width of the façade. The larger the façade, the more substantial articulation/ modulation features need to be.
  - b. The type of articulation treatment and how effective it is in meeting the intent given the building's context.



**Figure 3.1.C.1**  
**Illustrating maximum façade width guidelines.**



More than 120' wide: This building meets the guideline because it incorporates a courtyard along the façade (technique #1 noted above) to effectively break it up into smaller components.



Figure 3.1.C.2

Maximum façade width good and bad examples.



The central portion of the left building (Image A) employs substantial horizontal and vertical modulation (from adjacent building elevation segments), a different mix of façade materials, distinctive rooflines and different window fenestration techniques to effectively break up the building massing. Image B building employs an effective mix of modulation, material, color, roofline, and fenestration changes.



Image C building – while the modulated features are repetitive, the contrast and width of the modulated components are effective. Image D building employs distinct facades to lend the appearance that it is several different buildings.

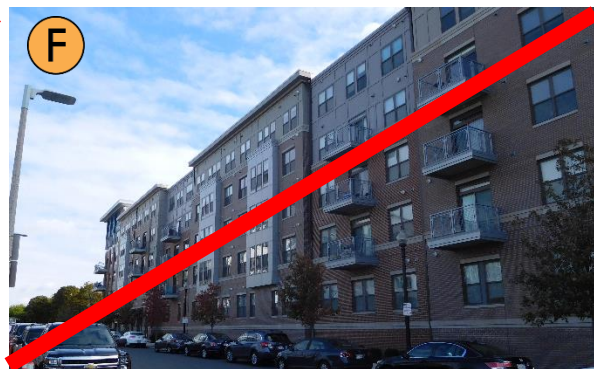


Image E and F buildings feature a combination of modest vertical modulation, roofline modulation, and window fenestration techniques, but lack the techniques to visually break up its expansive and repetitious façade length.

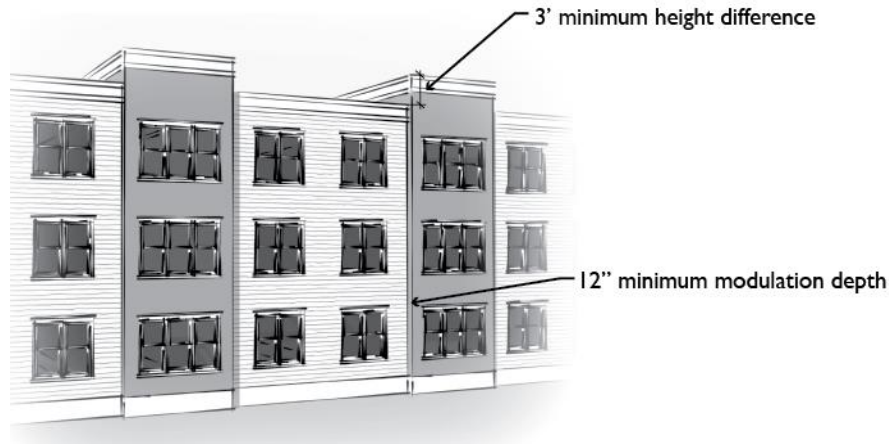
**D. Roofline modulation.** Roofline modulation is not required on all buildings. However, it can be used as one of the façade articulation features in subsection (A) above. In order to qualify as an articulation feature, rooflines must employ one or more of the following:

1. For flat roofs or façades with horizontal eave, fascia, or parapet, the minimum vertical dimension of roofline modulation is either:
  - a. Three-feet when combined with vertical building modulation techniques described in subsection 3.1(A)(7) above.
  - b. Otherwise, the greater of four-feet or 0.2 multiplied by the wall height.
2. A pitched roofline or gabled roofline segment of at least 20-feet in width. Buildings with pitched roofs must include a minimum slope of 4:12 and feature modulated roofline components at the interval required per the applicable guideline above.
3. A combination of the above.

DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be considered provided the roofline modulation design effectively reduces the perceived scale of the building and adds visual interest.

**Figure 3.1.D**

**Acceptable examples of roofline modulation.**



Roofline modulation qualifies as an articulation feature when combined with vertical building modulation techniques.



The left building illustrates a pitched roof example and the right building illustrates a flat roof example.



- E. DESIGN MODIFICATIONS for maximum building length.** Buildings may exceed the maximum building length standards when in compliance with subsections (1-2) below effectively reduces the perceived length of the building, adds visual interest from all publicly accessible vantage points, and complies with pedestrian circulation guidelines herein:
1. The applicable provisions of subsections (A) through (D) above are met.
  2. The façade includes at least one of the following features:
    - a. Substantial change in horizontal direction/orientation of the building footprint, such as a bend of at least 15 degrees for a distance of at least 30 feet.
    - b. Change in building roofline of at least one story combined with substantial changes in façade design.
    - c. Other design techniques that effectively reduce the perceived length of the building, adds visual interest from all publicly accessible vantage points, and complies with pedestrian circulation guidelines herein.
  3. Location exemption. Buildings may be exempt from the requirements of subsections (1-2) above provided they are located in an area which is not highly visible from public streets or in an area abutting a hillside.

## 3.2 - Building Details

### Intent

- To encourage the incorporation of design details and small-scale elements into building façades that are attractive at a pedestrian scale.

### Design Criteria

- A. Cornice/roofline design.** Buildings employing a flat roof must employ a distinctive roofline that effectively provides an identifiable “top” to the building. This could include a traditional cornice line or a contemporary design that effectively defines the top of the building.
1. Such rooflines must be proportional to the size and scale of the building.
  2. Understated cornice lines are permitted depending on the materials and design of the base and middle elements in reinforcing the façade configuration.
  3. Rooftop solar units are permitted, provided the placement and design of units visible from the surrounding streetscape are carefully integrated into the overall design concept of the building.

Figure 3.2.A below illustrates acceptable and unacceptable examples.

