



PLANNING COMMISSION

City Hall—Council Chambers, 3989 Central Ave NE

Tuesday, January 07, 2025

6:00 PM

AGENDA

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

Members of the public who wish to attend may do so in-person, or by using Microsoft Teams Meeting at columbiaheightsmn.gov/joinameeting: ID 252 586 988 371, Passcode ugquG3. For questions, please contact Administration at 763-706-3610.

Auxiliary aids or other accommodations for individuals with disabilities are available upon request when the request is made at least 72 hours in advance. Please contact Administration at 763-706-3610 to make arrangements.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Accept December 3, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

1. Accept December 3, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. Zoning Ordinance Amendments to amend Chapter 9 – Land Use:
 - 9.104 Administration and Enforcement
 - 9.106 General Development Standards
 - 9.107 Specific Development Standards
 - 9.110 Commercial Districts
 - 9.111 Industrial Districts

MOTION: Move to waive the reading of draft Ordinance amendment No. 1709, there being ample copies available to the public.

MOTION: Move to recommend City Council approve draft Ordinance amendment No. 1709, a Zoning Ordinance Amendment, as presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

3. Discussion on SolSmart Memo
4. Discussion on Complete Streets and Design Guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT

Auxiliary aids or other accommodations for individuals with disabilities are available upon request when the request is made at least 72 hours in advance. Please contact Administration at 763-706-3610 to make arrangements.

**MINUTES
CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Wolfe.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Eric Sahnaw, Tom Kaiser, Paul Moses, Clara Wolfe, Ahmed Maameri, and John Gianoulis

Commissioners absent: Laurel Deneen

Also present: Andrew Boucher, City Planner; Sarah LaVoie, Administrative Assistant; Mitch Forney, Community Development Director; Rachel James, Council Liaison.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of November 06, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Sahnaw, seconded by Maameri, to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 04, 2024. All ayes. MOTION PASSED.

OTHER BUSINESS

2. Planning Commission Workshop Items

- a. **Zoning Permits in 9.104 (Seasonal Sales Stands, Accessory Structures under 200 sq. ft., Fencing over 6 feet in height, and Parking/Impervious Surfaces)**
- b. **Permitted and Conditional Uses in Zones**
- c. **Accessory Dwelling Unit Permits.**
- d. **Parking Discussion**

Introduction: Boucher explained that Staff desire to have the Planning Commission more engaged with the City Code and Ordinances in order to receive feedback. Forney mentioned that the meeting would be more informal since Staff simply want to get feedback from the commissioners. Boucher added that he would like to have motions if there is anything specific the Planning Commission would like to move forward with.

Boucher mentioned the first discussion item is 9.104 Administration and Enforcement - Interim Uses are no longer applicable in the Zoning Code as there are no uses at this point that would require an Interim Use Permit. Staff would like to bring forward a zoning text amendment in the future to replace Interim Uses with a Zoning Review Permit. This would allow for certain items such as over-height fences, seasonal sales stands, accessory structures under 200 sq. ft., and parking/impervious surface additions to be reviewed administratively as well as establishing a permit for Accessory Dwelling Units.

Forney explained that the City Attorney gave an opinion on the conditional use permit approval process with the Planning Commission. If the Planning Commission finds something wrong with th

engineering of the fence, there is no way for the Planning Commission to consider disapproving it without opening up for liability for the lawsuit. The opinion from the City Attorney would remove that option from the conditional permit perspective and have an administrative review. If the fence meets building permit and engineering requirements than it will be approved.

Questions/Comments from Members:

Kaiser asked for an example of when Staff may want the Planning Commission to have oversight for an over-height fence. Boucher replied that the Public Safety since it needed a variance to exceed the 8-foot height. Forney added that there are not many other examples.

Sahnaw asked questions about the ADU process and how staff planned to enforce the owner-occupied recording requirement if someone doesn't inform the City of their intention to build an ADU. Forney explained the ADU permit. The City Code requires ADUs to show ownership of the units. By having a permit process, the City is able to know if people are doing ADUs correctly and have recorded it against the property.

Kaiser asked if there was going to be an issue with recording the correct documents with the County. Boucher replied that he did not know if it would amplify anything that they are currently dealing with, but having a process in place allows people to be more willing to speak with City Staff and to do it correctly. There is also a requirement to provide proof that the owner-occupancy was recorded.

Introduction: Boucher reviewed Zoning Code 9.107 Specific Development Standards changes would include requiring a sound study as a specific condition for car washes as well as considering adding a minimum of one acre of property to this use along with recreational vehicle sales.

Questions/Comments from Members:

Wolfe asked if there were other uses that should include a requirement of a sound study as a specific development standard. Forney replied that Staff had the same question. He added that he could not think of any other businesses that would have a blower similar to a car wash.

Kaiser asked Staff what they envisioned for using a sound study. Boucher replied that it would be subject to the performance standards that the MPCA has. A sound study helps Staff from a negotiation perspective to make specific conditions based on the results of the sound study.

Wolfe wondered if a sound study could be included for a car wash. Forney replied that it was possible, especially for gas stations with vacuums out front.

Gianoulis asked how a sound study would be conducted for a brand-new auto shop. Forney replied that they would test similar properties. He added that the sound study would apply to new properties. If there is already an auto shop in place it would not trigger the site plan review.

Gianoulis wondered if it would make the most sense to have the applicant cover the cost of the

sound study. Boucher agreed.

Forney explained that by having the sound study in the beginning of the project, it will allow sound engineers to propose changes. If the applicant cannot perform the changes, than the project would not be viable.

Introduction: Forney explained that 9.110 Commercial Districts and 9.111 Industrial Districts will include removing fences greater than six feet in height from conditional uses to permitted accessory uses as well as adjusting General Business (GB) to move minor automobile and motorcycle repair and car washes from permitted uses to conditional uses along with consignment/secondhand stores from conditional uses to permitted uses. In I-1 and I-2 Districts, major and minor automobile repair shops could have changed from permitted to conditional uses unless there is a desire to continue to have these as permitted uses.

Boucher asked if the commissioners had a desire to change automobile uses in the Industrial Districts from permitted to conditional.

Questions/Comments from Members:

Wolfe commented on whether there was anything in City Code that identifies a specific trigger for a traffic study. Boucher explained that there is not anything specifically in Code but Staff relies on the concept of levels of service. If a development is shown to decrease the levels of service or bring them to believe a certain standard they would not be able to be approved.

Forney noted that it would be a good topic for another work session so Staff can do research on sound studies and bring back what other cities are doing with regard to requirements for traffic studies and metrics that they use. Boucher added the banquet hall was required to provide a transportation management plan.

Maameri mentioned that there are going to be businesses that will say they cannot afford to do a traffic study or question how it makes sense for them to do one. He added that Staff will need to show businesses where it is in the Code so that it is clear that it is a requirement.

Introduction: Boucher explained 9.106 General Development Standards includes parking items for discussion, specifically around multi-family parking standards. The City currently does not define parking requirements by zone apart from the Central Business District, which is an off-street parking district where off-street parking is not required for nonresidential land uses but is required for residential uses. Many multi-family developments proposed within the City are handled as PUDs rather than proceeding by right or requiring only rezoning. The Limited Business (LB) district also has difficulty meeting off-street parking requirements and as a result, the majority of these properties are considered legally nonconforming.

Forney wondered if it was time to change the standard since there are a number of projects around parking standards. Some past projects such as the COL have not received any complaints about parking. The Grand Central Lofts does not have enough parking. As part of their approval process,

they were not required to include parking in the rent of the affordable units, so many people moved to parking on the streets. The Council has shifted the requirements of having developers include parking in the rent. The Planning Commission will need to consider how much surface parking should be allowed. While underground parking is ideal, the water table is high. They will also need to determine how much parking should be outside of a building versus underground.

Questions/Comments from Members:

Wolfe expressed her understanding from a developer's side and a community member's side of the issue. Parking can limit the developer's ability to have more space for units. She added that she likes Richfield's wording of allowing the Council to have discretion to change if needed. Boucher agreed and added that there is some language in the general development standards that allows some flexibility to parking requirements.

Forney asked the commissioners what they thought about Richfield's language. Moses stated he liked the idea of allowing the Council to have discretion. He added that it depends on the location of the development. If the development is on Central Avenue there is going to be more traffic and on-street parking would be more difficult. By having the Council have discretion, it would allow for more flexibility.

Kaiser stated he likes the simplicity of the Richfield requirement. He added that two off-street spaces per unit is too high. He mentioned the fractionals that Fridley does is too rigid. Wolfe mentioned having a little bit more parking than one per unit helps when residents have a guest in the apartment. Sahnaw replied that if there are fractionals, there needs to be language like Saint Louis Park where 5% of the required parking is added for guest stalls.

Sahnaw explained he likes the Richfield language. Two spaces for a studio or one-bedroom apartment are too high. He suggested requiring a certain percentage to be covered or enclosed parking so that there is not a lot of asphalt on a lot.

Gianoulis agreed with the Staff's proposal.

Moses asked if there was any date on a unit that has been built that has too much parking. He asked what the median of the amount of bedrooms is and the amount of parking spaces that are available. Forney explained that there have been no complaints about the COL. Councilmember James added that there is mixed parking at the COL. She mentioned that there is plenty of parking with the 1.7 ratio. Forney stated the 1.7 ratio seems to be the sweet spot. He added that Staff can look into the best balance for underground versus above-ground parking.

Boucher stated that parking with developments seems to be a case-by-case issue. Robbinsdale requires that parking spots be fee-free, or included in the rent. Kaiser mentioned he was in favor of that since many community members bring up the same dynamic and would like to have a consistent answer for them. Forney replied that it could be something added to the City Code.

Moses asked if the COL had free parking. Forney replied that it does.

Boucher summarized that the Planning Commission is suggesting to drop the two enclosed parking space requirements to one space. He added that they were suggesting adding a percentage of parking to be designated for visitor parking and potentially looking at fee-free, or included parking spaces.

Wolfe asked if having fee-free parking would affect the property's ability to collect assistance payments. Forney replied that it does which is why it has been in the negotiation phase in the past.

Boucher mentioned that the last discussion item would be on limited business. Staff have tried to identify properties that are considered legally non-conforming. The minimum lot size requirement was decreased during the last zoning amendment. He noted in the limited business district, the bakery had difficulty meeting the off-street parking requirement which put them into a legal non-conforming status. Staff have been looking into the Central Business district which is designed as an off street parking district. There is an opportunity to remove the legal non-conforming status because of parking.

Forney explained that the limited business is pretty much 40th Avenue, some neighborhood businesses on 37th Avenue, and some along University Avenue. Those areas would more than likely be looked at to rezone to General Business since they are on University Avenue. He added that they would need to see how much of the neighborhood would require off-street parking. The City only allows certain sizes and types of businesses to have off-street parking due to traffic.

Sahnaw mentioned that businesses in the limited business district have more interaction with residential districts than in the Central Businesses district. He wondered if it would create potential issues for businesses that are connected to residential areas if there are no requirements for off-street parking.

Boucher described the purpose of the limited business district as to provide appropriate locations for limited retail sales and services for the convenience of adjacent residential neighborhoods. The areas are located along collector arterial roadways in close proximity to residential neighborhoods, arranged and designed to be a functional and harmonious part of the neighborhood, and accessible by public sidewalks, trails, or roadways. Permitted uses for the limited business district include medical, dental, veterinary clinics, offices, professional studios, professional service, retail sales, limited food service like a coffee shop or deli without a drive-through, museums, and galleries.

Gianoulis explained that many large corporations are buying single-family homes for rental properties which makes it difficult for people to purchase a first-time home. He noted he did not want that to happen in Columbia Heights and asked what Staff recommends to limit large corporations buying single-family homes in the City. Wolfe asked if there was still a moratorium on single-family homes. Forney replied that the moratorium had been lifted. The Council saw the same issue in the City since there was an article that mentioned cities like Columbia Heights are cities that are targeted by large corporations since they are typically more affordable. The Council put a moratorium in place and established a 10% rental density cap.

Councilmember James mentioned the rental density cap is a way that is legal to prevent an overwhelming number of rentals in the City. The Council has implemented the time of sale program. In addition, there is more rental enforcement with the Fire Department.

Moses asked what the time of sale program entailed. Councilmember James replied there is a list of life and safety that the enforcers use to make sure that the code is met on all of the items when a house is being sold. If they are not up to standard, the homeowner and fix it and get re-inspected, or they can write up a list for the buyer and the seller to negotiate and it has to be put in escrow. Additionally, there has to be a scope of the water line so that it is disclosed to people.

Boucher explained during the process, a lot of zoning issues have come up. It has given Staff an opportunity to correct the issues before the property changes ownership and someone else has to deal with the mess.

Sahnaw explained there are a number of properties in the City that developers come in and develop through a TIF, or a planned unit development, or some other vehicle within the City. He wondered what vehicle the City could use to ensure there is a high standard for developers coming in. He suggested increasing sustainability metrics, having a certain percentage below the energy code, and other ways to tie in PV or solar production of energy on-site. He explained that if there are going to be City dollars used, the City needs to make sure to hold the developments to a higher standard since they are a partner with the City. Councilmember James agreed and added that Boucher is working on a complete streets program. She added that she would like to see Staff do some additional research.

Forney explained that through the TIF there is a negotiation piece. The easiest way vehicle the City could use is to have the Council bring it up. He added that Councilmember Buesgens has been bringing up similar suggestions to new developers. Boucher added that eventually there will need to be updates to the design guidelines. He noted that having best practices in place is going to help the City achieve the goals as a standard.

Moses asked if the City has any say in the infrastructure of the grid and what needs to be updated. He mentioned if there is going to be renewable influx into the grid, it is important to ensure that the transformers have the capacity to be updated. Forney replied that he would run that past the City Engineer.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Wolfe, second by Moses, to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah LaVoie, Administrative Assistant

AGENDA SECTION	PUBLIC HEARINGS
MEETING DATE	JANUARY 7, 2025

ITEM:	Zoning Ordinance Amendments to amend Chapter 9 – Land Use: 9.104 Administration and Enforcement 9.106 General Development Standards 9.107 Specific Development Standards 9.110 Commercial Districts 9.111 Industrial Districts	
DEPARTMENT: Community Development		BY/DATE: Andrew Boucher, City Planner December 31, 2024

CASE NUMBER: 2024-PZ08

APPLICANT: The City of Columbia Heights

LOCATION: Citywide

REQUEST: Zoning Ordinance Amendment

PREPARED BY: Andrew Boucher, City Planner

INTRODUCTION:

Staff discussed potential updates to City Zoning Code – Chapter 9 Land Use at the December 3rd, 2024 Planning Commission Workshop based on observations, feedback, and recommendations from staff and community members to make adjustments to the Zoning Code that reflect the needs of the community while encouraging consistency as future development occurs. The proposed amendments are as follows:

1. Amending 9.104 Administration and Enforcement (I) to change Interim Use Permit to Zoning Review Permit and including over-height fences, seasonal sales stands, accessory structures under 200 sq. ft., and parking/impervious surface additions to be reviewed administratively as well as establishing a permit for Accessory Dwelling Units.
2. Amending 9.106 General Development Standards to reduce the minimum required parking for two bedroom or more dwelling units to 2 spaces per unit with one of these being enclosed. Also including language to (e) Calculating space to allow: “The Council, at its discretion, may reduce the minimum required parking to not less than 1.5 parking spaces per unit for multifamily structures with seven or more units, after consideration of factors including but not limited to the present or future availability of transit services, shared parking, pedestrian orientation, and occupancy characteristics.”
3. Amending 9.106 General Development Standards to include language under the Dwellings section to contain habitable space based on the adopted MN Building Code.
4. Amending 9.107 Specific Development Standards to require a sound study as a specific condition for car washes as well as considering adding the minimum of one acre of property to this use along with recreational vehicle sales.
5. Amending 9.110 Commercial Districts and 9.111 Industrial Districts to remove fences greater than six feet in height from conditional uses to permitted accessory use, adjusting General Business (GB) to move minor automobile and motorcycle repair and car washes from permitted uses to conditional uses, along with consignment/secondhand stores from conditional uses to permitted uses. In I-1 and

2 Districts, major and minor automobile repair is proposed to be changed from permitted to conditional uses.

9.104 Administration and Enforcement - Interim Uses are no longer applicable in the Zoning Code as there are no uses at this point that would require an Interim Use Permit. Staff proposes a zoning text amendment to replace Interim Uses with a Zoning Review Permit. This would allow for certain items such as over-height fences, seasonal sales stands, accessory structures under 200 sq. ft., and parking/impervious surface additions to be reviewed administratively as well as establishing a process for Accessory Dwelling Units to ensure compliance with the owner/occupancy deed restriction and rental licensing.

9.106 General Development Standards include an amendment to (3) Accessory Dwelling Units (h) to reflect the requirement of habitable space based on the adopted MN Building Code. Other sections of 9.106 proposed to be amended include establishing a one (1) off-street parking space requirement for Accessory Dwelling Units and amending the two-bedroom or larger unit parking requirement from two enclosed spaces to one enclosed space. Many multi-family developments proposed within the City are handled as PUDs rather than proceeding by right or requiring only rezoning. This prompted discussion about whether the City’s current parking standards are too restrictive or unattainable, warranting a potential review and adjustment. Frequent reliance on PUDs for relatively straightforward redevelopments—such as single-parcel, single-use residential projects—raises concerns about whether the existing standards reflect the City’s goals and practical realities.

The City strives to ensure that multifamily housing developments provide adequate parking without burdening residents or the community. However, if concessions are regularly made during the development process, the standard appears to be ineffective.

Use	Minimum Spaces Required
Residential Uses	
Accessory Dwelling Units	1 off-street parking space per unit
Multiple-family	
Two-bedroom or larger units	2 per unit, one must be enclosed (garage)

9.107 Specific Development Standards include requiring a sound study as a specific condition for car washes and adding the minimum of one acre of property to the car wash use along with recreational vehicle sales.

9.110 Commercial Districts and 9.111 Industrial Districts include removing fences greater than six feet in height from conditional uses to permitted accessory uses as well as adjusting General Business (GB) to move minor automobile and motorcycle repair and car washes from permitted uses to conditional uses along with consignment/secondhand stores from conditional uses to permitted uses. In I-1 and I-2 Districts, major and minor automobile repair could have changes from permitted to conditional uses.

Staff Review
Staff has not received any comments on the proposed zoning text amendments.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

FINDINGS OF FACT

Section 9.104 (F) of the Zoning Ordinance outlines certain findings of fact that must be met in order for the City to grant approval for a zoning amendment. The findings are as follows:

(a) The amendment is consistent with the comprehensive plan.

The City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan identifies strengthening the identify and image of the community as a desirable place to live, work, and play as well as preserving and enhancing the existing viable commercial and industrial areas within the community. The zoning code amendments proposed will help achieve more consistency with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

(b) The amendment is in the public interest and is not solely for the benefit of a single property owner.

The zoning text amendments are in response to concerns expressed by residents over commercial businesses and ensuring consistency across zoning districts.

(c) Where the amendment is to change the zoning classification of a particular property, the existing use of the property and the zoning classification of property within the general area of the property in question are compatible with the proposed zoning classification.

The amendment is not to change the zoning classification of a particular property.

(d) Where the amendment is to change the zoning classification of a particular property, there has been a change in the character or trend of development in the general area of the property in question, which has taken place since such property was placed in its current zoning classification.

The amendment is not to change the zoning classification of a particular property.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the following zoning text amendment to the Zoning Code:

- A. Approval of Draft Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 1709 amending City Code 9.104 Administration and Enforcement, 9.105 Nonconformities, 9.106 General Development Standards, 9.107 Specific Development Standards, 9.110 Commercial Districts, and 9.111 Industrial Districts as presented.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):

MOTION: Move to waive the reading of draft Ordinance amendment No. 1709, there being ample copies available to the public.

MOTION: Move to recommend City Council approve draft Ordinance amendment No. 1709, a Zoning Ordinance Amendment, as presented.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Planning Report from December 3, 2024 Planning Commission Workshop](#)
[Draft Ordinance No. 1709](#)

[Notice of Public Hearing](#)
[Zoning Permit Review Application](#)



PLANNING COMMISSION

Item 2.

AGENDA SECTION	WORK SESSION
MEETING DATE	DECEMBER 3, 2024

ITEM:	Discussion on Chapter 9 – Land Use	
DEPARTMENT:	Community Development	BY/DATE: Andrew Boucher, City Planner November 25, 2024

INTRODUCTION:

Staff is tracking potential updates to City Zoning Code – Chapter 9 Land Use based on observations, feedback, and recommendations from staff and community members to make adjustments to the Zoning Code that reflect the needs of the community while encouraging consistency as future development occurs.

Some items up for discussion include, but are not limited to:

9.104 Administration and Enforcement - Interim Uses are no longer applicable in the Zoning Code as there are no uses at this point that would require an Interim Use Permit. Staff would like to bring forward a zoning text amendment in the future to replace Interim Uses with a Zoning Review Permit. This would allow for certain items such as over-height fences, seasonal sales stands, accessory structures under 200 sq. ft., and parking/impervious surface additions to be reviewed administratively as well as establishing a permit for Accessory Dwelling Units.

9.107 Specific Development Standards changes would include requiring a sound study as a specific condition for car washes as well as considering adding the minimum of one acre of property to this use along with recreational vehicle sales.

9.110 Commercial Districts and 9.111 Industrial Districts will include removing fences greater than six feet in height from conditional uses to permitted accessory uses as well as adjusting General Business (GB) to move minor automobile and motorcycle repair and car washes from permitted uses to conditional uses along with consignment/secondhand stores from conditional uses to permitted uses. In I-1 and I-2 Districts, major and minor automobile repair could have changes from permitted to conditional uses unless there is a desire to continue to have these as permitted uses.

9.106 General Development Standards includes parking items for discussion, specifically around multi-family parking standards. The City currently does not define parking requirements by zone apart from the Central Business District, which is an off-street parking district where off-street parking is not required for non-residential land uses, but is required for residential uses. Many multi-family developments proposed within the City are handled as PUDs rather than proceeding by right or requiring only rezoning. The Limited Business (LB) district also has difficulty meeting off-street parking requirements and as a result, the majority of these properties are considered legally nonconforming.

This prompted discussion about whether the City's current parking standards are too restrictive or unattainable, warranting a potential review and adjustment. The purpose of the zoning code is to establish consistent standards for similar projects that encourage predictable and equitable development outcomes. However, the frequent reliance on PUDs for relatively straightforward redevelopments—such as single-parc

single-use residential projects—raises concerns about whether the existing standards reflect the City’s goals and practical realities.

The City strives to ensure that multifamily housing developments provide adequate parking without burdening residents or the community. However, if concessions are regularly made during the development process, it may be time to reevaluate the standards. To facilitate this discussion, staff have compiled a comparison of parking standards from other metropolitan municipalities and similar projects.

Columbia Heights	One Bedroom: 1 per unit, Must be Enclosed. Two Bedroom or Larger Units: 2 per unit, two must be enclosed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Col has 62 units with 46 stalls underground, 62 above ground which meets the current requirement but are allowed to have uncovered stalls. Grand Central Flats is 200 units with 217 below and 32 above, and lacks 17 of the total spaces required.
Fridley	At least one and one-half (1-1/2) spaces per one (1) bedroom unit, plus one-half (1/2) space for each additional bedroom unit per dwelling unit.
Richfield	Two off-street parking spaces shall be provided for each dwelling unit. The Council, at its discretion, may reduce the minimum required parking to not less than 1.5 parking spaces per unit for multifamily structures with seven or more units, after consideration of factors including but not limited to the present or future availability of transit services, shared parking, pedestrian orientation, and occupancy characteristics.
Robbinsdale	one and one-half fee-free spaces per unit
New Hope	At least one enclosed and one and one-fourth open spaces per unit.
Saint Luis Park	Per unit: Studio - 1 space, One bedroom – 1 space, Two bedroom – 1.5 spaces, Three bedroom – 2 spaces, Four bedroom – 2 spaces An additional 5% of the required parking shall be provided for guest parking.
Brooklyn Center	2 spaces per unit
Hopkins	TOD 1.2 (enclosed) per dwelling unit, 1 per studio/1 BR dwelling unit 2 per 2B or larger dwelling unit
Brooklyn Park	2 spaces per unit, plus 0.5 spaces for each unit for guest parking A minimum of one half of the number of required parking spaces must be enclosed within garages or an underground parking facility.
Roseville	1 space per bedroom plus .25 spaces per every 1 unit for visitor parking.
Maplewood	Two per unit. One space must be enclosed
West St Paul	a minimum of one and one-half stalls shall be provided for each unit that is a studio, one-bedroom, or two-bedroom apartment, and a minimum of two stalls for each unit that has three or more bedrooms.
Bloomington	One bedroom and efficiency units 1.6 spaces per dwelling unit Two or more bedrooms 2.0 spaces per dwelling unit Additional requirements for units of all sizes Of the above requirements, at least 1 space per unit must be within a fully enclosed garage or covered within a structured parking ramp

This information is presented to the Planning Commission for open discussion and consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the following amendments to the Zoning Code:

- A. Amending 9.104 Administration and Enforcement (I) to change Interim Use Permit to Zoning Review Permit and including over-height fences, seasonal sales stands, accessory structures under 200 sq. ft., and parking/impervious surface additions to be reviewed administratively as well as establishing a permit for Accessory Dwelling Units.
- B. Amending 9.106 General Development Standards to reduce the minimum required parking for two bedroom or more dwelling units to 2 spaces per unit with one of these being enclosed.
- C. Amending 9.107 Specific Development Standards to require a sound study as a specific condition for car washes as well as considering adding the minimum of one acre of property to this use along with recreational vehicle sales.
- D. Amending 9.110 Commercial Districts and 9.111 Industrial Districts to remove fences greater than six feet in height from conditional uses to permitted accessory use, adjusting General Business (GB) to move minor automobile and motorcycle repair and car washes from permitted uses to conditional uses, along with consignment/secondhand stores from conditional uses to permitted uses. In I-1 and I-2 Districts, major and minor automobile repair could have changes from permitted to conditional uses unless there is a desire to continue to have these as permitted uses.
- E. Amending 9.110 Commercial Districts and identifying the Limited Business (LB) district as an off-street parking district where off-street parking is not required for non-residential land uses.

ORDINANCE NO. 1709

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9 – LAND USE OF THE CITY CODE OF 2005
TO AMEND 9.104 ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT, 9.106 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS,
9.107 SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS, 9.110 COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS, AND 9.111 INDUSTRIAL
DISTRICTS.**

The City of Columbia Heights does ordain:

Section 1

The following administrative processes are amended or deleted as provided in Section 9.104 of the City Code of 2005, is hereby established to read as follows:

(A) General provisions.

(1) Purpose. This article sets forth the procedures required for the administration of this article, outlines the powers and duties of the officials and bodies charged with such administration, establishes standards for required approvals, and provides enforcement in a manner which protects the public health, safety and general welfare.

(2) Concurrent review. In order to provide for the efficient: administration of this article, all applications for a single project or proposal that require multiple actions shall be processed concurrently.

(3) Substantially similar uses. Whenever an application contains a use not specifically included in this article, the Zoning Administrator shall issue a statement of clarification, finding that the use is either substantially similar in character and impact to a use regulated in this article or that the use is not substantially similar to any other use regulated in this article. If the use is not substantially similar to any other use regulated in this article, the use shall be prohibited.

(B) Authority and duties for administration.

(1) Authority. The following city officials and bodies, without limitation upon such authority as each may possess by law, have responsibility for implementing and administering this article:

- (a) Zoning Administrator;
- (b) Development Review Committee;
- (c) Planning Commission;
- (d) City Council.

(2) Zoning Administrator.

(a) Authority. The Zoning Administrator shall be appointed by the City Manager to administer and enforce the provisions of this article.

(b) Duties. The Zoning Administrator shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Conduct inspections of buildings and uses of land to determine compliance with the provisions of this article.
 2. Maintain permanent and current records of this article, including, but not limited to, all associated maps, amendments, conditional uses, variances, and appeals.
 3. Receive, file and forward all applications for appeals, variances, conditional use permits, interim use permits, zoning ordinance amendments, vacations, minor subdivisions, preliminary plats, final plats or other matters to the appropriate decision-making body.
 4. Make a determination of compliance with this article on all applications for building permits and certificates of occupancy.
 5. Provide zoning information to residents and others upon request.
 6. Interpret the provisions of this article.
- (3) Development Review Committee.
- (a) Authority. The membership of the Development Review Committee shall be city staff members as appointed by the City Manager.
- (b) Duties. The Development Review Committee shall have the following responsibilities:
1. Review plans and plats for conformance with the technical requirements of this article.
 2. Make recommendation to the Planning Commission and City Council regarding applications for development or land use approvals.
- (4) Planning Commission.
- (a) Authority. The Planning Commission shall be appointed by the City Council.
- (b) Duties. The Planning Commission shall have the following responsibilities:
1. Hear and make recommendations to the City Council regarding all applications for a conditional use permit or an amendment to a conditional use permit.
 2. Hear and make the final decisions on all applications for an interim use as defined in this article.
 3. Hear and make recommendations to the City Council regarding all applications for an amendment to this article, both text amendments and amendments to the district boundaries on the official zoning map.
 4. Hear and make recommendations to the City Council regarding all applications for minor subdivisions, preliminary plats and final plats.
 5. Review, hold public hearings, and prepare recommendations on any changes to the City's Comprehensive Plan.
 6. Review this article from time to time and make recommendations to the City Council that changes be initiated.
 7. Hear and make recommendations on any other matter referred to it by the City Council.

(c) Board of Appeals and Adjustment duties. In accordance with M.S. § 462.354, as it may be amended from time to time, the City Council has designated the Planning Commission as the Board of Appeals and Adjustments. As such, the Planning Commission shall have the following additional responsibilities:

1. Hear and make decisions on all applications for an appeal of any administrative order, requirement, determination or final decision made by the Zoning Administrator or other official in the administration of this article.

2. Hear and make decisions on all applications for a variance from the literal provisions of this article.

(5) City Council.

- (a) Authority. The City Council shall have the authority given to it by state statutes.

- (b) Duties. The City Council shall hear and make the final decision on all matters identified as requiring City Council action in this article.

(C) General application procedures.

- (1) Applications. All applications for land use or development approval shall be made on the appropriate application, as approved by the city and available from the Community Development Department. The application shall be accompanied by detailed written and graphic materials fully explaining the proposed development or land use change, as required by the Zoning Administrator. The application shall also be accompanied by the appropriate fee, proof of legal interest in the property, and two copies of a list of property owners within 350 feet of the subject property or as otherwise defined in state statutes, in the format required by the Zoning Administrator.

- (2) Additional information. The Zoning Administrator may require applicants for land use or development approval to submit additional information as may be necessary to evaluate the application. Such additional information may include, but shall not be limited to, traffic studies, engineering studies and environmental studies. The costs of such studies shall be the responsibility of the applicant, with the person or firm preparing the study approved by the Zoning Administrator.

- (3) Pre-application conference. A pre-application conference with the Zoning Administrator shall be required prior to the submission of any application for land use or development approval. The purpose of the conference is to review application procedures and ordinance requirements with the applicant, to exchange information regarding the proposed project, and to identify potential opportunities and constraints for development of the site under consideration.

- (4) Completeness of application. No application for land use or development approval shall be deemed complete until all items that are required in support of the application, including any additional studies or information required by the Zoning Administrator, have been submitted.

- (5) Application fees. Fees for all applications for development or land use approval shall be a flat rate and established by resolution of the City Council. The city retains the right to require an escrow and additional payment for any out-of-pocket expenses for consultants and professional services and/or to obtain an escrow for cases that are extraordinary in size or complexity. Remaining escrowed funds not spent in reviewing the application shall be returned to the applicant. Payment of all fees is a condition of

application approval. The Community Development Department will keep a record of current fees for all land use applications.

(6) Required action. Pursuant to M.S. § 15.99, as it may be amended from time to time, all applications for land use or development approval shall be approved or denied as per state statute, unless extended pursuant to statute or unless a time waiver has been granted by the applicant.

(7) Reconsideration of applications. No application for land use or development approval that has been denied by the City Council, in whole or in part, shall be reconsidered for a period of six months from the date of City Council action on the application.

(8) Expiration of approval. If substantial development or construction has not taken place within one year of the date of City Council approval of an application for land use or development approval, the approval shall be considered void unless a petition for time extension has been granted by the City Council. Such extension shall be submitted in writing at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the approval and shall state facts showing a good faith effort to complete the work permitted under the original approval. This provision shall not apply to zoning amendments or vacations of streets, alleys or public rights-of-way.

(D) Public hearings.

(1) Notice of public hearing. For all development or land use applications requiring a public hearing, notice of the public hearing shall be as follows:

(a) Official publication. The Zoning Administrator shall publish notice of the time, place and purpose of the public hearing at least once in the official city newspaper, not less than 10 days nor more than 30 days before the hearing.

(b) Notice to affected property owners. The Zoning Administrator shall mail a written notice of the time, place and purpose of the public hearing to all owners of record of property located in whole or in part within 350 feet of the boundaries of the subject property, or as otherwise defined in state statutes, not less than 10 days nor more than 30 days before the hearing. The failure to give mailed notice to individual property owners, or defects in the notice, shall not invalidate the proceedings, provided a bona fide attempt to comply with this requirements has been made.

(c) Notice to Department of Natural Resources. When a land use or development application relates to property within the Floodplain Management or Shoreland Management Overlay District, the Zoning Administrator shall mail a written notice of public hearing to the Commissioner of Natural Resources at least 21 days before the hearing.

(2) Hearing procedure. All hearings shall be open to the public. Any person may appear and testify at a hearing in person or by representative. Upon conclusion of the public testimony, the decision-making body shall announce its decision or recommendation, or shall continue the matter to a subsequent meeting.

(E) Appeals.

(1) Right of appeal. At any time within 30 days after a written order, requirement, determination or final decision has been made by the Zoning Administrator or other official in interpreting or applying this article, except for actions taken in connection with prosecutions for violations thereof, the applicant or any other person affected by such action may appeal the decision.

(2) Application for appeal. An appeal must be made by filing a written notice of appeal addressed to the Zoning Administrator and Planning Commission, and stating the action appealed as well as the specific grounds upon which the appeal is made.

(3) Public hearing. The Planning Commission, sitting as the Board of Appeals and Adjustments, shall hold a public hearing on the appeal in accordance with the requirements of this section. After the close of the hearing, the Planning Commission shall render its findings.

(F) Zoning amendments.

(1) Right of application. Amendments to the text of this article or to the district boundaries on the official zoning map may be initiated by the City Council, the Planning Commission, or by application of any person with a legal interest in the affected property.

(2) Application for amendment. An application for an amendment to change the district boundaries on the official zoning map or the text of this article shall be filed with the Zoning Administrator on the approved form and shall be accompanied by a map or plat showing the lands proposed to be changed, a concept development plan and any other information determined by the Zoning Administrator to be necessary.

(3) Public hearing. The Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on the complete application for a zoning amendment and all amendments initiated by the City Council or Planning Commission in accordance with the requirements of this section. After the close of the hearing, the Planning Commission shall make findings and submit its recommendation to the City Council.

(4) City Council action. The City Council shall make the final decision regarding an application for a zoning amendment. Amendments of this article or the district boundaries on the official zoning map shall require a four-fifths majority vote of the City Council.

(5) Required findings. The City Council shall make each of the following findings before granting approval of a request to amend this article or to change the district boundaries on the official zoning map:

(a) The amendment is consistent with the comprehensive plan.

(b) The amendment is in the public interest and is not solely for the benefit of a single property owner.

(c) Where the amendment is to change the zoning classification of a particular property, the existing use of the property and the zoning classification of property within the general area of the property in question are compatible with the proposed zoning classification.

(d) Where the amendment is to change the zoning classification of a particular property, there has been a change in the character or trend of development in the general area of the property in question, which has taken place since such property was placed in its current zoning classification.

(G) Variances.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of a variance is to provide a means of departure from the literal provisions of this article. Variances may be granted when the applicant for the variance establishes that there are practical difficulties in complying with the zoning ordinance. It is not the intent of this section to allow a variance for a use that is not permitted within a particular zoning district.

(2) Right of application. Any person with a legal interest in the property may file an application for one or more variances.

(3) Application for variance. An application for a variance shall be filed with the Zoning Administrator on the approved form and shall be accompanied by a site plan and any other information determined by the Zoning Administrator to be necessary.

(4) Public hearing. The Planning Commission, sitting as the Board of Appeals and Adjustments, shall hold a public hearing on the complete application for a variance in accordance with the requirements of this section. After the close of the hearing, the Planning Commission shall make findings and submit its recommendation to the City Council.

(5) City Council action. The City Council shall make the final decision regarding an application for a variance from the provisions of this article. Approval of a variance shall require a simple majority vote of the City Council.

(6) Required findings. The City Council shall make each of the following findings before granting a variance from the provisions of this article:

(a) Because of the particular physical surroundings, or the shape, configuration, topography, or other conditions of the specific parcel of land involved, strict adherence to the provisions of this article would cause practical difficulties in conforming to the zoning ordinance. The applicant, however, is proposing to use the property in a reasonable manner not permitted by the zoning ordinance.

(b) The conditions upon which the variance is based are unique to the specific parcel of land involved and are generally not applicable to other properties within the same zoning classification.

(c) The practical difficulties are caused by the provisions of this article and have not been created by any person currently having a legal interest in the property.

(d) The granting of the variance is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Comprehensive Plan.

(e) The granting of the variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or materially injurious to the enjoyment, use, development or value of property or improvements in the vicinity.

(7) Conditions of approval. The City Council may establish any reasonable conditions of approval that are deemed necessary to mitigate adverse impacts directly associated with granting of the variance and to protect neighboring properties.

(H) Conditional use permits.

(1) Purpose. The conditional use permit process is intended as a means of reviewing uses which, because of their unique characteristics, cannot be permitted as a right in a specific zoning district, but may be allowed upon demonstration that such use meets identified standards established in this article. A conditional use permit is granted for a specific use of a specific property, and may be transferred to subsequent owners as long as the conditions agreed upon are observed.

(2) Right of application. Any person with a legal interest in the property may file an application for a conditional use permit, provided said conditional use is identified as a conditional use within the zoning district in which the property is located.

(3) Application for conditional use permit. An application for a conditional use shall be filed with the Zoning Administrator on the approved form and shall be accompanied by a site plan, a detailed written description of the proposed use and any other information determined by the Zoning Administrator to be necessary.

(4) Public hearing. The Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on the complete application for a conditional use permit in accordance with the requirements of this section. After the close of the hearing, the Planning Commission shall make findings and submit its recommendation to the City Council.

(5) City Council action. The City Council shall make the final decision regarding an application for a conditional use permit. Approval of a conditional use permit shall require a simple majority vote of the City Council.

(6) Required findings. The City Council shall make each of the following findings before granting a conditional use permit:

(a) The use is one of the conditional uses listed for the zoning district in which the property is located, or is a substantially similar use as determined by the Zoning Administrator.

(b) The use is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the comprehensive plan.

(c) The use will not impose hazards or disturbing influences on neighboring properties.

(d) The use will not substantially diminish the use of property in the immediate vicinity.

(e) The use will be designed, constructed, operated and maintained in a manner that is compatible with the appearance of the existing or intended character of the surrounding area.

(f) The use and property upon which the use is located are adequately served by essential public facilities and services.

(g) Adequate measures have been or will be taken to minimize traffic congestion on the public streets and to provide for appropriate on-site circulation of traffic.

(h) The use will not cause a negative cumulative effect, when considered in conjunction with the cumulative effect of other uses in the immediate vicinity.

(i) The use complies with all other applicable regulations for the district in which it is located.

(7) Conditions of approval. The City Council may establish any reasonable conditions of approval that are deemed necessary to mitigate adverse impacts associated with the conditional use, to protect neighboring properties, and to achieve the objectives of this article.

(8) Revocation. Failure to comply with any condition set forth as part of a conditional use permit shall be a violation of this article and is subject to the enforcement process identified in this section. Continued noncompliance shall be grounds for revocation of the conditional use permit, as determined by the City Council following a public hearing on the issue.

(9) Discontinuance. When a conditional use has been established and is discontinued for any reason for a period of one year or longer, or where a conditional use has been changed to a permitted use or any other conditional use, the conditional use permitted shall be considered abandoned.

(I) Zoning Permit.

(1) Purpose. The zoning permit provides a process for administrative review of uses such as a temporary use of a seasonal sales stands for a specific period of time and more permanent uses. It is intended that the temporary use of land does not run with the land, and would need to be approved upon each subsequent use.

(2) The following items require a zoning permit:

- a. Fences over 6 feet in height
- b. Accessory structures under 200 sq. ft.,
- c. Parking and impervious surface additions
- d. Accessory Dwelling Units
 - i. Owner/occupancy deed restriction
 - ii. Rental licensing.

(3) Right of application. Any person with a legal interest in the property for the purpose described above may file an application for a zoning permit, provided said use complies with the general zoning regulations and specific district requirements in which the property is located.

(4) Application for zoning permit review. An application for a zoning permit review shall be filed with the Zoning Administrator on the approved form and shall be accompanied by a site plan, a detailed written description of the proposed use and any other information determined by the Zoning Administrator to be necessary for administrative review.

(5) Required findings. The Zoning Administrator shall make each of the following findings before granting a Zoning Permit Review:

- (a) The use is allowed for the zoning district in which the property is located and complies with the zoning regulations as determined by the Zoning Administrator.
- (b) The use is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Comprehensive Plan.
- (c) The use will not impose hazards or disturbing influences on neighboring properties.
- (d) The use will not substantially diminish the use of property in the immediate vicinity.
- (e) Adequate measures have been or will be taken to minimize traffic congestion on the public streets and to provide for appropriate on-site circulation of traffic.

(6) Discontinuance. A zoning permit review application shall be deemed discontinued after the specified time duration has elapsed for temporary seasonal uses. Any permanent uses do not elapse so long as the

project remains consistent with the applicant submission. Upon discontinuation of the temporary use, all subsequent temporary uses shall be required to obtain a new zoning permit review.

(J) Vacations.

(1) Purpose. The vacation process allows for the vacation of public streets, alleys or other public rights-of-way when it is demonstrated that the public reservation of the land no longer serves a clearly identified public purpose.

(2) Right of application. Any person or persons who own property adjoining both sides of the street, alley or other public right-of-way to be vacated may file an application for vacation. In the event that the person or persons making the request do not own all of the adjoining parcels, the application shall be accompanied by affidavits from all such property owners indicating their consent.

(3) Application for vacation. An application for the vacation of a street, alley or other public right-of-way shall be filed with the Zoning Administrator on the approved form and shall be accompanied by a legal description, a survey depicting the area to be vacated, a list of all property owners with land adjacent to the area to be vacated, and any other information determined by the Zoning Administrator to be necessary.

(4) Public hearing. The Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on the completed application for the vacation of a street, alley or other public right-of-way in accordance with the requirements of this section. After the close of the hearing, the Planning Commission shall make findings and submit its recommendation to the City Council.

(5) City Council action. The City Council shall make the final decision regarding an application for the vacation of a street, alley or other public right-of-way. Approval of the vacation shall require a four-fifths majority vote of the City Council.

(6) Required findings. The City Council shall make each of the following findings before vacating a street, alley or other public right-of-way:

(a) No private rights will be injured or endangered as a result of the vacation.

(b) The public will not suffer loss or inconvenience as a result of the vacation.

(K) Minor subdivisions (lot splits).

(1) Purpose. The purpose of this process is to provide for approval of subdivisions that meet specific criteria and for the waiver of standard platting requirements specified elsewhere in this article. It is intended to enable administrative approval of minor subdivisions that facilitate the further division of previously platted lots, the combination of previously platted lots into fewer lots, or for the adjustment of an existing lot line by relocation of a common boundary.

(2) Right of application. Any person having a legal interest in the property may file an application for a minor subdivision. For an adjustment of an existing lot line, the application shall be accompanied by affidavits from all affected property owners indicating their consent.

(3) Application for minor subdivision. An application for a minor subdivision shall be filed with the Zoning Administrator on the approved form and shall be accompanied by an accurate boundary survey and

legal description of the original parcel, a survey and legal description of the resulting parcels, and any other information determined by the Zoning Administrator to be necessary.

(4) Required findings. The Zoning Administrator shall make each of the following findings before approving a minor subdivision:

- (a) The proposed subdivision of land will not result in more than three lots.
- (b) The proposed subdivision of land does not involve the vacation of existing easements.
- (c) All lots to be created by the proposed subdivision conform to lot area and width requirements established for the zoning district in which the property is located.
- (d) The proposed subdivision does not require the dedication of public rights-of-way for the purpose of gaining access to the property or additional dedication of public right-of-way.
- (e) The proposed subdivision does not include a change in existing streets, alleys, water, sanitary or storm sewer or other public improvements.
- (f) The property has not previously been divided through the minor subdivision provisions of this article.
- (g) The proposed subdivision does not hinder the conveyance of land.
- (h) The proposed subdivision does not hinder the making of assessments or the keeping of records related to assessments.
- (i) The proposed subdivision meets all of the design standards specified in the § 9.116.

(5) Conditions of approval. The Zoning Administrator may establish any reasonable conditions of approval that are deemed necessary to protect the public interest and ensure compliance with the provisions of this article, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) The applicant shall provide required utility and drainage easements for all newly created lots and be responsible for the cost of filing and recording written easements with the Anoka County Recorder's Office.
- (b) The applicant shall pay parkland dedication fees for each lot created beyond the original number of lots existing prior to subdivision, except when such fees have been applied to the property as part of a previous subdivision.
- (6) Recording of minor subdivision. Upon approval of a minor subdivision, the applicant shall be responsible for filing the subdivision survey with the Anoka County Recorder's Office. Any minor subdivision approved under this section shall become invalid if the minor subdivision is not filed with the Anoka County Recorder within one year of the date of the City Council action.

(L) Preliminary plats.

(1) Purpose. A preliminary plat is a drawing intended to illustrate the proposed subdivision of land within the city. Preliminary plat approval is required for all subdivisions of land not specifically exempted in

this article. Approval of a preliminary plat is authorization to proceed with the final plat and does not constitute approval of the subdivision.

(2) Right of application. Any person having a legal interest in the property may file an application for a preliminary plat.

(3) Application for preliminary plat. An application for a preliminary plat shall be filed with the Zoning Administrator on the approved form and shall be accompanied by an accurate boundary survey and legal description of the original parcel, five copies of the preliminary plat, and any other information determined by the Zoning Administrator to be necessary.

(4) Public hearing. The Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on the completed application for a preliminary plat in accordance with the requirements of this section. After the close of the hearing, the Planning Commission shall make findings and submit its recommendation to the City Council.

(5) City Council action. The City Council shall make the final decision regarding an application for a preliminary plat. Approval of a preliminary plat shall require a simple majority vote of the City Council.

(6) Required findings. The City Council shall make each of the following findings before approving a preliminary plat:

(a) The proposed preliminary plat conforms with the requirements of § 9.116.

(b) The proposed subdivision is consistent with the comprehensive plan.

(c) The proposed subdivision contains parcel and land subdivision layout that is consistent with good planning and site engineering design principles.

(7) Expiration of preliminary plat. An approved preliminary plat shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of City Council approval. In the event that a final plat is not submitted within this time period, the preliminary plat will become void.

(M) Final plats.

(1) Purpose. A final plat is a drawing representing the proposed subdivision of land within the city and serves as the document for recording purposes, as required by the Anoka County Recorder's Office.

(2) Right of application. Any person having a legal interest in the property may file an application for a final plat. A preliminary plat for the property must have been approved within the past year for a final plat application to be accepted by the city.

(3) Application for final plat. An application for a final plat shall be filed with the Zoning Administrator on the approved form and shall be accompanied by five copies of the final plat and any other information determined by the Zoning Administrator to be necessary.

(4) Public hearing. The Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on the complete application for a final plat in accordance with the requirements of this section. After the close of the hearing, the Planning Commission shall make findings and submit its recommendation to the City Council.

(5) City Council action. The City Council shall make the final decision regarding an application for a final plat. Approval of a final plat shall require a simple majority vote of the City Council.

(6) Required findings. The City Council shall make each of the following findings before approving a final plat:

- (a) The final plat substantially conforms to the approved preliminary plat.
- (b) The final plat conforms with the requirements of § 9.116.

(7) Recording of final plats. Upon approval of a final plat, the applicant shall be responsible for filing and recording the final plat with the Anoka County Recorder's Office within one year of the date of City Council action. In the event that a final plat is not recorded within this time period, the final plat will become void.

(N) Site plan review.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of the site plan review process is to promote the efficient use of land and visual enhancement of the community, ensure that newly developed and redeveloped properties are compatible with adjacent development, and that traffic conflicts, public safety and environmental impacts are minimized to the greatest extent possible.

(2) Site plan review required. All site development plans for new development, or additions to existing structures other than one- and two-family residences, shall be reviewed and approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission and Development Review Committee prior to the issuance of a building permit.

(3) Required information. An application for site plan review shall be filed with the Zoning Administrator on the approved form and shall be accompanied by a vicinity map; an accurately scaled site plan showing the location of proposed and existing buildings, existing and proposed topography, vehicular access and parking areas, landscaping, and other site features; elevation views of all proposed buildings and structures; and any other information determined by the Zoning Administrator to be necessary.