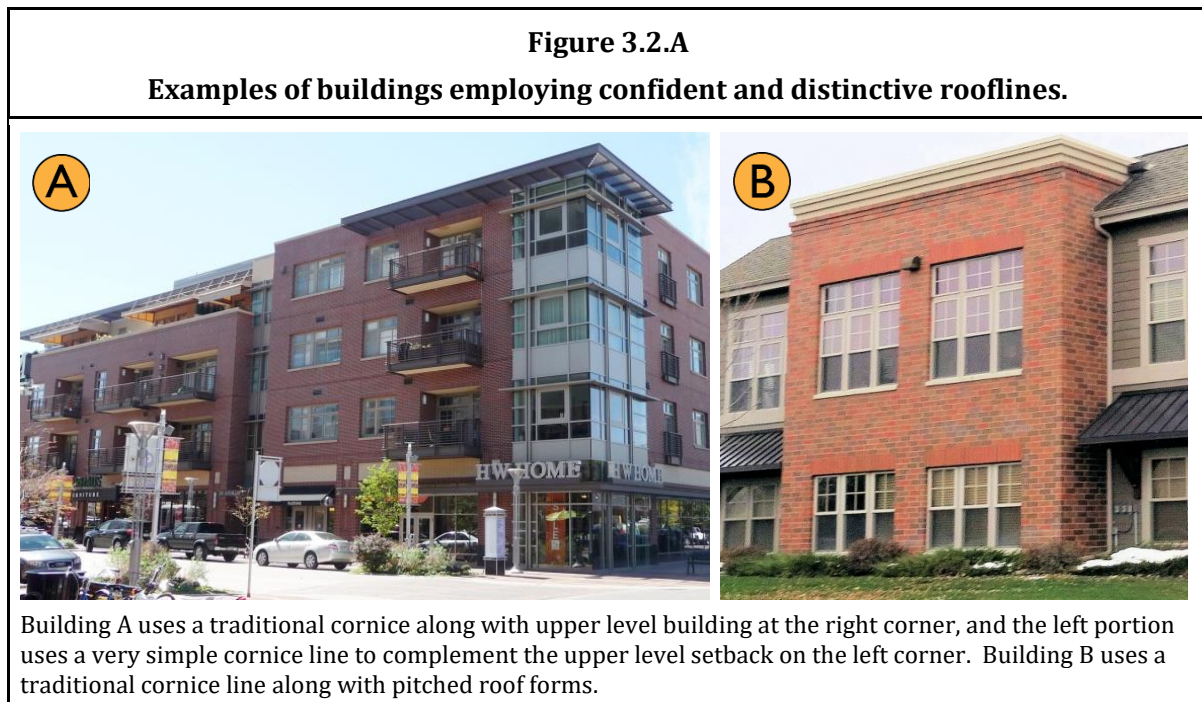
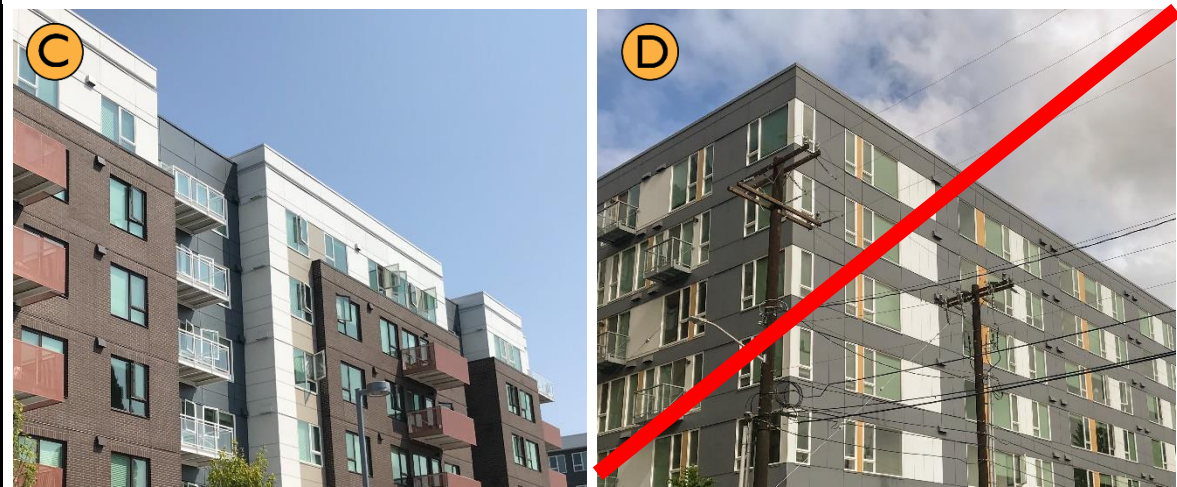


Figure 3.2.A

Examples of buildings employing confident and distinctive rooflines.



Building C uses a slight upper level modulation along with color and material change to create a distinctive roofline. Building D does not use any effective technique to distinguish the roofline.

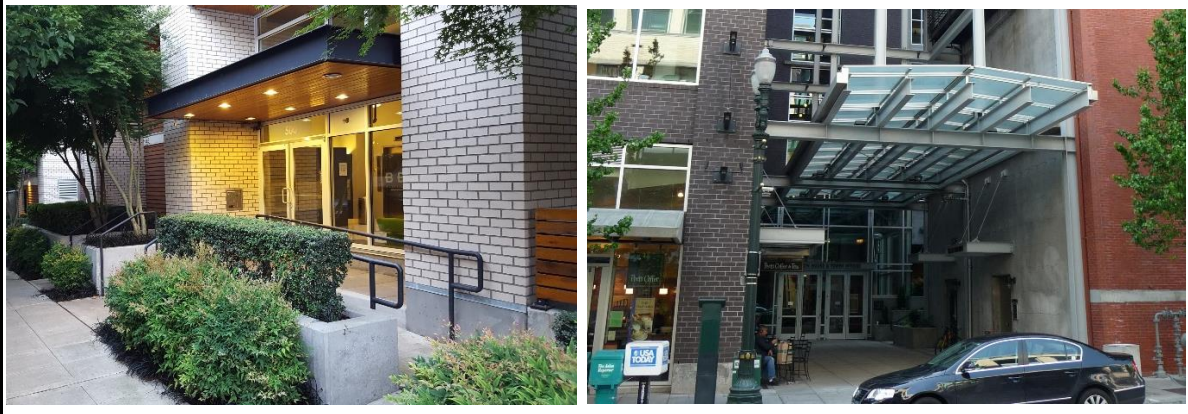
- B. Articulated building entries.** The primary building entrance must be designed as a clearly defined and demarcated standout architectural feature of the building. Such entrances must be easily distinguishable from private residential entrances on the building. Such entries must be scaled proportional to the building. See Figure 3.2.B below for good examples.

Figure 3.2.B

Acceptable building entry examples.



**Figure 3.2.B**  
**Acceptable building entry examples.**





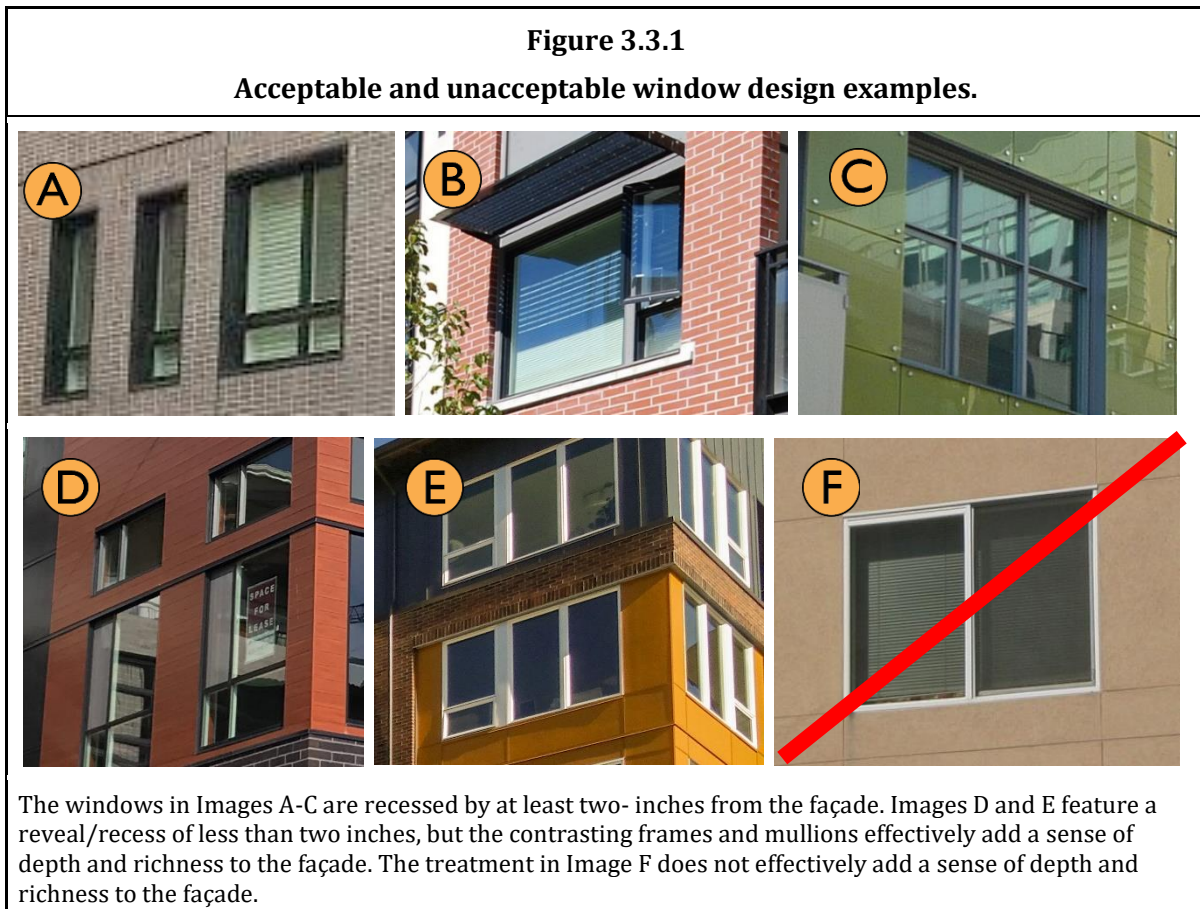
### 3.3 - Window Design

#### Intent

- To integrate window design that adds depth, richness, and visual interest to the façade.

#### Design Criteria

- A. All windows must employ designs that add depth and richness to the building façade. At least one of the following features must be included to meet this requirement:
  1. Recess windows at least two-inches from the façade.
  2. Incorporate window trim (at least three-inches wide) around windows.
  3. Incorporate other design treatments that add depth, richness, and visual interest to the façade.
- B. Highly reflective glass and mirrored glass must not be used on more than 10-percent of a building façade or other building elevations facing parks and containing primary building entrances.
- C. Frosted glass is allowed for ground floor residential units located within 15 feet of a public and semi-public realm areas (see section 2.1.C for related standards). The treatment shall not cover more than 50 percent of ground-level windows.





## 3.4 - Materials

### Intent

- To encourage the use of durable, high quality, and urban building materials that minimize maintenance cost and provide visual interest from all observable vantage points.
- To promote the use of a distinctive mix of materials that helps to articulate façades and lends a sense of depth and richness to the buildings.
- To place the highest priority in the quality and detailing of materials on the first floor at the pedestrian scale.

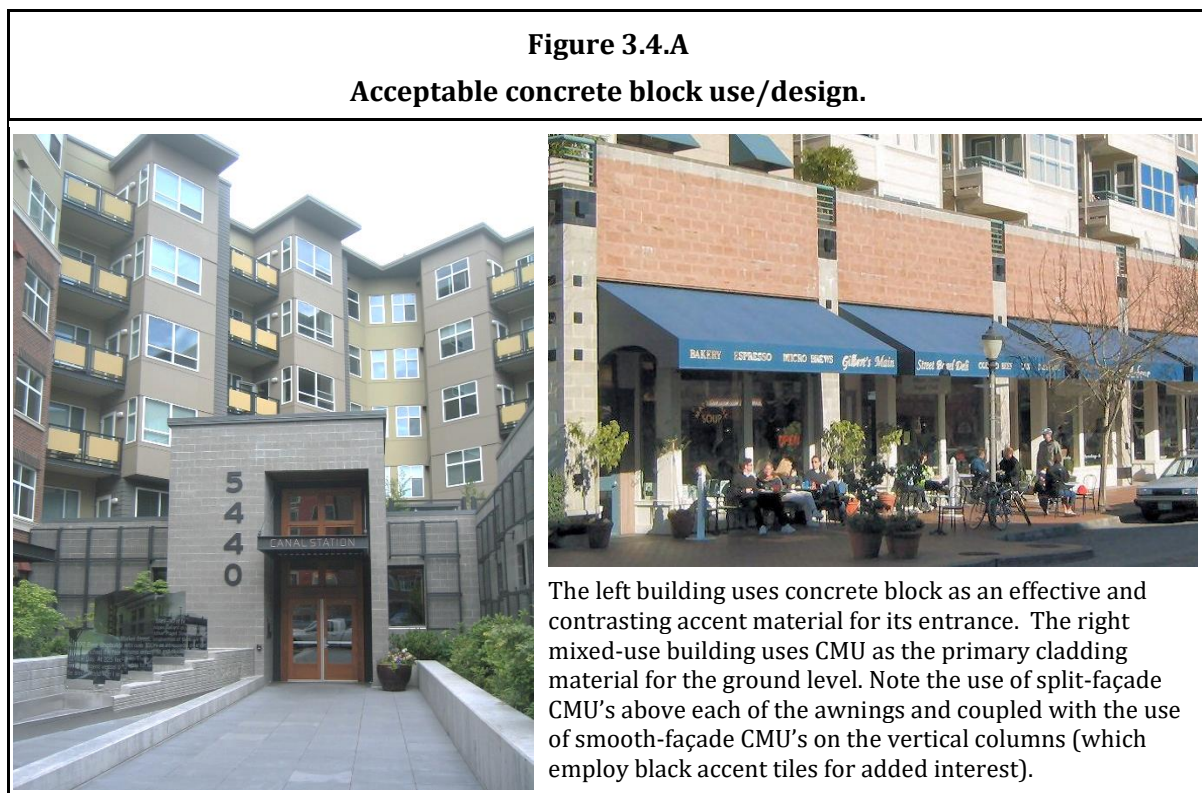
### Applicability

If a development includes concrete block, metal siding, exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS), or cementitious wall board paneling/siding on a building exterior, respectively the standards of subsections (A-D) below apply. These materials are not required and the use of other exterior materials is encouraged.