(4) Required findings. The Development Review Committee shall conduct the administrative review of all site plan approval requests. All findings and decisions of the Committee shall be forwarded to the Planning and Zoning Commission for final decision, unless the Zoning Administrator determines that Development Review Committee approval of site plan is sufficient. The Planning and Zoning Commission shall make each of the following findings before approving a site plan:

- (a) The site plan conforms to all applicable requirements of this article.
- (b) The site plan is consistent with the applicable provisions of the city's comprehensive plan.
- (c) The site plan is consistent with any applicable area plan.

(d) The site plan minimizes any adverse impacts on property in the immediate vicinity and the public right-of-way.

(5) Conditions of site plan approval. The Development Review Committee and the Planning and Zoning Commission may impose conditions of approval on any site plan and require guarantees deemed necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section.

(6) Changes to approved site plan. An approved site plan may not be changed or modified without the approval of the City Zoning Administrator. If the proposed change is determined by the Zoning Administrator to be minor in nature, a revised site plan may not be required. In all other cases, a revised site plan shall be submitted for review and approval in accordance with this section.

(7) Expiration of site plan approval. The approval of a site plan by the Planning and Zoning Commission shall be valid for a period of one year.

(O) Other development approvals and permits.

(1) Building permits. Building permits are required in accordance with the adopted building code. No building permit shall be issued unless the proposed construction or use is in conformance with the requirements of this article and all necessary zoning approvals have been granted.

(2) Sign permits. All signs displayed within the city are required to obtain a sign permit from the Zoning Administrator in accordance with § 9.106, unless herein excluded.

(3) Site plan approval. All site development plans for development, other than one- and two-family residences, shall be reviewed and approved by the Development Review Committee prior to the issuance of a building permit.

(P) Enforcement.

(1) Complaints. The Zoning Administrator shall have the authority to investigate any complaint alleging a violation of this article or the conditions of any zoning or plat approval, and take such action as is warranted in accordance with the provisions set forth in this article.

(2) Procedure.

(a) Notice of violation. The Zoning Administrator shall provide a written notice to the property owner or to any person responsible for such violation, identifying the property in question, indicating the nature of the violation, and ordering the action necessary to remedy the violation, including a reasonable time period for action. Additional written notices may be provided at the Zoning Administrator's discretion.

(b) Enforcement without notice. Whenever the Zoning Administrator finds that an emergency exists in relation to the enforcement of the provisions of this article, which requires immediate action to protect the health, safety or welfare of the occupants of any structure, or the public, the Zoning Administrator may seek immediate enforcement without prior written notice.

(3) Violation and penalties. Any person, firm or corporation determined to be in violation any of the provisions of this article or any amendments may be subject to penalties such as liens, personal obligations, late fees and charges, administrative citations, abatement, and found guilty of a misdemeanor. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 2

The following language for General Development Standards is added, amended and deleted as provided in Section 9.106 of the City Code of 2005, is hereby established to read as follows:

§ 9.106 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS.

(A) General provisions.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to establish regulations of general applicability to property throughout the city, to promote the orderly development and use of land, to minimize conflicts between uses of land, and to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

(2) Applicability. The regulations set forth in this section shall; apply to all structures and uses of land, except as otherwise provided in this article.

(B) Lot controls.

(1) Purpose. Lot controls are established to provide for the orderly development and use of land, and to provide for adequate light, air, open space and separation of uses.

(2) Use of lots. All lots shall be used in a manner consistent with the requirements of the zoning district in which the property is located. No part of any existing lot shall be used as a separate lot or for the use of another lot, except as otherwise provided in this article.

(3) Lot divisions. No lot shall be divided into two or more lots unless all lots resulting from such division conform to all applicable regulations of this article.

(4) Lots of record. A lot of record shall be deemed a buildable lot provided it has frontage on a public right-of-way and meets the setback and area requirements for the district in which it is located, or adjusted to conform as follows: a lot or lot of record upon the effective date of this article which is in a residential district and which does not meet the requirements of this article as to area or width, may be utilized for single-family detached dwelling purposes provided the measurements of such lot meets 100% of the front yard, side yard and rear yard setback requirements for the district in which it is located and 60% of the minimum lot area or lot width requirements for the district in which it is located.

(5) Principal buildings in residential districts. There shall be no more than one principal building on a lot in any residential district, unless otherwise provided for through a mixed use planned development.

(6) Principal buildings in non-residential districts. There may be more than one principal building on a lot in non-residential districts, provided each building meets all of the requirements, including setbacks, of the district in which it is located.

(7) Required yards. Yard requirements shall be as specified for the zoning district in which the lot is located. No yard or other open space shall be reduced in area or dimension so as to make such yard or other open space less than the minimum required by this article. If the existing yard or other open space is less than the minimum required, it shall not be further reduced. In addition, no required yard or other open space allocated to a building or dwelling group shall be used to satisfy yard, open space, or minimum lot area requirements for any other structure or lot.

(8) Setback exception in residential districts. In any residential district where the average depth of the front yard for buildings within 200 feet of the lot in question and within the same block front is lesser or greater than that required by article, the required front yard for the lot in question shall be the average plus or minus 10% of the depth; however, the depth of the required front yard shall not be less than 10 feet nor more than 50 feet.

(9) Corner lots. For corner lots, the shorter lot line abutting a public street shall be deemed the front lot line for purposes of this article, and the longer lot line abutting a public street shall be deemed a side lot line.

(10) Through lots. For through lots, both lot lines that abut a public street or other right-of-way shall be deemed front lot lines for purposes of this article, and the required front yard shall be provided along each front lot line.

(11) Yard encroachments. The following uses shall not be considered as encroachments into required yards, provided they are not located closer than one foot to the property line, except for fences:

(a) Cornices, canopies, awnings, eaves, bay windows and other ornamental features, provided they do not extend more than three feet into the required yard.

(b) Chimneys, air conditioning units, fire escapes, uncovered stairs, ramps and necessary landings, provided they do not extend more than four feet into the required yard.

(c) Fences constructed and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of this article.

(d) Driveways and parking areas constructed and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of this article.

(e) Accessory buildings constructed and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of this article.

(f) Mechanical equipment constructed and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of this article.

(g) Signs constructed and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of this article.

(h) Private swimming pools, tennis courts, basketball courts or other private recreational facilities constructed and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of this article.

(12) Traffic visibility. No planting, structure or other obstruction shall be placed or allowed to grow on corner lots in a manner that will impede vision on the intersecting rights-of-way, in accordance with the following sight triangles:

(a) Street intersections. No planting or structure in excess of 30 inches above the abutting curb line shall be permitted within the sight triangle, defined as the area beginning at the intersection of the projected curb line of two intersecting streets, then 30 feet along one curb line, diagonally to a point 30 feet from the point of beginning on the other curb line, then back to a point of beginning.

(b) Street and alley intersections. No planting or structure in excess of 30 inches above the abutting curb line shall be permitted within the sight triangle, defined as the area beginning at the point of intersection of the projected curb line and the alley right-of-way, then 30 feet along the street curb line, diagonally to a point 15 feet from the point of beginning along said alley right-of-way or projection of the alley right-of-way, then back to the point of beginning.

(c) Alley and alley intersections. No planting or structure in excess of 30 inches above the nearest edge of the traveled right-of-way shall be permitted within the sight triangle, defined as the area beginning at the point of intersection of the two alley right-of-way lines, then 15 feet along one alley right-of-way line, then diagonally to a point 15 feet from the point of beginning along the second alley right-of-way line, then back to the point of beginning. Any structures existing within this sight triangle shall be deemed nonconforming structures in accordance with the provisions of § 9.105.

(13) Height limitations. The building and structure height limitations established for each zoning district shall apply to all buildings and structures, except that such height limitations may be increased by 50% when applied to the following:

- (a) Church spires, steeples or belfries.
- (b) Chimneys or flues.
- (c) Cupolas and domes which do not contain usable space.
- (d) Towers, poles or other structures for essential services.
- (e) Flag poles.
- (f) Mechanical or electrical equipment, provided said equipment does not occupy more than 25% of the roof area.
- (g) Television and ham radio antennas.
- (h) Monuments.
- (i) Telecommunication towers constructed in accordance with the provisions of § 9.106(O).

(C) Accessory uses and structures.

(1) Accessory structures, residential uses. The following standards shall regulate the construction and maintenance of residential accessory structures:

- (a) Each residentially zoned parcel shall be allowed two detached accessory structures.
- (b) No accessory structure shall be constructed or located within any front yard.
- (c) Accessory structures for one- and two-family dwellings shall be set back a minimum of three feet from the side lot line, and a minimum of three feet from the rear lot line, a minimum of five feet from any other building or structure on the same lot, and behind the principal structure building line in the front yard.
- (d) An accessory structure shall be considered an integral part of the principal structure if it is connected to the principal building by a covered passageway.
- (e) An accessory structure, or any combination of accessory structures, storage sheds and attached garages, shall not exceed 1,000 square feet in area.
- (f) Unless a height limitation is specifically stated, the height of an accessory structure shall not exceed the lesser of:
 - 1. The height of the principal structure;
 - 2. 12 feet above average finished grade for flat roofs;
 - 3. 18 feet above average finished grade for pitched roofs, mansard roofs, and all other roofs.
- (g) Where the natural grade of the lot is 10 feet or more above or below the established curb level at the front building setback and access from an alley is not available, an accessory structure for the storage of not more than two automobiles may be constructed within any yard, provided that at least one-half of the

height is below grade level and the accessory structure is set back a minimum of 20 feet from any right-of-way.

(h) The exterior color and design of an accessory structure shall be similar to the principal structure. Corrugated metal siding and roofs shall be prohibited.

(i) Whenever a garage is so designed that the vehicle entry door(s) are facing a street or alley, the distance between the door(s) and the lot line shall be no less than 20 feet for lots greater than 6,500 square feet, and shall be no less than 15 feet for lots 6,500 square feet or less.

(j) Accessory structures for multiple-family dwellings shall be placed in the rear yard and shall be subject to the same height and exterior finish regulations as the principal structure for the district in which it is located, in addition to the requirements of this section.

(k) Any accessory structure capable of storing one or more motorized vehicle shall be provided with a hard-surfaced access driveway, no less than 12 feet in width, to an adjacent public street or alley, and shall be no less than 20 by 20 in size.

(l) Accessory buildings shall not be located within any utility or drainage easement.

(2) Accessory structures, non-residential uses. The following standards shall regulate the construction and maintenance of non-residential accessory structures:

(a) All accessory structures shall be subject to the same setback, height and exterior finish regulations as a principal structure for the district in which it is located.

(b) The height of an accessory structure shall not exceed the height of the principal structure.

(c) All multiple story and accessory structures over 200-square feet in area shall require a building permit from the city.

(3) Home occupations. Home occupations are allowed in residential districts, subject to the following standards:

(a) The home occupation shall be clearly incidental and subordinate to the residential use of the property. Exterior alterations or modifications that change the residential character or appearance of the dwelling, any accessory building or the property itself shall not be allowed.

(b) Only persons residing on the premises and no more than one nonresident employee shall be engaged in the conduct of the home occupation on the premises at any given time.

(c) There shall be no outside storage of products, materials or equipment used in conjunction with the home occupation.

(d) The home occupation must be conducted within the principal residential structure and/or up to 30% of the floor area of an accessory building or attached garage.

(e) The required off-street parking for the residential use shall not be reduced or made unusable by the home occupation.

(f) The home occupation shall not generate excessive traffic or parking that is detrimental to the character of the neighborhood.

(g) Shipment and delivery of products, merchandise or supplies shall be by single rear axle straight trucks or similar delivery trucks normally used to serve residential neighborhoods.

(h) There shall be no indications of offensive noise, odor, smoke, heat, glare, vibration, or electrical interference at or beyond the property line of the home occupation.

(i) Signage for the home occupation shall be limited to one non-illuminated sign, not exceeding two square feet in area and attached to the wall of the residential dwelling.

(j) The home occupation shall meet all applicable fire and building codes, as well as any other applicable city, state or federal regulations.

(k) The following home activities shall be prohibited as home occupations:

1. The operation of any wholesale or retail business unless it is conducted entirely by mail and does not involve the sale, shipment or delivery of merchandise on the premises. The sale of products incidental to the delivery of a service is allowed.

2. Any manufacturing, welding, machine shop or similar use.

3. Motor vehicle repair, either major or minor.

4. The sale, lease, trade or transfer of firearms or ammunition.

5. Headquarters or dispatch centers where persons come to the site and are dispatched to other locations.

(l) All home occupations shall be subject to a one-time registration with the city, on a form as required by the Zoning Administrator and with a fee as determined by the City Council.

(4) Private swimming pools and courts. All private swimming pools, tennis courts, ball courts and other private recreational facilities are subject to the following standards:

(a) The facility is not operated as a business or private club.

(b) The facility is not located within any required front or side yard.

(c) The facility is set back at least five feet from any property line, including any walks, paved areas or related structures or equipment.

(d) For swimming pools, the pool itself, the rear yard, or the entire property shall be enclosed by a non-climbable wall, fence or combination thereof at least six feet in height, with a self-closing gate capable of being secured with a lock so as to prevent uncontrolled access by children. If the only access is through a principal or accessory structure, such point of access shall be lockable. In the case of above-ground pools, pool sides that are vertical may contribute to the required fencing, provided all points of access are controlled to prevent access by children, including the removal of all ladders or stairs whenever the pool is not in use.

(e) For in-ground pools, the pool is set back at least six feet from the principal structure.

(f) Hot tubs shall not be located within five feet of any side yard or rear lot line, or within any required front yard. Such pools may be equipped with a child-resistant, lockable cover in lieu of a six-foot tall fence. Hot tubs are permitted on attached or detached decks if it can be proven that the deck is engineered to be structurally sound enough to support the bearing load of the hot tub.

(g) Portable pools shall not be located within five feet of any side or rear lot line, or within any required front yard. Such pools may be equipped with a child resistant cover in lieu of a six-foot tall fence. Any ladder or other means of entry into a portable pool shall be detachable and placed so that no child can gain entry into the pool without the owner's consent. Portable pools shall not be in place longer than six months in a calendar year.

(h) Lighting shall be so oriented so as not to cast light on adjacent properties.

(i) The facility shall not be located within any drainage or utility easement.

(j) Any accessory mechanical apparatus shall be located at least 30 feet from any residential structure on an adjacent lot.

(k) All swimming pools containing more than 3,000 gallons or with a depth in excess of 42 inches (3.5 feet) shall require a building permit from the city.

(5) Trash handling equipment. For all uses other than one- and two-family dwellings, trash and/or recycling collection areas shall be enclosed on at least three sides by an opaque screening wall or fence no less than six feet in height. The open side of the enclosure shall not face any public street or the front yard of any adjacent property.

(6) Mechanical equipment. Mechanical equipment, other than that accessory to one- and two- family dwellings, shall be placed and/or screened so as to minimize the visual impact on adjacent properties and from public streets. Screening may be accomplished through the use of walls or other design features that are architecturally compatible with the principal structure, screening vegetation, integrated parapet walls of sufficient height, or other means as approved by the Zoning Administrator.

(D) Dwellings.

(1) General requirements. The following standards shall apply to all dwelling units within the city:

(a) All single-family dwelling units shall be a minimum of 20 feet wide at the narrowest point.

(b) No recreational vehicle shall be used at any time as a dwelling unit.

(c) No basement dwelling (basements without upper floors) shall be used at any time as a dwelling unit.

(2) Floor area requirements. The following floor area requirements shall apply to all dwelling units within the city:

(a) One-story dwellings shall have a minimum floor area of 1,020 square feet, plus 120 square feet for each additional bedroom over three. The floor area may be reduced to 960 square feet if the lot size is 6,500 square feet or less.

- (b) One and one-half and two story dwellings shall have a minimum floor area of 550 square feet on the main floor, with a total above grade minimum finished floor area of 1,020 square feet.
- (c) Split-level dwellings shall have a minimum floor area of 1,020 square feet, plus 120 square feet for each additional bedroom over three. The floor area may be reduced to 960 square feet if the lot is 6,500 square feet or less.
- (d) Split entry dwellings shall have a minimum floor area of 1,020 square feet, plus 120 square feet for each additional bedroom over three. The floor area may be reduced to 960 square feet if the lot is 6,500 square feet or less.
- (e) Two-family dwellings (duplexes) and town homes shall have a minimum floor area of 750 square feet per unit, plus 120 square feet for each additional bedroom over two.
- (f) Efficiency apartments shall have a minimum floor area of 400 square feet per unit.
- (g) One-bedroom apartments shall have a minimum floor area of 600 square feet per unit.
- (h) Two-bedroom apartments shall have a minimum floor area of 720 square feet per unit.
- (i) Apartments with more than two bedrooms shall have a minimum floor area of 720 square feet per unit, plus 120 square feet for each additional bedroom over two.

(3) *Accessory Dwelling Units*

- (a) An accessory dwelling unit shall only be a permitted accessory use to any lot with a detached single-family dwelling.
- (b) No accessory dwelling unit shall be permitted upon a lot on which more than one residential dwelling is located and no more than one accessory dwelling unit shall be permitted per lot.
- (c) The accessory dwelling unit shall not be sold or conveyed independently of the principal residential dwelling and may not be on a separate tax parcel or subdivided through any means.
- (d) Either the ADU or the principal dwelling shall be occupied by the property owner and a restriction shall be recorded against the property requiring owner occupancy for at least one of the units; a rental license for the non-owner-occupied unit is required.
- (e) Both the single-family dwelling and the accessory dwelling unit, together, shall provide adequate off-street parking on the lot; parking spaces may be garage spaces or paved outside parking spaces.
- (f) Accessory dwelling units **must contain habitable space based on the adopted MN Building Code** and be a minimum of 250 square feet and a maximum of 50% of the total floor area of the principal dwelling up to 1,000 square feet.
- (g) ADUs in Minnesota must adhere to the Minnesota State Building Code, which includes fire separation for attached units, safe egress and entrances, and proper water and sewer connections.
- (h) Accessory dwelling units within or attached to the principal structure shall conform to Zoning Code standards for single family dwellings, including but not limited to setback, height, impervious surface, curb cut and driveway, and accessory structure standards if the unit is detached. The accessory

dwelling unit is subject to current Building, Plumbing, Electrical, Mechanical, and Fire Code provisions including maintaining emergency access to both units.

(E) Fences.

(1) General requirements. The following standards shall apply to all fences:

(a) Fences may be constructed, placed or maintained in any yard or adjacent to a lot line in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(b) The owner of the property upon which the fence is located shall be responsible for locating all property lines prior to constructing said fence.

(c) All fence posts and supporting members shall be placed within the property lines of the property on which they are located.

(d) All fences shall be situated so that they can be maintained from within the property boundaries of the property on which they are located.

(e) All fences shall be constructed so that the finished side or more attractive side of the fence faces the adjacent property or right-of-way.

(f) Fences, freestanding walls, and retaining walls shall be constructed in a substantial and workmanlike manner to withstand conditions of soil, weather and use, and of substantial material reasonably suited for the purpose for which the fence, freestanding wall or retaining wall is proposed to be used. No previously used materials may be used in any fence. All fences shall be constructed of the following approved fencing materials:

1. Galvanized or vinyl coated woven fabric - minimum 11 1/2 gauge, with two-inch minimum mesh, with knuckles up and cut edge down.

2. Approved vinyl fencing materials.

3. Treated wood or wood of natural materials resistant to decay.

(g) Retaining walls or freestanding walls shall be constructed in the following manner:

1. Retaining walls and cribbing shall be used to stabilize steep slopes or prevent erosion.

2. They shall be designed in accordance with sound engineering practice; including, but not limited to, a minimum four-inch concrete footing of appropriate width and drains of appropriate type, size and spacing.

3. Cribbed slopes shall be appropriately planted if open-faced cribbing is used.

4. The retaining wall or freestanding wall shall be constructed in a manner that presents a finished appearance to the adjoining property where applicable.

(h) All fences shall be maintained and kept in good condition.

(i) Fence height shall be measured from the average grade to the top of the fence. In situations where a grade separation exists at the property line, the height of the fence shall be based on the measurement from the average point between the highest and lowest grade.

(j) Barbed wire, razor wire and electric fences shall not be permitted in any zoning district. However, barbed wire may be permitted in industrially zoned districts and property used for public purposes through a Conditional Use Permit process.

(k) Fences exceeding six feet in height shall require a building permit from the city.

(2) Residential fences. The following standards shall apply to all fences constructed in any residential zoning district or directly adjacent to any residential zoning district:

(a) No fence shall exceed seven feet in height. Fences exceeding six feet in height shall be deemed structures and shall require a ~~Conditional Use Permit~~ **Zoning Permit Review**.

(b) Fences along any rear property line that abut a public alley or street shall be located no closer than three feet from the alley or street right-of-way.

(c) It shall be the responsibility of property owners with fences within recorded city easements to remove such fence at any time when access to the recorded city easement would require the removal of the fence.

(d) A fence extending across or into the required front yard setback shall not exceed 42 inches (3.5 feet) in height; however, fences that are less than 50% opaque may be up to 48 inches (4 feet) in height.

(3) Non-residential fences. The following standards shall apply to all fences constructed in any commercial or industrial zoning district:

(a) No fence shall exceed eight feet in height. Fences exceeding seven feet in height shall be deemed structures and shall require a ~~Conditional Use Permit~~ **Zoning Permit Review**.

(b) A fence extending across or into the required front yard setback shall not exceed four feet in height.

(c) A fence required to screen a commercial or industrial use from an adjacent residential use shall not exceed eight feet in height or be less six feet in height. In addition, said screening fence shall be no less than 80% opaque on a year round basis.

(4) Fencing of play areas. For parks and playgrounds, either public or private and located adjacent to a public right-of-way or railroad right-of-way, a landscaped yard area no less than 30 feet in width, or a fence no less than 4 feet in height, shall be installed between the facility and the right-of- way.

(F) Essential services.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to provide for the installation of essential services in a manner that does not adversely affect the public health, safety or welfare.

(2) Essential services allowed by permit. The following essential services, when installed in any location in the city and installed primarily for the use of city residents, shall only require a permit from the City Engineer:

- (a) All communication lines.
 - (b) Underground electrical transmission lines, overhead utility lines and electrical transmission lines intended to serve properties within the city.
 - (c) Pipelines for distribution to individual properties within the city.
 - (d) Substations with less than 33 KV.
 - (e) Radio receivers and transmitters accessory to an essential service, when placed on an existing utility pole, tower or light standard.
- (3) Essential services requiring conditional use permit. The following essential services, when installed in any location in the city and not primarily for the use of city residents, shall require a conditional use permit in accordance with the provisions of § 9.104:
- (a) All overhead and underground transmission lines not required for the local distribution network.
 - (b) All transmission pipelines.
 - (c) Substations in excess of 33 KV.
 - (d) Any pole or tower used exclusively for the placement of radio receivers or transmitters accessory to an essential service.
 - (e) Any essential service of which 75% of the service provided or produced is not intended to serve properties within the city.
 - (f) Any essential service requiring a structure that exceeds the maximum height for the zoning district in which it is located.
 - (g) Any essential service requiring easements other than easements granted to the public.
- (G) Temporary uses and structures. The following temporary uses and structures shall be permitted in all zoning districts unless specified otherwise, provided such use or structure complies with the regulations of the zoning district in which it is located and all other applicable provisions of this article:
- (1) Garage sales. Residential garage sales shall be limited to no more than two garage sales per property per calendar year, with the duration of each garage sale not to exceed three consecutive days at any residential location.
 - (2) Construction sites. Storage of building materials and equipment or temporary building for construction purposes may be located on the site under construction for the duration of the construction.
 - (3) Amusement events. Temporary amusement events, including the placement of tents for such events, may be allowed as a temporary use for a maximum of 15 days per calendar year. In residential districts, such temporary amusements shall be located on public or semi-public property only.
 - (4) Promotional activities. Promotional activities involving the outdoor sale or display of merchandise may be allowed as a temporary use in non-residential districts for a maximum of 30 days per calendar year.

(5) Other temporary uses. In addition to the temporary uses and structures listed above, the Zoning Administrator may allow other temporary uses and structures for a maximum of 15 days per calendar year, provided the said use or structure is substantially similar to the uses and structures listed herein.

(H) Performance standards.

(1) Purpose. These performance standards are established to minimize conflict between land uses, to preserve the use and enjoyment of property, and to protect the public health, safety and welfare. These standards shall apply to all uses of land and structures, and are in addition to any requirements applying to specific zoning districts.

(2) In general. No use or structure shall be operated or occupied so as to constitute a dangerous, injurious or noxious condition because of noise, odors, glare, heat, vibration, air emissions, electromagnetic disturbance, fire, explosion or other hazard, water or soil pollution, liquid or solid waste disposal, or any other substance or condition. No use or structure shall unreasonably interfere with the use or enjoyment of property by any person of normal sensitivities. In addition, no use or structure shall be operated or occupied in a manner not in compliance with any performance standard contained in this article or any other applicable regulation.

(3) Noise. All uses shall comply with the standards governing noise as adopted and enforced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

(4) Odor emissions. All uses shall comply with the standards governing the odor emissions as adopted and enforced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

(5) Vibration. Uses producing vibration shall be conducted in such a manner as to make the vibration completely imperceptible from any point along the property line. In addition, all uses shall comply with the standards governing vibrations as adopted and enforced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

(6) Air emissions. All uses shall comply with the standards governing air emissions as adopted and enforced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

(7) Glare and heat. Uses producing glare or heat shall be conducted within a completely enclosed building in such a manner as to make such glare and heat completely imperceptible from any point along the property line. In addition, all uses shall comply with the standards governing glare and heat as adopted and enforced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

(8) Radiation and electrical emissions. All uses shall comply with the standards governing radiation and electrical emissions as adopted and enforced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

(9) Waste material. All uses shall comply with the standards governing waste disposal as adopted and enforced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

(10) Explosive and flammable materials. All uses involving the manufacture, storage or use of explosive or flammable materials shall comply with all applicable regulations, including, but not limited to, the Minnesota Building Code and the Uniform Fire Code, and shall meet the following requirements:

(a) All uses involving the manufacture, storage or use of explosive or flammable materials shall employ best management practices and the provision of adequate safety devices to guard against the hazards of fire and explosion, and adequate fire-fighting and fire-suppression devices standard in the industry.

(b) The manufacture or storage of any explosive or blasting agent, as defined in the Uniform Fire Code, shall be prohibited in all districts except the I-2, General Industrial District.

(c) The storage of any flammable liquid shall be subject to the requirements established by the Uniform Fire Code and shall be reviewed by the State Fire Marshal.

(11) Hazardous materials. All uses shall comply with the standards governing hazardous waste as adopted and enforced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

(l) Storm water management.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of this division is to promote, preserve and enhance the natural resources within the city and protect them from adverse effects occasioned by poorly sited development or incompatible activities by regulating land alterations or development activities that would have an adverse and potentially irreversible impact on water quality and unique and fragile environmentally sensitive land; by minimizing conflicts and encouraging compatibility between land alterations and development activities and water quality and environmentally sensitive lands; and by requiring detailed review standards and procedures for land alterations or development activities proposed for such areas, thereby achieving a balance between urban growth and development and protection of water quality and natural areas.

(2) Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivatives shall have the meaning stated below. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future tense, words in the plural number include the singular number, and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word “shall” is always mandatory and not merely directive.

APPLICANT. Any person who wishes to obtain a building permit, preliminary plat approval or an excavation permit.

CONTROL MEASURE. A practice or combination of practices to control erosion and attendant pollution.

DETENTION FACILITY. A permanent natural or man-made structure, including wetlands, for the temporary storage of runoff which contains a permanent pool of water.

EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES. Any excavation or filling activity as regulated by § 9.106(J).

FLOOD FRINGE. The portion of the floodplain outside of the floodway.

FLOODPLAIN. The areas adjoining a watercourse or water basin that have been or may be covered by a regional flood.

FLOODWAY. The channel of the watercourse, the bed of water basins, and those portions of the adjoining floodplain that are reasonably required to carry and discharge floodwater and provide water storage during a regional flood.

HYDRIC SOILS. Soils that are saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part.

HYDROPHYTIC VEGETATION. Macrophytic plantlife growing in water, soil or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content.

LAND ALTERATION. Any change of the land surface including, but not limited to, removing vegetative cover, excavating, filling, grading, and, the construction of utilities, roadways, parking areas and structures.

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES). The program for issuing, modifying, revoking, reissuing, terminating, monitoring, and enforcing permits under the Clean Water Act (Sections 301, 318, 402, and 405) and United States Code of Federal Regulations Title 33, Sections 1317, 1328, 1342, and 1345.

PERSON. Any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, franchisee, association or governmental entity.

PUBLIC WATERS. Waters of the state as defined in M.S. § 1036.005, subd. 15, as it may be amended from time to time.

REGIONAL FLOOD. A flood that is representative of large floods known to have occurred generally in the state and reasonably characteristic of what can be expected to occur on an average frequency in the magnitude of a 100-year recurrence interval.

RETENTION FACILITY. A permanent natural or man-made structure that provides for the storage of storm water runoff by means of a permanent pool of water.

SEDIMENT. Solid matter carried by water, sewage, or other liquids.

STRUCTURE. Any manufactured, constructed or erected building including portable structures and earthen structures.

SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT DESIGN STANDARDS (SWMDS). Document stating the design criteria and specifications for the city's storm water management program.

WETLANDS. Lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic: systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. For purposes of this definition, wetlands must have the following attributes:

1. Have a predominance of hydric soils;
2. Are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions; and
3. Under normal circumstances support a prevalence of such vegetation.

(3) Scope and effect.

(a) Applicability. This section shall apply to any land alteration requiring any of the following permits or approvals:

1. A building permit for new multiple-family residential (three or more attached dwelling units), commercial, industrial, or institutional development;
2. A preliminary plat;
3. Land alteration permit as regulated by § 9.106 (J);

4. A building permit for a single-family or two-family residential dwelling except that only subdivisions (3) through (7) of this division shall apply; or

5. Public improvement projects.

6. No building permit, preliminary plat, excavation permit or public improvement project shall be approved until approval of a storm water management plan has been obtained in strict conformance with the provisions of this section.

7. All projects disturbing one acre or greater of land will require the submittal of a storm water management plan.

(b) Exemptions. The provisions of this section do not apply to:

1. Construction of a single-family or two-family dwelling or any structure or land alteration accessory thereto except that the provisions of subdivisions (3) through (7) of this division shall apply;

2. Any currently valid building permit, preliminary plat, excavation permit, or public improvement project approved prior to the effective date of this article;

3. Construction of agricultural structures or land alterations associated with agricultural uses unless an excavation permit is required by § 9.106(J);

4. Installation of a fence, sign, telephone, and electric poles and other kinds of posts or poles; or

5. Emergency work to protect life, limb, or property.

(4) Submission requirements—storm water management plan. A storm water management plan shall be submitted with all permit applications identified in § 9.106(I)(3). Storm water management plan submittal requirements are outlined in the city's SWMDS. No building or land disturbing activity will be approved unless it includes a storm water management plan, detailing how runoff and associated water quality impacts resulting from development will be controlled or managed.

(5) Plan review procedure.

(a) Process. Storm water management plans meeting the requirements of § 9.106(I) and the city's SWMDS shall be reviewed by the Engineering Division in accordance with the standards of § 9.106(I)(6) and the city's SWMDS. The Director of Public Works, or designee, shall approve, approve with conditions, or deny the storm water management plan.

(b) Duration. A storm water plan approved in accordance with this section shall become void if the corresponding building permit, excavation permit, preliminary plat, or public improvement project expires or becomes invalid.

(c) Conditions. A storm water management plan may be approved, subject to compliance with conditions reasonable and necessary to insure that the requirements contained in this article are met. Such conditions may, among other matters, limit the size, kind or character of the proposed development, require the construction of structures, drainage facilities, storage basins and other facilities, require replacement of vegetation, establish required monitoring procedures, stage the work over time, require alteration of the site design to insure buffering, and require the conveyance, for storm water management purposes, to the city or other public entity of certain lands or interests therein.

(d) Letter of credit. Prior to approval of any storm water management plan, the applicant shall submit a letter of credit or cash escrow to cover the estimated cost of site restoration. The letter of credit or cash escrow amount shall be in the amount specified by the current city SWMDS.

(e) Amendment. A storm water management plan may be revised in the same manner as originally approved.

(6) Approval standards. No storm water management plan which fails to meet the standards contained in this section shall be approved by the city.

(a) General criteria for storm water management plans.

1. An applicant shall install or construct all storm water management facilities according the criteria outlined in the city's SWMDS.

2. The applicant shall give consideration to reducing the need for storm water management facilities by incorporating the use of natural topography and land cover, such as wetlands, ponds, natural swales and depressions, as they exist before development, to the degree that they can accommodate the additional flow of water without compromising the integrity or quality of the wetland or pond.

3. The following storm water management practices shall be investigated in developing a storm water management plan in the following descending order of preference:

- a. Infiltration of runoff on-site, if suitable soil conditions are available for use;
- b. Flow attenuation by use of open vegetated swales and natural depressions;
- c. Storm water retention facilities; and
- d. Storm water detention facilities.

4. A combination of successive practices may be used to achieve the applicable minimum control requirements specified in subdivision 3. above. Justification shall be provided by the applicant for the method selected.

(b) Specifications. At a minimum, applicants shall comply with all of the NPDES general construction storm water permit requirements.

(c) Wetlands. Existing wetlands may be used for storm water management purposes, provided the following criteria are met:

1. The wetland shall not be classified as a Group I or II water within the City Water Resource Management Plan.

2. A protective buffer strip of natural vegetation, at least ten feet in width, shall surround all wetlands.

3. A sediment trapping device or area that is designed to trap sediments 0.5 millimeters in size or greater, with a trap volume size based upon a prescribed maintenance schedule, shall be installed prior to discharge of storm water into the wetlands.

4. The natural outlet control elevation of the wetlands, if it is not a DNR public water, shall not be changed, except when either i) the outlet is intended to restore the wetland to its original elevation, ii) the wetland basin is landlocked and the artificial outlet control is placed no lower than 1.5 feet below the ordinary high water mark, iii) the proposed level control is identified in the City Water Resource Management Plan, or iv) the level change is approved by a technical evaluation panel convened pursuant to the state Wetland Conservation Act of 1991 (WCA).

5. The water fluctuation from storm water shall not be increased over what occurs naturally, except as provided in subdivision 4.c. above.

6. The wetland shall not be a protected fen.

7. Wetlands shall not be drained or filled, wholly or partially, unless replaced by restoring or creating wetland areas in accordance with the WCA. When wetland replacement is required, it shall be guided by the following principles in descending order of priority:

- a. Avoiding the direct or indirect impact of the activity that may destroy or diminish the wetland;
- b. Minimizing the impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the wetland activity and its implementation;
- c. Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected wetland environment;
- d. Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the activity; and
- e. Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute wetland resources or environments.

8. If the wetland is a DNR public water, all necessary permits from the DNR shall be obtained.

(d) Models/methodologies/computations. Hydrologic models and design methodologies used for the determination of runoff and analysis of storm water management structures shall be approved by the Director of Public Works. Plans, specifications and computations for storm water management facilities submitted for review shall be sealed and signed by a registered professional engineer. All computations shall appear on the plans submitted for review, unless otherwise approved by the Director of Public Works.

(e) Watershed management plans/groundwater management plans. Storm water management plans shall be consistent with adopted watershed management plans and groundwater management plans prepared in accordance with M.S. §§ 103B.231 and 103B.255, respectively, as they may be amended from time to time, and as approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources in accordance with the state law.

(7) Storm water management fee.

(a) When required. In lieu of the storm water management facilities required in § 9.106(I), the city may allow an applicant to make a monetary contribution to the development and maintenance of community storm water management facilities, designed to serve multiple land disturbing and development activities, when consistent with the City's Water Resource Management Plan.

(b) Calculation of fee. The amount of monetary contribution shall be found in the SWMDS. For preliminary plats, an estimated impervious coverage per lot, subject to the approval of the Director of Public Works, shall be included in the total impervious surface area calculation.

(c) Payment of fee. Payment of a monetary contribution shall occur as follows:

1. Building permit—upon issuance of building permit.
2. Excavation permit—upon issuance of excavation permit.
3. Preliminary plat—upon approval of final plat or commencement of land alteration, whichever occurs first.

(8) Inspection and maintenance. All storm water management facilities shall be designed to minimize the need for maintenance, to provide access for maintenance purposes, and to be structurally sound. In addition, the following maintenance standards shall apply:

(a) All storm water detention periods shall be maintained to ensure continued effective removal of pollutants from storm water runoff. In addition, upon 50% of the pond's original design volume being filled with sediment, the sediment shall be removed and the pond restored to its original design.

(b) The Director of Public Works, or designated representative, shall inspect all storm water management facilities during construction, during the first year of operation, and at least once every five years thereafter.

(c) All permanent storm water management facilities must provide a maintenance agreement with the city that documents all responsibilities for operation and maintenance of long-term storm water management facilities. Such responsibilities shall be documented in a maintenance plan and executed through a maintenance agreement. All maintenance agreements must be approved by the city and recorded at the County Recorder's office prior to final plan approval. At a minimum, the maintenance agreement shall describe the inspection and maintenance obligations:

1. The responsible party who is permanently responsible for inspection and maintenance of the structural and nonstructural measures.

2. Pass responsibilities for such maintenance to successors in title.

3. Allow the city and its representatives the right of entry for the purposes of inspecting all permanent storm water management systems.

4. Allow the city the right to repair and maintain the facility, if necessary maintenance is not performed after proper and reasonable notice to the responsible party of the permanent storm water management system.

5. Include a maintenance plan that contains, but is not limited to, the following:

a. Identification of all structural permanent storm water management systems.

b. A schedule for regular inspections, monitoring, and maintenance for each practice. Monitoring shall verify whether the practice is functioning as designed and may include, but is not limited to, quality, temperature, and quantity of runoff.

c. Identification of the responsible party for conducting the inspection, monitoring and maintenance for each practice.

d. Include a schedule and format for reporting compliance with the maintenance agreement to the city.

e. Right of entry. The issuance of a permit constitutes a right of entry for the city or its contractor to enter upon the construction site. The applicant shall allow the city and its authorized representatives, upon presentation of credentials, to:

i. Enter upon the permitted site for the purpose of obtaining information, examining records, conducting investigations or surveys.

ii. Bring such equipment upon the permitted development as is necessary to conduct such surveys and investigations.

iii. Examine and copy any books, papers, records, or memoranda pertaining to activities or records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of the permit.

iv. Inspect the storm water pollution control measures.

v. Sample and monitor any items or activities pertaining to storm water pollution control measures.

vi. Correct deficiencies in storm water, erosion and sediment control measures.

(d) Storm water management facilities serving a single-family residential area or subdivision, but more than one single-family lot, shall be maintained by the city. The cost incurred by the city for maintenance of said facilities shall be assessed, levied through a special storm water taxing district against the properties contributing storm water runoff to or through the facility, or by the city's storm water utility.

(e) Storm water management facilities serving a multiple-family residential building or development; a commercial, industrial or institutional building or development; or an individual parcel shall be maintained by the property owner on which the facility is located, unless it is determined by the Director of Public Works that it is in the best interests of the city for the city to maintain such facilities. If the city is to maintain the storm water management facilities, the cost incurred by the city for the maintenance may be assessed or levied as described in subsection (d) above.

(9) Penalty. Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this section shall be fined not less than deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues.

(10) Other controls. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this section and the provisions of the city code, the more restrictive standard prevails.

(J) Land alterations.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to manage land alterations within the city and provide for the review and approval of proposed grades prior to land alteration activities.

(2) In general. No person, firm or corporation may engage in any excavation, grading or filling of any land in the city without first having secured a permit from the Public Works Director in accordance with this section.

(3) Exemption. The removal of material for the purpose of constructing a basement or placement of footings is exempt from the provisions of this section, provided a grading plan was submitted and approved as part of the review and approval process. Grading of new subdivisions or developments is also exempt from the provisions of this section, provided a grading plan was submitted and approved as part of the review and approval process.

(4) Land alteration permit required. A land alteration permit from the Public Works Director is required for any of the following activities:

(a) Placement, removal or grading of more than ten cubic yards of earthen material on steep slopes adjacent to a lake or wetland, or within the shore or bluff impact zone of a lake or wetland.

(b) Placement, removal or grading of more than 50 cubic yards of earthen material anywhere in the city.

(c) Placement, removal or grading of earthen material within ten feet of any property line, or when such activity alters the drainage patterns of adjacent property.

(d) Placement, removal or grading of any property for the purposes of installing artificial turf or other surface that may require additional review of permeability and potential for illicit discharge.

(5) Conditional use permit required. A conditional use permit is required for any of the following activities:

(a) Placement, removal or grading of more than 500 cubic yards of earthen material on developed property zoned R-1 or R-2.

(b) Placement, removal or grading of more than 1,000 cubic yards of earthen material on undeveloped property zoned R-1 or R-2.

(c) Placement, removal or grading of more than 1,500 cubic yards of earthen material on property zoned R-3, R-4 or LB.

(d) Placement, removal or grading of more than 2,000 cubic yards of earthen material on property zoned GB, CBD, I-1, I-2, or MXD.

(6) Submittal requirements. An application for a land alteration permit shall include the following:

(a) A legal description of the land to be altered.

(b) The nature of the proposed alteration and future use of the property.

(c) The starting date and completion date of the land alteration.

(d) The names and addresses of all the owners of all the land to be altered.

(e) Scaled plans, showing the existing and proposed topography with two- foot contour intervals, and signed by a registered surveyor or engineer in the State of Minnesota.

(f) A scaled plan, showing existing and proposed vegetation and ground cover.

(g) An erosion and sedimentation control plan.

(h) Product specification sheet showing permeability, materials used, and potential for illicit discharge.

(K) Exterior lighting.

(1) In general. No use shall be operated or occupied so as to create light or glare in such an amount or to such a degree of intensity as to constitute a hazardous condition or a public nuisance. Lighting shall not create a sense of brightness that is substantially greater than the ambient lighting conditions so as to cause annoyance, discomfort, decreased visibility or a hazard for vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

(2) Lighting fixtures. Lighting fixtures shall be of a downcast with flat lens, cut-off type that conceals the light source from view and prevents light from shining on adjacent property. At no time should a fixture be aimed and/or tilted above a horizontal plane in commercial or industrial districts, with the exception of architectural up-lighting or landscape lighting.

(3) Lighting intensity. Lighting shall not directly or indirectly cause illumination or glare in excess of one-half footcandle as measured at the closest residential property line and three footcandles as measured at the closest street curb line or non-residential property line. Lighting shall be maintained stationary and constant in intensity and color, and shall not be of a flashing, moving or intermittent type.

(4) Submission. Detailed plans showing fixture type, wattage, light source, location and elevation along with site point by point showing footcandles must be submitted.

(5) Lighting of buildings. Lighting of building facades or roofs shall be located, aimed and shielded so that the light is directed only onto the facade or roof.

(6) Exceptions. The following uses are exempt from the provisions of this section:

(a) Publicly controlled or maintained street lighting, warning lights, emergency lights, or traffic signals.

(b) Athletic fields and other outdoor recreational facilities serving or operated by an institutional or public use that is operated in accordance with all other applicable provisions of this article.

(L) Off-street parking and loading.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of off-street parking and loading requirements is to alleviate or prevent congestion of the public right-of-way, to provide for the parking and loading needs of specific uses, to minimize the incompatibility between parking and loading areas and adjacent uses, and to regulate the size, design, maintenance and location of required off street parking and loading areas.

(2) Change of use. If the use of a building or site is changed or intensified, parking and loading facilities shall be provided for the changed or intensified use in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(3) Existing facilities. Existing off-street parking and loading facilities shall not be reduced below the requirements for a similar new use or, if less than the requirements for a similar new use, shall not be reduced further.

(4) Use of facilities.

(a) Required parking and loading spaces and driveways providing access to such spaces shall not be used for storage, display, sales, rental or repair of motor vehicles or other goods, or for the storage of inoperable vehicles or snow.

(b) Off-street parking facilities accessory to residential uses shall be utilized solely for the parking of passenger automobiles and/or one truck not to exceed 9,000 pounds gross capacity for each dwelling unit. Under no circumstances, shall required parking facilities accessory to residential structures be used for the storage of commercial vehicles or for the parking of automobiles belonging to the employees, owners, tenants or customers of nearby business or manufacturing establishments.

(5) Location of facilities. Required off-street parking spaces in the R-1 and R-2 Zoning Districts shall be located on the same lot as the principal building. Required off-street parking and loading facilities in all other zoning districts shall be located on the same lot or development site as the use served, except as follows:

(a) Off-site parking for multiple-family and institutional uses shall be located no more than 200 feet from the main entrance of the use being served.

(b) Off-site parking for commercial or industrial uses shall be located no more than 400 feet from the main entrance of the use being served.

(c) Reasonable and improved access shall be provided from the off-site parking facility to the use being served.

(d) The site used for off-site parking shall be under the same ownership as the principal use being served or use of the off-site parking facility shall be protected by a recordable instrument acceptable to the city.

(6) Calculation of requirements. Calculating the number of parking or loading required shall be in accordance with the following:

(a) Gross floor area. The term “gross floor area” for the purpose of calculating the number of off-street parking spaces required shall be determined based on the exterior floor dimensions of the building, structure or use times the number of floors, minus 10%.

(b) Places of public assembly. In places of worship, stadiums, sports arenas and other places of public assembly in which patrons or spectators occupy benches, pews, or other similar seating facilities, each three feet of such seating facilities shall be counted as one seat for the purpose of determining requirements for off-street parking facilities under this section.

(c) Capacity. In cases where parking requirements are based on capacity of persons, the capacity shall be based on the maximum number of persons that may occupy a place, as determined under the building code and posted within the establishment.

(d) Employees. When parking requirements are based on employee counts, such calculations shall be based on the maximum number of employees on the premises at any one time.

(e) Calculating space. When calculating the number of off-street parking spaces required results in fraction, each fraction of one-half or more shall require another space. The Council, at its discretion, may reduce the minimum required parking to not less than 1.5 parking spaces per unit for multifamily structure

with seven or more units, after consideration of factors including but not limited to the present or future availability of transit services, shared parking, pedestrian orientation, and occupancy characteristics.

(f) Garage or carport. A garage or carport shall be considered a parking space. However, a building permit shall not be granted to convert a garage or carport to living space unless other acceptable provisions are made to provide the required parking space.

(g) Joint parking. Except for shopping centers or where a shared parking arrangement has been approved by the city, the off-street parking requirements for each use in a multi-use structure or site shall be calculated separately in determining the total spaces required.

(h) Proof of parking. In cases where the future potential use of a building may generate additional parking demand, the city may require a proof of parking plan for the site that shows how the anticipated parking demand will be met.

(7) Design and maintenance of parking facilities. Off-street parking facilities are subject to the following design and maintenance requirements:

(a) Size of parking spaces. Each parking space shall be not less than 9 feet wide and 20 feet in length, exclusive of an adequately designed system of access drives. In the case where the parking space is abutting a curb at its narrowest dimension, the parking stall length may be reduced to 18 feet. In parking lots with more than 300 spaces, up to 40% of such spaces may be designated and clearly marked as compact car parking spaces with signage that is reasonably visible year round. A compact car parking space shall not be less than 8 feet wide and 18 feet in length, exclusive of the adequately designed system of access drives.

(b) Access and circulation. Except for parking accessory to one- and two-family dwellings, each required off-street parking space shall have direct access to an aisle or driveway no less than 24 feet in width and designed to provide safe and efficient means of vehicular access to and from the parking space without using public right-of-way for maneuvering.

(c) Surfacing. All off-street parking areas, all driveways leading to such parking areas and all other areas upon which motor vehicles may be located shall be surfaced with a dustless all-weather hard surface material. Acceptable materials include asphalt, concrete, brick, cement pavers or similar material installed and maintained per industry standards. Crushed rock shall not be considered an acceptable surfacing material.

(d) Drainage. Driveways shall not exceed a grade of 6% and all parking lots except those for less than four vehicles shall be graded according to a drainage plan that has been approved by the City Engineer. Catch basins, sumps and underground storm sewers may be required.

(e) Curbing. Except for one-, two-, three- and four-family residential uses, all off-street parking areas, all driveways leading to such parking areas, landscape islands, and other areas upon which motor vehicles may be located shall have six-inch non-surmountable poured in place concrete perimeter curbing. In cases where existing circumstances or area practices make such curbing impractical, the requirement may be waived subject to submittal and approval of a parking area drainage plan by the City Engineer.

(f) Lighting. Lighting used to illuminate an off-street parking area shall comply with the performance requirements of this section. The height of parking lot light poles or standards shall be no less than 12 feet

and no more than the maximum height established for structures in the district in which the lights will be installed.

(g) Setbacks. Except for one-, two-, three- and four-family residential uses, parking lots and loading areas shall be subject to the same setbacks as a structure for the district in which such parking is located. One-, two-, three- and four-family residential uses are subject to the following setback requirements:

1. Residential lots platted prior to the effective date of this section and having a lot width of 60 feet or less, shall maintain a minimum side yard setback of one foot in all districts.
2. Residential lots platted after the effective date of this section or having a lot width greater than 60 feet shall maintain a minimum side yard setback of three feet in all districts.
3. The creation of a joint driveway use between adjoining property owners shall require a conditional use permit.
4. No more than 50% of the front yard setback shall be paved for parking purposes.

(h) Residential driveway locations. Driveways may only lead directly to, or be contiguous to driveways leading to, and attached or detached garage.

(i) Minimum driveway widths. In all zoning districts, driveways shall be no less than 12 feet in width.