### Design Criteria

#### A. Concrete block (also known as concrete masonry unit or CMU).

Concrete block is only permitted on the ground level of residential and mixed-use buildings. It may be used as a contrasting accent material or the primary material when it employs a mixture of colors and/or textures or employs a combination of design details to articulate the building and add visual interest.



**B. Metal siding.**

Metal siding may be used on all building elevations provided it complies with the following guidelines:

1. It must feature visible corner molding and trim and does not extend to the ground level of non-residential and mixed-use buildings and no lower than two-feet above grade for residential buildings. Masonry, concrete, or other durable material must be incorporated between the metal siding and the ground plane.
2. Metal siding must be factory finished, with a matte, non-reflective surface.

DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be considered provided the material's integration and overall façade composition meets the intent of the Guidelines.

**Figure 3.4.B**  
**Acceptable metal siding examples**



Examples above integrate a range of metal siding with masonry and other materials.





Metal siding is the primary material for Buildings C and D, both of which integrate subtle changes in color to go with articulation features and design details.

**C. Exterior Insulation and Finish System (EIFS).**

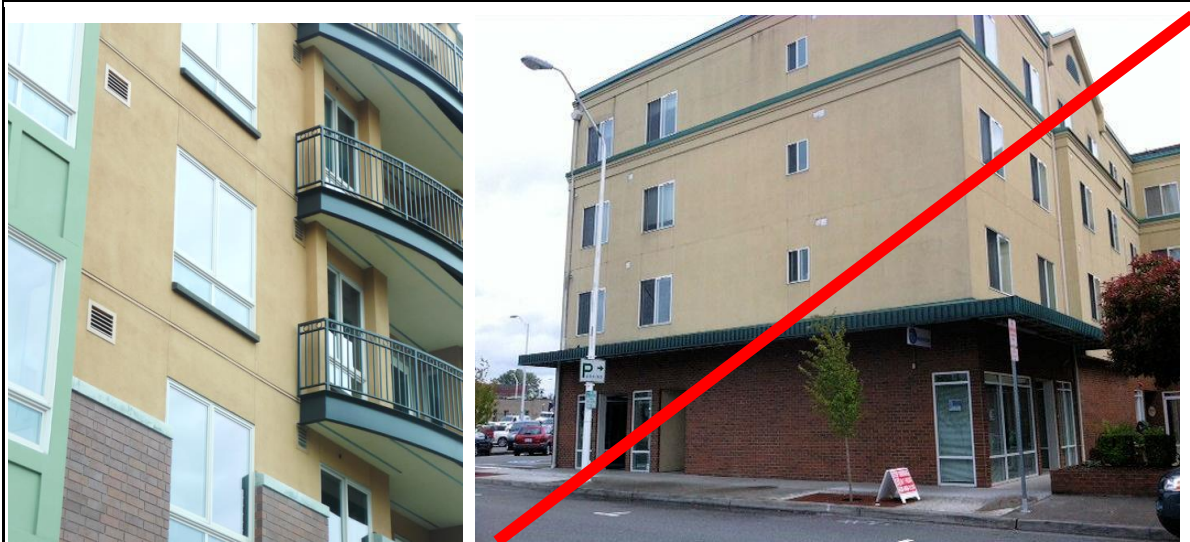
EIFS may be used when it complies with the following:

1. EIFS is limited to no more than 20-percent of the total façade area and may not be the primary cladding material.
2. EIFS must feature a smooth or sand finish only.
3. EIFS must be trimmed in wood, masonry, or other material and must be sheltered from weather by roof overhangs or other methods.
4. EIFS must not be used on the ground floor of building elevations. Concrete, masonry, or other highly durable material(s) must be used for the subject ground level building elevations to provide a durable surface where damage is most likely.

DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be considered provided the material’s integration and overall façade composition meets the intent of the Guidelines.

**Figure 3.4.C**

**Acceptable and unacceptable EIFS examples.**



Left image: Note the use of brick and decorative concrete block on the ground level and EIFS on the second floor. The window treatments visible on the second floor add depth and interest to the façade. Right image: EIFS is used for all building elevations above the first floor.

**D. Cementitious wall board paneling/siding.**

Cementitious wall board paneling/siding may be used provided it meets the following provisions:

1. Cement board paneling/siding may not be used on ground level facades containing non-residential uses.
2. Cement board paneling/siding may be the dominant exterior material but must be integrated with other acceptable materials (specifically, up to 70-percent of non-window exterior materials may be cement board paneling/siding). Where cement board paneling/siding is the dominant siding material, the design must integrate a mix of colors and/or textures that are articulated consistent with windows, balconies, and modulated building surfaces and are balanced with façade details that add visual interest from the ground level and adjacent buildings.

DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be considered provided the material's integration and overall façade composition meets the intent of the guidelines.

**Figure 3.4.D**  
**Acceptable and unacceptable cementitious wall board examples.**



The building in Images A-B use cementitious wall board in different textures and colors to help articulate the façade. The white color replicates the board and batten style in the left image and green color in the right image effectively replicates horizontal wood siding.

**Figure 3.4.D**  
**Acceptable and unacceptable cementitious wall board examples.**



The Image C building uses different color panels effectively to emphasize the façade's fenestration and modulation patterns. The wall board panels covering a large area in a single color as in Image D would not meet the intent of the guidelines.



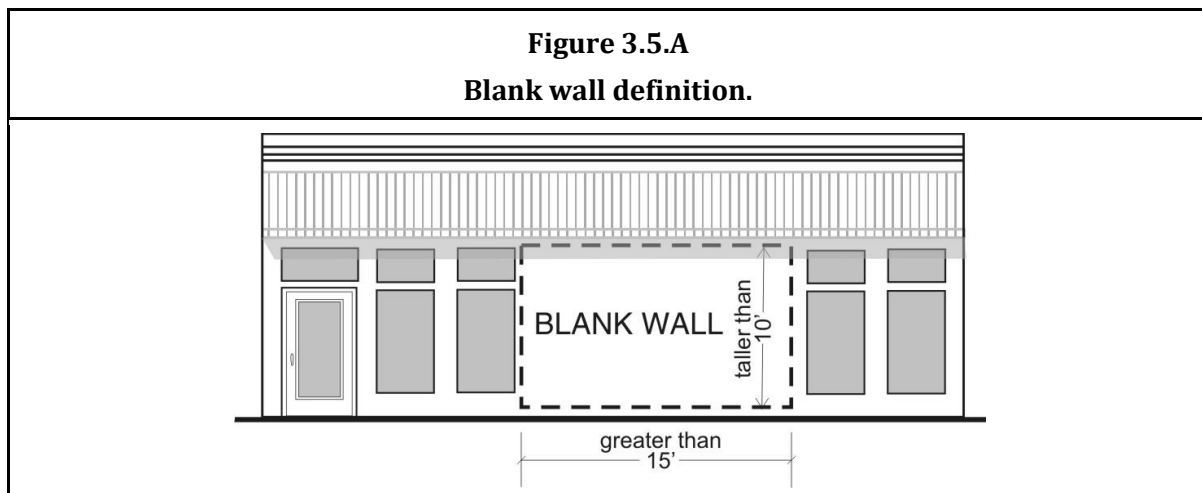
## 3.5 - Blank Wall Treatment

### Intent

- To avoid untreated blank walls.
- To retain and enhance the character of streetscapes.

### Design Criteria

- A. **Blank wall definition.** “Blank wall” means a ground floor wall or portion of a ground floor wall over 10-feet in height and a horizontal length greater than 15-feet and does not include a transparent window or door.



- B. **Blank wall treatment guidelines.** Untreated blank walls adjacent to a public or private street, pedestrian-oriented space, common recreation area, or pedestrian pathway are prohibited. Methods to treat blank walls on multi-family buildings can include:

1. Landscape planting bed at least five-feet wide, or a raised planter bed at least two-feet high and three-feet wide, in front of the wall. Planting materials must be sufficient to obscure or screen at least 60-percent of the wall’s surface within three years.
2. Installing a vertical trellis in front of the wall with climbing vines or plant materials.
3. Installing an artistic mural as approved by the Director.
4. Special building detailing that adds visual interest at a pedestrian scale. Such detailing must use a variety of surfaces; monotonous designs will not meet the intent of the guidelines.

For large visible blank walls, a variety of treatments may be required to meet the intent of the guidelines.

DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be considered provided the entire façade composition meets the intent of the Guidelines for the context of the wall (e.g., walls along pathway corridors connecting parking areas to building entries might be granted more flexibility than street facades).

**Figure 3.5.B**  
**Blank wall treatment examples.**



Image A uses an artistic mural and Image B uses a landscape planting bed. Image C includes a landscape planting bed with shrubs too low to meet the screening requirement. Image D includes simple detailing (color changes) and a landscape planting bed which are ineffective in screening or treating the blank wall.

## 3.6 – Structured Parking Design

### Intent

- Maintain “eyes on the street” for safety.
- Reduce the visual impact of structured parking facilities on the streetscape and residential environment.
- Create a welcoming, safe, convenient, and comfortable pedestrian environment.
- Integrate the design of parking structures with surrounding development.
- Emphasize active ground floor uses on street-facing sides of parking structures.

### Design Criteria

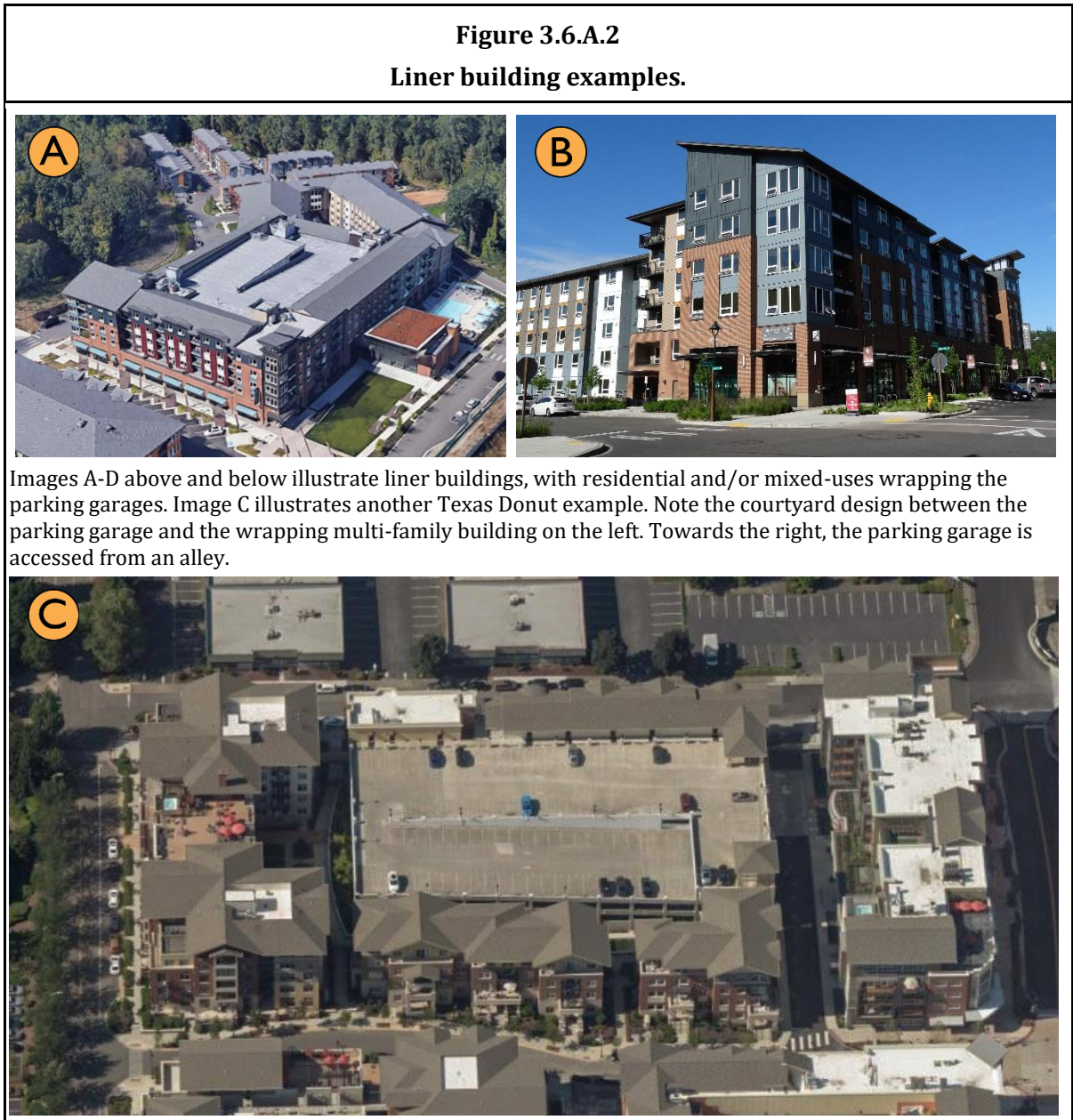
#### A. Preferences and Guidelines for integrating structured parking facilities into multi-family buildings.

1. First choice. Preferably, parking is located under multi-family buildings and not visible from the street and residential recreational space. While underground parking may not be viable, designs where landscaped berms or terraces hide parking from the street can help accomplish this objective. See examples in Figure 3.6.A.1.





2. Second choice. Liner building designs that wrap residential units around an internal parking structure is an effective design tool to hide parking and thus is acceptable. See examples in Figure 3.6.A.2.