(j) Parking lots and loading areas shall be subject to the same setbacks as a structure for the district in which such parking is located.

(k) Signs. No sign shall be located in any parking area except as necessary for the orderly operation of traffic movement or parking regulation.

(l) Screening. All off-street parking areas containing six or more parking spaces and located next to a residential use shall be screened with fencing or landscaping no less than six feet in height that is 80% opaque on a year round basis.

(m) Landscaping. All setback areas shall be landscaped with grass, vegetation or other landscape material. The front yard setback area of all off-street parking areas containing six or more parking spaces shall have a vegetative screen no less than 30 inches in height that is 80% opaque on a year round basis.

(n) Striping. All off-street parking areas containing six or more parking spaces shall have the parking spaces and aisles clearly painted on the pavement according to the plan approved by the city.

(o) Maintenance. Parking areas and driveways shall be kept free of dirt, dust and debris, and the pavement shall be maintained in good condition. In winter months, required parking areas for commercial businesses shall be cleared of snow. Landscaping, lighting, fencing or other features installed in conjunction with parking areas shall also be maintained and kept in good condition at all times.

(8) Off-street parking district.

(a) Should the city establish a public off-street parking district, those uses located within the district shall be exempt from providing off-street parking spaces as required herein.

(b) The CBD, Central Business District, is established as a public off-street parking district, so that nonresidential uses are exempt from providing off-street parking spaces as required herein. Residential uses, including those in mixed-use buildings, shall provide off-street parking as required herein.

(9) Shared parking. The City Council may approve the use of a required off-street parking area for more than one principal use on the same or an adjacent site if the following conditions are met:

(a) Location. The use for which application for shared parking is being made is located within 300 feet of the use providing the parking facilities.

(b) Nighttime uses. Up to 50% of the off-street parking facilities required for a bowling alley, nightclub, school auditorium, theater or similar nighttime use may be supplied by off-street parking facilities provided primarily for a daytime use.

(c) Sunday use. Up to 75% of the off-street parking facilities required for a place of worship or similar Sunday use may be supplied by off-street parking facilities provided primarily for a daytime use.

(d) Daytime use. For the purposes of this provision, the following uses are considered primarily daytime uses: financial institutions, offices, retail stores, personal service facilities and similar uses.

(e) Contract. A legally binding instrument for the shared use of off-street parking facilities shall be approved by the City Attorney and filed with the Anoka County Recorder's Office within 60 days after approval of the shared parking use.

(10) *Off-street parking requirements.* Off-street parking shall be provided as specified in the following table, except as otherwise provided in this section.

Use	Minimum Spaces Required
Use	Minimum Spaces Required
<i>Residential Uses</i>	
Single-family	2 per unit, two must be enclosed (garage)
Accessory Dwelling Units	1 off-street parking space per unit
Two-family	2 per unit, two must be enclosed (garage)
Townhome/Twinhome	2 per unit, two must be enclosed (garage)
Multiple-family	
One-bedroom units	1 per unit, must be enclosed (garage)
Two-bedroom or larger units	2 per unit, one two must be enclosed (garage)
Manufactured home park	2 per unit
Residential care facility (6 or fewer)	2 per unit, two must be enclosed (garage)
Residential care facility (7 or more)	1 per employee, 1 per every 6 residents
Convent/monastery	1 per every 3 beds
Rooming house/group living quarters	2 per every 3 residents

Nursing home	1 per every 2 beds
Senior housing/assisted living	1 per every 2 units
Transitional/emergency housing	1 per employee, plus 1 per every 6 residents
Bed and breakfast home	2 plus 1 per every room rented
<i>Public/Institutional Uses</i>	
Community center	Determined by staff-based on parking study
Drop-in facility	30% of building capacity
Golf course	5 per hole, plus 30% of capacity of club house
Government facility	Based on type of use
Religious facilities/places of worship	1 per every 3.5 seats, capacity of main assembly area
School—elementary/junior high	10 plus 1 per classroom
School—senior high	10 plus 1 per every 6 students
School—vocational or business	Determined by staff—based on parking study
School—performing/visual/martial arts	30% of building capacity
<i>Commercial Uses</i>	
Retail sales/services	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area
Retail sales, outdoor	1 per 1,000 sf of sales/display area
Auditorium/places of assembly	1 per 3.5 seats, based on design capacity
Automobile convenience facility	6 spaces, plus 1 per 300 sf, gross floor area
Automobile repair	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area, plus 2 per service bay
Automobile sales/rental	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area, plus 1 per 1,000 sf of outdoor sales/display area
Banquet hall	1 per 3.5 seats, based on design capacity
Billiards hall	30% of building capacity
Bowling alley	5 per lane, plus 30% of capacity for related uses
Car wash	2 spaces per bay, plus 4 stacking spaces per bay
Clinic, medical and dental	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area
Clinic, veterinary	6 per veterinarian
Club or lodge	30% of building capacity
Consignment/thrift store	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area
Currency exchange	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area
Day care center	1 per every employee, plus 1 drop off space for every 5 enrollees
Financial institution	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area, plus 6 stacking spaces for each

	drive-through lane
Food service, convenience	6 plus 1 per 40 sf of dining/service area, plus 6 stacking spaces for each drive-through lane
Food service, limited	30% of building capacity
Food service, full-service	30% of building capacity
Funeral home	1 per 5 seats, plus 1 per 300 sf of non-eating area
Greenhouse/garden center	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area, plus 1 per 1,000 sf of outside sales/display area
Health/fitness club	Determined by staff–based on parking study
Hospital	Determined by staff–based on parking study
Hotel/motel	1 per unit, plus 30% of capacity for meeting rooms
Laboratory, medical	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area
Liquor store, off-sale	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area
Museum/gallery	30% of building capacity
Office	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area
Pawnshop	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area
Personal services	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area or 2 per station, whichever is greater
Professional services	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area
Recreational facility, indoor	1 per 150 sf of rink, court, pool area, and the like
Recreational facility, outdoor	30% of facility capacity
Recreation vehicle sales	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area, plus 1 per 1,000 sf of outdoor sales/display area
Shopping center	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area
Studio, professional	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area
Studio, radio and television	Determined by staff–based on design capacity
Theater, live performance or movie	1 per 3.5 seat, based on design capacity
<i>Industrial Uses</i>	
Assembly/manufacturing/processing	2 per every 3 employees or 1 per 1,000 sf, gross floor area, whichever is greater
Concrete, asphalt or rock crushing	2 per every 3 employees
Freight terminal	1 per 3,000 sf, gross floor area of storage/warehousing, plus 1 per 300 sf, gross floor area of office area
Maintenance facility	1 per 3,000 sf, gross floor area, plus 1 per 300 sf, gross floor area of office
Office/showroom	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area of office/showroom, plus 1 per

	3,000 sf, gross floor area of storage
Office/warehouse	1 per 300 sf, gross floor area of office, plus 1 per 3,000 sf, gross floor area of storage
Outdoor sales/display	1 per 1,000 sf of sales/display area
Outdoor storage	1 per 3,000 sf of storage area
Printing/publishing	2 per every 3 employees or 1 per 1,000 sf, gross floor area, whichever is greater
Salvage operation	2 per 3 employees
Self-service storage facility	1 per 3,000 sf, gross floor area of storage, plus 1 per 300 sf, gross floor area of office
Warehouse/distribution	1 per 3,000 sf, gross floor area of storage/warehousing, plus 1 per 300 sf, gross floor area of office/sales area

(11) Stacking requirements. Drive-up and drive-through facilities shall provide adequate stacking space for vehicles in accordance with the following table. Stacking spaces shall require a minimum pavement width of 12 feet, a length of 20 feet per vehicle, and shall be exclusive of any other required parking spaces or drive aisles.

Use	Minimum Stacking Spaces
Automobile washing facility—self-service	4 spaces per bay at entrance, 1 space per bay at exit
Automobile washing facility—automatic	4 spaces per bay at entrance, 1 space per bay at exit
Food service—fast food drive-through	4 spaces behind menu board, 4 space behind first window
Financial institution	4 spaces per teller window, 2 spaces per ATM kiosk
Other drive-up or drive-through uses	2 spaces per window

(12) Off-street loading requirements. Off-street loading space shall be provided for any non-residential use that receives or distributes materials or merchandise by trucks or similar vehicles and has a gross floor area of 5,000 square feet or more, in accordance with the following standards:

(a) Dimensions. Loading berths shall be no less than 12 feet in width, 50 feet in length and 14 feet in height, exclusive of aisle and maneuvering space.

(b) Location. Loading berths shall be located on the site and shall be separate from any required off-street parking. Loading berths shall not be located less than 50 feet from the property line of any residential property or residentially zoned property. Loading berths shall not be located within the front yard setback area.

(c) Access. Each loading berth shall be located with appropriate means of vehicular access to and from a public street or alley and shall not interfere with automobile or pedestrian traffic either on the site or adjacent to the site.

(d) Surfacing. All loading berths and access driveways shall be surfaced with a dustless all-weather material and constructed to control drainage according to a plan approved by the City Engineer.

(e) Use. Any space designated as a loading berth or access drive in accordance with the terms of this section shall not be used for the storage of goods, inoperable vehicles or required off-street parking.

(f) Number. For facilities with less than 20,000 square feet gross floor area, the off-street loading requirements may be met by providing a designated loading zone on site, as opposed to constructing a loading berth. For facilities with 20,000 square feet gross floor area or greater, one off- street loading berth shall be provided for every 30,000 square feet gross floor area or fraction thereof.

(M) *Tree Preservation and Planting Standards for Landscaping and Screening.*

(1) *Purpose.* The City of Columbia Heights recognizes the great value trees, landscaping, and screening provide to all residents of the City. A healthy, resilient, and robust urban forest enhances the aesthetic, environmental, and economic well-being of the City. Tree preservation and planting standards, landscaping and screening requirements are established to buffer non-compatible land uses, screen unsightly views, reduce noise and glare, minimize storm water runoff, and generally enhance the quality and appearance of development within the community.

- a. Preserve and increase the tree canopy cover of Columbia Heights by protecting mature trees throughout the City.
- b. Protect and enhance property values by conserving trees.
- c. Improve quality of life for all stakeholders, including residents, visitors, and wildlife.
- d. Preserve and increase the environmental services provided by the urban forest including sequestration of CO₂, erosion and stormwater mitigation, reduction of air pollutants, reduction of the urban heat island effect, and reduction of noise pollution.
- e. Protect and maintain healthy trees in the development and building permit process. Protect and maintain healthy trees by ensuring best tree protection practices during construction and development.

(2) Preservation, protection, and replacement of Protected Trees:

- a. This ordinance applies to all demolition, building permit applications, and land alteration permits, public or private, that require a survey.
- b. Definitions:
 - i. Protected Tree: Any tree variety on the List of Protected Tree Varieties as maintained and published by City staff with a diameter of 6" or greater as measured at 4.5' above ground (DBH, Diameter at Breast Height). The List of Protected Tree Varieties may be amended from time to time.
 - ii. Removable Tree: Any tree not defined as a Protected Tree.
 - iii. City-Owned Tree: Any tree originating within the City right-of-way or originating from a City park or City-owned property.

- c. Demolition and building permit applications must include a construction tree inventory plan indicating the location, species, and diameter of the trunk at 4.5' above the ground (DBH) for all Protected Trees on the property and City-Owned Trees on or adjacent to the construction site. The plan must also indicate any Protected Trees that are proposed to be removed, as well as their replacement tree(s) location, species, and size. Applications must also include a tree protection plan describing in detail how Protected Trees and City-Owned Trees will be preserved and protected during construction. The tree protection plan shall follow the standards as presented in the most recent version of the following publications:
 - i. ANSI A300 Part 5- Management of Trees and Shrubs During Site Planning, Site Development, and Construction
 - ii. ISA Best Management Practices- Managing Trees During Construction
- d. The construction tree inventory plan and tree protection plan must be reviewed and approved by the City Forester. Approved tree protection measures shall be fully installed and inspected by City staff prior to commencement of any construction activities or vehicular traffic on site.
- e. During the demolition and building process, the permit holder shall not leave any Protected Tree or adjacent City-owned tree without sufficient guards and protections to prevent injury to the protected tree during construction. Tree protection shall follow the standards as presented in the publications listed above (3.b.). City Forestry Staff monitoring is required for all projects with affected Protected Trees and/or replacement trees. Replacement trees will be monitored for three (3) years to ensure proper establishment.
- f. Protected Tree varieties that are less than 6" in caliper must be moved to another location on the property if possible. Exceptions must be granted in writing by the City Forester.
- g. If a Protected Tree is removed, except as allowed for in paragraph 5 below, it is subject to a size-based replacement policy.
 - i. Protected trees with DBH 6"-15" are subject to a 2:1, "two for one" replacement requirement.
 - ii. Protected trees with DBH 15"-20" are subject to a 3:1, "three for one" replacement requirement.
 - iii. Protected trees with DBH 20"-25" are subject to a 4:1, "four for one" replacement requirement.
 - iv. Protected trees with DBH >25" are subject to a 5:1, "five for one" replacement requirement.
 - v. Replacement trees must be varied by species and are subject to approval by the City Forester.
 - vi. Replacement trees are subject to the size and diversity requirements as outlined below.
 - vii. A payment of \$400 for each tree may be made to the City in lieu of planting replacement trees where sufficient space does not exist on the property. Payments will support the planting of replacement trees by City staff on City property.
 - viii. Replacement trees shall be planted according to the standards set forth in the MN Department of Natural Resources publication "A Pocket Guide to

Planting Trees”. All replacement trees are subject to inspection by City staff for a period of 2 years beginning the day of planting. Any trees determined to be unhealthy or poorly established during this period shall be subject to replacement.

(3) Removal of Protected and Removable Trees:

- a. Protected Trees may be removed in the following areas:
 - i. Within the footprint of the building pad of a new or remodeled building, or within a 10’ radius of the footprint.
 - ii. Within driveways and parking areas meeting all other City ordinance requirements.
- b. Protected Trees removed in accordance with sections (i.) and (ii.) above are required to be replaced at a rate of 1:1, “one for one.” Replacement trees are subject to all requirements listed in paragraph (3.) above.
- c. Removable Trees may be removed for any development or building permit without replacement.
- d. If Protected Trees are dead, diseased, or hazardous their removal must be approved in writing by the City Forester before removal. Dead, diseased, or hazardous trees are not subject to replacement requirements.

(4) Exemptions from Tree Preservation Ordinance: Tree removal on property with an existing building or structure that is not being modified is exempt from this ordinance.

(5) Standards for Newly Planted Trees and Replacement Trees

- a. *Landscaping and screening.*
 - i. *Landscape plan required.* A landscape plan is required for all new commercial, industrial, institutional, and multi-family development. For development having an anticipated construction value in excess of \$750,000, the landscape plan must be prepared by a landscape architect registered in the State of Minnesota. Said landscape plan shall include the location, size, quantity, and species of all existing and proposed plant materials.
 - ii. *Design considerations.* The following design concepts and requirements should be considered when developing a landscape plan for submittal to the city:
 - 1. To the maximum extent possible, the landscape plan shall incorporate existing vegetative features on the site.
 - 2. The overall composition and location of landscaped areas should complement the scale of the development and its surroundings.
 - 3. The use of native species is preferred in all landscaping choices, and a minimum of 80% of all plants used shall be native to MN.
 - 4. The City of Columbia Heights is committed to enhancing the diversity and resiliency of its urban forest. A variety of trees and shrubs shall be used to provide visual interest year-round and meet diversity requirements. No more than 25% of the required number of trees or shrubs may be comprised of any one species or genus. No less than 50% of the required number of trees shall be over-story deciduous trees and no less than 10% shall be coniferous. New trees and replacement trees shall be planted according to the

standards set forth in the MN Department of Natural Resources publication “A Pocket Guide to Planting Trees”. All replacement trees are subject to inspection by City staff for a period of 3 years beginning the day of planting. Any trees determined to be unhealthy or poorly established during this period shall be subject to replacement.

5. Final slopes greater than 3:1 will not be permitted without special treatment such as terracing, retaining walls or special ground covers.
6. All plant materials shall meet the minimum size standards listed in Table 1; all planting locations shall meet the soil volume requirements for the plant material listed in Table 2. Soil volume requirements must be met by contiguous, uncompacted soil suitable for the plant type. Soil depth beyond 3 feet shall not be counted towards soil volume requirements. Landscaped areas should be of adequate size to allow proper plant growth, protect plantings from both pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and provide adequate area for plant maintenance. Definitions and rules for calculating soil volume provided in Appendix B. All exceptions to soil volume requirements must be approved by the City Forester in writing.

Table 1: Plant Size Requirements

Plant Type	Minimum Size at Planting
Trees	
Evergreen-over-story	6 feet in height
Evergreen—ornamental	6 feet in height
Deciduous—over-story	2.5 inches diameter, measured 2 feet from base
Deciduous—ornamental	2 inches diameter, measured 2 feet from base
Shrubs	
Evergreen	2 feet in height
Deciduous	2 feet in height
Screening shrubs—either	3 feet in height

Table 2:
Soil
Volume

Requirements

Expected Tree Size at Maturity	Minimum Soil Volume Requirement (ft ³)
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Small trees: 10-25 ft crown spread, 8-12" mature DBH	300
Medium trees: 25-35 ft crown spread, 12-18" mature DBH	700
Large trees: 35+ ft crown spread, 18"+ mature DBH	1100

Appendix A: List of Protected Tree Varieties

Common Name	Botanical Name
Birch	<i>Betula spp.</i>
Buckeye, Ohio	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>
Catalpa, Northern	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>
Cedar, Eastern Red	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Cedar, Northern White	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>
Elm (except Siberian/Asian elms)	<i>Ulmus spp. (Except U. pumila)</i>
Fir, White	<i>Abies concolor</i>
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
Hemlock, Eastern	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
Hickory	<i>Carya spp.</i>
Honey locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Kentucky coffee	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>
Linden	<i>Tilia spp.</i>
Maple, Black	<i>Acer nigrum</i>
Maple, Red	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Maple, Sugar	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Mountain ash	<i>Sorbus spp.</i>
Oak	<i>Quercus spp.</i>
Pine, Red	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>
Pine, White	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Spruce, Norway	<i>Picea abies</i>
Spruce, White	<i>Picea glauca</i>
Walnut, Black	<i>Juglans nigra</i>

Appendix B: Definitions and Rules for Calculating Soil Volume

The following definitions apply to soil media for newly planted trees in the City of Columbia Heights:

Open soil. Exclusively refers to either uncompacted native soils (no greater than 80% Proctor), or

amended soils meeting the Minnesota Department of Transportation standards for approved topsoil, that are not covered by hardscape or paved surfaces.

Available open soil. The uncovered length by width of a planting bed, multiplied by depth of preparation up to 36 inches deep. Most unprepared urban subgrade is highly compacted and does not qualify as available.

Covered soil. Soil volume provided below hardscape or paved surfaces in the form of suspended soil cells or structural soil. Only 25% of the volume of structural soils may be counted towards soil volume requirements. All covered soil used in cell-type systems or suspended pavement systems shall be loam.

Shared soil. Soil media shared by more than one tree in a planting bed sharing open soil, or an individual tree in a planting bed that is connected to other open soils via Soil Cells or Structural Soil. Areas of shared soil must have a continuous root path that does not restrict to less than 4 feet wide or 2 feet deep. Trees in shared soil spaces received a 30% credit towards total soil volume requirements.

Isolated soil. Soil media in a tree well or small enclosed planting bed that is not connected to other prepared soil volumes and is totally isolated by hardscape such as driveways, sidewalks, or vaults.

Connected soil. Two or more areas of open soil that are connected below hardscape with either soil cells or structural soil. These connected beds can now qualify as shared soil.

The following standards and exceptions apply to calculating soil volumes:

- 1) The total soil volume provided for a tree shall be calculated in cubic feet by adding the available open soil volume to the available covered soil volume within a 50-foot radius of the tree.
 - 2) When total soil volume consists of more than one planter bed or open soil area, those areas must be connected by continuous root paths at least 4 feet wide and 2 feet deep.
 - 3) Soil volumes for covered soil shall be calculated by using only the space available to roots and may not include the components providing structure. 90% of the volume of cell-type hardscape suspension systems may be counted towards total soil volume; 25% of the volume of structural soils may be counted towards total soil volume. A maximum depth of 36" may be used when calculating total soil volume; depths beyond 36" may not be counted towards soil volume requirements. Trees in shared soil spaces receive a 30% credit towards total soil volume requirements.
- (6) *Landscaping requirements.* Landscaping shall be provided in accordance with the following requirements:
- a. All required setbacks shall be landscaped with turf grass, native grasses, trees, shrubs, vines, perennial flowering plants, or other pervious ground cover. Artificial turf shall not be considered a pervious ground cover unless a land disturbance permit is issued and approved by the Public Work Director.

- b. A minimum of one tree shall be planted for every 50 feet of street frontage or fraction thereof. The trees shall be planted within the front yard and may be arranged in a cluster or placed at regular intervals to best complement existing landscape design patterns in the area.
 - c. A minimum of four trees shall be planted for every one acre of lot area covered by buildings, parking areas, loading areas, exterior storage areas and other impervious surfaces.
 - d. Parking areas shall have a minimum of 100 square feet of landscape area and one over- story tree for each 20 spaces or, fraction thereof. The remainder of the landscape area shall be covered with turf grass, native grasses, trees, shrubs, vines, perennial flowering plants, or other pervious ground cover.
- (7) *Screening requirements.* Screening shall be provided in accordance with the following requirements:
- a. All off-street parking areas containing six or more parking spaces and located adjacent to a residential or residentially zoned property, the parking area shall be screened along the boundary with the residential use. Where any commercial or industrial use is located adjacent to or across a public alley from a residential or a residentially zoned property, the commercial or industrial use shall be screened along the boundary with the residential use.
 - b. Exterior storage of materials or equipment, except for allowed retail sales and temporary placement of equipment, shall be screened from all adjacent non-industrial uses and from the public right-of-way.
 - c. Required screening shall consist of a fence, wall, earthen berming and/or vegetation no less than six feet in height and no less than 80% opaque on a year round basis. Said screening shall be located as close to the property line as practicable and no closer than 15 feet from the edge of a public right-of-way.
- (8) *Installation and maintenance.* The following regulations shall govern the installation and maintenance of landscaping and screening materials.
- a. All landscaping materials and screening materials shall be installed in conjunction with site development and prior to issuance of a final certificate of occupancy.
 - b. A letter of credit or other security as acceptable to the city shall be deposited with the Zoning Administrator, in an amount equal to 100% of the estimated cost of landscaping and/or screening. The letter of credit or other security as acceptable to the city, or portions thereof, shall be forfeited to maintain and/or replace materials for a period of time to include at least two growing seasons. A portion of the letter of credit or other security as acceptable to the city may be released after one growing season as determined by the Zoning Administrator. The property owner shall be responsible for continued maintenance of landscaping and screening materials to remain in compliance with the requirements of this section. Plant materials that show signs of disease or damage shall be promptly removed and replaced within the next planting season.
 - c. The property owner shall be responsible for continued maintenance of landscaping and screening materials to remain in compliance with the requirements of this section. Plant materials that show signs of disease or damage shall be promptly removed and replaced within the next planting season.

- (9) *Screening of parking areas from adjacent properties.* All parking and loading areas (including drive-through facilities, pump island service areas and stacking spaces) abutting a public street or sidewalk shall provide:
- a. A landscaped frontage strip at least five feet wide along the public street or sidewalk. If a parking area contains over 100 spaces, the minimum required landscaped frontage strip shall be increased to eight feet in width.
 - b. Screening consisting of either a masonry wall, fence, berm or hedge or combination that forms a screen a minimum of three feet in height, a maximum of four and one half feet in height, and not less than 50% opaque on a year-round basis. For reasons of personal safety and security, parking lot screening should allow clear visibility of pedestrians above the three-foot high viewing range.
 - c. Trees shall be planted at regular intervals of no greater than 50 feet within the frontage strip.

(N) Building design standards.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to promote quality development throughout the community that is attractive and visually compatible with adjacent development.

(2) Design review required. Approval of building elevations is required for all new commercial, industrial, institutional and multi-family development. Building design approval is also required for any remodeling or expansion activity that increases the overall size of the building by 10% or more.

(3) Building materials and design. The following material and design standards shall be adhered to:

(a) Building materials for all projects shall be durable, require low maintenance and be of the same or better quality than that used on surrounding properties; and shall consist of any of the following materials: Brick; natural stone; stone treated concrete panels; glass curtain wall panels; wood, provided surfaces are finished for exterior use and only woods of proven exterior durability are used such as cedar, redwood, and cypress; factory fabricated and finished metal frame paneling; or other materials of high architectural quality as approved by staff.

(b) Building elevations and facades should include a variety of architectural features and building materials to provide visual interest and give each project a distinct character. Building facades shall contain windows at the ground level or first floor in order to increase security of adjacent outdoor spaces by maximizing natural surveillance and visibility. Special care should be given to building elevations that face a public right-of-way or a residential area. Doors, window frames, screening walls, and other architectural features should be finished to complement the color and material of the principal building. At least 20% of the first floor facade that faces a public street, sidewalk or parking lot shall be windows or doors for residential uses. At least 20% of the first floor facade that faces a public street, sidewalk or parking lot shall be windows or doors of clear or lightly tinted glass that allows views into and out of the building at eye level for non-residential uses. Windows shall be distributed in a more or less even manner. Minimum window area shall be measured between the height of two feet and ten feet above the finished level of the first floor.

(c) All additions, exterior alterations or accessory buildings constructed after the original buildings shall be of the same material and design as the original structure. However, this provision shall not prohibit

the upgrading of the quality of materials used in a remodeling or expansion activity, provided said upgraded material complements the original.

(d) All structures over 120 square feet shall have full perimeter footings.

(e) Steel frame structures with metal siding and roof are allowed in commercial and industrial districts provided 50% or more of the front of the structure is masonry type veneer and windows, and the side walls shall be at least four feet from grade with the same type of masonry veneer.

(4) Application of master plan district provisions. Properties located within the district boundaries of master plan area shall also be subject to the district provisions of the master plan.

(5) Design guidelines. The City Council may adopt by resolution design guidelines that shall apply to designated areas or districts of the city with greater specificity than the standards in this section. Where there is a conflict between the design guidelines and the standards in this section, the guidelines shall apply. The design guidelines shall not prohibit public art. Public art shall be allowed to be incorporated into building design and may include but is not limited to; painted block, landscaping and tree plantings, and ornamental structures, etc. Public art shall be encouraged as an alternative to traditional design guideline requirements.

(O) Telecommunication towers/antennae.

(1) Purpose.

(a) The purpose of this division is to provide a uniform and comprehensive set of standards for the development and installation of wireless communications towers, antennas and related facilities. The regulations and requirements contained herein are intended to: (i) regulate the placement, construction and modification of wireless communications towers and related wireless communications facilities in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and the aesthetic quality of the city; and (ii) encourage managed development of wireless communications infrastructure, while at the same time not unreasonably interfering with the development of the competitive wireless communications marketplace in the City of Columbia Heights.

(b) It is intended that the city shall apply these regulations to accomplish the following:

1. Minimize the total number of towers throughout the community through siting standards;
2. Encourage the location of towers in non-residential areas and with compatible uses;
3. Provide for the appropriate location and development of wireless communications towers, antennas and related facilities within the city, to the extent possible, to minimize potential adverse impacts on the community;
4. Minimize adverse visual impacts of wireless communications towers and related facilities through careful design, siting, landscape screening, and innovative camouflaging techniques utilizing current and future technologies;
5. Promote and encourage shared use/co-location of towers and antenna support structures;
6. Maintain and preserve the existing residential character of the City of Columbia Heights and its neighborhoods and to promote the creation of a convenient, attractive and harmonious community;

7. Promote the public safety and avoid the risk of damage to adjacent properties by ensuring that wireless communications towers and related wireless communications facilities are properly designed, constructed, modified, maintained and removed;

8. Ensure that wireless communications towers and related wireless communications facilities are compatible with surrounding land uses;

9. Encourage the use of alternative support structures, co-location of new antennas on existing wireless communications towers, camouflaged towers, and construction of towers with the ability to locate three or more providers;

10. Maintain and ensure that a non-discriminatory, competitive and broad range of wireless communications services and high-quality wireless communications infrastructure consistent with federal law are provided to serve the community; and

11. Ensure that wireless communications facilities comply with radio frequency emissions standards as promulgated by the Federal Communications Commission.

(c) This section is not intended to regulate satellite dishes, satellite earth station antennas, residential television antennas in private use, multichannel multipoint distribution service antennas, or amateur radio antennas.

(2) Definitions. For the purposes of this division the following terms and phrases shall have the meaning ascribed to them herein:

ACCESSORY STRUCTURE. Means a structure or portion of a structure subordinate to and serving the principal structure on the same lot.

ACCESSORY USE. Shall have the meaning set forth in the Chapter 9.

ANTENNA. Means a device fabricated of fiberglass, metal or other material designed for use in transmitting and/or receiving communications signals and usually attached to a wireless communications tower or antenna support structure.

ANTENNA SUPPORT STRUCTURE. Any building or structure, excluding towers, used or useable for one or more wireless communications facilities.

BUFFER or BUFFERING. A natural or landscaped area or screening device intended to separate and/or partially obstruct the view of adjacent land uses or properties from one another so as to lessen the impact and adverse relationship between dissimilar, unrelated or incompatible land uses.

CITY. The City of Columbia Heights, Minnesota, and any and all departments, agencies and divisions thereof.

CITY CODE. The Columbia Heights City Code, as amended from time to time.

CITY COUNCIL or COUNCIL. The Columbia Heights City Council or its designee.

CITY MANAGER. The City Manager of the City of Columbia Heights, Minnesota or the City Manager's designee.

CO-LOCATION. The use of a single wireless communications tower, antenna support structure and/or site by more than one provider.

CONDITIONAL USE. Those uses that are generally compatible with other uses permitted in a zoning district, but that require individual review of their location, design, configuration, intensity and structures, and may require the imposition of conditions pertinent thereto in order to ensure the appropriateness of the use at a particular location. This definition shall only apply to this specific division and shall not apply to other sections or provisions of the land use and development regulations.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT. A permit specially and individually granted by the Council after a public hearing thereon by the Planning Commission for any conditional use so permitted in any zoning district. In approving a conditional use permit, the Council may impose reasonable conditions to accomplish the objectives of this division with respect to use, screening, lighting, hours of operation, noise control, maintenance, operation or other requirements.

EQUIPMENT CABINET or SHELTER. A structure located near a wireless communications facility that contains electronics, back-up power generators and/or other on-site supporting equipment necessary for the operation of the facility.

EXISTING TOWER. Any tower designated as an existing tower by division (O)(6) for which a permit has been properly issued prior to the effective date of this division, including permitted towers that have not yet been constructed so long as such approval is current and not expired. After the effective date of this division, any tower approved and constructed pursuant to the provisions of this division shall thereafter be treated as an existing tower for purposes of regulation pursuant to this division and the land use and development regulations.

GUYED TOWER. A wireless communications tower that is supported, in whole or in part, by guy wires and ground anchors or other means of support besides the superstructure of the tower itself.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS. Chapter 9 of the Columbia Heights Code, as it may be amended from time to time.

MICROWAVE DISH ANTENNA. A dish-like antenna used to transmit and/or receive wireless communications signals between terminal locations.

MONOPOLE TOWER. A wireless communications tower consisting of a single pole or spire supported by a permanent foundation, constructed without guy wires and ground anchors.

NONCONFORMITY. Shall have the meaning given in M.S. § 394.22, subd. 8, or successor statutes, and shall be governed by the provisions of the land use and development regulations (nonconformities).

PANEL ANTENNA. An array of antennas designed to direct, transmit or receive radio signals from a particular direction.

PICO CELL. A low-power cell whose coverage area extends 300 to 500 yards.

PLANNING COMMISSION. The Columbia Heights Planning and Zoning Commission.

PROVIDER. (When used with reference to a system) means a person or entity that provides wireless communications service over a wireless communications facility, whether or not the provider owns the

facility. A person that leases a portion of a wireless communications facility shall be treated as a provider for purposes of this division.

SATELLITE DISH. An antenna device incorporating a reflective surface that is solid, open mesh, or bar configured that is shallow dish, cone, horn, or cornucopia-shaped and is used to transmit and/or receive electromagnetic signals. This definition is meant to include, but is not limited to, what are commonly referred to as satellite earth stations, TVROs and satellite microwave antennas.

SELF-SUPPORT/LATTICE TOWER. A tower structure requiring no guy wires for support.

STEALTH or CAMOUFLAGED TOWER, EQUIPMENT CABINET or FACILITY. Any wireless communications tower, equipment cabinet or facility designed to hide, obscure or conceal the presence of the tower, antenna, equipment cabinet or other related facility. The stealth technology used must incorporate the wireless communications tower, equipment cabinet and facility into and be compatible with the existing or proposed uses of the site. Examples of stealth facilities include, but are not limited to: architecturally screened roof-mounted antennas, antennas integrated into architectural elements, and wireless communications towers designed to look like light poles, power poles, trees, flag poles, clocks, steeples or bell towers.

UTILITY POLE-MOUNTED FACILITY. A wireless communications facility attached, without regard to mounting, to or upon an electric transmission or distribution pole, street light, traffic signal, athletic field light, utility support structure or other similar facility located within a public right-of-way or utility easement approved by the Planning Commission. The facility shall include any associated equipment shelters regardless of where they are located with respect to the mount.

WHIP ANTENNA. An omni-directional antenna used to transmit and/or receive radio signals.

WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY. A facility that is used to provide one or more wireless communications services, including, without limitation, arrays, antennas and associated facilities used to transmit and/or receive wireless communications signals. This term does not include wireless communications towers, over-the-air reception devices that deliver or receive broadcast signals, satellite dishes regulated by 47 C.F.R. § 25.104, devices that provide direct-to home satellite services (“DBS”) or devices that provide multichannel multi-point distribution services (“MMDS”) as defined and regulated by 47 C.F.R. § 1.4000, as amended.

WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES. Those services specified in 47 U.S.C. §§ 332(c)(7)(C) and 332(d)(1)-(2), and any amendments thereto.

WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS TOWER. A guyed, monopole or self-support/lattice tower, or extension thereto, constructed as a freestanding structure, supporting one or more wireless communications facilities used in the provision of wireless communications services.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR. The person appointed by the City Manager as provided in the land use and development regulations.

(3) **Applicability.** The requirements of this division apply to the extent provided herein to all new, existing, replacement, re-located or expanded and/or modified wireless communications towers and wireless communications facilities. The requirements of this division apply throughout the city. It is the express intent of the city to impose, to the extent permitted by applicable law, all requirements of this

division to all land within the city, whether publicly or privately held, including, without limitation, private property, city property, church property, utility property and school property.

(a) Non-essential services. Wireless communications towers and wireless communications facilities will be regulated and permitted pursuant to this division and not regulated or permitted as essential services, public utilities or private utilities.

(b) Attempt to locate on existing tower or antenna support structure. Every owner/operator seeking to locate a wireless communications facility within the city must attempt to locate on an existing wireless communications tower or antenna support structure as required by division (O)(7) and (8).

(4) Exempt from city review. The following activities shall be permitted without city approvals:

(a) Amateur radio. The installation of any antenna and its supporting tower, pole or mast to the extent city regulation is preempted by state or federal law.

(b) Residential television antennas. The installation of residential television antennas in private use to the extent preempted by state and federal law.

(c) Satellite dishes. The installation of satellite dishes to the extent preempted by state or federal law.

(d) Mobile news. The use of mobile services equipment providing public information coverage of news events of a temporary or emergency nature.

(5) Permitted locations. The following applies to all wireless communications towers, including re-located or expanded and/or modified towers, but not to existing towers:

(a) Wireless communications towers less than 120 feet in height shall be a permitted use in the I-1 and I-2 zoning districts.

(b) Wireless communications towers greater than or equal to 120 feet in height shall be a conditional use in the I-1 and I-2 zoning districts.

(c) Wireless communications towers less than 80 feet in height shall be a permitted use in the RB, CBD and GB zoning districts.

(d) Wireless communications towers greater than or equal to 80 feet in height shall be a conditional use in the RB, CBD and GB zoning districts.

(e) Wireless communications towers less than 80 feet in height shall only be allowed as a conditional use in the R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 and LB zoning districts.

(f) Wireless communications towers greater than or equal to 80 feet in height shall not be a permitted use in the R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 and LB zoning districts.

(g) Except where superseded by the requirements of county, state or federal regulatory agencies possessing jurisdiction over wireless communications towers, equipment cabinets and wireless communications facilities, such towers, equipment cabinets and facilities shall be stealth towers, stealth equipment cabinets and stealth facilities camouflaged to blend into the surrounding environment using stealth technology in a manner pre-approved by the city on a case-by-case basis.

(h) Utility pole-mounted facilities shall be permitted as accessory uses in all zoning districts. Applications for such facilities shall be subject to the conditions set forth in this division.

(6) Existing towers.

(a) Except where otherwise noted, existing towers shall not be rendered nonconforming uses by this division. The city encourages the use of these existing towers for purposes of co-locating additional wireless communications facilities. Any and all towers erected and in use or approved on or before the effective date of this division shall be treated as existing towers. These towers shall be considered conforming uses with respect to this division and the city shall allow co-location on these towers subject to the requirements of division (O)(7) so long as the providers utilize the most visually unobtrusive equipment that is technologically feasible.

(b) Owners of existing towers shall be required to comply with the requirements and procedures set forth in division (O)(13) and (14) to replace an existing tower.

(c) Owners of existing towers shall be required to comply with the applicable requirements and procedures set forth in division (O)(6), (7), (8) and (13) to modify or relocate an existing tower or to co-locate a wireless communications facility on an existing tower.

(d) Increases in height of an existing wireless communications tower, modification of an existing wireless communications tower or conversion of an existing wireless communications tower to a stealth or camouflage structure shall be treated as a new tower and subject to all the applicable requirements of this division.

(e) Owners of existing wireless communications towers shall be required to comply with the requirements set forth in division (O)(15) and (16).

(7) Co-location use, modification and relocation of existing towers.

(a) Any owner of an existing tower or antenna support structure containing additional capacity suitable for installation or co-location of wireless communications facilities shall permit providers to install or co-locate said facilities on such towers or antenna support structures; provided that no existing tower or antenna support structure shall be used to support wireless communications facilities for more than three separate providers. Any co-location of wireless communications facilities shall be subject to mutually agreeable terms and conditions negotiated between the parties.

(b) Any existing tower may be modified or relocated to accommodate co-location of additional wireless communications facilities as follows:

1. An application for a wireless communications permit to modify or relocate a wireless communications tower shall be made to the Zoning Administrator. The application shall contain the information required by division (O)(14)(b) and (c). The Zoning Administrator shall have the authority to issue a wireless communications permit without further approval by the Council or the Planning Commission, except as provided in this division. Any denial of an application for a wireless communications permit to modify or relocate a wireless communications tower for purposes of co-location shall be made in accordance with division (O)(14)(e).

2. The total height of the modified tower and wireless communications facilities attached thereto shall not exceed the maximum height allowed for a permitted wireless communications tower in the zoning district in which the tower is located, unless a conditional use permit is granted by the city.

3. Permission to exceed the existing height shall not require an additional distance separation from designated areas as set forth in this division. The tower's pre-modification height shall be used to calculate such distance separations.

4. A tower which is being rebuilt to accommodate the co-location of additional wireless communications facilities may be moved on the same parcel subject to compliance with the requirements of this division.

5. A tower that is relocated on the same parcel shall continue to be measured from the original tower location for the purpose of calculating the separation distances between towers as provided herein.

(8) Application to locate wireless communications facility on existing tower.

(a) An application for a wireless communications permit to locate or re-locate a wireless communications facility on an existing tower must be submitted to the Zoning Administrator on the designated form and shall, at a minimum, contain the following:

1. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant;
2. Location of the existing tower, along with the tower owner's name and telephone number;
3. Number of applicant's wireless communications facilities to be located on the subject tower;
4. A sworn and certified statement in writing by a qualified engineer that the wireless communications facility will conform to any and all other construction standards set forth by the city code, and federal and state law;
5. An application fee in the amount set by the Council for each wireless communications facility listed on the application;
6. A copy of all licenses and/or franchises required by federal, state or local law for the construction and/or operation of a wireless communications system in the city;
7. A scaled site plan clearly indicating the location, type and height of the proposed wireless communications facility, on-site land uses and zoning, elevation and stealth design drawings of the proposed wireless communications facility and the supporting tower, topography, and any other information deemed by the city to be necessary to assess compliance with this division and the land use and development regulations;
8. An inventory of the applicant's existing towers and wireless communications facilities, if any, that are either within the jurisdiction of the city or within one mile of the city limits, including specific information about the location, height, and design of each wireless communications facility or tower;
9. A certification that the applicant will comply with all applicable federal, state or local laws including all the provisions of the land use and development regulations; and

10. A certification that the site described in the application is located on an existing tower and the owner/operator agrees to the co-location of the subject wireless communications facility.

(b) An application for a wireless communications permit to locate or re-locate a wireless communications facility that proposes to co-locate said facility on an existing tower and that satisfies the requirements set forth in this division, shall receive expedited treatment in the review process.

(c) So as to further expedite the permitting process and to promote the efficient use of existing sites, the city encourages the users of existing towers to submit a single application for approval of multiple users on a single existing site. Applications for approval at multiple user sites shall be given priority in the review process. The fee to be submitted with a multiple user application shall be the fee specified in this subsection multiplied by the number of users listed in such application.

(d) A petitioner shall submit any additional information requested by the city for purposes of evaluating the permit request.

(e) In granting or denying a wireless communications permit to locate or re-locate a wireless communications facility on an existing tower, the Zoning Administrator shall prepare a written record of decision including findings of fact.

(9) Wireless communications facilities on antenna support structures.

(a) All wireless communications facilities to be located on antenna support structures shall be subject to the following minimum standards:

1. Wireless communications facilities shall only be permitted on buildings which are at least 35 feet tall.

2. Wireless communications facilities shall be permitted on the city's water tower; provided that the city may impose reasonable conditions which ensure that such facilities do not interfere with access to or maintenance of the tower.

3. If an equipment cabinet associated with a wireless communications facility is located on the roof of a building, the area of the equipment cabinet shall not exceed 10 feet in height, 400 square feet in area nor occupy more than 10% of the roof area. All equipment cabinets shall be constructed out of nonreflective materials and shall be designed to blend with existing architecture and located or designed to minimize their visibility.

(b) Antenna dimensions.

1. Unless a conditional use permit is obtained from the city, whip antennas and their supports must not exceed 25 feet in height and 12 inches in diameter and must be constructed of a material or color which matches the exterior of the antenna support structure.

2. Unless a conditional use permit is obtained from the city, panel antennas and their supports must not exceed 8 feet in height or 2.5 feet in width and must be constructed of a material or color which matches the exterior of the building or structure, so as to achieve maximum compatibility and minimum visibility.

3. Unless a conditional use permit is obtained from the city, microwave dish antennas located below 65 feet above the ground may not exceed 6 feet in diameter. Microwave dish antennas located 65 feet and higher above the ground may not exceed 8 feet in diameter.

(c) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, wireless communications facilities and related equipment shall not be installed on antenna support structures in residential zoning districts, unless a conditional use permit is obtained from the city.

(d) Wireless communications facilities located on antenna support structures, and their related equipment cabinets, shall be located or screened to minimize the visual impact of such facilities and equipment cabinets upon adjacent properties. Any such screening shall be of a material and color that matches the exterior of the building or structure upon which it is situated. Wireless communications facilities and related equipment cabinets shall be of a stealth design, and shall have an exterior finish and/or design as approved by the city.

(10) Application to locate wireless communications facility on antenna support structure.

(a) An application for a wireless communications permit to locate or re-locate a wireless communications facility on an antenna support structure must be submitted to the Zoning Administrator on the designated form and shall, at a minimum, contain the following:

1. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant;
2. Location of the antenna support structure, along with the property owner's name and telephone number;
3. Number of applicant's wireless communications facilities to be located on the subject property;
4. A sworn and certified statement in writing by a qualified engineer that the wireless communications facility will conform to any and all requirements and standards set forth in the city code, and federal and state law;
5. An application fee in an amount set by the Council for each wireless communications facility listed on the application;
6. A copy of all licenses and/or franchises required by federal, state or local law for the construction and/or operation of a wireless communications system in the city;
7. A scaled site plan clearly indicating the location, type and height of the proposed wireless communications facility, on-site land uses and zoning, elevation and stealth design drawings of the proposed wireless communications facility and the rooftop and building, topography, a current survey, landscape plans, and any other information deemed by the city to be necessary to assess compliance with this division and the land use and development regulations;
8. An inventory of the applicant's existing towers and wireless communications facilities, if any, that are either within the jurisdiction of the city or within one mile of the city limits, including specific information about the location, height, and design of each wireless communications facility or tower;
9. A certification that the applicant will comply with all applicable federal, state or local laws including all the provisions of this division and the land use and development regulations; and

10. A certification that the site described in the application is located on an existing antenna support structure and the owner/operator agrees to the location or co-location of the subject wireless communications facility.

(b) An application for a wireless communications permit to locate or re-locate a wireless communications facility that proposes to co-locate said facility on an antenna support structure and that satisfies the requirements set forth in this division, shall receive expedited treatment in the review process.

(c) So as to further expedite the permitting process and to promote the efficient use of existing sites, the city encourages the users of antenna support structures to submit a single application for approval of multiple users on a single existing site. Applications for approval at multiple user sites shall be given priority in the review process. The fee to be submitted with a multiple user application shall be the fee described in this division multiplied by the number of users listed in such application.

(d) An applicant must submit a proposed stealth design for camouflaging its wireless communications facility, unless this requirement is preempted by the operation of applicable laws or regulations.

(e) A petitioner shall submit any additional information requested by the city for purposes of evaluating the permit request.

(f) In granting or denying a wireless communications permit to locate or re-locate a wireless communications facility on an antenna support structure, the Zoning Administrator shall prepare a written record of decision including findings of fact.

(11) Utility pole-mounted wireless communications facilities.

(a) Utility pole-mounted wireless communications facilities may be permitted as accessory uses in all zoning districts if the provider uses pico cell equipment. Such facilities shall only be permitted in public rights-of-way that are at least 100 feet in width. To the greatest practical extent, utility pole-mounted wireless communications facilities shall be sited where they are concealed from public view by other objects such as trees or buildings. When it is necessary to site such a facility in public view, to the greatest practical extent it shall be designed to limit visual impact on surrounding land uses, which design must be approved by the city.

(b) The height of a utility pole-mounted facility shall not exceed two feet above the pole structure.

(c) Equipment cabinets associated with utility pole-mounted wireless communications facilities which are located within the public right-of-way shall be of a scale and design that make them no more visually obtrusive than other types of utility equipment boxes normally located within the right-of-way and shall be located in a manner and location approved by the city. To the greatest practical extent, equipment cabinets associated with utility pole-mounted facilities which are located outside of the public right-of-way shall be concealed from public view or shall be architecturally designed using stealth technology or buffered to be compatible with surrounding land uses, except that such shelters located in residential zoning districts must be screened from the view of residents and pedestrians.

(d) Equipment cabinets associated with utility pole-mounted wireless communications facilities which are located outside the public right-of-way shall meet the setback requirements for accessory buildings and structures for the zoning district in which the equipment cabinet is located.

(e) Generators associated with equipment shelters must meet with the requirements of the city code.

(12) Application for utility pole-mounted wireless communications facility.

(a) An application for a wireless communications permit to locate or re-locate a utility pole-mounted wireless communications facility must be submitted to the Zoning Administrator on the designated form and shall, at a minimum, contain the following:

1. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant;
2. Location of the utility pole-mount, along with the property owner's name and telephone number;
3. Number of applicant's wireless communications facilities to be located on the subject property;
4. A sworn and certified statement in writing by a qualified engineer that the wireless communications facility will conform to any and all requirements and standards set forth in the city code, and federal and state law;
5. An application fee in the amount set by the Council for each wireless communications facility listed on the application;
6. A copy of all licenses and/or franchises required by federal, state or local law for the construction and/or operation of a wireless communications system in the city;
7. A scaled site plan clearly indicating the location, type and height of the proposed wireless communications facility, on-site land uses and zoning, elevation and stealth design drawings of the proposed wireless communications facility and utility pole-mount, topography, a current survey, landscape plans, and any other information deemed by the city to be necessary to assess compliance with this division and the land use and development regulations;
8. An inventory of the applicant's existing towers and wireless communications facilities, if any, that are either within the jurisdiction of the city or within one mile of the city limits, including specific information about the location, height, and design of each wireless communications facility or tower;
9. A certification that the applicant will comply with all applicable federal, state or local laws including all the provisions of this division and the land use and development regulations; and
10. A certification that the site described in the application is located on a utility pole-mount and the owner/operator agrees to the location of the wireless communications facility.

(b) An application for a wireless communications permit to locate or re-locate a wireless communications facility that proposes to co-locate said facility on an already existing utility pole-mount and that satisfies the requirements set forth in this division, shall receive expedited treatment in the review process.

(c) A petitioner shall submit any additional information requested by the city for purposes of evaluating the permit request.

(d) In granting or denying a wireless communications permit to locate or re-locate a utility pole-mounted wireless communications facility, the Zoning Administrator shall prepare a written record of decision including findings of fact.

(13) Construction of new towers.

(a) Conditions of approval for wireless communications towers.