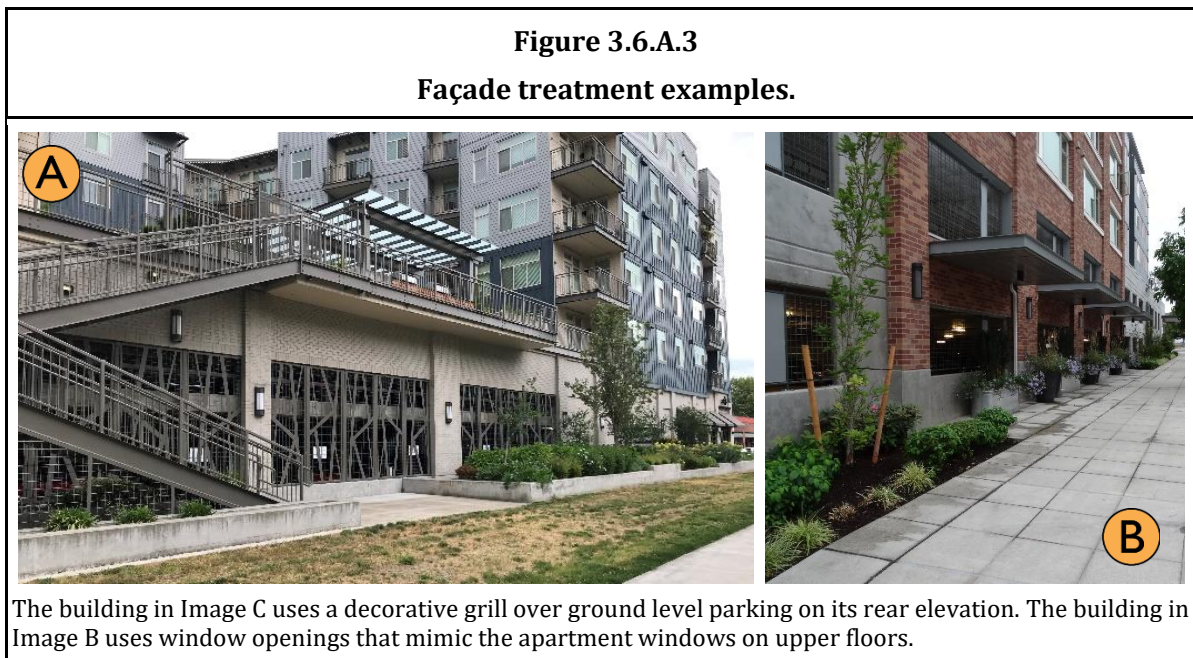


3. Third choice. While exposed structured parking facilities are prohibited along public and private street frontages and adjacent to recreation space, such exposed facilities are acceptable along other elevations provided they are integrated into the design of the building. Specifically:

Employ façade articulation techniques necessary to comply with the massing and articulation guidelines in Section 3.1, building details guidelines in Section 3.2, materials guidelines in Section 3.4, and blank wall treatment guidelines in Section 3.5. For example, parking garages can incorporate openings with grillwork or other treatments to resemble

windows. Designs where lower level structured parking visually dominate the design of the buildings and create a sense of great separation between dwelling units and the adjacent ground plane (particularly the street and applicable resident recreational space) are prohibited.

See acceptable examples in Figure 3.6.A.3 below.



**B. Garage entries.**

1. Parking garage entries must be well-integrated into the design of the building and must not dominate the streetscape. They should be designed and sited to complement, not subordinate, the pedestrian entry.
2. Where vehicles enter and exit a parking garage across a sidewalk or internal path, direct visibility between pedestrians and motorists shall be provided. Options include setback entries, cropped wall corners, wall openings, or other treatments to enhance safety and visibility. Mirrors and electronic visual/audio warnings alone are not acceptable methods of visibility.



**Figure 3.6.B**  
**Acceptable parking garage entries**



Examples of garage entries well integrated into the building's design and featuring good pedestrian visibility.

- C. Free-standing parking garages.** Free-standing parking garages may be acceptable provided:
1. They are located away from public streets, generally behind other structures.
  2. They comply with applicable building design provisions in Sections 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, and 3.5, except:
    - a. Less visible parking garage elevations warrant greater flexibility in the application of the building design guidelines.
    - b. Parking garages are subject to articulation intervals (see Section 3.1.a) of 60 feet minimum (instead of 30 feet) and only two articulation features are required. Greater flexibility may be given to less visible
    - c. Parking garages more than 120 feet from a public street or not visible from a public street are exempt from the maximum façade width guidelines in Section 3.1.b.
    - d. Landscaped buffer elements including landscaped setbacks with tall evergreen plantings and/or trellis structures with vine plants are encouraged.

**Figure 3.6.C**

**Acceptable freestanding parking garage examples.**



Image A is located along a service road. The landscaping trellis screen creates an attractive “green” wall. The vertical columns and trellis/vines help to articulate the garage in Image B.

## PART 4 - TOWNHOUSE DESIGN

### Relation to Other Guidelines

Townhouse developments are subject to applicable Guidelines in Part 2 and Part 3 of this document, except some Guidelines below supersede them as they are specific to townhouses.

## 4.1 - Façade Design & Articulation

### Intent

- To enhance the character of streets with low-density residential uses.
- To reduce the apparent bulk and scale of large townhouse/rowhouse buildings.
- To promote architectural variety that adds visual interest to the community.

### Relation to Other Codes

This section supplements the provisions of TMC 18.50.083, Maximum Building Length, and TMC Figure 18-5, Multi-Family Design Guideline.

### Design Criteria

- A. Townhouse buildings must comply with residential building articulation Guidelines in Section 3.1 except that the articulation intervals must be no wider than the width of units in the building. Thus, if individual units are 15-feet wide, the building must include the required minimum three articulation features at intervals no greater than 15-feet on all façades facing a street, common outdoor recreation area, or common parking area.
- B. Repetition with variety. See Figures 4.1.B below. Townhouse developments must employ one or more of the following “repetition with variety” articulation Guidelines:
  1. Reversing the elevation of two out of four dwellings.
  2. Providing different building elevations for end units (units on the end or corner of a building) by changing the roofline, articulation, windows, and/or building modulation patterns.
  3. Adding a different dwelling design or different scale of the same design, such as adding a two-story version of the basic dwelling design where three-stories are typical.
  4. Other design treatments that add variety or provide special visual interest, such as different cladding materials, window sizes and groupings, roof slopes, porch designs, balconies, etc. While the variable use of color on buildings can be effective in reducing the perceived scale of the building and adding visual interest, color changes alone are not sufficient to meet the intent of the guidelines.



**Figure 4.1.B**

**Repetition with variety examples.**



A. Different elevation for end units.

B. Alternating roofline.

C & D. Alternating articulation (roofline, siding style, color, and window fenestration).



## 4.2 – Internal Drive Aisles

### **Intent**

- To enhance the character and safety of internal drive aisles.
- To de-emphasize garages and drive aisles as major visual elements along internal drive aisles.

### **Applicability**

This section applies to private driveways and internal drive aisles shared between multiple townhouse units or buildings.