1. Setback.

a. The distance between the base of any proposed wireless communications tower, measured from the center of a tower, and the nearest lot line shall be at least equal to the height of the tower, provided that this distance may be reduced to a specified amount if an applicant provides a certification from the tower manufacturer or a qualified engineer stating that the tower is designed and constructed in such a way as to crumple, bend, collapse or otherwise fall within the specified distance.

b. In no event shall the distance between the base of a proposed wireless communications tower, measured from the center of the tower, and the nearest lot line be less than 20% of the tower height.

2. Structural requirements. All wireless communications tower designs must be certified by a qualified engineer specializing in tower structures and licensed to practice in the State of Minnesota. The certification must state the tower design is structurally sound and, at a minimum, in conformance with the city's building code, the State Building Code, and any other standards outlined in the land use and development regulations, as amended from time to time.

3. Height. The height of permitted wireless communications towers shall be as specified in division (O)(5).

(b) Requirements for separation between towers.

1. Except for wireless communications facilities located on roof-tops or utility pole-mounted facilities, the minimum wireless communications tower separation distance shall be calculated and applied irrespective of jurisdictional boundaries.

2. Measurement of wireless communications tower separation distances for the purpose of compliance with this division shall be measured from the base of a wireless communications tower to the base of the existing or approved wireless communications tower.

3. Proposed towers must meet the following minimum separation requirements from existing towers or towers previously approved but not yet constructed at the time a development permit is granted pursuant to this division:

MINIMUM TOWER SEPARATION DISTANCE		
Height of Existing Tower	Height of Proposed Tower	Minimum Separation
MINIMUM TOWER SEPARATION DISTANCE		
Height of Existing Tower	Height of Proposed Tower	Minimum Separation
Less than 50 feet	Less than 50 feet	100 feet
	50–100 feet	200 feet
	101–150 feet	400 feet
	151–200 feet	800 feet
50–100 feet	Less than 50 feet	100 feet

	50–100 feet	400 feet
	101–150 feet	600 feet
	151–200 feet	800 feet
101–150 feet	Less than 50 feet	100 feet
	50–100 feet	400 feet
	101–150 feet	600 feet
	151–200 feet	800 feet
151–200 feet	Less than 50 feet	100 feet
	50–100 feet	600 feet
	101–150 feet	800 feet
	151–200 feet	1,000 feet

4. For the purpose of this subsection, the separation distances shall be measured by drawing or following a straight line between the center of the base of the existing or approved structure and the center of the proposed base, pursuant to a site plan of the proposed wireless communications tower.

(c) Standards for co-location. This subsection is designed to foster shared use of wireless communications towers.

1. Construction of excess capacity. Any owner of a wireless communications tower shall permit other providers to install or co-locate antennae or wireless communications facilities on such towers, if available space and structural capacity exists; provided, however, that no wireless communications tower shall be used to support wireless communications facilities for more than three separate providers. Any co-location of wireless communications facilities shall be subject to mutually agreeable terms and conditions negotiated between the parties. All new wireless communications towers shall be constructed with excess capacity for co-location as follows:

Less than 80 feet in height	One additional user
80 feet to 119 feet in height	Two or more additional users (up to a maximum of three users)
120 feet in height or greater	Three additional users

2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, all new monopole towers over 80 feet in height and existing monopole towers that are extended to a height over 80 feet shall be designed and built to accommodate at least two providers, and up to a maximum of three providers if technically possible.

3. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, all new guyed towers, and existing guyed towers that are replaced or modified shall be designed and built to accommodate three providers.

4. Site area. The site or leased footprint shall contain sufficient square footage to accommodate the equipment/mechanical facilities for all proposed providers based upon the structural capacity of the tower.

5. Setbacks. If it is determined that a proposed wireless communications tower cannot meet setback requirements due to increases in tower height to accommodate the co-location of at least one additional wireless communications service provider, minimum setback requirements may be reduced by a maximum of 15 feet, unless such a reduction would decrease the distance between the base of the tower and the nearest lot line to less than 20% of the tower height, in which case set-back requirements may be reduced to a distance that is equal to or greater than 20% of the tower height.

(d) Tower design and type.

1. All proposed wireless communications towers shall be monopole towers or stealth towers. Self-supporting towers or guyed lattice towers shall only be permitted as a replacement of like structures.

2. Utility pole-mounted facilities or extensions on utility poles to accommodate the mounting of wireless communications facilities shall be of the monopole type.

3. Antennas shall be of the uni-cell variety whenever feasible or mounted internal to the wireless communications tower structure.

4. Stealth wireless communications towers, equipment cabinets and related facilities shall be required in all zoning districts.

(e) Landscaping minimum requirements. Wireless communications towers shall be landscaped with a buffer of plant materials that effectively screens the view of the tower compound from surrounding property. The standard buffer shall consist of a landscaped strip at least 10 feet wide outside the perimeter of the compound. Existing mature growth and natural land forms on the site shall be preserved to the maximum extent possible. In some cases, such as wireless communications towers sited on large, wooded lots, natural growth around the property perimeter may be a sufficient buffer. All areas disturbed during project construction shall be replanted with vegetation. The owner of a wireless communications tower is responsible for all landscaping obligations and costs. A landscaping plan for the purpose of screening the base of the tower from view shall be submitted to the Zoning Administrator for approval prior to the issuance of a building permit for the tower. The city may waive the enforcement of this condition if it is deemed unnecessary.

(f) Visual impact standards. To assess the compatibility with and impact on adjacent properties of a proposed wireless communications tower site, an applicant seeking to construct, relocate or modify a wireless communications tower may be required to submit a visual impact analysis. The requirements of this subsection shall be required for any application to construct a tower greater than 80 feet in height. The applicant may request a review of a proposed wireless communications tower location, prior to submission of an application, to determine whether or not a visual impact analysis will be required. The applicant shall be advised of the requirement to submit a visual impact analysis by the city within ten working days following the city's receipt of the applicant's application for construction of a new wireless communication tower or the relocation or modification of an existing tower.

1. Whenever a visual impact analysis is required, an applicant shall utilize digital imaging technology to prepare the analysis in a manner acceptable to the city. At a minimum, a visual impact analysis must provide the following information:

- a. The location of the proposed wireless communications tower illustrated upon an aerial photograph at a scale of not more than one inch equals 300 feet (1 inch = 300 feet). All adjacent zoning districts within a 3,000-foot radius from all property lines of the proposed wireless communications tower site shall be indicated; and
- b. A line of site analysis which shall include the following information:
 - i. Certification that the proposed wireless communications tower meets or exceeds standards contained in this division;
 - ii. Identification of all significant existing natural and manmade features adjacent to the proposed wireless communications tower site and identification of features which may provide buffering and screening for adjacent properties and public rights-of-way;
 - iii. Identification of at least three specific points within a 2,000-foot radius of the proposed wireless communications tower location, subject to approval by the Zoning Administrator, for conducting the visual impact analysis;
 - iv. Copies of all calculations and a description of the methodology used in selecting the points of view and collection of data submitted in the analysis;
 - v. Graphic illustration of the visual impact of the proposed wireless communications tower, at a scale that does not exceed five degrees of horizontal distance, presented from the specific identified points;
 - vi. Identification of all screening and buffering materials under the permanent control of the applicant (only screening and buffering materials located within the boundaries of the proposed site shall be considered for the visual impact analysis); and
 - vii. Identification of all screening and buffering materials that are not under the permanent control of the applicant but are considered of a permanent nature due to ownership or use patterns, such as a public park, vegetation preserve, required development buffer, and the like.

2. Screening and buffering materials considered in the visual impact analysis shall not be removed by future development on the site. However, screening and buffering materials considered in the visual impact analysis shall be replaced if they die.

3. An applicant shall provide any additional information that may be required by the Zoning Administrator to fully review and evaluate the potential impact of the proposed wireless communications tower.

(14) Application process for new towers.

(a) The use of existing structures to locate wireless communications facilities shall be preferred to the construction of new wireless communications towers. To be eligible to construct a new wireless communications tower within city limits, an applicant must establish to the satisfaction of the city that the applicant is unable to provide the service sought by the applicant from available sites, including co-locations within the city and in neighboring jurisdictions; and the applicant must demonstrate to the reasonable

satisfaction of the city that no other suitable existing tower or antenna support structure is available, including utility poles; and that no reasonable alternative technology exists that can accommodate the applicant's wireless communications facility due to one or more of the following factors:

1. The structure provides insufficient height to allow the applicant's facility to function reasonably in parity with similar facilities;
2. The structure provides insufficient structural strength to support the applicant's wireless communications facility;
3. The structure provides insufficient space to allow the applicant's wireless communications facility to function effectively and reasonably in parity with similar equipment;
4. Use of the existing structure would result in electromagnetic interference that cannot reasonably be corrected;
5. The existing structure is unavailable for lease under a reasonable leasing agreement;
6. Use of the structure would create a greater visual impact on surrounding land uses than the proposed alternative or otherwise would be less in keeping with the goals, objectives, intent, preferences, purposes, criteria or standards of this division, the land use and development regulations and land development regulations; and/or
7. Other limiting factors.

(b) An applicant must submit any technical information requested by the city or its designated engineering consultant as part of the review and evaluation process.

(c) An application for a wireless communications permit to construct a wireless communications tower must be submitted to the Zoning Administrator on the designated form and shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant;
2. Proposed location of the wireless communications tower, along with all studies, maps and other information required by division (O)(13) and (14) (applicant shall submit information for only one proposed tower per application);
3. Number of applicant's wireless communications facilities to be located on the subject tower and the number of spaces available for co-location;
4. A sworn and certified statement in writing by a qualified engineer that the wireless communications tower will conform to all requirements set forth in the city code, and federal and state law;
5. An application fee in the amount set by the Council;
6. A copy of all licenses and/or franchises required by federal, state or local law for the construction and/or operation of a wireless communications system in the city;
7. A scaled site plan clearly indicating the location, type and height of the proposed wireless communications tower, on-site land uses and zoning, elevation and stealth design drawings of the proposed

tower, topography, and any other information deemed by the Zoning Administrator to be necessary to assess compliance with this division and the land use and development regulations;

8. An inventory of the applicant's existing towers and wireless communications facilities, if any, that are either within the jurisdiction of the city or within one mile of the city limits, including specific information about the location, height, and design of each wireless communications facility or tower;

9. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of all owners of existing towers or antenna support structures within an area equal to 100% of the search ring for the wireless communications facility proposed to be located on the proposed new tower;

10. Written documentation in the form of an affidavit that the applicant made diligent, but unsuccessful efforts for permission to install or co-locate the proposed wireless communications facility on all existing towers or antenna support structures located within an area equal to 100% of the search ring for the proposed site of the wireless communications facility;

11. Written, technical evidence from a qualified engineer that the proposed wireless communications facility cannot be installed or co-located on an existing tower or antenna support structure located within the city and must be located at the proposed site in order to meet the coverage requirements of the proposed wireless communications service, together with a composite propagation study which illustrates graphically existing and proposed coverage in industry-accepted median received signal ranges;

12. A written statement from a qualified engineer that the construction and placement of the proposed wireless communications tower will comply with Federal Communications Commission radiation standards for interference and safety and will produce no significant signal interference with public safety communications and the usual and customary transmission or reception of radio, television, or other communications services enjoyed by adjacent residential and non-residential properties; and

13. A certification that the applicant will comply with all applicable federal, state or local laws including all the provisions of this division and the land use and development regulations.

(d) A proposed wireless communications tower that exceeds the height limitations for a permitted tower in the GB, RB, CBD, I-1 or I-2 zoning districts, or any proposed wireless communications tower under 80 feet in the R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, or LB districts, shall only be allowed upon approval of a conditional use permit. The City Council may establish any reasonable conditions for approval that are deemed necessary to mitigate adverse impacts associated with the conditional use, to protect neighboring properties, and to achieve the objectives of this division and the land use and development regulations. Such a conditional use permit shall be required in addition to a wireless communications permit.

(e) In granting or denying a wireless communications permit to construct a wireless communications tower, the Zoning Administrator shall prepare a written record of decision including findings of fact. Proposed wireless communication towers that meet the standards and requirements contained herein, including location and height limitations, may be approved administratively by the Zoning Administrator. Proposed wireless communication towers that do not meet the standards and requirements contained herein, including location and height limitations, may be denied administratively by the Zoning Administrator, provided that the written record of decision including findings of fact is accepted by the Council.

(15) Annual registration requirement.

(a) Wireless communications facilities.

1. To enable the city to keep accurate, up-to-date records of the location of wireless communications facilities within city limits, on an annual basis, no later than February 1 of each year, or upon change in ownership of wireless communications facilities, the owner/operator of such facilities shall submit documentation to the Zoning Administrator providing:

a. Certification in writing that the wireless communications facility conforms to the requirements, in effect at the time of construction of the facility, of the State Building Code and all other requirements and standards set forth in the city code, and federal and state law by filing a sworn and certified statement by a qualified engineer to that effect. A wireless communications facility owner/operator may be required by the city to submit more frequent certification should there be reason to believe that the structural and/or electrical integrity of the wireless communications facility is jeopardized. The city reserves the right upon reasonable notice to the owner/operator of the wireless communications facility to conduct inspections for the purpose of determining whether the wireless communications facility complies with the State Building Code and all requirements and standards set forth in local, state or federal laws; and

b. The name, address and telephone number of any new owner, if there has been a change of ownership of the wireless communications facility.

2. Annual payment of a registration fee, as set by the Council, for each wireless communications facility located within the city shall be submitted to the city at the time of submission of the documentation required above.

(b) Wireless communications towers.

1. To enable the city to keep accurate, up-to-date records of the location and continued use of wireless communications towers within city limits, on an annual basis, no later than February 1 of each year, or upon change in ownership of a wireless communications tower, the owner/operator of each tower shall submit documentation to the Zoning Administrator providing:

a. Certification in writing that the wireless communications tower is structurally sound and conforms to the requirements, in effect at the time of construction of the tower, of the State Building Code and all applicable standards and requirements set forth in the city code, and federal and state law, by filing a sworn and certified statement by a qualified engineer to that effect. The tower owner may be required by city to submit more frequent certifications should there be reason to believe that the structural and/or electrical integrity of the tower is jeopardized;

b. The number of providers located on the tower and their names, addresses and telephone numbers;

c. The type and use of any wireless communications facilities located on the tower; and

d. The name, address and telephone number of any new owner of the tower, if there has been a change of ownership of the tower.

2. An annual payment of a registration fee, as set by the Council, for each tower located within the city shall be submitted to the city at the time of submission of the documentation required above.

(16) General requirements. The following conditions apply to all wireless communications towers and wireless communications facilities in the city:

(a) Duration of permits. If substantial construction or installation has not taken place within one year after city approval of a wireless communications permit, the approval shall be considered void unless a petition for time extension has been granted by the City Council. Such a petition shall be submitted in writing at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the approval and shall state facts showing a good faith effort to complete the work permitted under the original permit.

(b) Assignment and subleasing. No wireless communications facility, tower or antenna support structure or wireless communications permit may be sold, transferred or assigned without prior notification to the city. No sublease shall be entered into by any provider until the sublessee has obtained a permit for the subject wireless communications facility or tower or antenna support structure. No potential provider shall be allowed to argue that a permit should be issued for an assigned or subleased wireless communications facility or tower or antenna support structure on the basis of any expense incurred in relation to the facility or site.

(c) Aesthetics. Wireless communications towers and wireless communications facilities shall meet the following requirements:

1. Signs. No commercial signs or advertising shall be allowed on a wireless communications tower or a wireless communications facility.

2. Lighting. No signals, lights, or illumination shall be permitted on a wireless communications tower or a wireless communications facility, unless required by the Federal Aviation Administration or other applicable authority. If lighting is required, the lighting alternatives and design chosen must cause the least obtrusiveness to the surrounding community. However, an applicant shall obtain approval from the city if the Federal Aviation Administration requires the addition of standard obstruction marking and lighting (i.e., red lighting and orange and white striping) to the tower. An applicant shall notify the Zoning Administrator prior to making any changes to the original finish of the tower.

3. Graffiti. Any graffiti or other unauthorized inscribed materials shall be removed promptly or otherwise covered in a manner substantially similar to, and consistent, with the original exterior finish. The city may provide a wireless communications tower or equipment cabinet owner and/or operator written notice to remove or cover graffiti within a specific period of time or as required by other appropriate sections of the city code as presently existing or as may be periodically amended. In the event the graffiti has not been removed or painted over by the owner and/or operator within the specified time period, the city shall have the right to remove or paint over the graffiti or other inscribed materials. In the event the city has to remove or paint over the graffiti, then the owner and/or operator of the wireless communications tower or equipment cabinet or structure on which the graffiti existed, shall be responsible for all costs incurred.

(d) Federal and state requirements. All wireless communications towers and wireless communications facilities must meet or exceed the standards and regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, and any other agency of the state or federal government with the authority to regulate wireless communications towers and facilities. If such standards and regulations change, then the owners of the wireless communications towers and wireless communications facilities subject to such standards and regulations must bring such towers and facilities into compliance with such revised standards and regulations within six months of the effective date of such standards and regulations

unless a different compliance schedule is mandated by the controlling state or federal agency. Failure to maintain or bring wireless communications towers and wireless communications facilities into compliance with such revised standards and regulations shall constitute a violation of this division and shall be subject to enforcement under the city code. Penalties for violation may include fines and removal of the tower or wireless communications facility at the owner's expense.

(e) Licenses or franchise. An owner of a wireless communications tower or wireless communications facility must notify the city in writing within 48 hours of any revocation or failure to renew any necessary license or franchise.

(f) Discontinued use. In the event the use of a wireless communications tower or wireless communications facility is discontinued, the owner and/or operator shall provide written notice to the city of its intent to discontinue use and the date when the use shall be discontinued.

(g) Abandoned tower or antenna. The city may require removal of any abandoned or unused wireless communications tower or wireless communications facility by the tower or facility owner within 30 days after notice from the city of abandonment. A wireless communications tower or wireless communications facility shall be considered abandoned if use has been discontinued for 180 consecutive days.

1. Removal by city. Where a wireless communications tower or wireless communications facility is abandoned but not removed within the specified time frame, the city may remove the facility or remove or demolish the tower and place a lien on the property following the procedures (but not the criteria) for demolition of an unsafe building/structure of the city's housing code.

2. Towers utilized for other purposes. Where a wireless communications tower is utilized for other purposes, including but not limited to light standards and power poles, it shall not be considered abandoned; provided, however, that the height of the tower may be reduced by the city so that the tower is no higher than necessary to accommodate previously established uses.

3. Restoration of area. Where a wireless communications tower or facility is removed by an owner, said owner, at no expense to the city, shall restore the area to as good a condition as prior to the placement of the tower or facility, unless otherwise instructed by the city.

4. Surety or letter of credit for removal. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, a surety or letter of credit shall be submitted by the property owners or tower operators to ensure the removal of abandoned wireless communications towers. The surety or letter of credit shall be utilized to cover the cost of removal and disposal of abandoned towers and shall consist of the following:

a. Submission of an estimate from a certified structural engineer indicating the cost to remove and dispose of the tower; and

b. Either a surety or a letter of credit, equivalent to 100% of the estimated cost to remove and dispose of the tower. The form of the surety or the letter of credit shall be subject to approval by the Zoning Administrator and the City Attorney.

(h) FCC emissions standards. At all times, owners and/or operators of wireless communications facilities shall comply with the radio frequency emissions standards of the Federal Communications Commission.

1. Testing required. All existing and future wireless communications facilities shall be tested in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Such testing, to the extent it is required, shall comply with standards and procedures prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission.

2. Inspections. The city reserves the right to conduct random radio frequency emissions inspections. The cost for such random inspections shall be paid from the wireless communications annual registration fees, unless an owner and/or operator is found to be in noncompliance with Federal Communications Commission RF emissions standards, whereupon the noncompliant owner and/or operator shall reimburse the city in full for the cost of the inspection.

(i) Maintenance. All wireless communications facilities, wireless communications towers and antenna support structures shall at all times be kept and maintained in good condition, order, and repair, and, maintained in stealth condition (if stealth or camouflage is a permit requirement). The same shall not menace or endanger the life or property of any person, and shall retain original characteristics. All maintenance or construction on a wireless communications tower, wireless communications facility or antenna support structure shall be performed by licensed maintenance and construction personnel. The city shall notify a provider in writing regarding any specific maintenance required under this division. A provider shall make all necessary repairs within 30 days of such notification. Failure to effect noticed repairs within 30 days may result in revocation of a tower owner's or provider's permit and/or removal of the tower, wireless communications facility or antenna support structure.

(j) Emergency. The city reserves the right to enter upon and disconnect, dismantle or otherwise remove any wireless communications tower or wireless communications facility should the same become an immediate hazard to the safety of persons or property due to emergency circumstances, as determined by the Zoning Administrator or his designee, such as natural or manmade disasters or accidents, when the owner of any such tower or facility is not available to immediately remedy the hazard. The city shall notify any said owner of any such action within 24 hours. The owner and/or operator shall reimburse the city for the costs incurred by the city for action taken pursuant to this subsection.

(k) Equipment cabinets. Equipment cabinets located on the ground shall be constructed out of non-reflective materials and shall be screened from sight by mature landscaping and located or designed to minimize their visibility. All equipment cabinets shall be no taller than ten feet in height, measured from the original grade at the base of the facility to the top of the structure, and occupy no more than 400 square feet in area, unless a waiver is granted by the city upon written request from a provider.

(l) Equipment on site. No mobile or immobile equipment or materials of any nature shall be stored or parked on the site of a wireless communications tower or wireless communications facility, unless used in direct support of a wireless communications tower or wireless communications facility or for repairs to the wireless communications tower or wireless communications facility currently underway.

(m) Inspections. The city reserves the right upon reasonable notice to the owner/operator of a wireless communications tower or antenna support structure, including utility poles and rooftops, to conduct inspections for the purpose of determining whether the tower or other support structure and/or related equipment cabinet complies with the State Building Code and all applicable requirements and standards set forth in local, state or federal law and to conduct radiation measurements to determine whether all antenna and transmitting equipment are operating within Federal Communications Commission requirements.

(n) Security.

1. An owner/operator of a wireless communications tower shall provide a security fence or equally effective barrier around the tower base or along the perimeter of the wireless communications tower compound.

2. If high voltage is necessary for the operation of the wireless communications tower or antenna support structure, “HIGH VOLTAGE - DANGER” warnings signs shall be permanently attached to the fence or barrier and shall be spaced no more than 20 feet apart, or on each fence or barrier frontage.

3. “NO TRESPASSING” warning signs shall be permanently attached to the fence or barrier and shall be spaced no more than 20 feet apart.

4. The letters for the “HIGH VOLTAGE - DANGER” and “NO TRESPASSING” warning signs shall be at least six inches in height. The two warning signs may be combined into one sign. The warning signs shall be installed at least 4.5 feet above the finished grade of the fence or barrier.

(o) Advances in technology. All providers shall use and apply any readily available advances in technology that lessen the negative aesthetic effects of wireless communications facilities and wireless communications towers to the residential communities within the city. Every five years, the city may review existing structures and compare the visual impact with available technologies in the industry for the purpose of removal, relocation or alteration of these structures in keeping with the general intent of this division. Such removal, relocation or alteration may be required by the city pursuant to its zoning power and authority.

(17) Review of applications. The city shall process all applications for wireless communications towers and wireless communications facilities in a timely manner and in accordance with established procedures. The reason for the denial of any application filed in accordance with this provision shall be set forth in writing, and shall be supported by substantial evidence in a written record.

(18) Appeals. At any time within 30 days after a written order, requirement, determination or final decision has been made by the Zoning Administrator or other official in interpreting or applying this division, except for actions taken in connection with prosecutions for violations thereof, the applicant or any other person affected by such action may appeal the decision in accordance with the provisions of the land use and development regulations.

(19) Revocation. A material breach of any terms and conditions of a permit issued for a wireless communications tower or wireless communications facility under this division and the land use and development regulations may result in the revocation by the city of the right to operate, utilize or maintain the particular tower or wireless communications facility within the city following written notification of the violation to the owner or operator, and after failure to cure or otherwise correct said violation within 30 days. A violation of this division shall be subject to enforcement in accordance with the land use and development regulations. Penalties for a violation of a permit or this division may include fines and removal of the wireless communications tower or wireless communications facility at the owner’s expense.

(Ord. 1424, passed 12-11-00)

(P) Sign regulations.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of this division is to allow effective signage appropriate to the character of each zoning district, to promote an attractive environment by minimizing visual clutter and confusion, to minimize adverse impacts on nearby property and protect the public health, safety and general welfare.

(2) Application. The sign regulations set forth in this division shall apply to all structures and all land uses, except as otherwise prohibited by this article. All signs allowed by this division shall be limited to on-premise signs.

(3) Permits.

(a) Permit required. It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, build, construct, attach, hang, place, suspend, affix, structurally alter, or relocate any sign within the city without having first obtained a permit from the city unless herein excluded.

(b) Application for sign permit. An application for a sign permit shall be filed with the Zoning Administrator on the approved form and shall be accompanied by such information as may be required to ensure compliance with the provisions of this division, including but not limited to, the following:

1. A drawing showing the proposed location of the sign for which the permit is being requested and the location of all existing signage on the premises.

2. A drawing indicating the size, color, content and materials of the sign, as well as the method of construction and attachment to the building or to the ground.

3. Engineering data showing the structure is designed to accommodate dead load and wind pressure, in any direction, in the amount required within this division, when specifically requested by the Zoning Administrator.

(c) Application fee. Fees for all sign permits shall be established by resolution of the City Council.

(d) Issuance of permit. Upon the filing of a completed application for a sign permit, the Zoning Administrator shall examine all accompanying drawing and supplemental data to determine compliance with the requirements of this division. Upon approval, the sign permit shall remain valid for a period of one year. If no work has commenced within such time period, a new permit shall be required even if no changes have been made to the original site plan.

(e) Exemptions. The following changes shall not require a sign permit. These exceptions shall not be construed as relieving the owner of the sign from the responsibility for its proper erection and maintenance and its compliance with the provisions of this article or any other law or ordinance regulating the same.

1. The changing of the advertising copy or message of a painted or printed sign. Except for theater marquees and changeable copy signs specifically designed for the use of replaceable copy, electric signs shall not be included in this exception.

2. Painting, repainting or cleaning of an advertising structure or the changing of the advertising copy or message thereon, unless a structural change is made.

(4) General sign standards.

(a) Construction requirements. All signs shall be constructed and maintained in such a manner so as to present a professional appearance and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of the

Uniform Building and Electrical Codes. The site on which the sign is constructed shall utilize existing finished grade, and shall not be raised, bermed, or otherwise elevated above surrounding grade to achieve a greater height than allowed by this article.

(b) Maintenance. All signs, including temporary signs, together with all of their supports, braces, guys, and anchors, shall be kept in good repair and in proper state of preservation. The display surfaces of all signs shall be kept neatly painted or posted. Every sign and the immediate surrounding premises shall be maintained by the owner or person in charge thereof in a safe, clean, sanitary, and inoffensive condition, and free and clear of all obnoxious substances, rubbish and weeds.

(c) Inspection. All signs for which a permit is required shall be subject to inspection by the Zoning Administrator. The Zoning Administrator, or any other official of the municipality who may be appointed by him is hereby authorized to enter upon any property or premises to ascertain whether the provisions of this division are being obeyed.

(5) Exempt signs. In all districts, the provisions of this section shall not apply to the following signs:

(a) Signs of any governmental unit designed for regulatory and safety purposes;

(b) Memorial plaques, cornerstones and historical tablets;

(c) Political signs regulated per state statute;

(d) Direction signs not more than two in number identifying the location and nature of a building, structure, or use which is not readily visible from the street, serving such building, structure, or use on lands forming part of the site of such buildings, structure, or uses, provided that each such sign is not more than ten square feet in total area;

(e) Signs not exceeding nine square feet in area located upon private property and directed toward the prevention of trespassing;

(f) Window signage that does not exceed 25% of the total area of the window on or in which it is displayed;

(g) Temporary signs pertaining to drives or events of charitable, educational or religious organizations, and governmental signs used for the promotion of citywide functions and/or events, provided that such signs shall not be erected or posted for a period of more than 14 days prior to the date of the event and shall be removed within three days thereafter;

(h) Flags or emblems of political, civic, philanthropic, educational or religious organizations;

(i) In residential districts, one temporary on-site, freestanding real estate sign advertising the sale, lease, or rental of the lot or premises upon which such sign is situated, provided the sign does not exceed six feet in height and 15 square feet in area. On corner lots, a second such sign may be located on the property if said sign abuts a second street right-of-way. No such temporary on-site sign shall remain seven days past the date of termination of such offering.

(j) In commercial or industrial districts, one temporary on-site, freestanding real estate sign advertising the sale, lease, or rental of the lot or premises upon which such sign is situated, provided the sign does not exceed six feet in height and 32 square feet in area. On corner lots, a second such sign may be

located on the property if said sign abuts a second street right-of-way. No such temporary on-site sign shall remain seven days past the date of termination of such offering.

(k) One on-site temporary sign advertising a group of lots for sale within a subdivision or a group of homes for sale within a project along each street frontage which bounds such subdivision or project, provided that the total area of such sign shall not exceed the greater of 64 square feet with no single dimension in excess of 16 feet or eight square feet per lot or house for sale. No such on-site temporary sign shall remain past the date of sale of the last lot within the subdivision or the last house within the housing project.

(l) Temporary on-site signs indicating the name and nature of a construction or demolition project, plus the names of the contractors, subcontractors and professional advisors, provided the combined area of such signs fronting upon each street which abounds such project shall not exceed a ratio of two square feet of sign area for each 1,000 square feet of lot area. In no case shall the combined area of such signs fronting upon each street exceed the greater of 64 square feet with no single dimension in excess of 16 or eight square feet per house or lot on which such construction or demolition is located. The display of such sign shall be limited to a period not to exceed the duration of the said construction or demolition project, at which time such signs shall be removed.

(m) One wall sign per dwelling for permitted home occupations not to exceed two square feet per surface and limited to one surface.

(n) Time and temperature signs not to exceed 20 square feet per sign and one sign per side of building.

(o) In commercial or industrial districts, one temporary on-site banner or pennant advertising the sale of the lot or premises on which such a banner or pennant is situated, or one temporary on-site banner or pennant advertising the lease or rental of a tenant space, provided that the banner or pennant shall not exceed 48 square feet in area when advertising the sale of the lot or premises, and 32 square feet in area when advertising the lease or rental of a tenant space. No such banner or pennant shall remain past the date of the offering.

(p) Public art shall not count towards any signage regulations and only the portion of the artwork displaying the name of the business shall count towards the overall signage area.

(6) Prohibited signs. Signs that are not specifically permitted in this division are hereby prohibited in all districts unless criteria is presented to allow the Planning Commission to deem that the sign design preserves and maintains the community's unique historical and cultural elements. Without restricting or limiting the generality of the provisions of the foregoing, the following signs are specifically prohibited:

(a) A balcony sign and a sign mounted or supported on a balcony.

(b) Any sign that obstructs any part of a doorway or fire escape.

(c) Any sign which, because of its position, movement, shape, illumination or color constitutes a traffic hazard because it obstructs free and clear vision, or interrupts, confuses or misleads traffic.

(d) A private sign containing words or symbols, which might reasonably be construed as traffic controls.

- (e) An animated or rotating sign, except barber poles and signs displaying time and temperature information only in the animated or rotating portion thereof.
 - (f) A flashing sign, including indoor flashing, electrical signs visible from the public right-of-way, other than time and temperature signs limited to such time and temperature information.
 - (g) Any roof sign, unless attached to mansard roof or similar decorative style roof that is vertical in nature.
 - (h) A projecting sign which either extends more than 18 inches from the building or structure to which it is attached, or which is larger than three feet in vertical height, other than canopy or marquee signs.
 - (i) Any sign that does not display the name of the manufacturer or maker permanently attached to, or painted or printed on, the exterior or structural supports of the sign.
 - (j) Any sign that is erected, placed or maintained by any person on a rock, fence, or trees.
 - (k) Any sign that interferes with any electric light, or power, telephone, telecommunications, or telegraph wires, or the supports thereof.
 - (l) Any sign containing electrical wiring which does not conform to the Electrical Code or the components thereof do not bear the label of an approved testing agency.
 - (m) Any window sign or signs which exceed 25% of the total area of the window on or in which it is displayed.
 - (n) Portable signage, excluding sandwich board signs.
 - (o) Temporary signage stuck into the ground, excluding political signs regulated per state statute, professional real estate signs, garage sale signs, and any listed in division (P)(5).
 - (p) Variable electronic message signs.
- (7) Temporary signs. The following standards shall apply to temporary signs in all zoning districts:
- (a) Each temporary sign, with the exception of sandwich board signs, shall require a sign permit from the City of Columbia Heights.
 - (b) No more than four temporary sign permits may be issued per business per calendar year.
 - (c) No more than two temporary signs shall be displayed per business at any given time. When two temporary signs are displayed, each sign shall require a permit and each sign will count toward the allotment of temporary signage permitted per business per calendar year. If the business is located within a shopping center, nor more than four temporary signs may be displayed throughout the shopping center at any given time.
 - (d) Any sign not considered permanent shall be considered temporary.
 - (e) Temporary signage may not be used as permanent wall signage for the business.

(f) Temporary signs or pennants shall not exceed 32 square feet in area for businesses located in the CBD, Central Business District, and shall not exceed 48 square feet in area throughout the remainder of the city and shall be directly and fully attached to the wall of the building.

(g) Each temporary sign shall be limited to a 30-day display period per permit.

(h) Grand opening signs.

1. Each new business is permitted one grand opening sign, at the time when the new business is established in the city.

2. Grand opening signs do not require a permit.

3. The signs do not count against the total number of temporary signs allowed per property per calendar year.

4. Grand opening signs are allowed for no more than 60 consecutive days.

5. Grand opening signs must display a message consistent with the promotion of the grand opening on the new business.

6. Grand opening signs shall be no greater than 50 square feet in area.

7. The signs must meet all other applicable regulations for temporary signage in the city pertaining to placement on the property, maintenance, and the like.

(i) No temporary sign shall extend over or into any street, alley, sidewalk or other public thoroughfare, and may not cover more than 25% of window area such that 75% of the total window area is kept clear at all times.

(j) No temporary sign shall be erected so as to prevent free ingress to or egress from any door, window or fire escape, nor shall such sign be attached to any standpipe or fire escape.

(k) Unauthorized use of temporary signage shall be subject to the other sanctions as provided herein.

(l) Sandwich board signs.

1. Permitted in the LB, Limited Business, GB, General Business, and CBD, Central Business District only.

2. One sandwich board sign is permitted per business.

3. Sandwich board signs are limited to eight square feet in area per side.

4. Sandwich board signs are limited to five feet in height.

5. The sign shall be professionally painted and maintained in a neat and readable manner.

6. Signs shall be placed on private property only, and shall be set back at least five feet from all property lines.

7. Signs shall not obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic or visibility and shall not create a safety hazard.

8. Signs shall not be lighted and shall not utilize noise amplifiers.

9. In the CBD, Central Business District only, sandwich board signs may be placed on public sidewalks, directly in front of the business being advertised.

(8) Dynamic LED signage.

(a) Regulations. Dynamic LED signage is allowed as a conditional use in those zoning districts specified in this code. All dynamic LED signage is subject to the following conditions:

1. Dynamic LED signs are allowed only on monument signs for conditionally permitted uses in all zoning districts, with the exception of the PO, Public District, in which LED signage may be utilized in existing pylon signs. Motor fuel stations may display dynamic LED signs as part of the pylon sign to promote motor fuel prices only. Such motor fuel price signs do not require a conditional use permit. All dynamic LED signs may occupy no more than 60% of the actual copy and graphic area. The remainder of the sign must not have the capability to have dynamic LED signs, even if not used. Only one, contiguous dynamic display area is allowed on a sign face.

2. A dynamic LED sign may not change or move more often than once every ten seconds for commercial, industrial uses, or public uses, and no more than once every ten minutes for religious and/or educational institution uses, except one for which changes are necessary to correct hour-and-minute, date, or temperature information.

3. A display of time, date or temperature information may change as frequently as once every five seconds, however information displayed not relating to the date, time or temperature must not change or move more often than once every ten seconds for commercial, industrial uses, or public uses, and no more than once every ten minutes for religious and/or educational institution uses.

4. The images and messages displayed must be static, and the transition from one state display to another must be instantaneous without any special effects. Motion, animation and video images are prohibited on dynamic LED sign displays.

5. The images and messages displayed must be complete in themselves, without continuation in content to the next image or message or to any other sign.

6. Dynamic LED signs must be designed and equipped to freeze the device in one position if a malfunction shall occur. The displays must also be equipped with a means to immediately discontinue the display if it malfunctions, and the sign owner must immediately stop the dynamic display when notified by the city that it is not complying with the standards of this section.

7. Dynamic LED signs may not exceed a maximum illumination of 5,000 nits (candelas per square meter) during daylight hours and a maximum illumination of 500 nits (candelas per square meter) between dusk to dawn as measured from the sign's face at maximum brightness. Dynamic LED signs must have an automatic dimmer control to produce a distinct illumination change from a higher illumination level to a lower level for the time period between one-half hour before sunset and one half-hour after sunrise.

8. Dynamic LED signs existing on the effective date of Ordinance 1593, passed April 25, 2011, must comply with the operational standards listed above. An existing dynamic LED sign that does not meet the structural requirements may continue as a non-conforming sign subject to § 9.105(E).

(9) Signs in Residential Districts R-1, R-2A and R-2B.

(a) Permitted signs. In the R-1, Single-Family Residential District, and the R-2, Two-Family Residential District, the following signs shall be permitted:

1. One identification sign per dwelling unit not to exceed two square foot per surface, and limited to one surface attached directly to the structure.
2. One wall or ground sign for each conditional use other than the residential use, not to exceed 16 square feet per surface, and limited to two surfaces.
3. One institutional sign not to exceed 40 square feet per surface, limited to two surfaces, and set back a minimum of ten feet from any property line.
4. In case of multiple structures on one parcel, a second institutional sign may be installed provided there is a minimum distance of 75 feet between the two sign structures.

(b) Restrictions on permitted signs. Permitted signs in the R-1, Single-Family Residential, and R-2A and R-2B, Two-Family Residential Districts are subject to the following restrictions:

1. The maximum height of a sign, including its structures, shall not exceed eight feet above the grade at street level or at the base of the sign, whichever is greater.
2. No animated sign shall be permitted.
3. All illuminated signs shall be shielded in such a way as to protect the rights of adjacent property owners from nuisance.
4. The sign number and area permitted by this division are considered maximums. These maximums, or any portions thereof which are not utilized by the owner, occupant or user of property are non-transferable to any other property owned by such persons, or to any other owner, occupant or user of property in the same or other districts.

(c) Conditional use signs. In the R-1, R-2A and R-2B Districts, the following signs shall require a conditional use permit:

1. A dynamic LED sign used in conjunction with a religious institution.
2. A dynamic LED sign used in conjunction with an educational institution.

(d) Restrictions on conditional use signs. Signs requiring a conditional use permit in the R-1, Single-Family Residential, and R-2A and R-2B, Two-Family Residential Districts are subject to the following restrictions:

1. All signage must be approved through the conditional use permit process as outlined in § 9.104(H) above.
2. All signage must meet the requirements for dynamic LED signs as outlined in division (P)(8) above.
3. A dynamic LED sign may change its message with a frequency of no less than one message for each ten minutes of display time.

(10) Signs in Residential Districts R-3 and R-4.

(a) Permitted signs. In the R-3, Limited Multiple-Family Residential District, and the R-4, Multiple-Family Residential District, the following signs shall be permitted:

1. One identification sign per dwelling unit not to exceed two square feet per surface, limited to one surface, and attached directly to the structure for each single- and two-family residence.
2. One area identification sign per lot line facing a public street not to exceed 16 square feet per surface and limited to two surfaces, for each multiple dwelling.
3. One institutional sign not to exceed 40 square feet per surface, limited to two surfaces, and set back a minimum of ten feet from any property line.
4. In case of multiple structures on one parcel, a second institutional sign may be installed provided there is a minimum distance of 75 feet between the two sign structures.

(b) Restrictions on permitted signs. Permitted signs in the R-3, Limited Multiple-Family Residential, and R-4, Multiple-Family Residential Districts are subject to the following restrictions:

1. The maximum height of a sign, including its structures, shall not exceed eight feet above the grade at street level or at the base of the sign, whichever is greater.
2. No animated signs shall be permitted.
3. All illuminated signs shall be shielded in such a way as to protect the rights of adjacent property owners from nuisance.
4. The sign number and area permitted by this division are considered maximums. These maximums, or any portions thereof which are not utilized by the owner, occupant or user of property are non-transferable to any other property owned, occupied or used by such persons, or to any other persons, or to any other owners, occupant or user of property in the same or other districts.

(c) Conditional use signs. In the R-3 and R-4 Districts, the following signs shall require a conditional use permit:

1. A dynamic LED sign used in conjunction with a religious institution.
2. A dynamic LED sign used in conjunction with an educational institution.

(d) Restrictions on conditional use signs. Signs requiring a conditional use permit in the R-3, Limited Multiple-Family Residential, and R-4, Multiple-Family Residential Districts are subject to the following restrictions:

1. All signage must be approved through the conditional use permit process as outlined in § 9.104(H) above.
2. All signage must meet the requirements for dynamic LED signs as outlined in division (P)(8) above.
3. Dynamic LED signs may change its message with a frequency of no less than one message for each ten minutes of display time.

(11) Signs in LB, Limited Business District.

(a) Permitted signs. In the LB, Limited Business District, the following signs shall be permitted:

1. Any number of wall signs on any side of a building not to exceed 50 square feet of total surface area for all sign surfaces and limited to one surface per sign. Provided, however, that if a parcel of land on which a building is located directly abuts residentially zoned land, no wall sign may be located on the side of the building that faces the abutting residential parcel.

2. One freestanding pylon sign only if the building or structure is located adjacent to a state trunk highway and located 20 feet or more from the front lot line, not to exceed 40 square feet per surface, and limited to two surfaces.

3. If not located adjacent to a state trunk highway and/or where the 20-foot setback cannot be met, one monument sign not to exceed 40 square feet in size, limited to two sides, not to exceed 8 feet in height, and set a minimum of 5 feet from any property line.

4. Any pylon or monument sign must be a minimum of five feet from any building or structure on the same lot.

5. One wall sign on each side of the building which faces a public alley, not to exceed four square feet per surface and limited to one surface per sign.

6. One area identification sign for each shopping center not to exceed 50 square feet per surface, and limited to four surfaces, in addition to one wall sign for each primary use business not to exceed 50 square feet per surface, limited to one surface.

7. One identification sign for each use other than primary use not to exceed two square, feet per surface, and limited to one surface.

8. One wall sign per building with an area of the lesser of 20 square feet or 1/2 square foot for each front foot of a building or structure provided that the said sign is located on the same side of the building as an entrance approved by the City Building Official as a public entrance and provided that the said public entrance and sign faces a parking facility designated by the city as approved public parking.

(b) Restrictions on permitted signs. Permitted signs in the LB, Limited Business District, are subject to the following restrictions:

1. Total sign area shall not exceed two square feet for each front foot of the building or structure. In the case of multiple occupancy, the wall surface for each tenant, user or owner shall include only the surface area on the exterior facade of the premises occupied by such tenant, user or owner.

2. The maximum height of a pylon sign including its structure shall not exceed 20 feet above grade at street level or at the base of the sign, whichever is greater. The maximum height of a monument sign including its structure shall not exceed 8 feet above grade at street level or at the base of the sign, whichever is greater.

3. The sign number and area permitted by this section are considered maximums. These maximums, or any portion thereof, which are not utilized by the owner, occupant or user of property are non-

transferable to any other property owned, occupied or used by such persons, or to any other owner, occupant or user of property in the same or other districts.

(c) Conditional use signs. In the LB District, the following signs shall require a conditional use permit:

1. A dynamic LED sign used in conjunction with a commercial business.
2. A dynamic LED sign used in conjunction with a religious institution.
3. A dynamic LED sign used in conjunction with an educational institution.

(d) Restrictions on conditional use signs. Signs requiring a conditional use permit in the LB, Limited Business District, are subject to the following restrictions:

1. All signage must be approved through the conditional use permit process as outlined in § 9.104(H) above.
2. All signage must meet the requirements for dynamic LED signs as outlined in division (P)(8) above.
3. Dynamic LED signs may change its message with a frequency of no less than one message for each 10 seconds of display time for commercial businesses.
4. Dynamic LED signs may change its message with a frequency of no less than one message for each ten minutes of display time for religious or educational institutions.

(12) Signs in CBD, Central Business District.

(a) Permitted signs. In the CBD, Central Business District, the following signs shall be permitted:

1. Any number of wall signs on any side of a building not to exceed 100 square feet of total surface area for all wall sign surfaces and limited to one surface per sign. Provided, however, that if a parcel of land on which a building is located directly abuts residentially zoned land, no wall sign may be located on the side of the building that faces abutting residential parcel.
2. One monument sign not to exceed 50 square feet in size, limited to two sides, not to exceed ten feet in height, and set a minimum of five feet from any property line.
3. Any monument sign must be a minimum of five feet from any building or structure on the same lot.
4. One wall sign on each side of the building that faces a public alley, not to exceed four square feet per surface and limited to one surface per sign.
5. One area identification sign for each shopping center not to exceed 100 square feet per surface, and limited to four surfaces; one wall sign for each primary use business, not to exceed 100 square feet per surface and limited to one surface.
6. One identification sign for each user other than the primary use, not to exceed two square feet per surface, and limited to one surface.
7. One wall sign per building with an area of the lesser of 20 square feet or one-half square foot for each front foot of a building or structure provided that the said sign is located on the same side of the

building as an entrance approved by the City Building Official as a public entrance and provided that the said public entrance and sign faces a parking facility designated by the city as approved public parking.

(b) Restrictions on permitted signs. Permitted signs in the CBD, Central Business District, are subject to the following restrictions:

1. Total sign area shall not exceed two square feet for each front foot of building or structure. In the case of multiple occupancy, the wall surface for each tenant, user or owner shall include only the surface area on the exterior facade of the premises occupied by such tenant, user or owner.
2. The maximum height of a monument sign, including its structures, shall not exceed eight feet above grade at street level or at the base of the sign, whichever is greater.
3. The sign number and area permitted by this division are considered maximums. These maximums, or any portion thereof, which are not utilized by the owner, occupant or user of property are non-transferable to any other property owned, occupied or used by such persons or any other owner, occupant or user of property in the same or other districts.

(c) Conditional use signs. In the CBD District, the following signs shall require a conditional use permit: dynamic LED signage.

(d) Restrictions on conditional use signs. Signs requiring a conditional use permit in the CBD, Central Business District, are subject to the following restrictions:

1. All signage must be approved through the conditional use permit process as outlined in § 9.104(H) above.
2. All signage must meet the requirements for dynamic LED signs as outlined in division (P)(8) above.
3. Dynamic LED signs may change its message with a frequency of no less than one message for each ten seconds of display time.

(13) Signs in the GB, General Business District.

(a) Permitted signs. In the GB, General Business District, the following signs shall be permitted:

1. Any number of walls signs on any side of a building not to exceed 200 square feet of total surface area for all wall sign surfaces and limited to one surface per sign. Provided, however, that if a parcel of land on which a building is located directly abuts residentially zoned land, no wall sign may be located on the side of the building that faces the abutting residential parcel.
2. One freestanding pylon sign only if the building or structure is located adjacent to a state trunk highway and located 20 feet or more from the front lot line, not to exceed 75 square feet per surface and limited to two surfaces. Provided, however, that:
 - a. If the building contains more than 80,000 square feet of gross floor area or the site on which the building is located contains more than 90,000 square feet of surface area;
 - b. If the street frontage of the site on which the building or structure is located exceeds 150 feet in length; and

c. If the building is located 20 feet or more from the front lot line and is located adjacent to a state trunk highway, a second freestanding sign not to exceed 75 square feet and limited to two surfaces shall be permitted at a location at least 50 feet distant from any other freestanding sign and at least 25 feet distant from the lot line of any adjoining parcel of and other than a street or alley.

3. If not located adjacent to a state trunk highway where the 20-foot building setback cannot be met, one monument sign not to exceed 50 square feet in size, limited to two sides, not to exceed ten feet in height, and setback a minimum of five feet from any property line.

4. Any pylon or monument sign must be a minimum of five feet from any building or structure on the same lot.

5. One wall sign on each side of the building that faces a public alley, not to exceed four square feet per surface and limited to one surface per sign.

6. One area identification sign for each shopping center, not to exceed 100 square feet per surface, limited to four surfaces, in addition to one wall sign for each primary use business, not to exceed 100 square feet per surface, limited to one surface.

7. One identification sign for each use other than primary use, not to exceed two square feet per surface, and limited to one surface.

8. One wall sign per building with an area of the lesser of 20 square feet or 1/2 square foot for each front foot of a building or structure provided that the said sign is located on the same side of the building as an entrance approved by the City Building Official as a public entrance and provided that the said public entrance and sign faces a parking facility designated by the city as approved public parking.

(b) Restrictions on permitted signs. Permitted signs in the GB, General Business District, are subject to the following restrictions:

1. Total signage shall not exceed two square feet for each front foot of building or structure. In the case of multiple occupancy, the wall surface for each tenant, user or owner shall include only the surface area on the exterior facade of the premises occupied by such tenant, user or owner.

2. The maximum height of a sign, including its structures, shall include only the surface area on the exterior facade of the premises occupied by such tenant, user or owner.

3. The maximum height of a pylon sign, including its structures, shall not exceed 25 feet above the grade at street level or at the base of the sign, whichever is greater. The maximum height of a monument sign, including its structures, shall not exceed eight feet above grade at street level or at the base of the sign, whichever is greater, unless the monument sign is located in the Design Overlay Highway District. In this case, the maximum height may be increased to ten feet above grade at street level or at the base of the sign, whichever is greater, if the principal structure is greater than or equal to 22 feet in height.

4. The sign number and area permitted by this section are considered maximum. These maximums, or any portion thereof, which have not been utilized by the owner, occupant or user of property are non-transferable to any other property owned, occupied or used by such persons or to any other owner, occupant or user of property in the same or other districts.

(c) Conditional use permits. In the GB District, the following signs shall require a conditional use permit: dynamic LED signage.

(d) Restrictions on conditional use signs. Signs requiring a conditional use permit in the GB, General Business District, are subject to the following restrictions:

1. All signage must be approved through the conditional use permit process as outlined in § 9.104(H) above.
2. All signage must meet the requirements for dynamic LED signs as outlined in division (P)(8) above.
3. Dynamic LED signs may change its message with a frequency of no less than one message for each ten seconds of display time.

(14) Signs in I-1 and I-2 Industrial Districts.

(a) Permitted signs. In the I-1, Light Industrial District, and the I-2, General Industrial District, the following signs shall be permitted:

1. Any number of wall signs on any side of a building to exceed 100 square feet of total surface area for all wall sign surfaces and limited to one surface per sign. Provided, however, that if a parcel of land on which a building is located directly abuts residentially zoned land, no wall sign may be located on the side of building that faces abutting residential parcels.

2. One freestanding pylon sign only if the building or structure is located 20 feet or more from the front lot line, not to exceed 100 square feet per surface, and limited to two surfaces. Where the 20-foot setback cannot be met, one monument sign not exceed 50 square feet in size, limited to two sides, not to exceed 10 feet in height, and set a minimum of 5 feet from any building or structure on the same lot.

3. Any pylon or monument sign must be a minimum of five feet from any building or structure on the same lot.

4. One identification sign for each use other than primary use, not to exceed two square feet per surface and limited to one sign.

5. Billboards located adjacent to public streets with speed limits of 45 miles per hour or more, placed at a minimum of 1,500-foot intervals, not to exceed 100 square feet per surface and limited to two surfaces.

(b) Restrictions on permitted signs. Permitted signs in the I-1, Light Industrial District, and the I-2, General Industrial District, are subject to the following restrictions:

1. Total sign area shall not exceed two square feet for each front foot of building or structure. In the case of multiple occupancy, the wall surface for each tenant, user or owner shall include only the surface area on the exterior facade of the premises occupied by such tenant, user or owner.

2. The maximum height of a sign including its structures shall not exceed 25 feet above the grade at street level or at the base of the sign, whichever is greater. The maximum height of a monument sign, including its structures, shall not exceed 10 feet above grade at street level or at the base of the sign, whichever is greater.

3. The sign number and area permitted by this division are considered maximums. These maximums, or any portion thereof, which are not utilized by the owner, occupant or user of property are non-

transferable to any other property owned, occupied or used by such person or to any other owner, occupant or user of property located in the same or other districts.

(c) Conditional use signs. In the I-1 and I-2 Industrial Districts, the following signs shall require a conditional use permit: dynamic LED signage.

(d) Restrictions on conditional use signs. Signs requiring a conditional use permit in the I-1, Light Industrial District, and the I-2, General Industrial District, are subject to the following restrictions:

1. All signage must be approved through the conditional use permit process as outlined in § 9.104(H) above.
2. All signage must meet the requirements for dynamic LED signs as outlined in division (P)(8) above.
3. Dynamic LED signs may change its message with a frequency of no less than one message for each ten seconds of display time.

(15) Signs in the PO, Public and Open Space District.

(a) Permitted signs. In the PO, Public and Open Space District, the following signs shall be permitted:

1. Any number of wall signs on any side of a building not to exceed 200 square feet of total surface area for all wall sign surfaces and limited to one surface per sign. Provided, however, that if a parcel of land on which a building is located directly abuts a residentially zoned land, no wall sign may be located on the side of the building that faces the abutting residential parcel.
2. One monument sign per street frontage for those public facility parcels that include governmental offices. Such signs shall not exceed 50 square feet in area, and shall be located no closer than five feet from any property line.
3. Any number of freestanding identification signage used to promote the name of a public city, regional or state park. Such signs shall be no greater than 40 square feet in area, shall not exceed ten feet in height, and shall be located no closer than five feet from any property line.

(b) Restrictions on permitted signs. Permitted signs in the PO, Public and Open Space District are subject to the following restrictions:

1. Total signage shall not exceed two square feet for each front foot of building or structure.
2. The maximum height of a monument sign shall not exceed ten feet in height.
3. The sign number and area permitted by this section are considered maximum. These maximums, or any portion thereof, which are not utilized by the owner or user of the property are non-transferable to any other property owned, occupied or used by such persons or to any other owner or user of property located in the same or other districts.

(c) Conditional use signs. In the PO District, the followings signs shall require a conditional use permit: a dynamic LED sign used in conjunction with a governmental facility.

(d) Restrictions on conditional use signs. Signs requiring a conditional use permit in the PO, Public and Open Space District, are subject to the following restrictions:

1. All signage must be approved through the conditional use permit process as outlined in § 9.104(H) above.

2. All signage must meet the requirements for dynamic LED signs as outlined in division (P)(8) above.

3. Dynamic LED signs may change its message with a frequency of no less than one message for each ten minutes of display time.

(16) Signs for nonconforming residential uses. Sign number and area for residential uses in commercial, business or industrial zones are limited to the maximum number and area for the actual use of the subject property.

(17) Minimum yard requirements–freestanding signs. The minimum front, side and rear yard requirements for freestanding signs shall be ten feet from any property line or as otherwise stated in this article. When the bottom edge of the freestanding pylon sign is eight feet or more above grade, the leading edge of the sign may extend within one foot of the property line. Provided, however, no freestanding sign shall invade the area required for traffic visibility by this division.

(Q) Erosion and sediment control.

(1) Purpose.

(a) During the construction process, soil is highly vulnerable to erosion by wind and water. Eroded soil endangers water resources by reducing water quality and causing the siltation of aquatic habitat for fish and other desirable species. Eroded soil also necessitates repair of sewers and ditches and the dredging of lakes.

(b) As a result, the purpose of this local regulation is to safeguard persons, protect property, and prevent damage to the environment in the city. This division will also promote the public welfare by guiding, regulating, and controlling the design, construction, use, and maintenance of any development or other activity that disturbs or breaks the topsoil or results in the movement of earth on land in the city. This division is to be used in supplement to the City Zoning Code, § 9.106 and to any other regulations as required by state agencies.

(2) Definitions. For the purpose of this division, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

AS-BUILT PLANS. Record drawings of approved and as-constructed improvements.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs). Erosion and sediment control and water quality management practices that are the most effective and practicable means of controlling, preventing, and minimizing degradation of surface water, including avoidance of impacts, construction phasing, minimizing the length of time soil areas are exposed, prohibitions, and other management practices published by state or designated area-wide planning agencies.

CLEARING. Any activity that removes the vegetative surface cover.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT. Legal land preservation agreement between a landowner and a municipality or a qualified land protection organization. The easement confers the transfer of usage rights from one party to another.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY. A disturbance to the land that results in a change in the topography, or the existing soil cover (both vegetative and non-vegetative). Examples of construction activity may include clearing, grading, filling and excavating.

CONTRACTOR. The party who signs the construction contract. Where the construction project involves more than one contractor, the general contractor shall be the contractor that is responsible pursuant to the obligations set forth in this division.

DEVELOPER. The party who signs the development agreement with the city to construct a project.

DEWATERING. The removal of water for construction activity. It can be a discharge of appropriated surface or groundwater to dry and/or solidify a construction site. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources permits are required to be appropriated, and if contaminated, may require other MPCA permits to be discharged.

EROSION. The wearing away of the ground surface as a result of movement of wind, water, ice and/or land disturbance activities.

EROSION CONTROL. A measure that prevents erosion, including, but not limited to: soil stabilization practices, limited grading, mulch, temporary or permanent cover, and construction phasing.

EROSION CONTROL INSPECTOR. A designated agent given authority by the city to inspect and maintain erosion and sediment control practices.

FINAL GRADE. Excavation or fill of material to final plan elevation. Final grade completed as part of individual site development.

FINAL STABILIZATION. All soil disturbing activities at the site have been completed and a uniform (evenly distributed, without large bare areas) perennial vegetative cover, with a density of 70% of approved vegetative cover, for the area has been established on all unpaved areas and areas not covered by permanent structures, or equivalent permanent stabilization measures have been employed.

GRADING. Excavation or fill of material, including the resulting conditions thereof.

GRADING, DRAINAGE AND EROSION CONTROL PERMIT. A permit issued by the municipality for the construction or alteration of the ground and for the improvements and structures for the control of erosion, runoff, and grading. Hereinafter referred to as GRADING PERMIT.

GRADING, DRAINAGE AND EROSION CONTROL PLANS. A set of plans prepared by or under the direction of a licensed professional engineer. Plans are required to indicate the specific measures and sequencing to be used to control grading, sediment and erosion on a development site during and after construction as detailed in the "Zoning Ordinance" and City SWPPP.

IMPERVIOUS SURFACE. A constructed hard surface that either prevents or retards the entry of water into the soil and causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities and at an increased rate of flow than prior to development. Examples include rooftops, sidewalks, patios, driveways, parking lots, storage areas, and concrete, asphalt, or gravel roads.

LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITY. Any land change that may result in soil erosion from water or wind and the movement of sediments into or upon waters or lands within the city's jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, grading, excavating, transporting and filling.

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES). The program for issuing, modifying, revoking, reissuing, terminating, monitoring, and enforcing permits under the Clean Water Act (Sections 301, 318, 402, and 405) and United States Code of Federal Regulations Title 33, Sections 1317, 1328, 1342, and 1345.

PERIMETER SEDIMENT CONTROL. A barrier that prevents sediment from leaving a site by filtering sediment-laden runoff or diverting it to a sediment trap or basin.

PERMANENT COVER. Final site stabilization. Examples include turf, gravel, asphalt, and concrete.

PHASING. Clearing a parcel of land in distinct phases, with the stabilization of each phase completed before the clearing of the next.

PUBLIC WATERWAY. Any body of water, including, but not limited to, lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and bodies of water delineated by the city or other state or federal agency.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR. A registered professional engineer with the State of Minnesota who has received training and is given authority by the city to review, authorize, approve, inspect, and maintain erosion and sediment control plans and practices.

ROUGH GRADE. Excavation or fill of material to a condition suitable for general maintenance.

SEDIMENT. The product of an erosion process; solid material, both mineral and organic, that is in suspension, is being transported, or has been moved by water, air, or ice, and has come to rest on the earth's surface, either above or below water level.

SEDIMENT CONTROL. Measures and methods employed to prevent sediment from leaving the site. Sediment control practices may include, but are not limited to, silt fences, sediment traps, earth dikes, drainage swales, check dams, subsurface drains, pipe slope drains, storm drain inlet protection, and temporary or permanent sedimentation basins.

SITE. A parcel of land or a contiguous combination thereof, where grading work is performed as a single unified operation.

STABILIZED. The exposed ground surface has been covered by appropriate materials such as mulch, staked sod, riprap, wood fiber blanket, or other material that prevents erosion from occurring. Grass seeding is not stabilization.

STANDARD PLATES. General drawings having or showing similar characteristics or qualities that are representative of a construction practice or activity.

START OF CONSTRUCTION. The first land-disturbing activity associated with a development, including land preparation such as clearing, grading, excavation and filling.

STORM WATER. Defined under Minn. Rules, part 7077.0105, subp. 41(b), and includes precipitation runoff, storm water runoff, snow melt runoff, and any other surface runoff and drainage.

STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAM (SWPPP). A program for managing and reducing storm water discharge that includes erosion prevention measures and sediment controls that, when implemented, will decrease soil erosion on a parcel of land and decrease off-site nonpoint pollution.

SURFACE WATER or WATERS. All streams, lakes, ponds, marshes, wetlands, reservoirs, springs, rivers, drainage systems, waterways, watercourses, and irrigation systems, whether natural or artificial, public or private.

TEMPORARY EROSION CONTROL. Methods employed to prevent erosion. Examples of temporary cover include: straw, wood fiber blanket, wood chips, and erosion netting.

WATERWAY. A channel that directs surface runoff to a watercourse or to the public storm drain.

WATER CONVEYANCE SYSTEM. Any channel that conveys surface runoff throughout the site.

WETLAND or WETLANDS. Defined in Minn. Rules, part 7050.0130, subp. F, and includes those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Constructed wetlands designed for wastewater treatment are not waters of the state.

ZONING ORDINANCE. City code detailing city specifications for all plan requirements.

(3) Permits.

(a) Approval. No person shall be granted a grading permit for land-disturbing activity that would require the uncovering or distributing of material in excess of any of the following measurements without the approval of a Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control, and Storm Water Management Plan by the city.

1. Ten thousand square feet.
2. Five hundred cubic yards undeveloped land, or 50 cubic yards developed land.
3. Within 1,000 feet of a waterway.

(b) Exception. No grading permit is required for land disturbances under the amounts specified above, or for the following activities:

1. Any emergency activity that is immediately necessary for the protection of life, property, or natural resources.
2. General establishment of new construction lawns, or the addition of four or fewer inches of topsoil.
3. Existing nursery and agricultural operations conducted as a permitted main or accessory use.

(c) Application requirements.

1. Each application shall bear the name(s) and address(es) of the owner or developer of the site, and of any consulting firm retained by the applicant, together with the name of the applicant's principal contact at such firm.

2. A filing fee and security as outlined by the city's Zoning Ordinance and subdivision (d) below.

3. A Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control, and Storm Water Management Plan meeting the requirements of this division. Each application shall include the required number of plans and other required materials as specified on the application form.

4. The application form shall include a statement by the applicant that any land clearing, construction, or development involving the movement of earth shall be in accordance with the approved Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control, and Storm Water Management Plan.

(d) Security.

1. The permittee will be required to file with the city an irrevocable, automatically renewing letter of credit, or other improvement security in the amount specified by the current city SWMDS for fee schedule.

a. The security shall cover all costs of engineering and inspection, site improvements, street sweeping, repairs to erosion control measures, and maintenance of improvements for such period as specified by the city. Such deposit shall be provided prior to the release of the grading permit.

b. Deposit shall be released after final stabilization is complete, erosion control measures have been removed, and their removal area inspected.

2. Individual lot developers shall be required to provide a bond with a building permit application.

a. The security shall cover city costs for street sweeping, installation, maintenance and repairs to erosion control measures. The bond will be in an amount as specified by the current city SWMDS for fee schedule.

b. The security shall be released after turf is established as specified in the City Zoning Ordinance.

(e) Procedure. The city will review each application for grading permit to determine its conformance with the provisions of this regulation and other applicable requirements. The city requires complete application no less than 15 working days in advance of the desired grading permit date. Upon complete application, the city shall, in writing:

1. Approve the permit application;

2. Approve the permit application, subject to such reasonable conditions as may be necessary to secure substantially the objectives of this regulation, and issue the permit subject to these conditions; or

3. Disapprove the permit application, indicating the reason(s) and procedure for submitting a revised application and/or submission;

4. Appeals of denial of permit shall be processed in accordance with appeal to the City Zoning Ordinance.

(4) Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control, and Storm Water Management Plan requirements.

(a) Plan requirements. Grading, erosion control practices, sediment control practices, storm water management practices, and waterway crossings shall meet the design criteria set forth in the Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control, and Storm Water Management Plan, and shall be adequate to prevent

transportation of sediment from the site to the satisfaction of the city. No land shall be disturbed until the plan is approved by the Public Works Director, and conforms to the standards set forth herein.

(b) The Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control, and Storm Water Management Plan shall comply with all of the NPDES general construction storm water permit requirements and the city's SWMDS for temporary erosion and sediment control, waste control, final stabilization and permanent water quality.

(5) Construction requirements. Construction specifications, waterway and watercourse protections requirements, and pollution prevention management measures shall comply, at a minimum, with all of the NPDES general construction storm water permit requirements, in addition to the city's SWMDS.

(6) Inspection. Notification, procedures, material requirements, permittee inspection, authorization, and record keeping shall comply, at a minimum, with all of the NPDES general construction storm water permit requirements, in addition to the city's SWMDS.

(7) Site maintenance. Responsibilities, maintenance requirements, and lapses regarding site maintenance shall comply, at a minimum, with all of the NPDES general construction storm water permit requirements, in addition to the city's SWMDS.

(8) Final stabilization requirements. Final stabilization is not complete until the criteria laid out in the NPDES general construction storm water permit and the city's SWMDS are met.

(9) Post-construction storm water management. All post-construction storm water management plans must be submitted to the Public Works Director prior to the start of construction activity. Standards for post-construction storm water management shall be as follows:

(a) Specifications. At a minimum, applicants shall comply with all of the NPDES general construction storm water permit requirements.

(b) Design criteria. Permanent storm water management systems shall meet the design criteria as provided in the city's SWMDS.

(c) Maintenance agreement. The applicant shall enter into a maintenance agreement with the city that documents all responsibilities for operation and maintenance of long-term storm water treatment BMPs. Such responsibilities shall be documented in a maintenance plan and executed through a maintenance agreement. All maintenance agreements must be approved by the city and recorded at the County Recorder's office prior to final plan approval. At a minimum, the maintenance agreement shall describe the following inspection and maintenance obligations:

1. The responsible party who is permanently responsible for inspection and maintenance of the structural and nonstructural measures.

2. Pass responsibilities for such maintenance to successors in title.

3. Allow the city and its representatives the right of entry for the purposes of inspecting all permanent storm water management systems.

4. Allow the city the right to repair and maintain the facility, if necessary maintenance is not performed, after proper and reasonable notice to the responsible party of the permanent storm water management system.

5. Include a maintenance plan that contains, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. Identification of all structural permanent storm water management systems.
- b. A schedule for regular inspections, monitoring, and maintenance for each practice. Monitoring shall verify whether the practice is functioning as designed and may include, but is not limited to, quality, temperature, and quantity of runoff.
- c. Identification of the responsible party for conducting the inspection, monitoring, and maintenance for each practice.
- d. Include a schedule and format for reporting to the city compliance with the maintenance agreement.

6. The issuance of a permit constitutes a right of entry for the city or its contractor to enter upon the construction site. The applicant shall allow the city and its authorized representatives, upon presentation of credentials, to:

- a. Enter upon the permitted site for the purpose of obtaining information, examining records, conducting investigations or surveys.
- b. Bring such equipment upon the permitted development as is necessary to conduct such surveys and investigations.
- c. Examine and copy any books, papers, records, or memoranda pertaining to activities or records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of the permit.
- d. Inspect the storm water pollution control measures.
- e. Sample and monitor any items or activities pertaining to storm water pollution control measures.
- f. Correct deficiencies in storm water and erosion and sediment control measures.

(10) Certification.

(a) Approved Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control, and Storm Water Management Plan. Plans for grading, stripping, excavating, and filling work, bearing the approval of the Public Works Director, shall be maintained at the site during the progress of the work.

(b) Procedure. The city will withhold issuance of building permits until the approved certified Grading Plan and Site Development Plan are on file with the city, all securities as required by this division are received, conservation posts are installed, and all erosion control measures are in place as determined by the Public Works Director.

(c) As-built Grading Plan and Development Plan. Within 60 days after completion of site development, as per the approved Grading, Erosion and Sediment, and Storm Water Management Plan, the developer shall provide the city with an As-built Grading Plan and Development Plan as defined in the City Zoning Ordinance.

(d) Removal of erosion control measures. The above-specified requirements will be authorized for removal upon the sodding of the rear yards, completion of punch list items involving ponds and slopes, final

stabilization, completion of proper turf establishment, and placement of the proper conservation easement posts and signs as specified. Inspection is required after the removal of erosion control measures to verify proper restoration. Please refer to City Zoning Ordinance for specifications.

(11) Enforcement.

(a) Notice of violation.

1. In the event that any work on the site does not conform to the approved erosion and sediment control plan, or any of the requirements listed in the provisions of this article, the Public Works Director, or his or her designee, shall issue a written notice of violation to the applicant, detailing the corrective actions necessary for compliance.

2. The applicant shall conduct the corrective actions within the time period determined by the city and stated in the notice.

3. If an imminent hazard exists, the city may require that the corrective work begin immediately.

(b) Stop work order/revocation of site development permit.

1. In the event that any person holding a site development permit pursuant to this article violates the terms of the permit or implements site development in such a manner as to materially adversely affect the health, welfare, environment, or safety of persons residing or working in the neighborhood or development site so as to be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property or improvements in the neighborhood, the city may suspend or revoke the site development permit through the issuance of a stop work order, or the revocation of the site development or building permit.

2. The city may draw down on the grading permit security, with 30 days written notice to developer, for any violation of the terms of this contract related to landscaping, if the violation is not cured within such 30-day period, or if the security is allowed to lapse prior to the end of the required term. If the security is drawn down, the proceeds shall be used to cure the default.

3. No development, utility or street construction will be allowed and no building permits will be issued unless the development is in full compliance with the requirements of this subdivision.

(c) Violation and penalties.

1. No person shall construct, enlarge, alter, repair, or maintain any grading, excavation, or fill, or cause the same to be done, contrary to or in violation of any terms of this division. Any person violating any of the provisions of this division shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and each day during which any violation of any of the provisions of this division is committed, continued, or permitted, shall constitute a separate offense.

2. Upon conviction of any such violation, such person, partnership, or corporation shall be punished by a fine as specified by the city ordinance for fee schedule for each offense. In addition to any other penalty authorized by this section, any person, partnership, or corporation convicted of violating any of the provisions of this division shall be required to bear the expense of such restoration.

(R) Small wireless facilities.

(1) Purpose.

(a) The purpose of this division is to establish specific requirements for obtaining a small wireless facility permit for the installation, mounting, modification, operation, and replacement of small wireless facilities and installation or replacement of wireless support structures by commercial wireless providers on public and private property, including in the public right-of-way.

(b) This division does not apply to any wireline facilities, including wireline backhaul facilities. A wireless provider must obtain a small cell pole attachment permit pursuant to or other applicable authorization for use of the public right-of-way to construct, install, replace, or modify any wireline backhaul facility, such as fiber optic cable. The granting of a small wireless facility permit pursuant to this division is not a grant of such authorization.

(2) Definitions. In this division, the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed to them below:

APPLICABLE LAW. All applicable federal, state, and local laws, codes, rules, regulations, orders, and ordinances, as the same be amended or adopted from time to time.

APPLICANT. Any person submitting a small wireless facility permit application under this division.

CITY. The City of Columbia Heights, Minnesota.

COLLOCATE or COLLOCATION. To install, mount, maintain, modify, operate, or replace a small wireless facility on, under, within, or adjacent to an existing wireless support structure that is owned privately or by the city.

DAYS. Counted in calendar days unless otherwise specified. When the day, or the last day, for taking any action or paying any fee falls on Saturday, Sunday, or a federal holiday, the action may be taken, or the fee paid, on the next succeeding secular or business day.

DECORATIVE POLE. A utility pole owned, managed, or operated by or on behalf of the city or any other governmental entity that:

1. Is specifically designed and placed for an aesthetic purpose; and
2. a. On which a nondiscriminatory rule or code prohibits an appurtenance or attachment, other than:
 - i. A small wireless facility;
 - ii. A specialty designed informational or directional sign; or
 - iii. A temporary holiday or special event attachment; or
- b. On which no appurtenance or attachment has been placed, other than:
 - i. A small wireless facility;
 - ii. A specialty designed informational or directional sign; or
 - iii. A temporary holiday or special event attachment.

DEPARTMENT. The Department of Public Works of the city.

DESIGN DISTRICT. Any district within the city within which architectural design elements are required.

DIRECTOR. The Director of the department.

EXCAVATE. To dig into or in any way remove, physically disturb, or penetrate a part of a public right-of-way.

FCC and COMMISSION. The Federal Communications Commission.

HISTORIC DISTRICT. A geographically definable area, urban or rural, that possesses a significant concentration, linkage or continuity of sites, buildings, structures or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district may also comprise individual elements separated geographically during the period of significance but linked by association or function.

MICRO WIRELESS FACILITY. A small wireless facility that is no larger than 24 inches long, 15 inches wide, and 12 inches high, and whose exterior antenna, if any, is no longer than 11 inches.

OBSTRUCT. To place a tangible object in a public right-of-way so as to hinder free and open passage over that or any part of the public right-of-way.

PERMITTEE. A person that has been granted a small wireless facility permit by the department.

PERSON. Any individual, group, company, partnership, association, joint stock company, trust, corporation, society, syndicate, club, business, or governmental entity. PERSON shall not include the city.

PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY. The area on, below, or above a public roadway, highway, street, cartway, bicycle lane, and public sidewalk in which the city has an interest, including other dedicated rights-of-way for travel purposes and utility easement of the city.

SMALL WIRELESS FACILITY.

1. A wireless facility that meets both of the following qualifications:

a. Each antenna is located inside an enclosure of no more than six cubic feet in volume or, in the case of an antenna that has exposed elements, the antenna and all its exposed elements could fit within an enclosure of no more than six cubic feet; and

b. All other wireless equipment associated with the small wireless facility, excluding electric meters, concealment elements, telecommunications demarcation boxes, battery backup power systems, grounding equipment, power transfer switches, cutoff switches, cable, conduit, vertical cable runs for the connection of power and other services, and any equipment concealed from public view within or behind an existing structure or concealment, is in aggregate no more than 28 cubic feet in volume; or

2. A micro wireless facility.

SMALL WIRELESS FACILITY PERMIT. A permit issued by the department authorizing the installation, mounting, maintenance, modification, operation, or replacement of a small wireless facility or installation or replacement of a wireless support structure in addition to collocation of a small wireless facility on the wireless support structure.

UTILITY POLE. A pole that is used in whole or in part to facilitate telecommunications or electric service. It does not include a traffic signal pole.

WIRELINE BACKHAUL FACILITY. A facility used to transport communications data by wire from a wireless facility to a communications network.

WIRELESS FACILITY.

1. Equipment at a fixed location that enables the provision of wireless service between user equipment and a wireless service network, including:
 - a. Equipment associated with wireless service;
 - b. A radio transceiver, antenna, coaxial or fiber-optic cable, regular and backup power supplies, and comparable equipment, regardless of technological configuration; and
 - c. A small wireless facility.
2. WIRELESS FACILITY does not include:
 - a. Wireless support structures;
 - b. Wireline backhaul facilities; or
 - c. Coaxial or fiber-optic cables between utility poles or wireless support structures, or that are not otherwise immediately adjacent to or directly associated with a specific antenna.

WIRELESS PROVIDER. A provider of wireless service, including, but not limited to, radio communication service carried on between mobile stations or receivers and land stations, and by mobile stations communicating among themselves and which permits a user generally to receive a call that originates and/or terminates on the public switched network or its functional equivalent, regardless of the radio frequencies used.

WIRELESS SERVICE. Any service using licensed or unlicensed wireless spectrum, including the use of wi-fi, whether at a fixed location or by means of a mobile device, that is provided using wireless facilities. WIRELESS SERVICE does not include services regulated under Title VI of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, including a cable service under United States Code, Title 47, Section 522, Clause (6).

WIRELESS SUPPORT STRUCTURE. A new or existing structure in a public right-of-way designed to support or capable of supporting small wireless facilities, including, but not limited to, a utility pole or a building, as reasonably determined by the department.

(3) Small wireless facility permit applications.

(a) Application form. The Director shall develop and make publicly available a form application. To the extent possible, the Director shall allow for applications to be consolidated pursuant to this division. A complete application must be submitted for each small wireless facility permit desired.

(b) Consolidated applications. A wireless provider may apply for up to 15 small wireless facility permits in a consolidated application, provided all small wireless facilities in the consolidated application are located within a two-mile radius, consist of substantially similar equipment, and are to be collocated on similar types of wireless support structures. The department shall review a consolidated application as allowed by this division. If necessary, the applied-for small wireless facility permits in a consolidated application may be approved or denied individually, but the department may not use the denial of one or more permits as a

basis to deny all small wireless facility permits in a consolidated application. Any small wireless facility permits denied in a consolidated application shall be subject to a single appeal.

(c) Information not required. The department shall not require an applicant to provide any information that:

1. Has previously been provided to the department by the applicant in a small wireless facility permit application, if the applicant provides specific reference to the previous application containing the information sought by the department and the previous information remains unchanged; and

2. Is not reasonably necessary to review a small wireless facility permit application for compliance with generally applicable and reasonable health, safety, and welfare regulations, and to demonstrate compliance with applicable Federal Communications Commission regulations governing audio frequency exposure, or other information required by this division.

(4) Establishment of general standards.

(a) General standards. The Director shall establish and maintain a set of standards for the installation, mounting, maintenance, modification, operation, or replacement of small wireless facilities and placing new or replacement wireless support structures in the public right-of-way applicable to all permittees under this division. The general standards shall include, but not be limited to, information to be required in a small wireless facility permit application, design standards, construction standards, aesthetic standards, a form application, permitting conditions, insurance and security requirements, and rates and fees.

(b) Design standards. Any design standards established by the Director shall be:

1. Reasonable and nondiscriminatory; and

2. Include additional installation and construction details that do not conflict with this division, including, but not limited to, a requirement that:

- a. An industry standard pole load analysis be completed and submitted to the city, indicating that the wireless support structure to which the small wireless facility is to be attached will safely support the load; and

- b. Small wireless facility equipment on new and existing wireless support structures be placed higher than 15 feet above ground level.

3. The Director shall additionally include the following in any design standards established under this division.

- a. Any wireless support structure installed in the public right-of-way after May 31, 2017, may not exceed 50 feet above ground level, unless the city agrees to a greater height, subject to local zoning regulations, and may be subject to separation requirements in relation to other wireless support structures;

- b. Any wireless support structure replacing an existing wireless support structure that is more than 50 feet above ground level may be placed at the height of the existing wireless support structure, unless the city agrees to a greater height, subject to zoning regulations;

- c. Wireless facilities constructed in the public right-of-way after May 31, 2017, may not extend more than ten feet above an existing wireless support structure in place as of May 31, 2017;

d. If necessary to collocate a small wireless facility, a wireless provider may replace a decorative pole if the replacement pole reasonably conforms to the design and aesthetic qualities of the displaced decorative pole, subject to the approval of the Director of Public Works;

e. A wireless provider shall comply with the city's requirements to install facilities underground, including, without limitation, in compliance with § 6.301 of the City Code; and

f. All small wireless facilities collocated or wireless support structures installed in a Design District or Historic District shall comply with any design or concealment or other measures required by the city.

(c) Construction standards. Any construction standards established by the Director shall include at least the following terms and conditions:

1. Compliance with applicable law. To the extent this requirement is not preempted or otherwise legally unenforceable, a permittee shall comply with all applicable law and applicable industry standards.

2. Prevent interference. A permittee shall collocate, install, and continuously operate any authorized small wireless facilities and wireless support structures in a manner that prevents interference with other wireless facilities and other facilities in the right-of-way and the operation thereof. With appropriate permissions from the department, a permittee shall, as is necessary for the safe and reliable operation, use, and maintenance of an authorized small wireless facility or wireless support structure, maintain trees as prescribed by standards promulgated by the department.

3. Other rights not affected. A permittee shall not construe a contract, permit, correspondence, or other communication from the city as affecting a right, privilege, or duty previously conferred or imposed by the department to or on another person.

4. Restoration. A permittee, after any excavation of a public right-of-way, shall provide for restoration of the affected public right-of-way and surrounding areas, including the pavement and its foundation, to the same condition that existed before the excavation. If a permittee fails to adequately restore the public right-of-way within a specified date, the department may:

a. Itself restore the public right-of-way and recover from the permittee the reasonable costs of the surface restoration; or

b. Recover from the permittee a reasonable degradation fee associated with a decrease in the useful life of the public right-of-way caused by the excavation.

5. A permittee that disturbs uncultivated sod in the excavation or obstruction of the public right-of-way shall plant grasses that are native to Minnesota and, wherever practicable, that are of the local eco-type, as part of the restoration required under this division, unless the owner of the real property over which the public right-of-way traverses objects. In restoring the public right-of-way, the permittee shall consult with the Department of Wildlife Conservation regarding the species of native grasses that conform to the requirements of this division.

6. Permittee's liability. A permittee is solely responsible for the risk and expense of the collocation of the permittee's small wireless facility and installing or replacing the permittee's wireless support structure. The city neither warrants nor represents that any area within the public right-of-way is suitable for such collocation or installation or replacement. A permittee shall accept the public right-of-way as is and where is

and assumes all risks related to any use. The city is not liable for damage to small wireless facilities due to an event of damage to a wireless support structure in the public right-of-way.

(5) Small wireless facility application review process.

(a) Eligibility for review. An application shall be eligible for review if the application conforms to the general standards adopted by the Director.

(b) Authorization. A small wireless facility permit issued pursuant to any application processed hereunder shall authorize:

1. The installation, mounting, modification, operation, and replacement of a small wireless facility in the public right-of-way or city-owned property; or
2. Construction of a new, or replacement of an existing, wireless support structure, and collocation of a small wireless facility on the wireless support structure.

(c) Review process. An application submitted pursuant to this section shall be reviewed as follows:

1. Submission of application. Applicant shall submit a complete application accompanied by the appropriate application fee as set forth in § 9.106(R)(15) to the department. Prior to submitting a small wireless facility permit application, an applicant shall inspect any wireless support structure on which it proposes to collocate a small wireless facility and determine, based on a structural engineering analysis by a Minnesota registered professional engineer, the suitability of the wireless support structure for the proposed collocation. The structural engineering analysis shall be submitted to the department with the application, and shall certify that the wireless support structure is capable of safely supporting the proposed small wireless facility considering conditions at the proposed location, including the condition of the public right-of-way, hazards from traffic, exposure to wind, snow and/or ice, and other conditions affecting the proposed small wireless facility that may be reasonably anticipated.

2. Application review period. The department shall, within 60 days after the date a complete application for the collocation is submitted to the department, issue or deny a small wireless facility permit pursuant to the application. The department shall, within 90 days after the date a complete application for a new or replacement wireless support structure in addition to the collocation of a small wireless facility is submitted to the department, issue or deny a small wireless facility permit pursuant to the application. If the department receives applications within a single seven-day period from one or more applicants seeking approval of small wireless facility permits for more than 30 small wireless facilities or ten wireless support structures, the department may extend the 90-day review period of this division by an additional 30 days. If the department elects to invoke this extension, it must inform in writing any applicant to whom the extension will be applied.

3. Completeness determination. The department shall review a small wireless facility permit application for completeness following submittal. The department shall provide a written notice of incompleteness to the applicant within ten days of receipt of the application, clearly and specifically delineating all missing documents or information. Information delineated in the notice is limited to documents or information publicly required as of the date of application and reasonably related to the department's determination of whether the proposed equipment falls within the definition of a small wireless facility and whether the proposed deployment satisfies all health, safety, and welfare regulations applicable to the small wireless facility permit request and complies with this division and applicable

standards promulgated by the department. If an applicant fails to respond to the department's notice of incompleteness within 90 days, the application shall be deemed expired and no small wireless facility permit shall be issued. Upon an applicant's submittal of additional documents or information in response to a notice of incompleteness, the department shall within ten days of submission notify the applicant in writing of any information requested in the initial notice of incompleteness that is still missing. Second or subsequent notices of incompleteness may not specify documents or information that were not delineated in the original notice of incompleteness.

4. Reset and tolling of review period. In the event that a small wireless facility permit application is incomplete, and the department has provided a timely and complete written notice of incompleteness, then the applicable review period shall be reset, pending the time between when a notice is mailed and the submittal of information in compliance with the notice. Subsequent notices shall toll the applicable review period. An applicant and the department can mutually agree in writing to toll the applicable review period at any time.

5. Moratorium prohibited. Notwithstanding any applicable law to the contrary, including, but not limited to, M.S. §§ 394.34 and 462.355, the department shall not establish any moratorium with respect to the filing, receiving, or processing of applications for small wireless facility permits, or issuing or approving small wireless facility permits.

6. Nondiscriminatory processing of applications. The department shall ensure that any application processed under this division is performed on a nondiscriminatory basis.

7. Permit not required. A permittee shall provide 30 days advance written notice to the department, but shall not be required to obtain a small wireless facility permit, or pay an additional small wireless facility permit fee for:

- a. Routine maintenance;
- b. The replacement of a small wireless facility with a small wireless facility that is substantially similar to or smaller in size; or
- c. The installation, placement, maintenance, operation, or replacement of a micro wireless facility that is strung on a cable between existing utility poles, in compliance with the National Electrical Safety Code.

(6) Small wireless facility permit conditions.

(a) General conditions of approval. In processing and approving a small wireless facility permit, the department shall condition its approval on compliance with:

1. Generally applicable and reasonable health, safety, and welfare regulations consistent with the city's public right-of-way management;
2. Reasonable accommodations for a decorative pole;
3. Any reasonable restocking, replacement, or relocation requirements when a new wireless support structure is placed in the public right-of-way;

4. Construction of the proposed small wireless facility within six months from the date the small wireless facility permit is issued;

5. Obtaining additional authorization for use of the public right-of-way for the construction of wireline backhaul facilities or any other wired facilities;

6. Compliance with the city's general standards; and

7. Compliance with all applicable law.

(b) Generally applicable and reasonable health, safety, and welfare regulations. Generally applicable and reasonable health, safety, and welfare regulations for the purposes of this division include, without limitation, the following:

1. A structural engineering analysis by a Minnesota registered professional engineer certifying that a wireless support structure can reasonably support a proposed small wireless facility considering the conditions of the street, the anticipated hazards from traffic to be encountered at the proposed location, and any wind, snow, ice, or other conditions that may be reasonably anticipated at the proposed location;

2. A determination by the department that, based upon reasonable engineering judgment, a proposed small wireless facility is of excessive size or weight or would otherwise subject a wireless support structure to an unacceptable level of stress;

3. A determination by the department that, based upon reasonable engineering judgment, a proposed small wireless facility would cause undue harm to the reliability or integrity of the city's electrical infrastructure or would likely violate generally applicable electrical or engineering principles;

4. A determination by the department that a proposed small wireless facility presents an unreasonable safety hazard as specifically and reasonably identified by the department;

5. A determination by the department that a proposed small wireless facility impairs the city's ability to operate or maintain the public right-of-way;

6. A determination by the department that a proposed small wireless facility cannot be placed due to insufficient capacity and the infrastructure cannot be modified or enlarged consistent with the requirements of this division and the department's general standards; or

7. A determination by the department that a proposed small wireless facility is in violation of the National Electric Safety Code or applicable law.

(c) Authorized use. An approval of a small wireless facility permit under this division authorizes the collocation of a small wireless facility on an existing wireless support structure to provide wireless services, or the installation or replacement of a wireless support structure and collocation of a small wireless facility, and shall not be construed to confer authorization to:

1. Provide any service other than wireless service;

2. Construct, install, maintain, or operate any small wireless facility or wireless support structure in a right-of-way other than the approved small wireless facility or wireless support structure; or

3. Install, place, maintain, or operate a wireline backhaul facility in the right-of-way.

(d) Other permits required. Any person desiring to obstruct or perform excavation in a public right-of-way within the city for purposes of collocating a small wireless facility or installing or replacing a wireless support structure shall, consistent with § 6.301 of City Code, obtain the necessary permit from the city prior to conducting any such activities.

(e) Exclusive arrangements prohibited. The city shall not enter into an exclusive arrangement with any person for use of a public right-of-way for the collocation of a small wireless facility or for the installation or operation of a wireless support structure.

(f) Unauthorized small wireless facility. No person shall install, mount, modify, operate, or replace a small wireless facility in the public right-of-way or on city-owned property, or install or replace a wireless support structure without first obtaining a small wireless facility permit from the city.

1. If an unauthorized small wireless facility or wireless support structure is discovered, the department shall provide written notice to the owner of the unauthorized small wireless facility within five days of discovery of the unauthorized small wireless facility. If an owner of an unauthorized small wireless facility or wireless support structure cannot be reasonably identified, the department need not provide any written notice.

2. If the owner of an unauthorized small wireless facility or wireless support structure can be reasonably identified, the department may remove the unauthorized small wireless facility or wireless support structure without incurring liability to the owner of the small wireless facility or wireless support structure and at the owner's sole expense no sooner than five days after providing notice of the department's discovery of the unauthorized small wireless facility or wireless support structure to the owner.

3. If the owner of an unauthorized small wireless facility or wireless support structure cannot be reasonably identified, the department may remove the unauthorized small wireless facility or wireless support structure without incurring liability to the owner of the small wireless facility or wireless support structure and at the owner's sole expense.

(g) Relocation. The department may require a permittee to relocate or modify a small wireless facility or wireless support structure in a public right-of-way or on city-owned property in a timely manner and at the permittee's cost if the department determines that such relocation or modification is required to protect public health, safety and welfare, or to prevent interference with other facilities authorized pursuant to this division, or to prevent interference with public works projects of the department.

(h) Security required. Each permittee shall submit and maintain with the department a bond, cash deposit, or other security acceptable to the department, in a form and amount determined by the department in accordance with the general standards, securing the faithful performance of the obligations of the permittee and its agents under any and all small wireless facility permits issued to the permittee under this division. If, in accordance with this division, the department deducts any amounts from such security, the permittee must restore the full amount of the security prior to the department's issuance of any subsequent small wireless facility permit. The department shall return or cancel the security should the permittee cease to operate any small wireless facilities in the right-of-way.

(i) Payment of fees required. A small wireless facility permit shall not be issued prior to the complete payment of all applicable fees.

(j) Notice of assignment required. A permittee upon or within ten calendar days after transfer, assignment, conveyance, or sublet of an attachment that changes the permit and/or billing entity or ownership responsibilities shall provide written notification to the department.

(7) Small wireless facility permit term. A small wireless facility permit for a small wireless facility in the public right-of-way shall have a term equal to the length of time that the small wireless facility is in use, unless the small wireless facility permit is revoked under this division or is otherwise allowed to be limited by applicable law. The term for all other small wireless facility permits shall be for a period of up to ten years.

(8) Denial or revocation of a small wireless facility permit.

(a) Permit denial. The department may deny any small wireless facility permit if the applicant does not comply with all provisions of this division, or if the department determines that the denial is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare, or when necessary to protect the public right-of-way and its current use.

(b) Permit revocation. The department may revoke a small wireless facility permit, with or without refund, in the event of a substantial breach of the terms and conditions of any statute, ordinance, rule, or regulation, or any material condition of the small wireless facility permit. A substantial breach includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. A material violation by act or omission of a provision of a small wireless facility permit;
2. An evasion or attempt to evade any material provision of a small wireless facility permit, or the perpetration or attempt to perpetrate any fraud or deceit upon the city or its citizens;
3. A material misrepresentation of fact in a small wireless facility permit application;
4. A failure to correct, in a timely manner, collocation of a small wireless facility or installation or replacement of a wireless support structure that does not conform to applicable standards, conditions, or codes, upon inspection and notification by the department of the faulty condition;
5. A permittee fails to make timely payments of any fees due, and does not correct such failure within 20 days after receipt of written notice by the city of such failure;
6. A permittee becomes insolvent, unable or unwilling to pay its debts, is adjudged bankrupt, or all or part of its small wireless facilities or wireless support structures are sold under an instrument to secure a debt and is not redeemed by the permittee within 60 days; or
7. A failure to complete collocation of a small wireless facility or installation, modification, or replacement of a wireless support structure within 270 days of the date a small wireless facility permit authorizing such activity is granted, unless the department and the permittee agree to extend the 270 day period or there is a lack of commercial power or communications transport infrastructure to the installation site.

(c) Written notice required. Any denial or revocation of a small wireless facility permit shall be made in writing and shall document the basis for the denial or revocation. The department shall notify the applicant or permittee in writing within three days of a decision to deny or revoke a small wireless facility permit. If a small wireless facility permit application is denied, the applicant may cure the deficiencies identified by the

department and submit its application. If the applicant resubmits the application within 30 days of receiving written notice of the denial, it may not be charged an additional filing or processing fee. The department must approve or deny the revised application within 30 days after the revised application is submitted. If small wireless facility permit or wireless support structure permit is revoked, the small wireless facility or wireless support structure shall be subject to removal in accordance with § 9.106(R)(11).

(9) City inspection of a small wireless facility or wireless support structure.

(a) Inspection permitted. The department may inspect, at any time, a permittee's collocation of a small wireless facility or installation or replacement of a wireless support structure. The department shall determine during an inspection whether the permittee's small wireless facility or wireless support structure is in accordance with the requirements of the permittee's applicable small wireless facility permit and other applicable law.

(b) Suspension of activities. During an inspection, if the department determines that a permittee has violated any material term of the permittee's small wireless facility permit or this division, the department may suspend the permittee's small wireless facility permit. The department shall provide prompt written notice of any suspension to a permittee, including the violations giving rise to the suspension. A suspension under this division is effective until a permittee corrects the alleged violation(s), at the permittee's sole expense. If the violation(s) are not corrected within 30 days after the date of such notice, the small wireless facility or wireless support structure shall be subject to removal in accordance with § 9.106(R)(11). A permittee may appeal any suspension issued under this division to the department as provided in § 9.106(R)(12).

(10) Abandoned small wireless facilities and wireless support structures. Where a small wireless facility or wireless support structure is not properly maintained or has not been used for the primary purpose of providing wireless services for 12 consecutive months, the department may designate the small wireless facility or wireless support structure as abandoned. The department shall provide written notice to a permittee within ten days of the permittee's small wireless facility or wireless support structure being designated as abandoned.

(11) Removal of a small wireless facility or wireless support structure.

(a) Removal permitted. The department may remove, at permittee's expense, or require a permittee to remove, any small wireless facility or wireless support structure if:

1. The small wireless facility permit or wireless support structure permit is revoked under this division or expires without renewal; or
2. The small wireless facility or wireless support structure is designated by the department as abandoned under § 9.106(R)(10).

(b) Notice to permittee; time to remove. The department shall provide written notice to the permittee that it must remove a small wireless facility or wireless support structure under this division, including the reasons therefor. If the permittee does not remove the small wireless facility or wireless support structure within 30 days after the date of such notice, the department may remove it at the permittee's expense without further notice to the permittee.

(12) Appeals. An applicant or permittee may have the denial or revocation of a small wireless facility permit, or fees and costs required by this division reviewed, upon written request, by the City Council or its

designee. The City Council or its designee shall act on a timely written request at its next regularly scheduled meeting. A decision by the City Council or its designee affirming a denial, revocation, or fee shall be in writing and supported by written findings establishing the reasonableness of the decision.

(13) Insurance.

(a) Minimum coverage. The department shall require that each permittee maintain in full force and effect, throughout the term of a small wireless facility permit, an insurance policy or policies issued by an insurance company or companies satisfactory to the city's Risk Manager. Such policy or policies shall, at a minimum, afford insurance covering all of the permittee's operations, vehicles, employees, agents, subcontractors, successors, and assigns as follows:

1. Workers' compensation, in statutory amounts, with employers' liability limits not less than \$1,000,000 each accident, injury, or illness;
2. Commercial general liability insurance with limits not less than \$2,000,000 each occurrence combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage, including contractual liability, personal injury, products and completed operations;
3. Commercial automobile liability insurance with limits not less than \$2,000,000 each occurrence combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage, including owned, non-owned and hired auto coverage, as applicable; and

(b) Insurance requirements. Each permittee's insurance policy or policies are subject to the following:

1. Said policy or policies shall include the city and its officers and employees jointly and severally as additional insureds, shall apply as primary insurance, shall stipulate that no other insurance effected by the city will be called on to contribute to a loss covered thereunder, and shall provide for severability of interests.
2. Said policy or policies shall provide that an act or omission of one insured, which would void or otherwise reduce coverage, shall not reduce or void the coverage as to any other insured. Said policy or policies shall afford full coverage for any claims based on acts, omissions, injury, or damage which occurred or arose, or the onset of which occurred or arose, in whole or in part, during the policy period.
3. Said policy or policies shall be endorsed to provide 30 calendar days advance written notice of cancellation or any material change to the department.
4. Should any of the required insurance be provided under a claims-made form, a permittee shall maintain such coverage continuously throughout the term of a small wireless facility permit, and, without lapse, for a period of three years beyond the expiration or termination of the small wireless facility permit, to the effect that, should occurrences during the term of the small wireless facility permit give rise to claims made after expiration or termination of the small wireless facility permit, such claims shall be covered by such claims-made policies.
5. Should any of the required insurance be provided under a form of coverage that includes a general annual aggregate limit or provides that claims investigation or legal defense costs be included in such general annual aggregate limit, such general aggregate limit shall be double the occurrence or claims limits specified herein.

(c) Indemnity obligation. Such insurance shall in no way relieve or decrease a permittee's or its agent's obligation to indemnify the city pursuant to this division.

(d) Proof of insurance. Before the department will issue a small wireless facility permit, an applicant shall furnish to the department certificates of insurance and additional insured policy endorsements with insurers that are authorized to do business in the State of Minnesota and that are satisfactory to the department evidencing all coverages set forth herein.