### **Design Criteria**

- A. Entries on internal drive aisles. For townhouses where the primary pedestrian access to the dwelling is from an alley or private internal vehicular access, buildings must emphasize individual pedestrian entrances instead of private garages by using both of the following measures:
1. Enhance entries with a trellis, small porch, or other architectural features that provides cover for a person entering the unit and a transitional space between outside and inside the dwelling.
  2. Provide a planted area in front of each pedestrian entry of at least 20-square-feet in area, with no dimension less than four-feet.

DESIGN MODIFICATIONS will be considered, provided they meet the intent of the Guidelines.

**Figure 4.2.A**

**Acceptable and unacceptable examples of garage/entry configurations.**



The views of each of these three examples include the primary pedestrian entrance. The left example features a landscaped area and a trellis to highlight the entry. In the middle image, the balconies and landscaped areas deemphasize the garage. In the right image, the lack of landscaping near the entries would not be allowed (where this is the primary pedestrian entry to the unit).

- B. Minimum building separation.** Minimum building separation along uncovered internal drive aisles must be 24-feet. The purpose is to provide adequate turning radius, allow for landscaping elements along at least one side of the drive aisle, and allow for adequate light and air for the

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townhouses adjacent to the drive aisle. Projections into this minimum building separation Guideline are permitted provided no portion of the building is within 20-feet of another building across from an internal drive aisle.

- C. Driveway depths.** Developments are encouraged to limit driveway depths to 12-feet or less to encourage residents to keep their vehicles in their garage and avoid the pattern of parked cars in front of townhouse buildings. Separate guest/overflow parking spaces shall be provided onsite.

**Figure 4.2.B-C**

**Acceptable and unacceptable internal drive aisles and townhouse separation**



The left example features landscaped strips between each driveway whereas the right example features no landscaping and cantilevering living spaces are within 20-feet of each other.





## CITY OF TUKWILA PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

- Date:** June 10, 2021  
**Time:** 6:30 PM  
**Location:** Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams
- Present:** Chair Louise Strander; Commissioners Dennis Martinez, Sharon Mann, Dixie Stark, and Andrea Reay
- Excused  
Absence:** Vice Chair Karen Simmons
- Staff:** Department of Community Development (DCD): Acting Planning Supervisor Nancy Eklund, Senior Planner Max Baker; Business Relations Manager Brandon Miles; and Planning Commission (PC) Secretary Wynetta Bivens
- Protocols:** Nancy Eklund, Acting Planning Supervisor, DCD, went over the virtual meeting protocols.
- Quorum:** PC Secretary confirmed that a quorum of PC members was present.
- Adopt  
Minutes:** Commissioner Mann moved to adopt the 5/27/21 minutes.  
Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### PUBLIC HEARING

**Chair Strander** opened the public hearing for:

- CASE NUMBERS:** L19-0115  
**PURPOSE:** Adoption of design standards and guidelines for residential development in the Tukwila South Overlay (TSO) District.  
**LOCATION:** TSO District; north of S 204th St, west of Duwamish River, south of S 180th, east of Orillia Rd/I-5

A comment letter was received from Mike Pruett, for the applicant, on 6/7/21 and forwarded to the PC. At the 4/22/21 public hearing, the PC directed staff and the applicant to work together on unresolved issues. The applicant noted in their comment letter that staff resolved most of the concerns they raised. But they were directed by staff to submit a comment letter to the PC attention to address the following two remaining unresolved issues: (Comment # 6) The size threshold for larger off-site recreation areas; and (Comment # 11) The maximum allowable block perimeter. These comments were in the staff report in the 6/10/21 PC packet and were also included in the 4/21/21 public comment letter.



**Max Baker**, Senior Planner, DCD, gave the presentation for staff. He provided a recap of the project. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, he walked through staff's responses to the comments in the applicant's comment letters, submitted on 4/21/21 and 6/7/21.

Following are the applicant's comments/requests to the proposed Development Standards and Design Guidelines, along with Staff's responses:

- Comment 1: Existing TSO recreation space requirements should not be used for the rest of Tukwila South.  
Staff's response: Staff agrees.
- Comment 2: Senior citizens recreation space to be onsite or offsite, with a 50/50 indoor/outdoor ratio.  
Staff's response: Staff agrees – but recommended a 40/60 indoor/outdoor ratio.
- Comment 3: Applicant does not support the last sentence of note #4, "As part of any proposal to allow off-site recreation area to be constructed on-site, the applicant shall demonstrate why off-site recreation space is impractical to be provided, due to geography, accessibility, or costs." Applicant believes this would only make it more burdensome to locate recreation space onsite/close to a residential project. And suggest removal of this sentence.  
Staff's response: Staff agrees.
- Comment 4: The point of measurement for the one-quarter to one-half mile offsite recreation area determination be revised to read, "closest perimeter of the residential project."  
Staff's response: Staff proposed revised language: "Off-site recreation area must be accessible within one-quarter mile for a children's play area, replacing the onsite requirement to one-half mile for other offsite recreation area as measured from the closest structure containing residential units."
- Comment 5: Relocation of this section.  
Staff's response: Staff accepts relocation.
- Comment 6: Decrease from 2.5 acres to 2.0 acres to better correspond to actual planned park area...  
Staff's response: Staff recommends the 2.5-acre standard for delayed recreation space banking remain, which was a collaborative recommendation by Parks and Recreation.
- Comment 7: The applicant was unclear what constitutes a steep slope and what is measured as offsite recreation.  
Staff's response: Staff provided clarifying language to read, "Only the area of improvement, within a sensitive area tract would count towards the recreation space requirement, not the entire tract."
- Comment 8: The applicant noted that the one-quarter mile measurement is for a child's play area.  
Staff's response: Staff concurred.
- Comment 9: Applicant suggested redlined language may be easier to measure as the perimeter is easy to find, as opposed to 50% of the proposed units.  
Staff's response: Staff recommended language to read, "The closest structure containing residential units must be located within one-quarter mile... (accessory buildings excluded)."

Comment 10: Connectivity and circulation language should be a guideline and not a standard.  
Staff's response: Staff recommended connectivity requirements are incorporated as part of the Tukwila Municipal Code (TMC) 18.41 (Regulations for connectivity are typically located within the TMC, making them "standards.")

Comment 11: The applicant is concerned that this requirement is too restrictive and at odds with other design standards and guidelines. They are requesting to maintain the current language but increase the maximum block perimeter from 1,800 feet to 2,000 feet.  
Staff's response: Staff recommends the maximum block perimeter of 1,800 feet remain.

**Mike Pruett**, for the applicant, provided clarification on the issues associated with the request to reduce (comment # 6) from 2.5 acres to 2 acres. He stated the trigger to delay timing of offsite recreation space to a later date is more important than the size threshold. He emphasized that the time is triggered by the acreage. He said an outcome of 2.5 acres will not help this site and that he would not build the park with a 2.5 acreage. Therefore, anything for offsite recreation would not get developed. He stated that means 696 residential units will not get built because he would be concerned with future impacts to their project after it is finished. He reiterated that they are asking for the flexibility of extra time. In response to a PC question, the applicant stated that their request is specific to the site location, because King County has been working on a levy setback project adjacent to their property.