(14) Indemnification and defense of city.

(a) Indemnification of city. As a condition of issuance of a small wireless facility permit, each permittee agrees on its behalf and on behalf of its agents, successors, or assigns to indemnify, defend, protect, and hold harmless the city from and against any and all claims of any kind arising against the city as a result of the issuance of the small wireless facility permit including, but not limited to, a claim allegedly arising directly or indirectly from the following:

1. Any act, omission, or negligence of a permittee or its any agents, successors, or assigns while engaged in the permitting or collocation of any small wireless facility or installation or replacement of any wireless support structure, or while in or about the public right-of-way that are subject to the small wireless facility permit for any reason connected in any way whatsoever with the performance of the work authorized by the small wireless facility permit, or allegedly resulting directly or indirectly from the permitting or collocation of any small wireless facility or installation or replacement of any wireless support structure authorized under the small wireless facility permit;

2. Any accident, damage, death, or injury to any of a permittee's contractors or subcontractors, or any officers, agents, or employees of either of them, while engaged in the performance of collocation of any small wireless facility or installation or replacement of any wireless support structure authorized by a small wireless facility permit, or while in or about the public right-of-way that are subject to the small wireless facility permit, for any reason connected with the performance of the work authorized by the small wireless facility permit, including from exposure to radio frequency emissions;

3. Any accident, damage, death, or injury to any person or accident, damage, or injury to any real or personal property in, upon, or in any way allegedly connected with the collocation of any small wireless facility or installation or replacement of any wireless support structure authorized by a small wireless facility permit, or while in or about the public right-of-way that are subject to the small wireless facility permit, from any causes or claims arising at any time, including any causes or claims arising from exposure to radio frequency emissions; and

4. Any release or discharge, or threatened release or discharge, of any hazardous material caused or allowed by a permittee or its agents about, in, on, or under the public right-of-way.

(b) Defense of city. Each permittee agrees that, upon the request of the department, the permittee, at no cost or expense to the city, shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the city against any claims as set forth in this division, regardless of the alleged negligence of the city or any other party, except only for claims resulting directly from the sole negligence or willful misconduct of the city. Each permittee acknowledges and agrees that it has an immediate and independent obligation to defend the city from any claims that actually or potentially fall within the indemnity provision, even if the allegations are or may be groundless, false, or fraudulent, which obligation arises at the time such claim is tendered to the permittee or its agent by the city and continues at all times thereafter. Each permittee further agrees that the city shall

have a cause of action for indemnity against the permittee for any costs the city may be required to pay as a result of defending or satisfying any claims that arise from or in connection with a small wireless facility permit, except only for claims resulting directly from the sole negligence or willful misconduct of the city. Each permittee further agrees that the indemnification obligations assumed under a small wireless facility permit shall survive its expiration or completion of collocation of any small wireless facility authorized by the small wireless facility permit.

(c) Additional requirements. The department may specify in a small wireless facility permit such additional indemnification requirements as are necessary to protect the city from risks of liability associated with the permittee's collocation of any small wireless facility or installation or replacement of any wireless support structure.

(15) Fees and costs.

(a) Application fees. The department shall charge a fee for reviewing and processing a small wireless facility permit application. The purpose of this fee is to enable the department to recover its costs directly associated with reviewing a small wireless facility permit application.

1. The department shall charge a fee of \$500 for a small wireless facility permit application seeking to collocate up to five small wireless facilities. This fee shall increase by \$100 for each additional small wireless facility that an applicant seeks to collocate.

2. The department shall charge a fee of \$850 for a small wireless facility permit application seeking to install or replace a wireless support structure in addition to collocating of a small wireless facility on the wireless support structure.

(b) Annual small wireless facility permit fee. The department shall charge an annual small wireless permit fee for each small wireless facility permit issued to a permittee. The annual small wireless permit fee shall be determined by the Director and listed in the city's fee schedule. The annual small wireless permit fee shall be based upon the recovery of the city's rights-of-way management costs.

(c) City-owned wireless support structure fees. The department shall charge the following fees to the owner of any small wireless facility collocated on a wireless support structure owned by the city or its assigns located in the public right-of-way:

1. \$150 per year for rent to occupy space on the wireless support structure;
2. \$25 per year for maintenance associated with the space occupied on the wireless support structure; and
3. A monthly fee for electricity used to operate the small wireless facility, if not purchased directly from a utility, at the rate of:
 - a. \$73 per radio node less than or equal to 100 max watts;
 - b. \$182 per radio node over 100 max watts; or
 - c. The actual costs of electricity, if the actual costs exceed the above.

(d) City-owned property fees. The department shall charge an annual fee for collocating small wireless facilities on city-owned property not located in the public right-of-way. The department shall determine a reasonable and nondiscriminatory annual fee on a per location and per request basis.

(e) Discretion to require additional fees. In instances where the review of a small wireless facility permit application is or will be unusually costly to the department, the Director, in his or her discretion, may, after consulting with other applicable city departments, agencies, boards, or commissions, require an applicant to pay a sum in excess of the other fee amounts charged pursuant to this division. This additional sum shall be sufficient to recover the actual, reasonable costs incurred by the department and/or other city departments, agencies, boards, or commissions, in connection with a small wireless facility permit application and shall be charged on a time and materials basis. Whenever additional fees are charged, the Director, upon request, shall provide in writing the basis for the additional fees and an estimate of the additional fees. The department may not require a fee imposed under this division through the provision of in-kind services by an applicant as a condition of consent to use to city's public right-of-ways or to obtain a small wireless facility permit.

(f) Reimbursement of city costs. The department may determine that it requires the services of an expert in order to evaluate a small wireless facility permit application. In such cases, the department shall not issue a small wireless facility permit pursuant to the application unless the applicant agrees to reimburse the department for the actual, reasonable costs incurred for the services of a technical expert.

Section 3

The following language for Specific Development Standards is added, amended and deleted as provided in Section 9.107 of the City Code of 2005, is hereby established to read as follows:

(A) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to establish specific development standards that provide supplemental regulations to address the unique characteristics of certain land use.

(B) Applicability. The regulations set forth in this section shall apply to the specific use listed, whether it is identified as permitted, conditional or accessory within the applicable zoning district. These regulations shall be in addition to all other applicable regulations.

(C) Specific development standards. The following uses are subject to specific development standards:

(1) Adult entertainment use.

(a) Activities classified as obscene as defined by M.S. § 617.241 or successor statute, are prohibited.

(b) The use shall be located at least 1,000 feet from any other adult entertainment use.

(c) The use shall be located at least 1,000 feet from any facility with an on- or off-sale liquor, wine or beer license.

(d) The use shall be located at least 500 feet from any of the following protected uses: residentially-zoned property or residential use; licensed day care facility; public or private educational facility classified as an elementary, middle or junior high or senior high school; public library; public park; or religious institution or place of worship.

(e) An adult entertainment use lawfully operating as a conforming use is not rendered nonconforming by the subsequent location of any use listed above within 500 feet. If the adult entertainment use is

abandoned for a period of 90 days or more, it shall be deemed discontinued and subsequent use of the premises for adult entertainment will be required to meet the separation requirement.

(f) No more than one adult entertainment use shall be located on the property.

(g) The use shall not be located on any property that has a liquor license.

(h) Sign messages shall be generic in nature and shall only identify the type of business which is being conducted; signs shall not contain material classified as advertising.

(2) Animal kennel or shelter.

(a) Any activity conducted outdoors, including but not limited to play areas, outdoor runs, etc. shall be approved by the City Council through a Conditional Use Permit on a case-by-case basis.

(b) Outdoor kennels shall be prohibited.

(c) Outdoor activity spaces shall meet the following requirements:

1. The space shall be completely screened from abutting neighboring residential zoning districts or uses by a six-foot tall privacy fence that is at least 80 percent opaque.
2. The space shall be cleaned regularly so as not to create a nuisance as defined by the City Code.
3. Animal waste produced within the space shall not be allowed to directly enter the City's storm sewer system.

(d) All indoor activity shall include soundproofing and odor control.

(e) The kennel or shelter shall provide a minimum floor area of 48 square feet per dog and 20 square feet per cat or any other animal boarded at any one time, exclusive of office or storage area.

(f) Air temperature within the kennel or shelter shall be maintained between 60 degrees and 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

(g) Within the kennel area, wall finish material below 48 inches in height shall be impervious, washable materials such as sealed masonry, ceramic tile, glass board, or fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) panels.

(h) Floor finishes shall be sealed concrete, or another impervious surface approved by the City.

(i) Animal waste shall be immediately cleaned up with solid wastes being enclosed in a container of sufficient construction to eliminate odors and organisms. All animal waste shall be disposed of on a daily basis.

(j) The kennel or shelter shall provide sufficient, uniformly distributed lighting to the kennel area.

(3) Automobile convenience facility.

(a) The use shall be served by a major collector or higher functional classification of roadway.

(b) All buildings, canopies and pump islands shall meet the setback requirements for a principal structure in the zoning district in which the use is located.

- (c) The storage of inoperable vehicles on the site is prohibited.
 - (d) The sale or repair of vehicles shall be prohibited.
 - (e) A landscape buffer with a minimum depth of ten feet shall be installed and maintained along all abutting public rights-of-way.
 - (f) Canopy light fixtures shall be completely recessed within the canopy so that the lenses do not extend below the bottom surface of the canopy.
 - (g) Wherever fuel pumps are installed, pump islands shall be installed.
 - (h) A transportation management plan shall be submitted to address off-street parking, bus loading and unloading, traffic control, and the impact of the facility on surrounding roadways.
 - (i) An environmental management plan, including a storm water management and drainage plan, shall be submitted to address the impact of the facility on the environment.
 - (j) The use shall employ best management practices regarding the venting of odors, gas and fumes. Such vents shall be located a minimum of ten feet above grade and shall be directed away from residential uses. All storage tanks shall be equipped with vapor-tight fittings to eliminate the escape of gas vapors.
 - (k) There shall be no exterior display of merchandise for sale exceeding 50 square feet in area.
 - (l) The premises, all adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys, and all sidewalks and alleys within 100 feet of the use shall be inspected regularly for the purposes of removing any litter found thereon.
 - (m) A minimum of two access points for vehicular traffic shall be provided. Curb cuts shall be located no less than 50 feet from the intersecting right-of-way line on collector roadways and no less than 80 feet from the intersecting right-of-way line on arterial roadways.
 - (n) All new automobile convenience facilities must be located on a minimum of one acre of land.
- (4) Automobile and motorcycle repair, major.
- (a) All vehicles waiting for repair or pick-up shall be stored within an enclosed building or in designated off-street parking spaces.
 - (b) All work shall be performed within a completely enclosed building.
 - (c) All vehicles parked or stored on site shall display a current license plate with a current license tab. Outside storage of automobile and motorcycle parts or storage of inoperable or salvage vehicles shall be prohibited.
 - (d) The sale of vehicles shall be prohibited, unless permitted by this article or allowed by conditional use.
 - (e) The use shall employ best management practices regarding the venting of odors, gas and fumes. Such vents shall be located a minimum of ten feet above grade and shall be directed away from, residential uses. All storage tanks shall be equipped with vapor-tight fittings to eliminate the escape of gas vapors.

(f) An environmental management plan, including a storm water management and drainage plan, shall be submitted to address the impact of the facility on the environment.

(g) Any fuel sales or automobile convenience activities shall be subject to the applicable standards for automobile convenience facilities.

(h) All new major automobile and motorcycle repair facilities must be located on a minimum of one acre of land.

(5) Automobile and motorcycle repair, minor.

(a) All vehicles waiting for repair or pick-up shall be stored within an enclosed building or in designated off-street parking spaces.

(b) All work shall be performed within a completely enclosed building.

(c) All vehicles parked or stored on site shall display a current license plate with a current license tab. Outside storage of automobile and motorcycle parts or storage of inoperable or salvage vehicles shall be prohibited.

(d) The sale of vehicles shall be prohibited, unless permitted by this article or allowed by conditional use.

(e) The use shall employ best management practices regarding the venting of odors, gas and fumes. Such vents shall be located a minimum of ten feet above grade and shall be directed away from residential uses. All storage tanks shall be equipped with vapor-tight fittings to eliminate the escape of gas vapors.

(f) An environmental management plan, including a storm water management and drainage plan, shall be submitted to address the impact of the facility on the environment.

(g) Any fuel sales or automobile convenience activities shall be subject to the applicable standards for automobile convenience facilities.

(h) All new minor automobile and motorcycle repair facilities must be located on a minimum of one acre of land.

(6) Automobile and motorcycle sales/rental, new.

(a) The use shall be served by a major collector or higher classification of roadway.

(b) Outdoor vehicle display for used cars and motorcycles shall be limited to 30% of the total outdoor display area for a new car or motorcycle dealership. The display area shall be defined as the total number of parking spaces devoted to the sale of vehicles only, not including the required off-street parking spaces needed for the public and employees.

(c) Outdoor vehicle display areas shall meet the setback requirements for a principal structure in the zoning district in which the use is located.

(d) Outdoor vehicle display areas within the public right-of-way are prohibited.

(e) A landscape buffer with a minimum depth of ten feet shall be installed and maintained along all abutting public rights-of-way.

(f) Outdoor vehicle display shall be within a designated area that is hard-surfaced.

(g) Outdoor vehicle display shall be in an orderly fashion, with access aisles provided as needed. The storage of inoperable, junk vehicles with expired tabs is prohibited.

(h) Music or amplified sounds shall not be audible from adjacent residential properties.

(i) Outdoor vehicle display shall not reduce the amount of off-street parking provided on site below the level required for the principal use.

(j) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(k) Fuel pumps for the purpose of retail sale and dispensing of fuel to the general public shall be prohibited. If the use includes dispensing of fuel for the automobiles maintained on site, the use shall employ best management practices regarding the venting of odors, gas and fumes. Such vents shall be located a minimum of ten feet above grade and shall be directed away from residential uses. All storage tanks shall be equipped with vapor-tight fittings to eliminate the escape of gas vapors.

(l) All new automobile and motorcycle sales/rental, (new) facilities must be located on a minimum of one acre of land.

(7) Automobile and motorcycle sales/rental, used.

(a) The use shall be served by a major collector or higher classification or roadway.

(b) An open-aired used auto, motorcycle and truck sales or rental lot as a stand-alone business is prohibited.

(c) Used automobiles and motorcycles may be sold or rented as a stand-alone business if the business if the used automobiles, motorcycles and associated business are contained within a building.

(d) Used automobiles and motorcycles may not be sold accessory to businesses other than new car and motorcycle dealerships.

(e) Outdoor vehicle display areas within the public right-of-way are prohibited.

(f) A landscape buffer with a minimum depth of ten feet shall be installed and maintained along all abutting public rights-of-way.

(g) The outdoor storage of inoperable, junk vehicles and vehicles with expired tabs is prohibited.

(h) Music or amplified sounds shall not be audible from adjacent residential properties.

(i) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(j) Fuel pumps for the purpose of retail sale and dispensing of fuel to the general public shall be prohibited. If the use included dispensing of fuel for the automobiles maintained on site, the use shall employ best management practices regarding the venting of odors, gas, and fumes. Such vents shall be located a minimum of ten feet above grade and shall be directed away from residential uses. All storage tanks shall be equipped with vapor-tight fittings to eliminate the escape of gas vapors.

(k) All new automobile and motorcycle sales/rental, (used) facilities must be located on a minimum of one acre of land.

(8) Barbed wire fences.

(a) Barbed wire fences may only utilize a projecting arm to support the barbed wire, commencing at a point no less than six feet above the ground.

(b) At no point shall the projecting arm encroach into the city right-of-way or neighboring properties.

(9) Bed and breakfast home.

(a) The bed and breakfast home shall be part of an owner occupied residential structure and be operated by the property owner.

(b) No more than one non-resident shall be employed in the operation of the facility.

(c) The exterior appearance of the structure shall not be altered from its single-family residential character.

(d) The total number of guestrooms shall not exceed four in the R-3 and R-4 Zoning Districts and six in the LB Zoning District. All guest rooms shall be located within the principal structure.

(e) Separate kitchen facilities shall not be available for guests. Meals shall be prepared and served by the operator and shall be available to registered guests only.

(f) Guest stays shall be limited to no more than 14 consecutive days.

(g) Parking shall be accommodated on the property. Parking requirements for guests are in addition to those required for the principal residential use.

(h) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(i) The facility shall meet all applicable housing, building and fire codes and be licensed as required by the State of Minnesota.

(10) Car wash.

(a) Water from the car wash shall not drain across any sidewalk or into any public right-of-way.

(b) Vacuum facilities shall be located in an enclosed structure or located at least 50 feet from any residential property line to avoid noise impacts.

(c) The premises, all adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys, and all sidewalks and alleys within 100 feet of the use shall be inspected regularly for the purposes of removing litter found thereon.

(d) A sound study is required to determine the overall impact upon the surrounding properties and ensure compliance with performance standards and MPCA sound requirements.

(e) All new car washes must be located on a minimum of one acre of land.

(12) Concrete, asphalt, rock crushing operation.

- (a) The use shall be located a minimum of 1,000 feet from any residentially-zoned property or any residential use.
 - (b) An air quality plan shall be submitted describing stationary and mobile source air emissions, their quantities and compositions, and indicating conformance with all applicable regulation.
 - (c) A dust management plan shall be submitted describing dust emissions sources, their quantities and compositions, how dust will be collected, managed and disposed of and indicating conformance with all applicable regulations.
 - (d) A sound attenuation plan shall be submitted describing sources of sound and indicating conformance with all applicable regulations.
 - (e) A vibration-dampening plan shall be submitted describing sources of vibration and indicating conformance with all applicable regulations.
 - (f) A transportation management plan shall be submitted to address off-street parking, bus loading and unloading, traffic control, and the impact of the facility on surrounding roadways.
 - (g) An environmental management plan, including a storm water management and drainage plan, shall be submitted to address the impact of the facility on the environment.
- (13) Community center.
- (a) The use shall be served by a minor collector or higher functional classification of roadway.
 - (b) The parcel upon which the use is located shall have a lot area no less than four times the area of the building footprint.
 - (c) To the extent practical, new construction or additions to existing buildings shall be complementary and compatible with the scale and character of the surroundings and exterior materials shall be compatible with those used in the immediate neighborhood.
 - (d) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening and other site improvements consistent with the character of the community.
 - (e) All accessory residential, school or day care uses shall be subject to the provisions of this article.
- (14) Consignment/secondhand store.
- (a) Consignment/secondhand stores shall be identified as stores whose primary existence is derived from more than 50% used, consigned, or secondhand merchandise. The use shall be located at least 3,000 feet from all existing consignment/secondhand stores, currency exchanges, pawnshops and precious metal dealerships.
 - (b) The window and door area of any existing first floor facade along a public street or sidewalk shall not be reduced, nor shall changes be made to such windows and doors that block views into and out of the building at eye level.
 - (c) For new construction, at least 30% of the first floor facade along a public street or sidewalk shall be windows or doors of clear or lightly tinted glass that allows views into and out of the building at eye level.

(d) The use of bars, chains or similar security devices that are visible from a public street or sidewalk shall be prohibited.

(e) Consignors shall not be paid for merchandise until the merchandise has been sold to a third party.

(f) An appointment or set hours shall be required for the acceptance of consignment or donated merchandise.

(g) All receipt, sorting and processing of goods shall occur within a completely enclosed building.

(h) The premises, all adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys, and all sidewalks and alleys within 100 feet of the use shall be inspected regularly for the purposes of removing litter found thereon.

(15) Currency exchange.

(a) The use shall be located at least 3,000 feet from all existing currency exchanges, consignment/secondhand stores, pawnshops and precious metal dealerships.

(b) The window and door area of any existing first floor facade along a public street or sidewalk shall not be reduced, nor shall changes be made to such windows and doors that block views into and out of the building at eye level.

(c) For new construction, at least 30% of the first floor facade along a public street or sidewalk shall be windows or doors of clear or lightly tinted glass that allows views into and out of the building at eye level.

(d) The use of bars, chains or similar security devices that are visible from a public street or sidewalk shall be prohibited.

(e) The premises, all adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys, and all sidewalks and alleys within 100 feet of the use shall be inspected regularly for the purposes of removing litter found thereon.

(16) Day care center.

(a) The building and any exterior fenced areas shall meet the setback requirements for a principal structure in the zoning district in which the use is located.

(b) The play area shall be located away from the main entrance to day care, and shall be contained with a fence constructed of masonry, painted or treated wood or metal, at least five feet in height.

(c) For child day care facilities, at least 75 square feet of outside play area shall be provided for each child under care. If there is not sufficient space for an outdoor play area on-site, then the property owner must submit a written proposal that demonstrates recreational activities for children under the facility's care will be provided off-site within 1,500 feet of the facility. The City Manager, or his or her designee, is authorized to approve or deny this proposal.

(d) For adult day care facilities, at least 150 square feet of outdoor area for seating or exercise shall be provided. If 150 square feet of outdoor is not available on the site, the property owner must submit a written proposal that demonstrates that recreational activities for adults under the facility's care will be provided off-site. The City Manager, or his or her designee, is authorized to approve or deny this proposal.

(e) The use shall provide a designated area for the short-term parking of vehicles engaged in loading and unloading of children or adults under care. The designated area shall be located as close as practical to the principal entrance of the building and shall be connected to the building by a sidewalk.

(f) To the extent practical, new construction or additions to existing buildings shall be complementary and compatible with the scale and character of the surroundings and exterior materials shall be compatible with those used in the immediate neighborhood.

(g) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(h) The facility shall meet all applicable housing, building and fire codes and be licensed as required by the State of Minnesota.

(i) Day care centers located in a school or religious institution building originally constructed for use as a school or religious institution shall be considered a permitted accessory use, provided the standards contained herein are met.

(j) Day care centers located within an existing commercial or industrial facility and used only by employees of the operation conducted on the site shall be considered a permitted accessory use, provided the standards contained herein are met.

(17) Day care, home.

(a) The building and any exterior fenced areas shall meet the setback requirements for a principal structure in the zoning district in which the use is located.

(b) The designated play area shall be contained with a fence constructed of masonry, painted or treated wood or metal, at least five feet in height.

(c) The exterior appearance of the structure shall not be altered from its single-family residential character.

(d) For child day care facilities, at least 50 square feet of outside play area shall be provided for each child under care.

(e) For adult day care facilities, at least 150 square feet of outdoor area for seating or exercise shall be provided for each adult under care.

(f) If there is not sufficient space for an outdoor play area on-site, then the property owner must submit a written proposal that demonstrates recreational activities for children under the facility's care will be provided off-site within 1,500 feet of the facility.

(g) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(h) The facility shall meet all applicable housing, building and fire codes and be licensed as required by the State of Minnesota.

(18) Drive-up facility.

- (a) The drive-up function shall be accessory to a conforming use.
 - (b) The use shall be served by a major collector or higher functional classification of roadway.
 - (c) The site shall accommodate vehicle stacking in accordance with the provisions of this article.
 - (d) Any speaker system shall not be audible from any residentially zoned property or any residential use.
- (19) Drop-in facility.
- (a) The use shall be located at least 3,000 feet from all existing drop-in facilities, consignment/secondhand stores, currency exchanges and pawnshops.
 - (b) The use shall conspicuously post legible signs at the public entrance advising patrons of the hours of operation of the facility and its meal service, if applicable.
 - (c) A waiting area for clients shall be provided which shall be available to clients one hour prior to the posted opening of the use and shall include toilet facilities.
 - (d) Trash receptacles shall be located at the public entrances.
 - (e) The premises, all adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys, and all sidewalks and alleys within 100 feet of the use shall be inspected regularly for the purposes of removing litter found thereon.
- (20) Employment agencies—temporary (day labor). The use shall be located at least 3,000 feet from all existing temporary employment agencies, consignment/secondhand stores, currency exchanges and pawnshops.
- (21) Firearms dealer/shooting range.
- (a) The use shall be located at least 300 feet from any residentially zoned property or any residential use.
 - (b) The use shall be located at least 500 feet from the following protected uses: licensed daycare facility; public or private educational facility classified as an elementary, middle or junior high or senior high school; public library; public park; or religious institution or place of worship.
 - (c) No firearms or ammunition shall be displayed in window areas or any area where they can be viewed from any public street or sidewalk.
- (22) Food service, convenience (fast food).
- (a) The use shall be served by a major collector or higher functional classification of roadway.
 - (b) A landscape buffer with a minimum depth of ten feet shall be installed and maintained along all abutting public rights-of-way.
 - (c) A transportation management plan shall be submitted to address off-street parking, bus loading and unloading, traffic control, and the impact of the facility on surrounding roadways.
 - (d) The premises, all adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys, and all sidewalks and alleys within 100 feet of the use shall be inspected regularly for the purposes of removing any litter found thereon.

(e) Curb cuts shall be located no less than 50 feet from the intersecting right-of-way line on collector roadways and no less than 80 feet from the intersecting right-of-way line on arterial roadways.

(f) A drive-up facility shall also be subject to the standards for a drive-up facility.

(23) Freight terminal.

(a) Loading and unloading activities shall be located no less than 200 feet from any residential zoning district or residential use.

(b) Overnight facilities for drivers shall provide on-site management 24 hours a day. The name and telephone number of the on-site manager shall be filed with the city.

(24) Funeral home.

(a) The use shall be served by a minor collector or higher functional classification of roadway.

(b) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(25) Greenhouses (residential).

(a) A residential greenhouse shall only be allowed for one- and two-family dwellings.

(b) A residential greenhouse structure shall not count against the total number of detached accessory structures allowed on a residential property.

(c) A residential greenhouse structure shall not count against the total allowable combined square footage of accessory structures allowed on a residential property.

(d) A residential greenhouse shall be allowed during the normal growing season only.

(e) When not in use, a residential greenhouse shall be dismantled.

(26) Hospital.

(a) The use shall be served by a minor collector or higher functional classification of roadway.

(b) Emergency vehicle access shall not be adjacent to or located across the street from any residential use.

(c) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(27) Multi-family in CBD.

(a) The residential use is secondary to and located above the ground floor commercial use.

(b) The maximum number of units allowed shall be limited to the area of the parcel divided by 2,000, times the number of floors above the ground floor commercial use.

(c) A minimum of one parking space shall be provided per residential unit within 400 feet of the most commonly used entrance.

(28) Nursing home.

- (a) The use shall be served by a minor collector or higher functional classification of roadway.
- (b) On-site services shall be for residents of the facility only.
- (c) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(29) Outdoor sales/display.

- (a) The outdoor sales/display use shall be accessory to a commercial use.
- (b) All outdoor sales/display areas shall meet the setback requirements for a principal structure in the zoning district in which it is located.
- (c) Outdoor sales/display areas within the public right-of-way are prohibited.
- (d) A landscape buffer with a minimum depth of ten feet shall be installed and maintained along all abutting public rights-of-way.
- (e) All goods shall be displayed in a designated area that is hard-surfaced.
- (f) All goods shall be displayed in an orderly fashion, with access aisles provided as needed.
- (g) Music or amplified sounds shall not be audible from adjacent residential properties.
- (h) The outdoor sales/display area shall not reduce the amount of off-street parking provided on-site below the level required for the principal use.
- (i) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(30) Outdoor storage.

- (a) The outdoor storage area shall be accessory to a commercial or industrial use.
- (b) Outdoor storage within the public right-of-way is prohibited.
- (c) All outdoor storage areas shall meet the setback requirements for a principal structure in the zoning district in which the use is located.
- (d) Outdoor storage areas shall be located in rear yards or in the side yard behind the front building line of the principal structure.
- (e) The storage area shall be fenced and screened from adjacent uses and the public right-of-way. Required screening shall consist of a fence, wall, earth berming and/or vegetation no less than six feet in height and no less than 80% opaque on a year round basis.
- (f) All goods, materials and equipment shall be stored on an impervious surface.
- (g) All goods, materials and equipment shall be stored in an orderly fashion, with access aisles of sufficient width to accommodate emergency vehicles as needed.

(h) The height of materials stored, excluding operable vehicles and equipment, shall not exceed the height of the screening provided.

(31) Pawnshop.

(a) The use shall be located at least 3,000 feet from all existing pawnshops, currency exchanges, consignment/secondhand stores and precious metal dealerships.

(b) The window and door area of any existing first floor facade along a public street or sidewalk shall not be reduced, nor shall changes be made to such windows and doors that block views into and out of the building at eye level.

(c) For new construction, at least 30% of the first floor facade along a public street or sidewalk shall be windows or doors of clear or lightly-tinted glass that allows views into and out of the building at eye level.

(d) The use of bars, chains or similar security devices that are visible from a public street or sidewalk shall be prohibited.

(e) All receipt, sorting and processing of goods shall occur within a completely enclosed building.

(f) The premises, all adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys, and all sidewalks and alleys within 100 feet of the use shall be inspected regularly for the purposes of removing litter found thereon.

(32) Precious metal dealership.

(a) The use shall be located at least 3,000 feet from all existing precious metal dealerships, pawnshops, currency exchanges and consignment/secondhand stores.

(b) The window and door area of any existing first floor facade along a public street or sidewalk shall not be reduced, nor shall changes be made to such windows and doors that block views into and out of the building at eye level.

(c) For new construction, at least 30% of the first floor facade along a public street or sidewalk shall be windows or doors of clear or lightly-tinted glass that allows views into and out of the building at eye level.

(d) The use of bars, chains or similar security devices that are visible from a public street or sidewalk is prohibited.

(e) All receipt, sorting and processing of goods shall occur within a completely enclosed building.

(33) Recreational vehicle sales.

(a) The use shall be served by a major collector or higher classification of roadway.

(b) Outdoor vehicle display areas shall meet the setback requirements for a principal structure in the zoning district in which the use is located.

(c) Outdoor vehicle display areas within the public right-of-way are prohibited.

(d) A landscape buffer with a minimum depth of ten feet shall be installed and maintained along all abutting public rights-of-way.

(e) Outdoor vehicle display shall be within a designated area that is hard-surfaced.

(f) Outdoor vehicle display shall be in an orderly fashion, with access aisles provided as needed.

(g) Music or amplified sounds shall not be audible from adjacent residential properties.

(h) Outdoor vehicle display shall not reduce the amount of off-street parking provided on site below the level required for the principal use.

(i) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(j) Fuel pumps for the purpose of retail sale and dispensing of fuel to the general public shall be prohibited. If the use includes dispensing of fuel for the automobiles maintained on site, the use shall employ best management practices regarding the venting of odors, gas and fumes. Such vents shall be located a minimum of ten feet above grade and shall be directed away from residential uses. All storage tanks shall be equipped with vapor-tight fittings to eliminate the escape of gas vapors.

(k) All new recreational vehicle sales facilities must be located on a minimum of one acre of land.

(34) Recreational facility, indoor.

(a) The use shall be served by a minor collector or higher classification of roadway.

(b) The parcel upon which the use is located shall have a lot area no less than four times the area of the building footprint.

(c) To the extent practical, new construction or additions to existing buildings shall be complementary and compatible with the scale and character of the surroundings and exterior materials shall be compatible with those used in the immediate neighborhood.

(d) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(35) Recreational facility, outdoor.

(a) The use shall be served by a minor collector or higher classification of roadway.

(b) The site shall be no less than five acres in size.

(c) The principal use of the site shall be the outdoor recreation facility, except for athletic fields that are accessory to an educational or community facility.

(d) The use shall be situated in such a way as to minimize the effects of lighting and noise on surrounding properties.

(e) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(f) The premises, all adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys, and all sidewalks and alleys within 100 feet of the use shall be inspected regularly for the purposes of removing litter found thereon.

(36) Religious institution/place of worship.

(a) The facility shall be served by a minor collector or higher functional classification of roadway.

(b) The parcel upon which the use is located shall have a lot area no less than four times the area of the building footprint.

(c) To the extent practical, new construction or additions to existing buildings shall be complementary and compatible with the scale and character of the surroundings and exterior materials shall be compatible with those used in the immediate neighborhood.

(d) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(e) All accessory residential, school or day care uses shall be subject to the provisions of this article.

(37) Residential care facility.

(a) If serving more than six residents, the use shall be located at least 1/4 mile (1,320 feet) from all existing residential care facilities or correctional residential care facilities, regardless of the licensing status of such facilities. Residential care facilities serving six or fewer residents shall be exempted from the distance radius and zoning regulations except as otherwise required by law.

(b) The use shall not be located in a two-family or multiple-family dwelling unless it occupies the entire structure.

(c) The facility shall be located on a parcel meeting the minimum lot size for a single-family dwelling plus an area of 300 square feet for each resident over six. The maximum number of residents may be specified as a condition of the conditional use permit in order to meet this requirement.

(d) On-site services shall be for residents of the facility only.

(e) The building and any exterior fenced areas shall meet the setback requirements of the zoning district in which the use is located.

(f) To the extent practical, all new construction or additions to existing buildings shall be compatible with the scale and character of the surroundings, and exterior building materials shall be compatible with other buildings in the neighborhood.

(g) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening and other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(h) The primary purpose of the facility cannot be to treat juveniles who have violated criminal statutes relating to sex offenses or who have been adjudicated delinquent on the basis of conduct in violation of criminal statutes relating to sex offenses.

(i) The facility shall not provide accommodations to treat persons whose tenancy would constitute a direct threat to the health and safety of other individuals.

(j) The facility shall not accept court ordered referrals for treatment in lieu of incarceration without adequate security.

(k) The facility shall meet all applicable housing, building and fire codes and be licensed as required by the State of Minnesota.

(l) If the size, location, licensing or purpose of the facility changes, a new or amended conditional use permit may be required.

(38) Residential care facility, correctional.

(a) The use shall be located at least 1/4 mile (1,320 feet) from all existing residential care facilities and correctional residential care facilities, regardless of the licensing status of such facilities measured from property line to property line.

(b) The use shall only be located in the I-1, Light Industrial District and the I-2, General Industrial District parcels throughout the city.

(c) The use shall not be located in a two-family or multiple-family dwelling unless it occupies the entire structure.

(d) The facility shall be located on a parcel meeting the minimum lot size for single-family dwelling plus an area of 300 square feet for each resident over two. The maximum number of residents shall not exceed four.

(e) On-site services shall be for residents of the facility only.

(f) The building and any exterior fenced areas shall meet the setback requirements of the zoning district in which the use is located.

(g) To the extent practical, all new construction or additions to existing buildings shall be compatible with the scale and character of the surroundings, and exterior building materials shall be compatible with other buildings in the neighborhood.

(h) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening and other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(i) The facility shall meet all applicable housing, building and fire codes and be licensed as required by the State of Minnesota.

(j) If the size, location, licensing or purpose of the facility changes, a new or amended conditional use permit may be required.

(39) Salvage operation/transfer station.

(a) The use shall be located at least 500 feet from any residentially zoned property or any residential use.

(b) The use must comply with the minimum standards for operation, safety, storage and all waste management as identified in the most current version of MPCA Motor Vehicle Salvage Facility Environmental Compliance Manual or successor manual.

(c) The use must be served by a minor collector or higher functional classification of roadway.

(d) Buildings, parking areas, loading areas and any exterior storage shall meet the setback requirements for a principal structure in the zoning district in which the use is located.

(e) No vehicles or vehicle parts may be placed within the public right-of-way or on public property.

(f) Exterior storage shall be limited to a maximum height of 12 feet and shall be fully screened so that items stored do not exceed the height of the screening provided.

(g) An environmental management plan, including a storm water management and drainage plan, shall be submitted to address the impact of the facility on the environment.

(h) The salvage facility operator shall maintain a written record of all vehicles received, including the date received, date when fluids were removed and date removed from the facility. The record shall also include the vehicle identification number, make and model and shall be initiated on the date the vehicle is received at the facility.

(i) All fluids, including but not limited to motor oil, transmission and/or transfer case lubricants, differential lubricants, fuel, antifreeze, refrigerants and window washing fluids shall be removed from the vehicle within three days of receipt.

(j) All lead acid batteries, mercury containing devices and other hazardous materials shall be removed from the vehicle within three days of receipt.

(k) On-site burning of trash, refuse, garbage or other waste materials is prohibited.

(l) Salvage of materials by fire, burning, explosives or chemical decomposition is prohibited.

(40) School, K-12.

(a) The use shall include a regular course of study accredited by the State of Minnesota.

(b) The site shall be served by a major collector or higher classification of roadway.

(c) The parcel upon which the use is located shall have a lot area no less than four times the area of the building footprint.

(d) A transportation management plan shall be submitted to address off-street parking, bus loading and unloading, traffic control, and the impact of the facility on surrounding roadways.

(e) To the extent practical, all new construction or additions to existing buildings shall be complementary and compatible with the scale and character of the surroundings and exterior materials shall be compatible with those used in the immediate neighborhood.

(f) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(41) School, vocational/business.

(a) The site shall be served by a minor arterial or higher classification of roadway.

(b) The parcel upon which the use is located shall have a lot area no less than four times the area of the building footprint.

(c) A master plan shall be submitted that describes proposed physical development for the next five years and for the following five years. Said plan shall include a description of proposed development phases and plans, development priorities, the probable sequence of proposed development, estimated dates of construction and the anticipated interim use of property waiting to be developed.

(d) A transportation management plan shall be submitted to address off-street parking, bus loading and unloading, traffic control, and the impact of the facility on surrounding roadways.

(e) New construction or additions to existing buildings shall be complementary and compatible with the scale and character of the surroundings and exterior materials shall be compatible with those used in the immediate neighborhood.

(f) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(42) School, performing/visual/martial arts.

(a) The site shall be served by a minor collector or higher classification of roadway.

(b) A transportation management plan shall be submitted to address off-street parking, bus loading and unloading, traffic control, and the impact of the facility on surrounding roadways.

(c) To the extent practical, all new construction or additions to existing buildings shall be complementary and compatible with the scale and character of the surroundings and exterior materials shall be compatible with those used in the immediate neighborhood.

(d) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(43) Shopping center.

(a) Only uses that are allowed within the zoning district in which the shopping center is located, shall be allowed in the shopping center.

(b) Uses that require a conditional use permit, site plan review or other land use approval shall comply with all review and approval requirements of this article.

(c) The premises, all adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys, and all sidewalks and alleys within 100 feet shall be inspected regularly for purposes of removing any litter found thereon.

(44) Smoke shops.

(a) The smoke shop must have an entrance door opening directly to the outdoors.

(b) Greater than 90% of the business's gross revenue must be from the sale of tobacco, tobacco products or smoking related accessories.

(c) A tobacco department or section of any individual business establishment with any type of liquor, food or restaurant license shall not be considered a smoke shop.

(d) The total number of city-issued smoke shop licenses shall at no time exceed five.

(e) Any existing smoke shops at the time of the passage of Ord. 1570 shall comply fully with the ordinance by December 31, 2010.

(45) Transitional/emergency housing.

(a) Transitional/emergency housing shall be located at least 1/4 mile from all existing transitional/emergency housing.

(b) The maximum number of persons served shall not exceed 32.

(c) On-site services shall be for residents of the facility only, except where part of a regimen of scheduled post-residential treatment/service.

(d) To the extent practical, all new construction or additions to existing buildings shall be complementary and compatible with the scale and character of the surroundings and exterior materials shall be compatible with those used in the immediate neighborhood.

(e) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(46) Two-family and twinhome dwellings.

(a) Street-facing garage doors must be recessed behind either the front facade of the living area portion of the dwelling or a covered porch, measuring at least six feet by eight feet, by at least five feet.

(b) If located on a corner lot, each unit of the duplex or twinhome shall have its address and entrance oriented to a separate street frontage.

(c) Vehicle access to a lot must be from an alley if the lot abuts an alley.

(47) Brewer taprooms and brew pubs.

(a) All malt liquor production shall be within a completely enclosed structure.

(b) Mechanical equipment shall be placed and/or screened so as to minimize the visual impact on adjacent properties and from public streets.

(c) In zoning districts where off-street parking is required, a transportation management plan shall be submitted to address off-street parking, bus and freight loading, and traffic control.

(d) Loading areas shall not be oriented toward a public street, nor shall loading docks be located on the side of any building facing an adjacent lot that is zoned residential. Where these districts or streets abut all sides of the property, the loading areas shall be screened by a solid wall or opaque fence with a minimum height of six feet, in addition to any required landscape buffer.

(e) Trash and/or recycling collection areas shall be enclosed on at least three sides by an opaque screening wall or fence no less than six feet in height. The open side of the enclosure shall not face any public street or the front yard of any adjacent property.

(f) By-products and waste from the production of malt liquor shall be properly disposed of off the property.

(g) The premises, all adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys, and all sidewalks and alleys within 100 feet of the use shall be inspected regularly for the purposes of removing litter found thereon.

(h) The facility shall meet all applicable building and fire codes, and shall be licensed as required by the state or county.

(48) Banquet halls.

(a) To the extent practical, new construction or additions to existing buildings shall be complementary and compatible with the scale and character of the surroundings, and exterior materials shall be compatible with those used in the immediate neighborhood.

(b) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening and other site improvements consistent with the character of the community.

(c) The facility shall meet all applicable building and fire codes, and shall be licensed as required by the state or county.

(d) A transportation management plan shall be submitted to address off-street parking, bus loading and unloading, traffic control, and the impact of the facility on surrounding roadways.

(e) The premises, all adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys, and all sidewalks and alleys within 100 feet of the use shall be inspected regularly for the purposes of removing any litter found thereon.

(f) Music or amplified sounds shall not be audible from adjacent residential uses and must meet the requirements of city ordinances, to ensure consistent enforcement by the Police Department.

(49) Health/fitness clubs in LB, Limited Business districts.

(a) The health/fitness club shall not exceed 4,000 gross square feet in area.

(b) The use shall be served by a minor collector or higher classification roadway.

(c) To the extent practical, new construction or additions to existing buildings shall be complementary and compatible with the scale and character of the surroundings and exterior materials shall be compatible with those used in the immediate neighborhood.

(d) An appropriate transition area shall be provided between the use and adjacent property by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

(e) The parking supply requirements of § 9.105(L)(10) shall be satisfied via off-street parking or a combination of off-street parking and off-site parking. Off-site parking shall be located no more than 400 feet from the main entrance of the use being served.

(f) The City Council may establish limited business hours as a means of ensuring compatibility with surrounding uses.

(56) Seasonal Sales Stands

(a) The fireworks tent, display area, access aisles, and surrounding area shall be reviewed by the Community Development Department and the Fire Department and sale of fireworks shall meet all requirements of Chapter 24 of the Fire Code and NFPA Chapter 1124.

- (c) Seasonal sales stands shall be accessory to a commercial use.
- (d) Seasonal sales stands located within the public right-of-way are prohibited.
- (e) All goods shall be displayed on a designated impervious surface area.
- (f) All goods shall be displayed in an orderly fashion, with access aisles provided as needed.
- (g) Music or amplified sounds shall not be audible from adjacent residential properties.
- (h) The seasonal sales stand shall not reduce the amount of off-street parking provided one-site below the level required for the principal use.
- (i) An appropriate transition area between the use and adjacent property shall be provided by landscaping, screening or other site improvements consistent with the character of the neighborhood.
- (j) Signage shall be limited to two professionally made signs, with a combined square footage not exceeding 48 square feet.
- (k) Seasonal sales stands may be allowed for a maximum of 90 days per calendar year.

Section 4

The following language for Commercial Districts is added, amended and deleted as provided in Section 9.110 of the City Code of 2005, is hereby established to read as follows:

(A) Purpose. The commercial districts are established to provide for a wide range of goods and services in locations throughout the community; provide employment opportunities; and enhance the livability of the community by providing convenient access to goods and services.

(B) General provisions.

(1) Compliance with applicable regulations. Any use established in a commercial district after the effective date of this article shall comply with all applicable local, state and federal standards for such uses.

(2) Administration. The administration and enforcement of this section shall be in accordance with the provisions of § 9.104, Administration and Enforcement.

(3) Nonconformities. Nonconforming uses, structures, lots and signs within a commercial district shall be subject to the provisions of § 9.105, Nonconformities.

(4) Compliance with general development standards. Any use established, expanded or modified in a commercial district after the effective date of this article shall comply with the applicable provisions of § 9.106, General Development Standards.

(5) Compliance with specific development standards. Any use established, expanded or modified in a commercial district after the effective date of this article shall comply with the applicable provisions of § 9.107, Specific Development Standards.

(6) Prohibited uses. Any use not listed as either permitted, conditional or accessory in a particular district or any use not determined by the Zoning Administrator to be substantially similar to a use listed as permitted, conditional or accessory shall be prohibited in that district.

(C) *Lot dimension, height, and bulk requirements.* Lot area, setback, height and lot coverage requirements for uses in the commercial districts shall be as specified in the following table.

	LB	GB	CBD
Minimum Lot Area	6,000 sq. ft.	6,000 sq. ft.	
Minimum Lot Width	50 ft.	40 ft.	20 ft.

	LB	GB	CBD
	LB	GB	CBD
Minimum Lot Depth			
Lot area per dwelling unit			
Single-family dwelling	6,500 sq. ft.		
Multiple-family dwelling			
Efficiency	1,200 sq. ft.		1,200 sq. ft.
One bedroom	1,800 sq. ft.		1,800 sq. ft.
Two bedroom	2,000 sq. ft.		2,000 sq. ft.
Three bedroom	2,500 sq. ft.		2,500 sq. ft.
Additional bedroom	400 sq. ft.		400 sq. ft.
Congregate living units	400 sq. ft.		400 sq. ft.
Hotel or motel	400 sq. ft.		
Hospital	600 sq. ft.		
Building Setback Requirements			
Nonresidential/mixed-use front yard	none		
Residential front yard	5 ft.		
Front yard		15 ft.	none
Side yard	15 ft.	none	none
Corner side yard	10 ft.	15 ft.	1 ft.
Rear yard	20 ft.	20 ft.	10 ft.
Parking Setback Requirements			
Front yard	12 ft.	15 ft.	1 ft.
Side yard	5 ft.	5 ft.	none
Corner side yard	12 ft.	15 ft.	1 ft.
Rear yard	5 ft.	5 ft.	5 ft.

Maximum Building Height	35 ft.	35 ft.	none
Maximum Structure Height	35 ft. unless specified elsewhere	35 ft. unless specified elsewhere	none, unless specified elsewhere
Maximum Lot Coverage			
Floor area ratio		1.0	6.0

(D) LB, Limited Business District.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of the LB, Limited Business District is to provide appropriate locations for limited retail sales and services for the convenience of adjacent residential neighborhoods. These areas are located along collector or arterial roadways in close proximity to residential neighborhoods, arranged and designed to be a functional and harmonious part of the neighborhood, and accessible by public sidewalks or trails as well as by roadways.

(2) Permitted uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following uses are permitted within the LB, Limited Business District:

- (a) Multiple-family dwelling.
- (b) Government office.
- (c) Government protective service facility.
- (d) Public park and/or playground.
- (e) Clinic, medical or dental.
- (f) Clinic, veterinary.
- (g) Funeral home.
- (h) Office
 - (i) Studio, professional
 - (j) Service, professional.
- (h) Retail sales
 - (i) Food service, limited (coffee shop/deli)
 - (j) Museum/gallery

(3) Conditional uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following uses may be allowed in the LB, Limited Business District, subject to the regulations set forth for conditional uses in § 9.104, Administration and Enforcement, and the regulations for specific uses set forth in § 9.107, Specific Development Standards:

- (a) School, vocational or business.
- (b) School, performing/visual/martial arts.

(c) Licensed day care facility, child or adult.

(d) Government maintenance facility.

(e) State licensed residential care facility.

(f) Congregate living facility, including rooming houses, group living quarters, nursing homes, senior housing, assisted living facility, traditional housing and emergency housing.

(g) Bed and breakfast home, when accessory to a single-family dwelling.

(h) Community center.

(i) Recreational facility, indoor.

(j) Recreational facility, outdoor.

(k) Single-family dwelling, when accessory to a commercial use.

(l) Hospital.

(m) Hotel or motel.

~~(n) Fences greater than six feet in height.~~

(n) Brewer taproom, not exceeding 2,000 barrels of malt liquor a year.

(o) Brew pub, not exceeding 2,000 barrels of malt liquor a year.

(p) Health/fitness clubs, not exceeding 4,000 gross square feet in area.

(4) Permitted accessory uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following accessory uses shall be permitted in the LB, Limited Business District:

(a) Private garages, parking spaces and loading areas.

(b) Accessory buildings.

(c) Private swimming pools, tennis courts and other recreational facilities operated for the sole use and convenience of the residents of the principal use and their guests.

(d) Landscaping and other horticultural uses.

(e) Temporary construction buildings.

(f) Signs as regulated by § 9.106.

(g) Fences greater than six feet in height.

(E) GB, General Business District.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of the GB General Business District is to provide appropriate locations for general retail sales, services and other commercial developments that benefit from their proximity to other

commercial uses. These areas are located away from residential neighborhoods, along arterial roadways and are accessible primarily by automobile.

(2) Permitted uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following uses are permitted within the GB, General Business District:

- (a) Government office.
- (b) Government protective service facility.
- (c) Public park and/or playground.
- (d) School, vocational or business.
- (e) School, performing/visual/martial arts.
- (f) Auditorium/place of assembly.
- (g) Automobile convenience facility.
- ~~(h) Automobile and motorcycle repair, minor.~~
- (h) Billiards hall.
- (i) Bowling alley.
- ~~(k) Car wash.~~
- (j) Clinic, medical or dental.
- (k) Clinic, veterinary.
- (l) Day care facility, adult or child.
- (m) Financial institution.
- (n) Food service, convenience (fast food).
- (o) Food service, limited (coffee shop/deli).
- (p) Food service, full service (restaurant/nightclub).
- (q) Funeral home.
- (r) Greenhouse/garden center.
- (s) Health or fitness club.
- (t) Hotel/motel.
- (u) Laboratory, medical.
- (v) Liquor store, off-sale.
- (w) Museum or gallery.

- (x) Office.
- (y) Retail sales.
- (z) Service, professional.
- (aa) Shopping center.
- (bb) Studio, professional.
- (cc) Studio, radio and television.
- (dd) Theater, live performance.
- (ee) Theater, movie.
- (ff) Motor vehicle parts store.
- (gg) Brewer taproom.
- (hh) Brew pub.
- (ii) Arcade.
- (jj) Parking ramp
- (kk) Printing/Publishing
- (ll) Club or lodge

(3) Conditional uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following uses may be allowed in the GB, General Business District, subject to the regulations set forth for conditional uses in § 9.104, Administration and Enforcement, and the regulations for specific uses set forth in § 9.107, Specific Development Standards:

- (a) Community center.
- (b) Recreational facility (indoor and outdoor).
- (c) Banquet hall.
- (d) Government maintenance facility.
- (e) Automobile and motorcycle sales/rental, new.
- (f) Automobile and motorcycle sales, used (in building).
- (g) Recreational vehicle sales, new.
- (h) Recreational vehicle sales, used (in building).
- (i) Firearms Dealer/~~Shooting range~~.
- (j) Hospital.

- (k) Outdoor sales or display.
- (l) Outdoor storage
- (m) Assembly, manufacturing and/or processing.
- (n) Consignment/secondhand store.
- (o) Currency exchange.
- (p) Pawnshop.
- (q) Drop-in facility.
- (r) Animal kennel and/or shelter.
- (s) Precious metal dealerships.

(t) Automobile and motorcycle repair, minor.

(u) Car wash.

(4) Permitted accessory uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following accessory uses shall be permitted in the GB, General Business District:

- (a) Private garages, parking spaces and loading areas.
- (b) Accessory buildings.
- (c) Landscaping and other horticultural uses.

(d) Incidental repair or processing necessary to conduct the permitted principal use, provided the accessory use does not exceed 30% of the floor area.

(e) Temporary construction buildings.

(f) Signs as regulated by § 9.106.

(g) Seasonal sales stands

(F) CBD, Central Business District.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of the CBD, Central Business District is to provide for the development and redevelopment of the established downtown core, including a mix of retail, financial, office, service and entertainment uses. Residential units are allowed within this district when located above a first floor commercial use.

(2) Permitted uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following uses are permitted within the CBD, Central Business District:

- (a) Multiple-family residential, when located above a first floor commercial use.

- (b) Government offices.
- (c) Government protective services facility.
- (d) Public parks and/or playgrounds.
- (e) School, vocational or business.
- (f) School, performing/visual/martial arts.
- (g) Auditorium/place of assembly.
- (h) Billiards hall.
- (i) Bowling alley.
- (j) Clinic, medical or dental.
- (k) Clinic, veterinary.
- (l) Licensed day care facility, adult or child.
- (m) Financial institution.
- (n) Food service, convenience (fast food).
- (o) Food service, limited (coffee shop/deli).
- (p) Food service, full service (restaurant/nightclub).
- (q) Health or fitness center.
- (r) Hotel or motel.
- (s) Laboratory, medical.
- (t) Liquor store, off-sale.
- (u) Museum or gallery.
- (v) Office.
- (w) Retail sales.
- (x) Service, professional.
- (y) Studio, professional.
- (z) Studio, radio or televisions.
- (aa) Theater, live performance.
- (bb) Theater, movie.
- (cc) Arcade

(dd) Parking ramp

(ee) Club or lodge

(ff) Printing/publishing

(3) Conditional uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following uses may be allowed in the CBD, Central Business District, subject to the regulations set forth for conditional uses in § 9.104, Administration and Enforcement, and the regulations for specific uses set forth in § 9.107, Specific Development Standards

(a) Outdoor sales and/or display.

(b) Outdoor storage.

~~(c) Fences greater than six feet in height.~~

(c) Community center.

(d) Recreational facility (indoor/outdoor).

(e) Banquet hall.

(f) Brewer taproom.

(g) Brew pub.

(4) Permitted accessory uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following accessory uses shall be permitted in the CBD, Central Business District:

(a) Private garages, parking spaces and loading areas.

(b) Landscaping and other horticultural uses.

(c) Incidental repair or processing necessary to conduct the permitted principal use, provided the accessory use does not exceed 30% of the floor area.

(d) Temporary construction buildings.

(e) Signs as regulated by § 9.106.

(f) Seasonal sales stand

(g) Fences greater than six feet in height.

(6) Off-street parking. The CBD, Central Business District, shall be considered an off-street parking district in which off-street parking is not required for nonresidential land uses. Residential uses, including those in mixed-use buildings, shall meet the parking requirements of § 9.106.

Section 5

The following language for Industrial Districts is added, amended and deleted as provided in Section 9.111 of the City Code of 2005, is hereby established to read as follows:

(A) Purpose. The industrial districts are established to enhance the community's tax base; provide employment opportunities; and accommodate industrial development while maintaining compatibility with surrounding areas.

(B) General provisions.

(1) Compliance with applicable regulations. Any use established in an industrial district after the effective date of this chapter shall comply will all applicable local, state and federal standards for such uses.

(2) Administration. The administration and enforcement of this section shall be in accordance with the provisions of § 9.104, Administration and Enforcement.

(3) Nonconformities. Nonconforming uses, structures, lots and signs within an Industrial District shall be subject to the provisions of § 9.105, Nonconformities.

(4) Compliance with general development standards. Any use established, expanded or modified in an industrial district after the effective date of this article shall comply with the applicable provisions of § 9.106, General Development Standards.

(5) Compliance with specific development standards. Any use established, expanded or modified in an industrial district after the effective date of this chapter that is identified in § 9.107, Specific Development Standards, shall comply with the applicable provisions of that section.

(6) Prohibited uses. Any use not listed as either permitted, conditional or accessory in a particular district or any use not determined by the Zoning Administrator to be substantially similar to a use listed as permitted, conditional or accessory shall be prohibited in that district.

(C) *Lot dimension, height, and bulk requirements.* Lot area, setback, height and lot coverage requirements for uses in the industrial districts shall be as specified in the following table:

	<i>I-1</i>	<i>I-2</i>
	<i>I-1</i>	<i>I-2</i>
Minimum Lot Area	10,000 sq. ft.	10,000 sq. ft.
Minimum Lot Width	80 ft.	80 ft.
Minimum Lot Depth		
Building Setback Requirements		
Front yard	20 ft.	20 ft.

Side yard	12 ft.	12 ft.
Corner side yard	15 ft.	15 ft.
Rear yard	24 ft.	24 ft.
Parking Setback Requirements		
Front yard	20 ft.	20 ft.
Side yard	5 ft.	5 ft.
Corner side yard	20 ft.	20 ft.
Rear yard	5 ft.	5 ft.
Maximum Height		
Maximum Lot Coverage		
Floor Area Ratio	1.0	1.0

(D) I-1, Light Industrial District.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of the I-1, Light Industrial District is to provide appropriate locations for industrial enterprises engaged in activities such as assembly, storage, warehousing and light manufacturing and further processing of materials first handled by general industry. These areas are located with easy access to arterial roadways and should be separated from residential uses by natural or manmade barriers.

(2) Permitted uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following uses are permitted within the I-1, Light Industrial District:

- (a) Community center.
- (b) Government office.
- (c) Government maintenance facility.
- (d) Government protective service facility.
- (e) Public park and/or playground.

(f) Recreational facility, indoor.

(g) Recreational facility, outdoor.

~~(h) Automobile and motorcycle repair, major.~~

~~(i) Automobile and motorcycle repair, minor.~~

(h) Laboratory, medical.

(i) Office.

(j) Studio, radio or television.

(k) Assembly, manufacturing and/or processing.

(l) Freight terminal.

(m) Maintenance facility.

(n) Office/showroom.

(o) Office/warehouse.

(p) Printing and/or publishing.

(q) Self-service storage facility.

(r) Warehousing and/or distribution.

(s) Pawnshops.

(t) Tattoo shops.

(u) Body piercing shops.

(v) Motor vehicle parts store.

(w) Brewer taproom.

(x) Retail Sales

(y) Parking ramp

(3) Conditional uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following uses may be allowed in the I-1, Light Industrial District, subject to the regulations set forth for conditional uses in § 9.104, Administration and Enforcement, and the regulations for specific uses set forth in § 9.107, Specific Development Standards:

(a) Outdoor sales and/or display.

(b) Outdoor storage.

(c) Concrete, asphalt or rock crushing operation.

(d) Salvage operation/transfer station.

- (e) Adult entertainment use.
- (f) State licensed residential care facility, correctional.

- (g) Barbed wire fences.
- (h) Animal kennel and/or shelter.
- (i) Automobile and motorcycle repair, major.
- (j) Automobile and motorcycle repair, minor.

(4) Permitted accessory uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following accessory uses shall be permitted in the I-2, Light Industrial District:

- (a) Off-street parking and loading areas.
- (b) Landscaping and other horticultural uses.
- (c) Temporary construction buildings.
- (d) Signs as regulated by § 9.106.
- (e) Caretaker's residence

(f) Fences greater than seven feet in height.

(E) I-2, General Industrial District.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of the I-2, General Industrial District is to provide appropriate locations for industrial enterprises engaged in activities such as manufacturing, processing, assembly, storage and warehousing, which, because of their size and/or nature, require isolation from non-industrial uses. These areas are located with easy access to arterial roadways or railroads and should be separated from non-industrial uses by natural or manmade barriers.

(2) Permitted uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following uses are permitted within the I-2, General Industrial District:

- (a) Community center.
- (b) Government office.
- (c) Government maintenance facility.
- (d) Government protective service facility.
- (e) Public park and/or playground.
- (f) Recreational facility, indoor.

(g) Recreational facility, outdoor.

~~(h) Automobile and motorcycle repair, major.~~

~~(i) Automobile and motorcycle repair, minor.~~

(h) Laboratory, medical.

(i) Office.

(j) Studio, radio or television.

(k) Assembly, manufacturing and/or processing.

(l) Freight terminal.

(m) Maintenance facility.

(n) Office/showroom.

(o) Office/warehouse.

(p) Printing and/or publishing.

(q) Self-service storage facility.

(r) Warehousing and/or distribution.

(s) Pawnshops.

(t) Tattoo shops.

(u) Body piercing shops.

(v) Motor vehicle parts store.

(w) Brewer taproom.

(x) Retail sales.

(y) Parking ramp

(3) Conditional uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following uses may be allowed in the I-2, General Industrial District, subject to the regulations set forth for conditional uses in § 9.104, Administration and Enforcement, and the regulations for specific uses set forth in § 9.107, Specific Development Standards:

(a) Outdoor sales and/or display.

(b) Outdoor storage.

(c) Concrete, asphalt or rock crushing operation.

(d) Salvage operation/transfer station.

(e) Adult entertainment use.

(f) State licensed residential care facility, correctional.

~~(g) Fences greater than seven feet in height.~~

(g) Barbed wire fences.

(h) Automobile and motorcycle repair, major.

(i) Automobile and motorcycle repair, minor.

(4) Permitted accessory uses. Except as specifically limited herein, the following accessory uses shall be permitted in the I-2, Light Industrial District:

(a) Off-street parking and loading areas.

(b) Landscaping and other horticultural uses.

(c) Temporary construction buildings.

(d) Signs as regulated by § 9.106.

(e) Caretaker's residence

(f) Fences greater than seven feet in height.

Section 6

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after 30 days after its passage.

Offered by:

Seconded by:

Roll Call:

Second Reading:

Offered by:

Seconded by:

Roll Call:

Date of Passage:

Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor

Attest:

Sara Ion, City Clerk/Council Secretary

**CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
PLANNING COMMISSION**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of Columbia Heights will conduct a public hearing in the City Council Chambers of City Hall at 3989 Central Avenue NE on Tuesday, January 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The order of business is as follows:

A request for a Zoning Text Amendment from the City of Columbia Heights proposing to amend City Code Chapter 9 – Land Use; specifically, 9.104 Administration and Enforcement, 9.106 General Development Standards, 9.107 Specific Development Standards, 9.110 Commercial Districts, and 9.111 Industrial Districts. Section 9.104 (F) of the Zoning Ordinance requires the Planning Commission to hold a public hearing on the zoning amendment and make findings before submitting a recommendation to City Council.

Notice is hereby given that all persons having an interest will be given an opportunity to be heard. For questions and a full description of the zoning amendments being proposed, please contact Andrew Boucher, City Planner, at (763) 706-3673.

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

Community Development Department
3989 Central Ave. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421

ZONING PERMIT APPLICATION - ORDINANCE NO. 9.104 (I)

This application is subject to review and acceptance by the City. Applications will be processed only if all required items are submitted. Fire Department approval may also be required and must meet Fire Code requirements set by the Fire Chief or contained in the City Code.

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Project Address/Location: _____
Legal Description of property: _____
Proposed Use of property: _____

PROPERTY OWNER (As it appears on property title):

Company/Individual (please print): _____
Contact Person (please print): _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Daytime Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Signature/Date: _____

APPLICANT:

Company/Individual (please print): _____
Contact Person (please print): _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Daytime Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Signature/Date: _____

TYPE OF WORK

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SEASONAL SALES STAND | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSORY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSORY STRUCTURE UNDER
200 SQ. FT. | <input type="checkbox"/> DWELLING UNIT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FENCING OVER 6 FEET IN HEIGHT | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IMPERVIOUS SURFACE OR PARKING
ADDITION | |

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

REASON FOR REQUEST *(please attach a written narrative describing the intended use of the property and justification for your request. Describe any modifications and/or limitations of the use that have been made to insure its compatibility with surrounding uses and with the purpose and intent of the Zoning Ordinance and the Comprehensive Plan.)*

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

CASE NO: _____

APPLICATION REC'D BY: _____

DATE APPLICATION REC'D: _____

\$250.00 APPLICATION FEE REC'D: _____

RECEIPT NUMBER: _____

\$200.00 INSPECTION FEE FOR FIREWORKS TENTS FEE REC'D _____

Approved by Zoning Administrator on: _____

Revised November 2024

AGENDA SECTION	OTHER BUSINESS
MEETING DATE	JANUARY 7, 2025

ITEM:	Discussion on SolSmart Memo		
DEPARTMENT:	Community Development	BY/DATE:	Andrew Boucher, City Planner January 2, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

At their November meeting, the Sustainability Commission recommended pursuing SolSmart participation and approved authorization at the November 25, 2024, Council meeting where staff also presented information regarding the SolSmart program. SolSmart is a program designed to provide no-cost technical assistance to local governments to help identify barriers to renewable energy and implement national best practices expanding solar energy use.

Communities are recognized through a designation of Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum through actions, outreach, and education in a series of categories such as: Permitting and Inspection, Planning and Zoning, Government Operations, Community Engagement, and Market Development. There were two prerequisites required prior to participation; creating an online solar permit and inspection checklist and preparing a solar statement which are included in this report. The only requirements left before a Bronze Designation is to review the memo technical staff prepared and present the findings to the Planning Commission. Metropolitan Council and SolSmart program staff reviewed the City of Columbia Heights' Zoning Code to verify and document opportunities to strengthen and encourage development of renewable energy as well as providing a baseline spreadsheet to track the City's progress through the program. The City has already receive credit in some of the categories for actions that have already been verified, actions that require documentation, and those recommended to pursue:

The City has already scored 45 points for Baseline Status based on completed actions in Permitting and Inspections. By signing and presenting the Planning and Zoning memo to the Planning Commission, the City will have 5 points for Planning and Zoning Baseline Status. The completed actions are described as:

Actions Completed for Permitting and Inspection	Point Value
No more than one inspection required for small rooftop solar PV	(10 points)
Post solar PV inspection requirements online, including the inspection process and what details will be reviewed	(10 points)
Demonstrate that residential permit fees for solar PV are \$500 or less	(5 points)
Actions Completed for Planning and Zoning	
Review zoning requirements and identify restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit solar PV development and compile these findings in a memo	(Required for Bronze)
Present PZ-1 memo findings to Planning Commission or relevant body	(5 points)

Some of the recommended actions for Permitting and Inspections that can be taken or are in the process of being completed by staff include:

Train permitting and inspection staff on best practices for permitting and inspecting solar PV and/or solar and storage systems and training must have occurred in the past two years	(20 points - required for Silver)
Provide an online process for solar PV permit submission and approval	(20 points)
Post community metrics related to the number of solar PV and solar + storage permits & inspections processed by the community annually, average annual permitting & inspection timelines.	(10 points; required for Platinum)
Adopt a standard solar PV permit application form aligned with best practices	(5 points)
Train fire/safety staff on solar PV and/or solar and storage systems; training must have occurred in the past two years.	(10 points)
Share site specific solar PV and/or solar and storage permit data, including addresses, with first responders and their departments (e.g. software that allows users to view searchable, filterable data about a specific site and system)	(10 points)

Other actions related to Planning and Zoning for staff, the Planning Commission, and City Council to pursue include the following:

1. Draft proposed language for changes to zoning code based on PZ-1 memo and Planning Commission dialogue; involve planners and/or local zoning experts and/or the public (e.g. through community-based organizations) in the creation of the draft language (5 points)
2. Codify in the zoning ordinance that accessory use rooftop solar PV is explicitly allowed by-right in all major zones. (10 points; required for Gold)
3. Ensure the zoning ordinance language does not include intentional or unintentional barriers to accessory use rooftop solar PV, including but not limited to aesthetic or performance standards, screening requirements, limits to visibility, excessive restrictions to system size or rooftop coverage, glare or glint regulations, and subjective design reviews. (10 points; required for Gold)
4. Ensure the zoning ordinance permits small ground-mounted solar PV as an accessory use in at least one zoning district. (5 points)
5. Ensure the zoning ordinance exempts small ground-mounted solar PV from certain restrictions on accessory uses (e.g. setbacks, coverage or impervious surface calculations, or other restrictions). (5 points)
6. Ensure the zoning ordinance establishes a clear regulatory pathway for large-scale solar PV (e.g. through a special use permit or through inclusion among allowed conditional uses). (5 points)
7. Post an online fact sheet that provides an overview of what zoning allows for solar PV under what conditions and in which districts (e.g. types and sizes of solar systems permitted, the processes

required, and other relevant information) (5 points).

8. Include specific solar PV goals, metrics, and strategies in the most current published version of relevant local plans (e.g. energy plan, climate plan, comprehensive plan) (10 points).
9. Draft new or updated language and provide a timeline for the inclusion of specific solar PV goals, metrics, and/or strategies into existing and/or future plans (5 points).
10. Share solar PV progress towards achieving targets or metrics from PZ-20 on the solar landing page (5 points).
11. Include specific large-scale solar PV goals, metrics, and strategies in the most current published version of relevant local plans (e.g. energy plan, climate plan, comprehensive plan) (10 points).
12. Develop a solar PV assessment that identifies community-wide feasibility for solar PV development within a jurisdiction (differentiate between large-scale, municipal, etc.) (20 points).
13. Enable solar rights through a local solar access ordinance (10 points).
14. Codify in the zoning ordinance that accessory use energy storage systems are explicitly allowed by-right in all major zones (20 points).

Actions in the section of Government Operations that have been completed, require documentation and verification, or can be pursued include:

1. Procure solar energy for municipal operations through an offsite physical PPA, virtual PPA, green tariff, or similar structure (20 points).
2. Install solar PV on local government facilities and/or local government-controlled land. (20 points; required for Platinum)
3. Discuss community goals for solar PV, net metering, community solar, and/or interconnection processes with the local utility and explore areas for future collaboration (10 points).
4. Conduct feasibility analysis for solar PV on local government facilities and/or local government-controlled land (10 points).
5. Install solar PV integrated with other technologies such as battery storage or electric vehicle charging on local government facilities and/or local government-controlled land (20 points).
6. Post metrics related to the number of municipal solar PV or solar PV plus storage/EV installations and installed capacity, municipal solar PV energy procured (ownership, PPAs, community solar offtake), and percent (%) of municipal energy usage offset by renewable energy (10 points).

Staff recommends the following future amendments to the Zoning Code based on the memo prepared by SolSmart/Metropolitan Council staff:

- A. 9.101 Purpose, Authority and Jurisdiction (B) *Purpose* amended to include (B)(11) “Encourage and strengthen solar development and use of renewable energy while protecting public health, safety, and welfare of its residents and furthering progress towards specific community goals and plans.”; amend (B)(2) to reflect other specific goals defined in plans such as the Energy Action Plan and the 2040/2050 Comprehensive Plans.
- B. 9.103 Definitions amended to include the following definitions:
 - a. Solar energy system: A device, array of devices, or structural design feature, the purpose of which is to provide for generation or storage of electricity from sunlight, or the collection, storage, and distribution of solar energy for space heating or cooling, daylight for interior lighting, or water heating.
 - b. Solar photovoltaic system: A solar energy system that converts solar energy directly into electricity, the primary components of which are solar panels, mounting devices, inverters, and wiring.
 - c. Grid-connected solar energy system: A solar photovoltaic system that is connected to an electric circuit served by an electric utility company.
 - d. Roof-mounted solar energy system: A solar photovoltaic system mounted on a rack that is ballasted on, or is attached to, the roof of a building or structure. Roof-mount systems are accessory to the primary use.
 - e. Ground-mounted solar energy system (Accessory Use): A solar photovoltaic system mounted on a rack or pole that is ballasted on, or is attached to, the ground and the system is accessory to the primary use.
 - f. Ground-mounted solar energy system (Primary Use): A solar photovoltaic system mounted on a rack or pole that is ballasted on, or is attached to, the ground and is the primary land use for the parcel(s) on which it is located. Primary use systems are permitted through a discretionary approval process.
 - g. Community-scale solar energy system: A solar photovoltaic system that qualifies for the Community Solar Gardens identified by the State of Minnesota Commerce Department’s Energy and Utilities.
 - h. Amending Accessory Building/Structure and Structure definitions to explicitly state that solar equipment and installations are not considered to be structures.
- C. 9.106 General Development Standards amended to include the following provisions:
 - a. (B) Lot Controls (11) *Yard Encroachments* should include (i) *Ground-mounted solar and equipment* as being part of the list of uses not considered as encroachments into required yards, provided they are not located closer than one foot to the property line **OR** having them subject to the same side/rear yard setbacks as accessory structures.
 - b. (B) Lot Controls (13) *Height limitations* should be amended to exempt rooftop solar equipment from height limitation and removing the 25% roof area coverage requirement for mechanical/electrical equipment.
 - c. (C) Accessory uses and structures (6) *Mechanical equipment* should be amended to exempt solar installations and equipment from screening requirements.
 - d. (H) *Performance Standards* (1) Purpose should be amended to exempt solar equipment and installations from performance standards.

- D. 9.107 Specific Development Standards should be amended to include *Roof-mounted solar energy system*, *Ground-mounted solar energy system (Accessory Use)*, *Ground-mounted solar energy system (Primary Use)*, and *Community-scale solar energy system*.**
- a. *Roof-mounted solar energy system*
 - i. On a pitched/sloped roof, solar energy systems shall be installed parallel to the roof surface.
 - ii. Pitched/sloped and flat roof solar energy systems shall be exempt from height limitations.
 - iii. Roof-mounted solar energy systems shall comply with applicable state and local fire codes to ensure emergency access to the roof, provide pathways to specific areas of the roof, provide areas for smoke ventilation, and provide emergency egress from the roof.
 - b. *Ground-mounted solar energy system (Accessory Use)*
 - i. Ground-mounted solar energy systems (Accessory Use) are not considered to be accessory structures and are allowed to be placed anywhere on the property, including the front yard, so long as they are not located closer than one foot to the property line **OR** subjecting them to the same setback requirements as accessory structures with a provision for allowing them in front yard setbacks.
 - ii. Ground-mounted solar energy systems are exempt from lot coverage and impervious surface requirements if the area under the system contains vegetative ground cover such as grass, native planting and vegetations, or pollinator habitats as the tilt and spacing allows for precipitation to drain into the pervious ground cover.
 - c. *Ground-mounted solar energy system (Primary Use)*,
 - d. *Community-scale solar energy system*.
- E. 9.109 Residential Districts, 9.110 Commercial Districts, 9.111 Industrial Districts, and 9.115 Public and Open Space Districts all amended to include rooftop solar PV and ground-mounted solar as a permitted accessory use by right in all zoning districts. Additional recommendations include establishing ground-mounted solar as well as community-scale solar energy system as permitted primary uses in all zoning districts.**

Items that staff, Planning Commission, and the City Council should give additional consideration to are highlighted. These topics include potential amendments to existing definitions, lot controls, accessory uses, and performance standards to exempt solar installations and equipment from height, roof coverage, and setback requirements. Other items to discuss in the future are the establishment of larger scale solar systems as primary uses and whether these should be permitted or conditional uses; consideration of a solar access ordinance, and if renewable energy goals and specifications should be included in consideration of Planned Unit Developments, Subdivision Regulation, and other processes requiring city approval or funding.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Resolution No. 2024-087

Memo from SolSmart

Solar Statement

Solar Permit and Inspection Checklist

Program Guide

PZ-1 Zoning Review

Community: Columbia Heights, MN

PZ-1: Review zoning requirements and identify restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit solar PV development. Compile findings in a memo. (Required for Bronze)

To assist your local government, the national solar experts at SolSmart have conducted a review of your community's zoning and land use regulations to assess the use of best practices, possible barriers (i.e. height restrictions, set-back requirements, etc.) and gaps related to solar PV development. The Columbia Heights [Zoning Code](#) was accessed and reviewed during December 2024. The code was accessed via the Columbia Heights [website](#) (with a redirect to the [American Legal Publishing Corporation website](#)).

Below, please find the outcome of the review.

As the SolSmart expert reviewed your community's zoning and land use regulations, they have provided recommendations for improvements and additional language that can support growth of the solar market in your community. Zoning codes should provide clear and transparent regulations on the development and use of solar energy within the jurisdiction. Recognizing that zoning codes must be specific to each community to address unique needs and local factors, SolSmart recommended language may need additional local context. Incorporating clear and transparent solar PV guidelines and regulations into zoning codes can help streamline development processes and reduce costs related to new solar PV installations.

By reading the narrative and signing the statement at the bottom of the page, your community will satisfy the PZ-1 pre-requisite and be one step closer to achieving SolSmart designation.

Summary

- A search for "photovoltaic" yielded 0 results.
- A search for "solar" yielded 0 results.
- A search for "renewable energy" yielded 0 results.
- A search for "clean energy" yielded 0 results.

Next Steps

We recommend the following steps to best utilize the zoning review.

- 1) This zoning review can be presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission or relevant zoning body to achieve credit PZ-2.
- 2) Based on the zoning review and the dialogue from the Planning Commission meeting, staff can draft proposed language for changes to the zoning code to achieve credit PZ-3.
- 3) SolSmart staff are available to help present the zoning review and/or provide guidance and feedback on draft language.

Best Practice Review & Recommendations

The code was reviewed to determine if it incorporates best practice regulations for solar energy. Incorporating best practices improves transparency of processes and clarity of development standards and can enhance the growth of the local solar market in an organized and efficient manner. The review

is split into four sections: **Solar Purpose and Definition, Roof-mounted Solar, Ground-mounted Solar Accessory Use, and Ground-mounted Solar Primary Use.** Each section reviews code language applicable to that topic area or type of solar PV. Where needed, the review will include suggested language that the community could adopt to align the code with SolSmart recommendations. Codifying zoning code best practices for solar development can help prevent misinterpretation, changes in how the code is read, or future challenges to solar installations.

Solar Purpose and Definitions

Purpose or Intent		
The code does NOT contain a purpose or intent for including solar energy regulations in the code.		
Code Language	Section:	
Reviewer Comments	Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: <input type="checkbox"/>	Needs Improvement: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The purpose section of the zoning code provides an opportunity to include goals related to solar to link solar energy development to specific community goals and plans. Referencing specific goals and plans in the purpose section can create a stronger foundation for future solar projects.		
Suggested Language		
<p><i>Below are examples of how solar energy could be included in the zoning purpose.</i></p> <p>Columbia Heights has adopted the following regulations to encourage the efficient and effective development and use of solar energy systems while protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents.</p> <p>Solar energy is a renewable energy resource and valuable economic resource that can be utilized throughout Columbia Heights for the following purposes <i>(the following bullet points are optional depending on community goals and plans)</i>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To implement the following objectives of the Comprehensive Plan: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Encourage the use of local renewable energy resources. b) Promote sustainable building design and practices. c) Encourage economic development while preserving the community's historic resources and character. 2) To meet the goals of the Climate Action Plan, Sustainability Plan, Clean Energy Resolution. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) [REFERENCE GOALS OR TARGETS] 3) To decrease the community's reliance on fossil fuel power sources and reduce greenhouse gas emission/achieve carbon reduction goals. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) [REFERENCE SPECIFIC GOALS OR TARGETS] 4) To enhance the reliability and resiliency of the local power grid and make more efficient use of the local electric distribution infrastructure. 5) To promote consumer choice and allow residents and businesses to use local, renewable energy while displacing fossil fuel generation. 6) To improve air quality and protect public health. 		

Definitions		
The code does NOT contain definitions for solar energy.		
Code Language	Section:	
Reviewer Comments	Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: <input type="checkbox"/>	Needs Improvement: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Needs Improvement Definitions form the basis of understanding for the terms used throughout the solar energy section of the code and reduce the chance for misinterpretation. At a minimum, a local government should include definitions that distinguish between solar energy system type (roof-mounted vs ground-mounted) and use (accessory vs primary) to provide clarity and a foundation on which to specify permissible uses in specific zoning districts and provide development standards. Definitions that may be beneficial for communities to include in their zoning codes are provided.		
Suggested Language <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Solar energy system</i>: A device, array of devices, or structural design feature, the purpose of which is to provide for generation or storage of electricity from sunlight, or the collection, storage, and distribution of solar energy for space heating or cooling, daylight for interior lighting, or water heating. 2) <i>Solar photovoltaic system</i>: A solar energy system that converts solar energy directly into electricity, the primary components of which are solar panels, mounting devices, inverters, and wiring. 3) <i>Grid-connected solar energy system</i>: A solar photovoltaic system that is connected to an electric circuit served by an electric utility company. 4) <i>Roof-mounted solar energy system</i>: A solar photovoltaic system mounted on a rack that is ballasted on, or is attached to, the roof of a building or structure. Roof-mount systems are accessory to the primary use. 5) <i>Ground-mounted solar energy system (Accessory Use)</i>: A solar photovoltaic system mounted on a rack or pole that is ballasted on, or is attached to, the ground and the system is accessory to the primary use. 6) <i>Ground-mounted solar energy system (Primary Use)</i>: A solar photovoltaic system mounted on a rack or pole that is ballasted on, or is attached to, the ground and is the primary land use for the parcel(s) on which it is located. Primary use systems are permitted through a discretionary approval process. 7) <i>Community-scale solar energy system</i>: A solar photovoltaic system that qualifies for the [STATE COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM NAME – if applicable]. 		

Roof-Mounted Solar

Roof-mounted Accessory Use Solar		
The code does NOT explicitly permit accessory use roof-mounted solar PV systems as a by-right or allowed use.		
Code Language	Section:	
Reviewer Comments	Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: <input type="checkbox"/>	Needs Improvement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Needs Improvement		

The zoning code does not clearly state that certain types/sizes of solar energy systems are considered an allowed or by-right accessory use.

Zoning often provides additional processes, which can be long and costly, to consider special exceptions when a proposal is inconsistent with current land use regulations. Codifying solar as an accessory use and as an allowed or by-right use in all major zoning categories provides policy certainty and clarity which can promote easier and more equitable solar deployment. It can increase solar development and save property owners time and money if they're able to avoid going through a more extensive discretionary process to have their solar system considered. For example, removing the need for a planning commission or equivalent entity to make a judgement prior to approving the project can reduce the time and expense of a solar installation (this can also allow local government staff to focus on other priorities and projects).

Often accessory use solar is not listed as a permitted use in a zoning code, even though it may be treated as such in practice (though in other instances, if it is not listed it may be considered prohibited). This lack of clarity on language could cause confusion and open the door to various interpretations/determinations of use. Including explicit language that clearly states that rooftop solar is allowed by right can help prevent misinterpretation, changes in how the code is read, or future challenges to rooftop installations.

Applicable SolSmart Credit: PZ-5, Codify in the zoning ordinance that accessory use rooftop solar PV is explicitly allowed by-right in all major zones.

Suggested Language

Roof-mounted solar energy systems are a permitted accessory use within **all zoning districts**, subject to the following development standards.

Roof-mounted Solar Height

The code does NOT exempt roof-mounted solar PV from height restrictions.

Code Language

Section:

Reviewer Comments

Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: ☐

Needs Improvement ☒

Needs Improvement

The current zoning language indicates that solar equipment shall meet the height requirements for the zone that the system is installed in.

It is best practice to exempt roof-mounted solar energy systems from district height requirements. Height restrictions are often imposed on buildings within specific zoning districts to satisfy several planning objectives such as protection of views, controlling neighborhood character, density, and access to sunlight. In many districts, buildings, particularly those with flat rooftops, are constructed up to the maximum allowed height, thereby limiting a buildings ability to install solar unless exemptions are provided. Many local governments exempt antennas, chimneys, flagpoles, and mechanical equipment from height limits to allow for their placement and use. Since solar panels are most efficient when installed at an angle equal to a location's latitude, local governments should consider exempting solar energy systems from height restrictions. Alternatively, local governments can permit solar energy systems to exceed the maximum building height in all applicable districts.

Applicable SolSmart Credit: PZ-6, Ensure the zoning ordinance language does not include intentional or unintentional barriers to accessory use rooftop solar PV.

Suggested Language

Sloped Roof

On a pitched/sloped roof, solar energy systems shall be installed parallel to the roof surface and may not extend beyond the edge of the roof peak.

Flat Roof

For flat roofs, local governments can select from one of the following two options depending on how the zoning ordinance addresses the height of rooftop appurtenances, chimneys, antennas, and/or rooftop mechanical equipment.

1. *If the ordinance exempts certain features/structures from height limits, then it is recommended that roof-mounted solar energy systems also be exempted from height limits.*

On a flat roof, solar energy systems are exempt from zoning district height limits.

2. *If the ordinance does not include any exemptions, then it is recommended to allow roof-mounted solar energy systems to exceed a districts height limit.*

On a flat roof, solar energy systems are permitted to exceed the zoning district height limits by up to 10 feet.

Ground-mounted Accessory Use Solar

Ground-mounted Accessory Use Solar

The code does NOT explicitly permit accessory use ground-mounted solar PV systems as a by-right or allowed use in at least 1 zoning district.

Code Language

Section:

Reviewer Comments

Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: ☐

Needs Improvement ☒

Needs Improvement

The zoning code does not clearly state that certain types/sizes of ground-mounted solar energy systems are considered an allowed or by-right accessory use.

Sometimes a property is not suitable for a roof-mounted solar system because the building has structural limitations, or the rooftop is shaded. In these instances, a small ground-mounted solar PV system can still allow the property owner to install solar and enjoy the benefits.

Allowing accessory use ground-mounted solar may not be appropriate for dense urban cores or highly developed areas but can be suitable for less dense parts of a community, in areas where lot sizes are bigger, and/or in commercial and industrial zoning districts where a primary use might have available land for a ground-mounted system.

Applicable SolSmart Credit: PZ-7, Ensure the zoning ordinance permits small ground-mounted solar PV as an accessory use in at least one zoning district.

Suggested Language

Ground-mounted solar energy systems are a permitted accessory use within all zoning districts, when incidental to one or more permitted primary and/or accessory structure(s), subject to the following development standards.

Ground-mounted Solar Setbacks and Placement

The code does NOT contain setback or placement standards for accessory use ground-mounted solar PV.

Code Language

Section:

Reviewer Comments

Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: ☐

Needs Improvement: ☒

Needs Improvement

Setback standards or placement requirements should not hinder the efficiency and effectiveness of accessory use ground-mounted solar. Accessory use ground-mounted solar energy systems should have similar setback requirements to other residential accessory use structures. These setbacks generally allow accessory structures to be built closer to a property line than primary structures. Applying less restrictive setback requirements allow a ground-mounted solar PV system to operate efficiently through appropriate sizing, optimal siting, and ensuring access to adequate sunlight. Depending on the character and typical lot size of the community, it may be appropriate to encourage the siting of accessory use ground-mounted PV systems in the side or rear yard of a property. Rural communities or those with large lots can be less restrictive and allow solar energy systems to encroach into established residential accessory use setbacks. **Zoning codes should be clear on the standards and placement requirements that apply to accessory use ground-mount solar.**

Applicable SolSmart Credit: PZ-8, Ensure the zoning ordinance exempts small ground-mounted solar PV from certain restrictions on accessory uses (e.g. setbacks, coverage or impervious surface calculations, or other restrictions).

Suggested Language

Ground-mounted solar energy systems shall comply with the accessory structure setback requirements of the zoning district in which it will be installed.

Ground-mounted Solar Lot Coverage/Impervious Surface

The code does NOT exempt accessory use ground-mounted solar PV from lot coverage and/or impervious surface standards.

Code Language

Section:

Reviewer Comments

Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: ☐

Needs Improvement: ☒

Needs Improvement

As long as the area beneath a ground-mounted solar PV system is pervious (e.g. grass, native vegetation, etc.) the system should be exempt from lot coverage and impervious surface requirements. The tilt and spacing of solar panels allow for precipitation to drain into the pervious ground cover. Ground-mounted PV systems are not analogous to paved driveways or accessory structures like sheds, garages, or accessory dwelling units and therefore do not need to be included in lot coverage or impervious surface calculations.

Applicable SolSmart Credit: PZ-8, Ensure the zoning ordinance exempts small ground-mounted solar PV from certain restrictions on accessory uses (e.g. setbacks, coverage or impervious surface calculations, or other restrictions).

Suggested Language

Ground-mounted solar energy systems are exempt from lot coverage and impervious surface requirements if the area under the system contains vegetative ground cover.

Ground-mounted Solar Primary Use

Ground-mounted Solar Primary Use

The code does NOT include standards for primary use ground-mounted solar PV.

Code Language

Section:

Reviewer Comments

Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: ☐

Needs Improvement ☒

Needs Improvement

The code doesn't contain any requirements for primary use solar energy systems. If the community has enough usable land that could be developed for a large-scale solar energy system, they should include development standards for primary use solar energy systems into the zoning code. This could be of particular interest if there is a brownfield site such as a landfill available for development.

Applicable SolSmart Credits: PZ-9, Ensure the zoning ordinance establishes a clear regulatory pathway for large-scale solar PV (e.g. through a special use permit or through inclusion among allowed conditional uses).

Suggested Language

See pages 12 -13 in SolSmart's [Best Practice Guidance for Solar and Zoning](#) for a list of state model solar ordinances that contain template language for primary use solar energy systems.

Barrier Review

Solar energy standards should serve to guide and enable solar development, not create ambiguity, or restrict solar development. Certain design and performance standards can create significant barriers to solar PV. The inclusion of any of the following standards are not best practices and will likely impact the local government's ability to achieve SolSmart Gold designation. The statements containing NOT align with best practices. In addition to removing existing barriers, this review can help ensure that barriers are not introduced if the community updates their zoning code to include additional solar language.

Roof-mounted Solar Screening

The code does NOT require screening for roof-mounted solar PV systems.

Code Language

Section:

Reviewer Comments

Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: ☒

Barrier: ☐

It is not best practice to require screening for roof-mounted solar energy systems. Screening requirements may increase installation costs and decrease system efficiency. Solar PV performance depends on optimal siting of the system and clear access to solar radiation. Screening requirements could negatively impact system performance if the screening results in shading. Screening requirements could also hide the location of important system components that are necessary to shut off a system in case of a fire or other type of emergency.

Limits to System Visibility

The code does NOT include standards to limit system visibility (e.g. not visible from public rights of way).

Code Language

Section:

Reviewer Comments

Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: ☒

Barrier: ☐

It is not a best practice to suggest the placement of solar panels should be done to reduce their visibility. In fact, it could severely limit where solar energy systems are installed. Solar PV performance depends on panel location with the best performance occurring when panels are located on a southerly exposure. Less than optimal siting for solar panels can decrease the amount of sunlight a system receives and thereby negatively impact performance.

Aesthetic Standards

The code does NOT include aesthetic standards for solar PV systems.

Code Language

Section:

Reviewer Comments

Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: ☒

Barrier: ☐

It is not a best practice to require systems to blend into the architecture of the structure, be camouflaged from public view, be constructed of dull or dark colors, or be non-reflective. Aesthetic requirements can increase installation costs but would most likely prohibit a solar energy system from being installed since key system components like solar panels cannot be altered or painted to blend into the architecture or color scheme of a building. Aesthetic requirements could also hide the location of important system components that are necessary to shut off a system in case of a fire or other type of emergency.

Glare, Glint, and/or Noise Standards

The code does NOT include glare, glint, and/or noise standards for solar PV systems.

Code Language

Section:

Reviewer Comments

Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: ☒

Barrier: ☐

It is not a best practice to require a glare study prior to the installation of a solar energy system. Solar PV panels are designed to absorb incoming solar radiation and limit the amount of reflected light. Solar panels are designed with anti-reflective glass. A glare study will increase installation costs.

It is not a best practice to suggest the placement of solar panels should be done to minimize glare. In fact, it could severely limit where solar energy systems are installed. Solar PV performance depends on panel location with the best performance occurring when panels are located on a southerly exposure. Less than optimal siting for solar panels can decrease the amount of sunlight a system receives and thereby negatively impact performance. Additionally, solar PV panels are designed to absorb incoming solar radiation and limit the amount of reflected light. Solar panels are designed with anti-reflective glass.

The glare from a solar panel is similar to that of smooth water. A glare study is recommended if solar panels will be sited close to an airport but otherwise the analysis is usually unnecessary, adding time and cost to a project.

It is not a best practice to require an acoustic study or have maximum level of noise the system can produce. Roof-mounted solar energy systems produce very minimal noise. An acoustic study will increase installation costs.

Roof Space Coverage Limit

The code does NOT limit solar PV system coverage to a percentage/part of the available roof space.

Code Language

Section:

Reviewer Comments

Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: ☒ Barrier: ☐

It is not a best practice to limit the coverage of a roof-mounted solar energy system. All buildings should have the opportunity to install a roof-mounted solar energy system to the maximum extent possible, so long as the roof is structurally capable of holding the load and applicable emergency access requirements are maintained. Maximizing a solar PV systems roof coverage is important goal since buildings are transitioning to electric appliances and systems and incorporating electric vehicle charging equipment.

Prohibition on Flat or Low Sloped Roofs

The code does NOT prohibit solar PV systems on flat or low sloped roofs.

Code Language

Section:

Reviewer Comments

Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: ☒ Barrier: ☐

It is not a best practice to prohibit solar energy systems on flat or low sloped roofs. All buildings should have the opportunity to install a roof-mounted solar energy system regardless of roof slope, so long as the roof is structurally capable of having a solar energy system. Many buildings with flat roofs like warehouses, data centers, distribution centers, and big box retail stores are excellent candidates for roof-mounted solar energy systems.

Limits on Electricity Production

The code does NOT include limits on how much electricity a solar PV system can produce.

Code Language

Section:

Reviewer Comments

Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: ☒ Barrier: ☐

It is not a best practice to include limits on the amount of electricity a solar energy system can produce. Regulations and policies like this are normally set by a state entity (Public Utility Commission/Public Service Commission) and/or local electric utility and are not appropriate for zoning codes.

Limits on Electricity Consumption

The code does NOT include limits on where a solar PV system's energy is consumed.

Code Language

Section:

Reviewer Comments

Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: ☒ Barrier: ☐

It is not a best practice to include limits on where a solar energy system's electricity can be consumed. Regulations and policies like this are normally set by a state entity (Public Utility Commission/Public Service Commission) and/or local electric utility and are not appropriate for zoning codes.

Discretionary Review Process

The code does NOT identify a discretionary review process for accessory use solar PV.

Code Language

Section:

Reviewer Comments

Aligned with SolSmart Recommendations: ☒

Barrier: ☐

It is not a best practice to have a discretionary review process for accessory use solar PV. This has the potential to be an onerous and/or subjective process for accessory-use solar energy systems and could increase a project's timeline and costs. Roof-mounted systems should be an allowed or by-right use and only need to go through the building permit process to ensure compliance with applicable building and electrical codes. Depending on the complexity of a conditional use permit process, the time it takes to permit a small, accessory-use solar energy system may increase the cost of the project and therefore decrease the ability of all residents and business to be able to access and afford solar.

Conclusions

The Columbia Heights Zoning Code does not currently mention solar energy. The code could be enhanced by defining key solar energy systems, specifying where solar is permitted, and defining development standards for roof-mounted and ground-mounted accessory use solar.

Please see [Best Practice Guidance for Solar and Zoning - Accessory Use](#) for additional recommendations.

I, Andrew Boucher as City Planner of the City of Columbia Heights, Minnesota, have received the zoning review and read its findings.

Signature: 

Date: 1-2-25

Please note that this review is not an endorsement or recommendation for changing and/or updating the zoning code. This is an informational review only.

If the local government has clarifying comments, please provide them in a memo to the SolSmart team.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-087**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOLSMART DESIGNATION PROGRAM AND APPROVE THE SOLAR STATEMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED BY the City Council (the “Council”) of the City of Columbia Heights, Minnesota (the “City”) as follows:

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2024, the Sustainability Commission heard a presentation on SolSmart and reviewed the City’s statement to participate in the program before giving a positive recommendation to the Council Liaison to introduce the proposal at the next City Council meeting; and

WHEREAS, on November 25, 2024, the City Council reviewed the solar statement, online checklist for permitting and inspection information, and the program guide identifying various actions that are recognized and celebrated by Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Designations after achieving a number of points in Permitting and Inspection, Planning and Zoning, Government Operations, Community Engagement, and Market Development, and provided staff with direction to authorize participation in the SolSmart Designation Program; and

WHEREAS, the City has indicated interest in SolSmart’s program to make progress on the goals identified in Minnesota’s Climate Action Framework, expand the services and programs available to commercial and residential tenants and property owners, and enhance the overall health of the built community; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that participation in SolSmart will advance goals of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Partners in Energy as well as core city strategies such as healthy and safe communities, strong infrastructure and public services, sustainable, and trusted and engaged leadership; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City does hereby approve Resolution No. 2024 – 087 authorizing the participation in the SolSmart Designation Program with the following requirements:

1. Provide a Solar Statement demonstrating the City’s commitment to pursue SolSmart Designation.
2. Post an online checklist detailing the required permit(s), submittals, and steps of the permitting process for residential rooftop solar PV.
3. Review zoning requirements and identify restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit solar PV development such as height restrictions, setback requirements, screening and visibility, etc. and have these compiled in a memo.

ORDER OF COUNCIL


Passed this 25th day of November, 2024

Offered by: James

Seconded by: Spriggs

Roll Call: All Ayes, Buesgens absent

Attest:


Sara Ton, City Clerk/Council Secretary


Amada Márquez Simula, Mayor

City of Columbia Heights | Community Development3989 Central Avenue NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421 ▪ Ph: 763-706-3670 ▪ www.columbiaheightsmn.gov**Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System Permitting Checklist**

The pre-submittal checklist below contains the minimum information and project plan details required to be submitted to the City of Columbia Heights when applying for a permit to install a residential or commercial/non-residential solar photovoltaic (PV) system. The intent of using the checklist is to provide transparent and well-defined information to minimize the number of required revisions, improve permit application quality, and accelerate the application and review process.

Codes and Design Criteria

The City of Columbia Heights has adopted the following codes: [2020 Minnesota Residential Code, 2020 Minnesota Building Code, 2024 Minnesota Commercial Energy Code, 2020 Minnesota Accessibility Code, 2020 Minnesota Mechanical and Fuel Gas Code, 2020 Minnesota Plumbing Code, 2020 Minnesota Conservation Code for Existing Buildings, 2020 Minnesota Fire Code, Minnesota Electrical Code.

The following local design criteria should be used: max wind speed 115mph, ground snow load is 50psf, frost depth is 42", maximum assumable soil bearing capacity can vary from location to location. In the absence of soil data we use 2500psf.

Required Permits

A permit must be obtained prior to the start of any work. Complete the following permit application form(s) and submit any additional required documents. We require engineering for all solar installations. This is mainly because of the nature of our housing stock.

Residential Solar PV System:

- ☐ Electrical Permit
- ☐ Building Permit

Commercial/non-residential Solar PV System:

- ☐ Electrical Permit
- ☐ Building Permit

Solar PV System Plus Technologies:

- ☐ Electrical Permit
- ☐ Building Permit

Primary Use Ground-mounted Solar PV System:

- ☐ Electrical Permit
- ☐ Building Permit

Additional Required Documents

- ☐ Site Plan
 - Site plan should show the location of major components on the property. The site plan drawing need not be exactly to scale, but it should represent relative location of components at site (see supplied example site plan).
 - Roof access, pathways and spacing requirements do not be provided as our fire department does not deploy rooftop operations.
- ☐ Electrical Diagram

- Electrical permits are issued through the MN Department of Labor and Industry.
- ☐ Specification sheets and installation manuals (if available)
 - Provide spec sheets and manuals for all manufactured components including, but not limited to, PV modules, inverter(s), combiner box, disconnects, and mounting system

Contractor Requirements

A new law effective July 1, 2023, requires companies that contract with residential homeowners to install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on homes in Minnesota be licensed as a residential building contractor or remodeler.