He also provided explanation on why it is important to have some flexibility on the block perimeter (comment # 11). He said the increase from 1,800 feet to 2,000 feet would mean less expense per unit for the development, which would potentially make the units more affordable for the community. He said he appreciates the Director's ability to make modifications but developers from outside the area would view it as uncertainty and take their capital to other jurisdictions.

PC inquired as to the reasoning behind the recommendation for 700-foot maximum block face length and why blocks in the Tukwila Urban Center appear to be 1,000 feet in length or greater. Staff stated that their recommendation was based on best practice findings, such as the American Planning Associations (APA) recommendation that street blocks be no longer than 600-feet in length and that a block perimeter be no larger than 2,000 feet in circumference for residential projects. Staff also noted the Tukwila Urban Center chapter of the TMC contains regulations aimed at reducing the historically large block face lengths in the district. The applicant provided additional clarification of their objective as well.

PC walked through each of the 11 comments.

### **PC Recommendations:**

Comment #1: The PC were in consensus with staff's recommendation.  
Comment #2: The PC were in consensus with staff's recommendation.  
Comment #3: The PC were in consensus with staff's recommendation.  
Comment #4: The PC were in consensus with staff's recommendation.  
Comment #5: The PC were in consensus with staff's recommendation.  
Comment #6: The PC were not in consensus with staff's recommendation for the 2.5-acre standard to remain. The PC recommended that the applicant's preferred standard of 2.0 acres for delayed recreation space banking be approved.  
Comment #7: The PC were in consensus with staff's recommendation.  
Comment #8: The PC were in consensus with staff's recommendation.

Comment #9: The PC were in consensus with staff's recommendation.  
Comment #10: The PC were in consensus with staff's recommendation.  
Comment #11: The PC did not agree with staff, and recommended approval of the applicant's request to increase the block perimeter to 2,000 feet.

### **Public Testimony:**

There were no public comments. The public hearing was closed.

### **PC Deliberation:**

The PC asked clarifying questions on comment number 6. To obtain additional clarification Chair Strander re-opened the public hearing and the PC asked additional clarifying questions. The public hearing was re-closed.

### **Motions:**

**Commissioner Mann** moved to approve Case Number L19-0115 for comment numbers 1-5, and comment numbers 7-10, with staff's recommendations and forward them to the City Council for their review, excluding comment numbers 6 and 11. Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**Commissioner Reay** moved to approve Case Number L19-0115 for comment number 11 for the block perimeter as amended from 1,800 feet to 2,000 feet and forward to the City Council for their review. Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Commissioner Stark** moved to approve Case Number L19-0115 for comment number 6 as amended from 2.5 acres to 2.0 acres. Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion. Motion passed. Commissioner Mann opposed.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

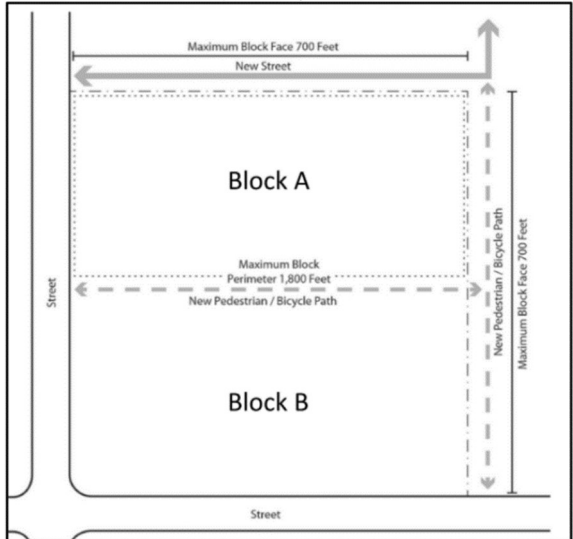
Staff asked the PC to provide feedback on the feasibility of having an additional meeting in August and/or September, as well as October, or whether it was preferable to address multiple items during the scheduled meetings.

- Staff will determine specific dates as soon as possible and poll the Commission on availability and to determine quorum for additional meetings.

Adjourned: 9:35 p.m.  
Submitted by: Wynetta Bivens  
Planning Commission Secretary

**Attachment C**

**Matrix comparing DCD and Planning Commission recommendations**

<b>City Staff</b>	<b>Planning Commission</b>
<p><u>Staff recommended that offsite recreation areas be 2.5 acres or great to qualify for banking:</u>  <i>Any offsite recreation area developed in excess of the offsite recreation area requirement for a given development, regardless of their size and subject to the ¼ acre size minimum, may be banked toward future development for an indefinite period. Should a larger, consolidated recreation area of 2.5 acres or more be provided, the improvements can be used to fulfill current development proposal requirements.</i></p> <p>This recommendation for a 2.5 acre offsite recreation area was developed following review by the Parks and Recreation Department and the staff's consultant group, NBBJ Design. 2.5 acres has been found to accommodate the activities and structures that typically provide for a successful and well-used community park.</p>	<p>Segale Properties requested <i>“changing the 2.5 acres to 2.0 acres to better correspond to actual planned park areas.”</i></p> <p><u>The PC recommended that the applicant's desire for reduced standard of 2.0 acres for delayed recreation space banking be approved instead.</u></p>
<p><u>Staff recommended that the TSO establish a maximum block perimeter of 1,800 ft.</u>  <i>Future block development is encouraged to create a maximum block perimeter of 1,800 linear feet. The block will be defined with a minimum of two vehicle through connections. The remaining two sides of the block may be pedestrian/bicycle connections only or could accommodate vehicle traffic, see example below.</i></p> <p>The block perimeter standard was considered as one of the less burdensome connectivity options suggested and would provide projects with flexibility to meet connectivity requirements. Increasing this measurement from 1,800' to 2,000' would increase block perimeters 10+% overall.</p>  <p>The diagram shows two blocks, Block A and Block B, situated between a 'Street' on the left and another 'Street' at the bottom. Block A is the upper portion, and Block B is the lower portion. A 'New Street' is shown at the top, with a dimension line indicating a 'Maximum Block Face 700 Feet'. A 'New Pedestrian / Bicycle Path' is shown along the right side of Block A, with a dimension line indicating a 'Maximum Block Face 700 Feet'. A dashed line around Block A indicates a 'Maximum Block Perimeter 1,800 Feet'. A 'New Pedestrian / Bicycle Path' is also shown along the right side of Block B.</p>	<p>Segale Properties requested <i>“increase the maximum block perimeter from 1800 feet to 2000 feet, which would provide for a pedestrian/bicycle connection every 300 feet instead of 200 feet, which is consistent with Section 2.2 of the Residential Design Guidelines (Pedestrian Circulation) and also allow for development of a 200-foot-long building within the block example shown.”</i></p> <p><u>The PC did not agree with staff's recommendations and recommended approval of the applicant's request to increase the block perimeter to 2,000 feet.</u></p>