Permit Fees

Permit fees are valuation based on a sliding scale. For a \$20,000 residential installation the permit fee would be \$422, plan review would be \$274.30, and a state surcharge of \$10. For more information, please contact the Community Development Department at 763-706-3670.

Submit Permit Application

Permits may be submitted in person, online, or via mail. Online is likely the easiest option.

Review Process Timeline

The Building Safety Department is committed to providing a timely review of solar PV permit applications. Best efforts are made to review completed residential solar permit applications within 7 business days and commercial/non-residential solar permit applications within 7 business days. These turnaround times are typical, not guaranteed. Columbia Heights has a staff of dedicated individuals, but workloads, vacations, and sick leave can cause unforeseen delays that may impact turnaround time.

Certain circumstances can prolong the permit turnaround time including:

- Applicant does not submit all required information
- Contractor applying for permit is not a licensed contractor
- Equipment is not listed

Permit Status

To check your permit status please call 763-706-3670

Permit Expiration

All permits expire 180 days after date of issue. Failure to start the work authorized by a permit within this six-month period renders the permit invalid and a new permit must be obtained. Once work begins, noticeable progress must continue until completion. All work must be complete within eighteen (18) months of a permit issue date.

Scheduling an Inspection and the Inspection Process

To schedule an inspection please call 763-706-3670. Typically, inspections are completed within 3 days. Inspections are scheduled for a specific time.

A residential solar PV system typically requires one inspection unless roof modifications are needed.

- Framing (for roof modifications only)
- Final building inspection after the state electrical inspection has been completed.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, please contact us at:

- Inspections@columbiaheightsmn.gov

- Office Phone Number: 763-706-3670

Address:**Hours of Operation**

- Office: Mon - Fri 8 am to 4:30 pm
- Permit Counter: Mon - Fri from 8 am to 4:30 pm



PROGRAM GUIDE

JUNE 2024



SolSmart – Standard Pathway Program Guide

Welcome to SolSmart!

Congratulations on taking action to expand opportunities for solar in your community! In the next ten years, the amount of solar energy in the U.S. is expected grow dramatically- by 2033 there is likely to be five times more solar installed than there is today!¹ By implementing solar-friendly policies, not only can you help accelerate this transition to clean energy, but you can also ensure your community is poised to take advantage of the many benefits. Becoming SolSmart-designated means you are helping your residents save money, protecting natural resources, bolstering local resilience and increasing job opportunities in the clean energy sector. Through SolSmart, your community will get access to free technical assistance and learn how to implement strategies that make solar more affordable and accessible to all residents and businesses. Your SolSmart designation will send a signal that your community is “open for solar business,” encouraging growth of local solar companies and other sustainability-minded businesses.



Recognizing Local Solar Achievements

Since 2016, over 500 communities across the U.S. have received SolSmart designation. Together, we are making solar more affordable, attaining local clean energy goals and creating jobs and opportunities for all Americans to share in the benefits of clean, renewable energy!

This guide is a comprehensive resource to help you implement solar best practices in your community and gain national recognition by earning SolSmart designation! This guide will help you to navigate the “Standard Pathway,” which is applicable to most local governments that have authority over permitting, planning, zoning and/or inspection processes. Local governments that do not control these processes should refer to the SolSmart Modified Pathway Program Guide. Regional Organizations, including Regional Planning Commissions and Councils of Governments, should refer to the Regional Organization Program Guide.

The SolSmart program will connect you with solar best practices from across the country and provide clear guidance on how to implement these actions. Along the way you will receive points for the actions you take and achieve recognition as a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum SolSmart-designated community! Throughout this process, our technical assistance providers are available to provide support at no cost. Please [complete this form](#) to connect with a technical assistance provider and get started on the path to SolSmart designation.

Contents

I. [SolSmart Overview](#), pg. 2

An introduction to the SolSmart Program and the designation process.

II. [Criteria Overview](#), pg. 5

A list of SolSmart criteria organized by category.

III. [SolSmart Technical Assistance and Designation Process](#), pg. 11

A summary of the designation process and how to use the information in the guide to achieve designation.

IV. [Criteria Detail and Verification Guidance](#), pg. 12

A detailed description of each SolSmart criteria with guidance and examples to assist you in implementing solar best practices and achieving points toward designation.

¹ Solar Energy Industries Association, *Solar Market Insight Report 2022 Year in Review*, March 2023, available at <https://www.seia.org/research-resources/solar-market-insight-report-2022-year-review>

I. SolSmart Overview

Across the United States, communities are increasingly using solar energy to power their homes and businesses and enjoying the benefits of clean, reliable, and affordable electricity. Rapidly declining prices for solar and related technologies have brought vast amounts of solar energy into the mainstream within a few short years. Homeowners, businesses, schools and local governments are using solar energy to drastically reduce their utility costs, while also reducing the environmental impact of their energy use. As natural disasters become more frequent and intense, distributed solar and energy storage is also bolstering energy resilience.

Local and regional governments play an important role in establishing policies, procedures and programs that impact solar deployment in communities. When local governments create barriers to solar in their local plans, permitting and other policies, either intentionally or unintentionally, they can hinder solar development. Alternately, when local governments provide a supportive environment for solar energy and take steps to streamline permitting, inspection and zoning processes, they expedite the installation of solar PV systems and help make it more affordable for residents and businesses.

Action at the local level is also fundamental to ensuring that solar programs are equitable and inclusive and ultimately deliver shared benefits to all Americans. SolSmart is committed to the goals of the federal [Justice40 initiative](#) to provide equitable opportunities for underserved communities which face barriers including fossil fuel dependence, energy burden, environmental and climate hazards, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. SolSmart criteria reflect the importance of developing equitable and inclusive solar policies and programs.

The SolSmart program has two key components. First, the program provides no-cost technical assistance to help local governments follow national best practices to expand solar energy use in their jurisdictions. Second, it recognizes and celebrates these communities with SolSmart designations of Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum. SolSmart is led by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO).

Local Policies are Important to Reducing Cost

While the cost of solar panels and equipment has decreased considerably, there are still significant opportunities to reduce “soft costs.” “Soft costs” refer to business or administrative processes that increase the time and money it takes to install a solar energy system — costs that are then passed on to customers. These include costs associated with sales and marketing, permitting processes, planning, zoning considerations, financing and a wide variety of other factors. Overall, these soft costs represent about 65% of the total cost of a solar energy system.¹

The U.S. Department of Energy’s Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) funds SolSmart, to help communities remove administrative barriers, streamline processes and improve local policies in ways that further local goals and reduce solar soft costs.

¹ U.S. Department of Energy, *Soft Costs Webpage*, available at <https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/solar-soft-costs-basics>

Designation Levels

The SolSmart program has developed a set of designation criteria based on established best practices that encourage the growth of solar energy at the local level. The criteria for the Standard Pathway are organized into five categories – Permitting and Inspection, Planning and Zoning, Government Operations, Community Engagement and Market Development. Within each category, SolSmart provides clear guidance and templates to help communities put these practices into action. Some of the criteria are prerequisites, while others are elective. Each criterion has a corresponding point value. Upon meeting the prerequisites and reaching a sufficient number of points in each category, a participant qualifies for SolSmart designation.

There are four levels of SolSmart designation for local governments. Below are the requirements for each level. Communities that earn 60% of the available points in a category are additionally eligible for a special recognition award.

Communities may achieve a designation and then continue to work toward higher designation levels by implementing more actions. SolSmart technical assistance is available to help communities “level up.”



Bronze	60 Total Points	3 Prerequisite Criteria
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 Points in Permitting & Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Points in Planning & Zoning <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Points from any other category	<input type="checkbox"/> Solar Statement (PR-1) <input type="checkbox"/> Solar permitting checklist (PI-1) <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning review (PZ-1)
Silver	100 Total Points	4 Prerequisite Criteria
	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete bronze designation requirements*	<input type="checkbox"/> Permit staff training (PI-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Inspection staff training (PI-3) <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning clarification (PZ-4) <input type="checkbox"/> Solar landing page (CE-1)
Gold	200 Total Points	3 Prerequisite Criteria
	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete silver designation requirements*	<input type="checkbox"/> Permit turnaround time (PI-4) <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning accessory use (PZ-5) <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning barrier removal (PZ-6)
Platinum	350 Total Points	4 Prerequisite Criteria
	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete gold designation requirements*	<input type="checkbox"/> Instant permitting (PI-5) <input type="checkbox"/> Post metrics (PI-6) <input type="checkbox"/> Install solar (GO-1) <input type="checkbox"/> Community partnerships (CE-2)

* If you are leveling-up to the next designation level, and your previous designation was completed more than two years ago, you may be asked to confirm that prior completed actions and prerequisites are still current.

Criteria Categories

Below is a summary of each category and the types of actions that are recognized as best practices in each.

Permitting and Inspection (PI) | 28 Criteria | 275 Points

Most local governments have direct oversight of the permitting and inspection policies and procedures within their jurisdiction. Communities that implement permitting best practices provide solar developers and installers with a transparent, efficient, and cost-effective approval process. Well-trained staff and simplified permit applications can reduce staff time needed to review permits which allows them to focus on other priorities. Clear inspection procedures ensure compliance with applicable state and local codes while protecting public health and safety. *Many of the criteria in the permitting and inspection category can be verified by providing information in a detailed permitting checklist made publicly available on a local government website. Verification of trainings for permitting and inspection staff and documented improvements to inspection processes are also part of ensuring a transparent and efficient permitting and inspection process.*

Planning and Zoning (PZ) | 26 Criteria | 215 Points

Local government planning and zoning regulations can help facilitate the rapid expansion of solar energy and associated technologies, including energy storage and electric vehicles, within a community. Communities can utilize planning and zoning regulations to increase opportunities for rooftop and ground-mounted solar energy while also advancing other community goals including affordable housing, economic development, clean transportation and the protection of natural and cultural resources. Plans should set forth a vision for the community's clean energy future, while zoning codes should provide clear and transparent regulations on the development and use of solar energy within the jurisdiction. *Many of the criteria in the planning and zoning category can be verified by providing a link to a community's codes, ordinances, and community plans.*

Government Operations (GO) | 14 Criteria | 185 Points

Local governments can lead the way by installing solar energy on public facilities and land. Communities can engage with their local utility to discuss goals for solar energy, net metering, interconnection, and community solar. These actions are high impact and can directly lead to an increase in solar energy deployment. *Many of the criteria in the government operations category can be verified by providing documents demonstrating installed solar capacity such as news articles about solar installations, dashboards/metrics showing solar production, and contracts that demonstrate solar project construction.*

Community Engagement (CE) | 13 Criteria | 90 Points

Local governments can be an important and trusted source of information for residents, businesses, and solar installers. Providing clear, high-quality information, public education and inclusive engagement opportunities can help residents and businesses interested in solar energy make informed decisions. Local governments can support more equitable outcomes by partnering with community organizations and developing goals and strategies that meet the needs of disadvantaged communities. *Many of the criteria in the community engagement category can be verified by providing information about a community's solar energy goals, strategies and partnerships on a local government's solar webpage.*

Market Development (MD) | 10 Criteria | 155 Points

Local governments can collaborate and partner with organizations to promote solar development within their jurisdiction. Supporting a community solar program, promoting a solarize group-buy campaign, or partnering with a local financial institution can make solar energy more affordable and accessible for homes and

businesses while improving business opportunities for solar installers. *Many of the criteria in the market development category can be verified by providing news articles about the local government's role in supporting solar development or by providing official documents that established policies or programs.*

II. Criteria Overview

The SolSmart Standard Pathway contains 92 criteria, each of which is a specific action that local governments can implement to encourage solar energy development in their community. Each criterion has a corresponding point value of 5, 10, or 20. A detailed description with relevant templates, examples and resources to help you achieve each criterion is available in Section IV.

Criteria Identifier	Criteria Points	Program Participation Prerequisite Criteria
PR-1	Req'd	Provide a document that demonstrates your local government's commitment to pursue SolSmart designation.

Criteria Identifier	Criteria Points	Permitting and Inspection Criteria
PI-1	Req'd	Post an online checklist detailing the required permit(s), submittals, and steps of your community's permitting process for residential rooftop solar PV. (Required for Bronze)
PI-2	10	Train permitting staff on best practices for permitting solar PV and/or solar and storage systems. Training must have occurred in the past two years. (Required for Silver)
PI-3	10	Train inspection staff on best practices for inspecting solar PV and/or solar and storage systems. Training must have occurred within the past two years. (Required for Silver)
PI-4	20	Post an online statement confirming a three-business day turnaround time for residential rooftop solar PV. (Required for Gold)
PI-5	20	Demonstrate pathway for instant/automatic approval of residential rooftop solar PV systems (e.g., using SolarAPP+). (Required for Platinum)
PI-6	10	Post community metrics related to the number of solar PV and solar + storage permits & inspections processed by the community annually, average annual permitting & inspection timelines. (Required for Platinum)
PI-7	5	Adopt a standard solar PV permit application form aligned with best practices.
PI-8	5	Distinguish between solar PV systems qualifying for streamlined and standard permit review.
PI-9	5	Require no more than one permit application form for a small rooftop solar PV system.
PI-10	20	Provide an online process for solar PV permit submission and approval.
PI-11	5	Receive a demonstration of an instant or automated platform (e.g., SolarAPP+) and discuss how it might be implemented in the permitting process.
PI-12	20	Exempt or waive fees for residential solar PV permit applications.
PI-13	5	Exempt or waive fees for residential solar PV permit applications for LMI customers.
PI-14	5	Demonstrate that residential permit fees for solar PV are \$500 or less.
PI-15	10	Demonstrate that commercial permit fees for solar PV are based on cost-recovery and capped at a reasonable level so fees do not become a net revenue source. (e.g., fees cover the cost of the staff time required to review and process the permit application).

PI-16	10	Post an online checklist detailing the required permit(s), submittals, and steps of your community's solar plus (e.g., battery storage, and/or electric vehicle charging) permitting process.
PI-17	10	Post an online checklist detailing the required permit(s), submittals, and steps of your community's permitting process for primary use ground-mount solar and include any additional state required permits.
PI-18	10	Post solar PV inspection requirements online, including the inspection process and what details inspectors will review.
PI-19	10	Require no more than one inspection for small rooftop solar PV.
PI-20	10	Offer inspection appointment times in lieu of appointment windows for solar PV.
PI-21	10	Provide an online process for solar PV inspection scheduling.
PI-22	10	Show that the community has implemented virtual, photo, or another innovative inspection practice with solar and/or solar plus storage.
PI-23	10	Post solar plus (e.g., battery storage and/or electric vehicle charging) inspection requirements online, including the inspection process and what details inspectors will review.
PI-24	10	Train fire and safety staff on solar PV and/or solar and storage systems. Training must have occurred in the past two years.
PI-25	10	Train fire and safety staff on specific plans and procedures for responding to an emergency at a large-scale solar PV system within the jurisdiction. (This may include a walk-through of the site, coordinated with the project's owner/operator). Training must have occurred in the past two years.
PI-26	10	Share site specific solar PV and/or solar and storage permit data, including addresses, with first responders and their departments. (e.g., through software that allows users to view searchable, filterable data about a specific site and system).
PI-27	5	Clearly identify all local amendments to model codes where local code deviates from model code for solar and solar plus storage. Summarize those local amendments on a public webpage.
PI-28	10	Demonstrate that current model code (IRC, IBC, and NEC) cycle is implemented in the community for solar and solar plus storage (codes must be the most recent editions (or penultimate edition)).

Criteria Identifier	Criteria Points	<u>Planning and Zoning Criteria</u>
PZ-1	Req'd	Review zoning requirements and identify restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit solar PV development. Compile findings in a memo. (Required for Bronze). Examples include: height restrictions, set-back requirements, screening requirements, visibility restrictions, etc.
PZ-2	5	Present PZ-1 memo findings to planning commission or relevant body.
PZ-3	5	Draft proposed language for changes to zoning code based on PZ-1 memo and PZ-2 dialogue. Involve planners and/or local zoning experts and/or the public (e.g., through community-based organizations) in the creation of the draft language.
PZ-4	0	Post an online document from the Planning/Zoning Department that states accessory use solar PV is allowed by-right in all major zones. (e.g., via a zoning determination letter). (Required for Silver unless Gold Requirement PZ-5 is achieved. If PZ-5 is achieved, PZ-4 is not necessary.)

PZ-5	10	Codify in the zoning ordinance that accessory use rooftop solar PV is explicitly allowed by-right in all major zones. (Required for Gold, PZ-4 is optional)
PZ-6	10	Ensure the zoning ordinance language does not include intentional or unintentional barriers to accessory use rooftop solar PV, including but not limited to aesthetic or performance standards, screening requirements, limits to visibility, excessive restrictions to system size or rooftop coverage, glare or glint regulations, and subjective design reviews. (Required for Gold, PZ-4 is optional)
PZ-7	5	Ensure the zoning ordinance permits small ground-mounted solar PV as an accessory use in at least one zoning district.
PZ-8	5	Ensure the zoning ordinance exempts small ground-mounted solar PV from certain restrictions on accessory uses (e.g., setbacks, coverage or impervious surface calculations, or other restrictions).
PZ-9	5	Ensure the zoning ordinance establishes a clear regulatory pathway for large-scale solar PV (e.g., through a special use permit or through inclusion among allowed conditional uses).
PZ-10	10	Ensure the zoning ordinance includes a native perennial vegetation and/or habitat-friendly ground cover standard for large-scale solar PV.
PZ-11	5	Ensure the zoning ordinance enables co-location of solar PV with an agricultural use such as grazing, apiaries, or crops (agrivoltaics).
PZ-12	5	Ensure the zoning ordinance requires a decommissioning plan that outlines the terms and conditions for a large-scale solar PV system's proper removal at the end of its useful life cycle or in the event of cessation of operation. (The decommissioning plan may include steps to remove the system, requirements for disposal and/or recycling of system components, and restoration as needed to allow for return to agriculture or other land use).
PZ-13	5	Ensure the zoning ordinance establishes solar energy zones and/or solar overlays for large-scale solar PV.
PZ-14	10	Require new construction to be solar ready in at least one zoning district by adopting Appendix U (International Code Council), Appendix RB (International Energy Conservation Code), or another mechanism.
PZ-15	20	Codify a solar requirement for new construction and/or retrofits meeting a specific threshold, in at least one zoning district.
PZ-16	10	Require new construction affordable housing and multifamily housing to be solar ready.
PZ-17	10	Provide clear guidance for the installation of solar PV in areas such as historic properties, flood zones or special overlay districts.
PZ-18	10	Train planning and zoning staff on best practices in planning and zoning for solar PV. Training must have occurred in the past two years.
PZ-19	5	Post an online fact sheet that provides an overview of what zoning allows for solar PV under what conditions and in which districts (e.g., types and sizes of solar systems permitted, the processes required, and other relevant information).
PZ-20	10	Include specific solar PV goals, metrics, and strategies in the most current published version of relevant local plans (e.g., energy plan, climate plan, comprehensive plan).
PZ-21	5	Draft new or updated language and provide a timeline for the inclusion of specific solar PV goals, metrics, and/or strategies into existing and/or future plans.
PZ-22	5	Share solar PV progress towards achieving targets or metrics from PZ-20 on the solar landing page.
PZ-23	10	Include specific large-scale solar PV goals, metrics, and strategies in the most current published version of relevant local plans (e.g., energy plan, climate plan, comprehensive plan).
PZ-24	20	Develop a solar PV assessment that identifies community-wide feasibility for solar PV development within a jurisdiction (differentiate between large-scale, municipal, etc.)

PZ-25	10	Enable solar rights through a local solar access ordinance.
PZ-26	20	Codify in the zoning ordinance that accessory use energy storage systems are explicitly allowed by-right in all major zones.

Criteria Identifier	Criteria Points	<u>Government Operations Criteria</u>
GO-1	20	Install solar PV on local government facilities and/or local government-controlled land. (Required for Platinum)
GO-2	10	Discuss community goals for solar PV, net metering, community solar, and/or interconnection processes with the local utility and explore areas for future collaboration.
GO-3	10	Coordinate with regional organizations and/or local governments to engage utilities on advancing solar policies such as utility procurement of solar PV, green tariffs, and/or interconnection process improvements.
GO-4	20	Demonstrate coordination between local government inspectors and utility staff to reduce Permission to Operate timeline for solar PV.
GO-5	10	Conduct feasibility analysis for solar PV on local government facilities and/or local government-controlled land.
GO-6	20	Install solar PV integrated with other technologies such as battery storage or electric vehicle charging on local government facilities and/or local government-controlled land.
GO-7	20	Install solar PV on local government-controlled brownfields and/or under-utilized properties.
GO-8	10	Require new local government facilities and/or facility retrofits meeting a specific threshold to be solar ready.
GO-9	20	Procure solar energy for municipal operations through an offsite physical power purchase agreement (PPA), virtual PPA, green tariff or similar structure.
GO-10	5	Obtain a Community Benefits Agreement with solar developer for solar installation.
GO-11	10	Post metrics related to the number of municipal solar PV or solar PV plus storage/EV installations and installed capacity, municipal solar PV energy procured (ownership, PPAs, community solar offtake), and percent (%) of municipal energy usage offset by renewable energy.
GO-12	10	Directly install or provide technical or financial support for the installation of solar PV on affordable housing, multifamily housing, community-based organizations, and/or resilience hubs.
GO-13	10	Train local government staff on regulatory and (where applicable) wholesale market barriers to solar deployment and potential engagement pathways to address these barriers. Training must have occurred in the past two years.
GO-14	10	Train local government staff on best practices and issues regarding solar interconnection with the local utility. Training must have occurred within the past two years.

Criteria Identifier	Criteria Points	<u>Community Engagement Criteria</u>
CE-1	10	Post a solar landing page on local government's website with information that may include the community's solar goals, educational materials and tools that promote solar, and resources for solar development (e.g., permitting checklist, application forms, zoning regulations, etc.). (Required for Silver)
CE-2	20	Establish partnerships with local community-based organizations or other organizations focused on serving disadvantaged communities within your community to define your community's solar equity goals, develop implementation strategies, and establish a plan for tracking and reporting on progress. (Required for Platinum)
CE-3	5	Post online resources about residential and commercial solar PV financing options and incentives.
CE-4	5	Post online resources about consumer protection and solar PV.
CE-5	5	Post an online summary of state policies related to a property owner's solar access and solar rights, including links to state-level policy.
CE-6	5	Post an online summary of state policies related to Homeowner Associations (HOAs) ability to regulate and/or restrict solar PV, including links to state-level policy.
CE-7	5	Post online resources about solar installers and/or solar quote platforms for solar PV.
CE-8	5	Post an online solar map for your community.
CE-9	5	Post an online dashboard or summary of solar PV metrics for your community, including total installed solar PV capacity, solar PV + storage installations, and community solar and/or solarize subscribers (if applicable). Metrics should identify solar PV adoption in disadvantaged communities as well.
CE-10	5	Distribute solar job training and career opportunities in coordination with local colleges and/or workforce development organizations.
CE-11	5	Demonstrate local government support for local solar projects through speeches, press releases, opinion articles, etc.
CE-12	10	Discuss solar PV goals and/or strategies for increasing solar PV development, including large-scale solar plans, solar access, and/or solar adoption in disadvantaged communities, within an appropriate committee, commission, taskforce, and/or working group. (e.g., solar is a recurring agenda item during monthly sustainability commission meetings).
CE-13	5	Support a solar informational session and/or solar tour explaining solar PV opportunities and policies. Show that session/tour was made accessible to all members of the community including those in disadvantaged communities. Session/Tour must have occurred within the last 2 years.

Criteria Identifier	Criteria Points	<u>Market Development Criteria</u>
MD-1	20	Demonstrate activity in state regulatory and/or legislative proceedings regarding solar PV.
MD-2	20	Support a community-wide group purchase program (e.g., Solarize). Program must have occurred within the last 2 years.
MD-3	10	Define and implement a pathway specifically for low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents to participate in a community-wide group purchase program through program design and/or financing support options.
MD-4	20	Support a community solar program.

MD-5	10	Define and implement a pathway specifically for low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents to participate in a community solar program through program design and/or financing support options.
MD-6	20	Provide residents with Community Choice Aggregation/Energy that includes solar PV as a power generation source.
MD-7	10	Provide a PACE financing program that includes solar PV as an eligible technology.
MD-8	20	Provide local incentives or locally-enabled finance (e.g., a revolving loan fund) for solar PV and/or solar PV + technologies (e.g., battery storage and/or electric vehicle charging).
MD-9	5	Provide local incentives for solar PV to low-to-moderate income (LMI) households, disadvantaged communities, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs), and/or non-profit organizations that provide community services.
MD-10	20	Partner with financial institutions and/or foundations to offer loans, rebates, grants, or other incentives for solar PV projects. (Financial institutions could include entities such as a local or regional bank, CDFI, or credit union).

Criteria Identifier	Criteria Points	Innovative Action Criteria
IA-1	Varies	The actions identified in the categories above represent many of the most common and impactful efforts communities are taking to make going solar easier and more affordable for residents and businesses. However, we know that communities across the country are developing innovative ways to promote and deploy solar energy. If your community has taken action that was not captured in any of the criteria above, please share it with us.

III. SolSmart Technical Assistance and Designation Process

Any local government, regardless of previous solar experience, is eligible for SolSmart designation and associated technical assistance. To request a call with a member of the SolSmart program, please [complete the contact form on SolSmart.org](#).

Once the local government decides to pursue SolSmart designation, they need to complete a [Solar Statement](#) and submit it to the SolSmart team. The Solar Statement demonstrates the community's commitment to work with the SolSmart program and achieve designation. The local government will be connected with one of our technical assistance providers who will work with the community to review the community's solar goals and processes. This review helps determine how close the community is to designation and helps identify any additional technical assistance needed to achieve designation. The local government will work with their technical assistance provider to develop a plan, identify which criteria they will meet to achieve their desired designation level, and implement best practices in the community. Once they have completed the required actions, the local government can submit for designation with support from their technical assistance provider.

To earn national recognition from the SolSmart Program, a community must provide documentation of the actions it has implemented. This may include a combination of signed memos, web links, program materials, policy documents, etc. as appropriate. Section IV of this Program Guide provides a detailed description of each SolSmart criterion with resources to support implementation and guidance on documentation and verification that will be required by SolSmart.

Designation Pathways

There are three pathways to SolSmart designation:

Local governments that control permitting, inspection, planning, and zoning use the **Standard Pathway (as summarized in this guide)**.

Local governments that do not control permitting, inspection, planning, and/or zoning use the **Modified/County Pathway**. This pathway is appropriate for certain counties that do not have control over one or more of those processes.

Regional organizations such as regional councils or councils of government use the **Regional Organization Pathway**.

Once the local government is ready for designation review, the submission is reviewed by the Designation Program Administrator within two weeks and the local government is notified of their designation by email.

Local governments are encouraged to celebrate and publicize their designations and to post information about SolSmart on their own websites. Many SolSmart designees have held events, shared photos and videos, and taken other actions to publicize their achievements. The designation email contains a Designation Toolkit with template press release, sample social media, and SolSmart Designation logos. SolSmart will also recognize local governments on the SolSmart website, on social media, and in the SolSmart newsletter.

IV. Criteria Detail and Verification Guidance

The SolSmart criteria are based on specific best practices that local governments and community stakeholders can implement to encourage solar energy development in their community. This section provides a detailed description of each criterion, recommended verification for designation review, community examples, templates, and/or resources.

The following provides an overview of the information that is provided for each SolSmart criterion:

Criterion Identifier	Criterion Points	Criterion Language	<input type="checkbox"/>
Objective and description.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested options to verify how the community has achieved the criterion. 			
Community Examples:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples of how other communities have completed the criterion. 			
Templates:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links to a template(s) that can help complete a criterion. 			
Resources:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links to useful websites, reports, guidebooks, etc. that provide guidance related to the criterion. 			

Solar Statement

PR-1	Req'd	Provide a document that demonstrates your local government's commitment to pursue SolSmart designation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Local governments interested in pursuing SolSmart designation must indicate their commitment to supporting solar development in their community by completing the PR-1 Solar Statement Prerequisite. The solar statement should be signed by a representative of the local government. It is preferred that the statement is signed by a department executive or an elected official, but it does not need to go through an official approval process. The solar statement demonstrates your community's commitment to pursue SolSmart designation. If possible, please place the solar statement on your local government's letterhead. While the PR-1 is a commitment to the program, the best practices included in the template provided are goals to strive for and non-binding to the criteria you can pursue.</p> <p>The solar statement should address the items listed in the bullets below. The statement does not need to be more than one page in length.</p>			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a signed solar statement that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A commitment to participate in the SolSmart designation process A statement of solar goals, areas of focus or community priorities (e.g., streamlining the permitting processor supporting a non-profit led solar initiative) A statement of support for solar development to be inclusive and equitable for all residents Past achievements or programs related to solar PV and/or renewable energy A commitment to tracking metrics related to solar PV and/or provide a benchmark of available solar metrics (e.g., the number of installed systems, capacity, growth in residential installations, etc.) A commitment of staff time and resources to improve the local market for solar PV 			
Community Examples:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hilliard, OH SolSmart Silver Hopkins, MN SolSmart Bronze Madison, NJ SolSmart Bronze 			
Templates:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SolSmart Solar Statement Template SolSmart 			

Permitting and Inspection

PI-1	Req'd	Post an online checklist detailing the required permit(s), submittals, and steps of your community's permitting process for residential rooftop solar PV. (Required for Bronze)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Providing a set of requirements for the local solar permitting process (for both residential and commercial solar) on an easy-to-find local government webpage represents a major step toward overcoming informational barriers. An online solar permit checklist can be a simple way for a community to accelerate permit approval timelines and save staff time by reducing the number of inquiries received from solar installers and requests for additional information associated with incomplete permit applications. Such checklists typically detail all the plans and forms required for approval and system design requirements.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the online solar PV permitting checklist. 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapel Hill, NC SolSmart Gold • Philadelphia, PA SolSmart Gold 			
<p>Templates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Solar Permitting Checklist Template SolSmart 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar PV Systems: Job Aids for a Consistent Plan Review Process Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) • California Solar Permitting Guidebook (4th Edition) (pg. 22-24) • Simplifying the Solar Permitting Process: Residential Solar Permitting Best Practices Explained Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) • Solar PV Construction: Codes, Permitting, and Inspection SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

PI-2	10	Train permitting staff on best practices for permitting solar PV and/or solar and storage systems. Training must have occurred in the past two years. (Required for Silver)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Regular solar PV training, completed every few years, is a best practice to ensure permit technicians and plan reviewers are up-to-date on new procedures, codes, and products within the solar industry. Trainings increase staff knowledge of solar energy systems and ensures they know the best procedures for permit application review and processing to ensure applications and supporting documents are compliant with building and electrical codes. Increased staff knowledge can improve processing efficiency, thereby reducing demands on staff time and resources. Local governments can require staff, including contracted staff through third party permitting companies, to attend full or half-day workshops (either live or online) and provide resources designed to help keep staff informed about advances in solar and storage technologies.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a signed memo with details about the permit training including name of training, name of trainer, attendees (name, title, department), date and time, location, agenda, and presentation/slides. 			
<p>Templates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Training Verification Memo SolSmart 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitting Training Module 1 IREC Solar PV Structural Plan Review – Primary Resource • Permitting Training Module 2 IREC Solar PV Electrical Plan Review– Primary Resource • Permitting Training Module 3 IREC Solar PV Plan Review Test– Primary Resource • SolSmart Training Videos Catalog SolSmart 			

PI-3	10	Train inspection staff on best practices for inspecting solar PV and/or solar and storage systems. Training must have occurred within the past two years. (Required for Silver)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular solar PV training, completed every few years, is a best practice to ensure field inspectors are up-to-date on new procedures, codes, and products within the solar industry. Trainings increase staff knowledge of solar energy systems and ensures they know the best procedures for field inspections to ensure compliance with applicable state and local building and electrical codes. Increased staff knowledge can improve inspection efficiency, thereby reducing demands on staff time and resources. Local governments can require staff, including contracted staff through third-party inspection companies, to attend full or half-day workshops (either live or online) and provide resources designed to help keep staff informed about advances in solar and storage technologies.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a signed memo with details about the inspection training including name of training, name of trainer, attendees (name, title, department), date and time, location, agenda, and presentation/slides. 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SolSmart Training Verification Memo SolSmart 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar PV Field Inspection Basics – Series Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) SolSmart Training Videos Catalog SolSmart 			

PI-4	20	Post an online statement confirming a three-business day turnaround time for residential rooftop solar PV. (Required for Gold)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a streamlined permitting process for small-scale solar PV systems (≤ 10 -15 kW) along with other efforts increase process efficiency and reduce permit turnaround times can result in significant time and cost savings for staff, solar installers, and solar customers.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to a webpage outlining a permitting pathway for small PV systems of less than three days. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexandria, VA SolSmart Gold Roseville, MN SolSmart Gold 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SolSmart Solar Permitting Checklist Template SolSmart 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Solar Permitting Guidebook (4th Edition) (pg. 22-24) National Simplified Residential PV and Energy Storage Permit Guidelines Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) Solar PV Construction: Codes, Permitting, and Inspection SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments SolarTRACE National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) 			

PI-5	20	Demonstrate pathway for instant/automatic approval of residential rooftop solar PV systems (e.g., using SolarAPP+). (Required for Platinum)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Most residential solar systems are simple and standardized, but the high volume of applications can be time consuming for local permitting departments. Online automated platforms (e.g., SolarAPP+) offer a convenient and efficient way to manage solar permitting. These platforms can help local governments to stay up to date with relevant codes, catch errors, improve communication with applicants, accelerate approval for standardized PV systems, and improve record keeping. Adopting SolarAPP+ may also enable a community to meet several other SolSmart criteria (see resource below entitled "Moving from Gold to Platinum Designation with SolarAPP+ for more information).			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to the online automated platform Utilize SolSmart Solar Permitting Checklist (see PI-1) to summarize instructions for using the automated platform 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pima County, AZ SolSmart Gold Sacramento County, CA SolSmart Gold Sonoma County, CA SolSmart Gold 			

Templates:

- [SolSmart Solar Permitting Checklist Template](#) | SolSmart

Resources:

- [Moving from Gold to Platinum Designation with SolarAPP+](#) | SolSmart
- [SolarAPP+ Benefits](#) | National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- [Register for SolarAPP+](#) | National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- [SolarAPP+ Communities](#) | National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- [SolarAPP+ Performance Case Studies](#) | National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

PI-6	10	Post community metrics related to the number of solar PV and solar + storage permits & inspections processed by the community annually, average annual permitting & inspection timelines. (Required for Platinum)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Posting metrics publicly provides transparency and allows community members to understand how the community is progressing toward its goals. This is an important way to create accountability and will help identify the need to implement further actions if goals are not being met. Metrics must be updated annually at a minimum, but communities should strive for quarterly updates.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to this information posted on the community's website or solar landing page. Include date when the information was last updated and when tracking began. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natick, MA SolSmart Gold • Fremont, CA SolSmart Platinum 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolarTRACE National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) 			

PI-7	5	Adopt a standard solar PV permit application form aligned with best practices.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developing a solar-specific permit (or combining building and electrical permits with revisions to collect information unique to solar energy systems) and posting application materials online can save time and money for those completing the forms (and their customers) and the local government staff reviewing and approving these applications.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the standard solar PV permit application form. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evanston, IL SolSmart Gold • Salt Lake City, UT SolSmart Bronze 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Solar Permit Application Template SolSmart 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York State Unified Solar Permit Application New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) • Simplified Solar Permitting Process SolSmart • National Simplified Residential PV and Energy Storage Permit Guidelines Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) • Solar PV Construction: Codes, Permitting, and Inspection SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

PI-8	5	Distinguish between solar PV systems qualifying for streamlined and standard permit review.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recognizing the relative simplicity and similarities of small-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) systems (≤ 10 -15 kW in size) can allow local jurisdictions to establish processes to expedite review and approval of these systems while maintaining its commitment to ensuring public safety. Establishing a separate, streamlined process for small-scale PV systems based on proven national best practices can reduce the time required to review and approve qualifying applications, saving time and money both for the local government and the solar customer.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to a document or web page outlining a streamlined and standard permit review policy. • Provide details in an e-mail or other written documentation from a permitting official or staff member describing the policy is also acceptable. 			

Community Examples:

- [Philadelphia, PA](#) | SolSmart Gold
- [Putnam County, GA](#) | SolSmart Silver

Templates:

- [SolSmart Solar Permitting Checklist Template](#) | SolSmart

Resources:

- [Simplifying the Solar Permitting Process: Residential Solar Permitting Best Practices Explained](#) | Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)
- [Solar PV Construction: Codes, Permitting, and Inspection](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments
- [National Simplified Residential PV and Energy Storage Permit Guidelines](#) | Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)

PI-9**5****Require no more than one permit application form for a small rooftop solar PV system.**

Since rooftop solar energy systems impact both the structural and electrical aspects of the buildings on which they are installed, many local jurisdictions require both building and electrical permits. However, residential rooftop systems with minimal structural impacts can be safely permitted without a building permit application. Relevant design aspects for systems qualifying for only one application form include (but are not limited to): mounting system features, static and dynamic loads of the system, type of roofing material and waterproofing methods, and compliance with zoning and fire codes.

Recommended Verification:

- Provide a link to the permit application form used for small rooftop solar PV systems.

Community Examples:

- [Berkeley, CA](#) | SolSmart Gold

Resources:

- [New York State Unified Solar Permit Application](#) | New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA)
- [Solar PV Construction: Codes, Permitting, and Inspection](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments

PI-10**20****Provide an online process for solar PV permit submission and approval.**

Online permit submittal, review, and approval can eliminate solar installer trips to the permitting office and reduce the amount of time permitting staff need to spend entering information from paper application forms into an online database. Online systems can also ensure all required information is submitted prior to any review, saving staff time by ensuring only completed applications are reviewed. Online permit platforms can allow for multiple staff to review materials at the same time and to track progress in the review and approval process.

Recommended Verification:

- Provide a link to the online platform and instructions for submission and approval.
- If an email-based online process is used:
 - 1) Provide details from building officials or staff describing the process; and
 - 2) Provide a copy of a sample email with personal and confidential information removed.

Community Examples:

- [Madison, WI](#) | SolSmart Gold
- [Missoula County, MT](#) | SolSmart Silver

Resources:

- [National Simplified Residential PV and Energy Storage Permit Guidelines](#) | Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)
- [Solar Automated Permit Processing \(SolarAPP+\)](#) | National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- [Simplifying the Solar Permitting Process: Residential Solar Permitting Best Practices Explained](#) | Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)
- [Solar PV Construction: Codes, Permitting, and Inspection](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments

PI-11	5	Receive a demonstration of an instant or automated platform (e.g., SolarAPP+) and discuss how it might be implemented in the permitting process.	<div>Item 3.</div> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Online automated platforms (e.g., SolarAPP+) offer a convenient and efficient way to manage solar permitting. Receiving a demonstration of a platform is an opportunity to learn how it can help local governments to stay up to date with relevant codes, catch errors, improve communication with applicants, accelerate approval for standardized PV systems, and improve record keeping. Communities can join NREL's Live Standing Demos to meet these criteria (see link below under Resources).</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed memo that includes date, attendees, presenter, summary of discussion topics and next steps 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live Standing Demos National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Automated Permitting Flyer SolSmart Register for SolarAPP+ National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) SolarAPP+ Communities National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) SolarAPP+ Performance Case Studies National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) 			
PI-12	20	Exempt or waive fees for residential solar PV permit applications.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>In addition to state and federal incentives, local governments can also incentivize solar development within their jurisdictions. Exempting or waiving permit fees for solar energy systems can incentivize community members to install solar by lowering the overall cost of the system. Communities that receive PI-12 also receive PI-14 (but do not also receive PI-13).</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to the permit fee schedule or other officially approved document that shows solar PV permit fees are exempt or waived. 			
<p>Community Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superior, CO SolSmart Bronze Boone, NC SolSmart Gold 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplifying the Solar Permitting Process: Residential Solar Permitting Best Practices Explained Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) Solar PV Construction: Codes, Permitting, and Inspection SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			
PI-13	5	Exempt or waive fees for residential solar PV permit applications for LMI customers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>One way to further reduce the barriers for LMI residents to install solar PV systems, is to exempt or waive permit fees. Communities that receive points for PI-12 cannot also receive points for PI-13.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to the permit fee schedule or other officially approved document that shows solar PV permit fees are exempt or waived with detail on the income qualifications. 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rooftop Solar Incentives Remain Effective For Low- And Moderate-Income Adoption National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) 			
PI-14	5	Demonstrate that residential permit fees for solar PV are \$500 or less.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Many local governments permit solar systems through existing permitting processes and permit fees for solar are often calculated according to value-based methods typically associated with building permits (where the fee is a certain percentage of the overall project cost). Due to the higher cost of solar installations relative to comparable projects, fees calculated by a value-based method can become expensive and exceed the cost of the staff time required to review and issue the permits. For residential systems, capping solar permit fees under \$500 or establishing a flat fee, can ensure permit fees cover staff costs without unnecessarily increasing project costs.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to the permit fee schedule or a document that outlines the permit fees applied to a solar installation. 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naperville, IL SolSmart Silver Sacramento, CA SolSmart Gold 			

Templates:

- [SolSmart Solar Residential Fees Template Memo](#) | SolSmart
- [SolSmart Solar Permitting Checklist Template](#) | SolSmart

Resources:

- [National Simplified Residential PV and Energy Storage Permit Guidelines](#) | Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)
- [Simplifying the Solar Permitting Process: Residential Solar Permitting Best Practices Explained](#) | Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)
- [Solar PV Construction: Codes, Permitting, and Inspection](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments

PI-15	10	Demonstrate that commercial permit fees for solar PV are based on cost-recovery and capped at a reasonable level so fees do not become a net revenue source. (e.g., fees cover the cost of the staff time required to review and process the permit application).	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Many local governments permit solar systems through existing permitting processes and permit fees for solar are often calculated according to value-based methods typically associated with building permits (where the fee is a certain percentage of the overall project cost). Due to the higher cost of solar installations relative to comparable projects, fees calculated by a value-based method can become expensive and exceed the cost of the staff time required to review and issue the permits. For commercial systems, basing fees on a cost-recovery method can ensure permit fees cover staff costs without unnecessarily increasing project costs.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the permit fee schedule or a document that outlines the permit fees applied to a solar installation. • Provide a narrative that explains the costs incurred in processing the permits (this should include estimates of the amount of staff hours for each stage of the process and the hourly cost of staff time). This narrative should show that the fee is not significantly higher than these costs. 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naperville, IL SolSmart Silver • Sacramento, CA SolSmart Gold 			
<p>Templates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Solar Commercial Fees Template Memo SolSmart • SolSmart Solar Permitting Checklist Template SolSmart 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplifying the Solar Permitting Process: Residential Solar Permitting Best Practices Explained Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) • Solar PV Construction: Codes, Permitting, and Inspection SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

PI-16	10	Post an online checklist detailing the required permit(s), submittals, and steps of your community's solar plus (e.g., battery storage and/or electric vehicle charging) permitting process.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Local governments can support "solar plus" technologies, including energy storage and electric vehicle charging, by providing clear information about permitting. An online permit checklist can be a simple way for a community to accelerate permit approval timelines and save staff time by reducing the number of inquiries received from installers and requests for additional information associated with incomplete permit applications. Such checklists typically detail all the plans and forms required for approval and system design requirements.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide link to online permitting checklist for solar plus, EV charging or other "solar plus" technologies. 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocklin, CA Not Designated • Sonoma, CA Not Designated • Orlando, FL SolSmart Gold • Windsor, CA Not Designated 			

Resources:

- [Battery Energy Storage System Model Permit](#) | New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA)
- [National Simplified Residential PV and Energy Storage Permit Guidelines](#) | Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)
- [Solar + Storage, A Guide for Local Governments](#) | SolSmart Webinar
- [Storage Permitting Resources](#) | Sustainable CUNY Smart Distributed Generation Hub
- [EVSE Permitting and Inspection Guidelines](#) | New Buildings Institute

PI-17	10	Post an online checklist detailing the required permit(s), submittals, and steps of your community's permitting process for primary use ground-mount solar and include any additional state required permits.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Providing a set of requirements for the local solar permitting process for primary use ground-mount solar on an easy-to-find local government webpage represents a major step toward overcoming informational barriers. An online solar permit checklist can be a simple way for a community to accelerate permit approval timelines and save staff time by reducing the number of inquiries received from solar installers and requests for additional information associated with incomplete permit applications. Such checklists typically detail all the plans and forms required for approval and system design requirements.</p>			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the online ground-mount solar PV permitting checklist. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Hollis, NH Not Designated • Orange County, CA Not Designated 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar@Scale Guidebook (pg. 88-100) ICMA and APA 			

PI-18	10	Post solar PV inspection requirements online, including the inspection process and what details inspectors will review.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Providing an online list of inspection requirements will reduce informational barriers between inspectors and solar installers, helping to ensure that all items in the inspection process have been adequately addressed before inspectors arrive on site. These checklists can be used to highlight “common mistakes” made by installers.</p>			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the online document outlining the inspection process and requirements. 			
Community Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harrisonburg, VA SolSmart Silver • Ramsey County, MN SolSmart Bronze 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System Field Inspection Checklist SolSmart 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model Inspection Checklist for Residential Rooftop PV Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) • Solar PV Construction: Codes, Permitting, and Inspection SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments • Job Aids for a Consistent Plan Review Process Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) 			

PI-19	10	Require no more than one inspection for small rooftop solar PV.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Inspections of standard rooftop solar energy systems installed on existing homes should be consolidated into a single inspection trip. Any inspections should be limited to the electrical, structural, and fire safety aspects of the system; excessive reviews add to the time and cost of the inspection process while doing little to ensure system efficiency or further protect public health or safety. Building and Fire Authorities can enter into agreements allowing for a single agency to conduct all inspections for systems meeting certain design standards.</p>			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide details about the solar PV inspection process that includes information on the type of inspections (and which departments are involved) and total number inspection trips required. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake in the Hills, IL SolSmart Gold • South St. Paul, MN SolSmart Bronze 			

Templates:

- [SolSmart Solar Permitting Checklist Template](#) | SolSmart

Resources:

- [Job Aids for a Consistent Plan Review Process](#) | Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)
- [Simplifying the Solar Permitting Process: Residential Solar Permitting Best Practices Explained](#) | Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)
- [Solar PV Construction: Codes, Permitting, and Inspection](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments

PI-20	10	Offer inspection appointment times in lieu of appointment windows for solar PV.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Though inspections of standard rooftop solar PV systems can take as little as 30 minutes to complete, inspection appointment windows can be up to four or more hours long. Replacing appointment windows with scheduled appointment times will ensure the inspector and installer are both prepared for the inspection to occur when they arrive on site. This can save time and money for both the local government and the installer (and for solar customers as well).

Recommended Verification:

- Provide details about the solar PV inspection process that includes information on inspection appointment times and how to request an appointment.

Community Examples:

- [Coventry, CT](#) | SolSmart Gold
- [Pulaski County, VA](#) | SolSmart Gold

Templates:

- [SolSmart Solar Permitting Checklist Template](#) | SolSmart

Resources:

- [Simplifying the Solar Permitting Process: Residential Solar Permitting Best Practices Explained](#) | Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)
- [Solar PV Construction: Codes, Permitting, and Inspection](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments

PI-21	10	Provide an online process for solar PV inspection scheduling.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Similar to online permit submittal, review, and approval processes, an online option for scheduling and managing inspection requests can promote process efficiency and reduce demands on time and resources for local government staff.

Recommended Verification:

- Provide a link to the online platform for inspection scheduling.
- If an email-based online process is used:
 - 1) Provide details from building official or staff describing the process.
 - 2) Provide a copy of a sample email with personal and confidential information removed.

Community Examples:

- [San Leandro, CA](#) | SolSmart Silver
- [Raleigh, NC](#) | SolSmart Silver

Resources:

- [Simplifying the Solar Permitting Process: Residential Solar Permitting Best Practices Explained](#) | Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)
- [Solar PV Construction: Codes, Permitting, and Inspection](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments

PI-22	10	Show that the community has implemented virtual, photo, or another innovative inspection practice with solar and/or solar plus storage.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Innovations that help to streamline the inspection process can ensure that systems are properly installed while reducing time and expense. Communities may utilize these practices for systems of a certain type (i.e., residential) or size.

Recommended Verification:

- Include details on virtual, photo, or another innovative inspection practice in the community's Inspection Checklist (PI-1); or
- Describe the innovative practices in a signed memo.

Community Examples:

- [Tampa, FL](#) | SolSmart Bronze
- [Pima County, AZ](#) | SolSmart Gold
- [County of Los Angeles](#) | Not designated

Resources:

- [Construction Photo Resource](#) | NY- Sun
- [Inspection Guide for PV Systems For One- and Two- Family Dwellings](#) | County of Los Angeles

PI-23	10	Post solar plus (e.g., battery storage and/or electric vehicle charging) inspection requirements online, including the inspection process and what details inspectors will review.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Providing an online list of inspection requirements will reduce informational barriers between inspectors and energy storage installers, helping to ensure that all items in the inspection process have been adequately addressed before inspectors arrive on site. These checklists can be used to highlight “common mistakes” made by installers.</p>			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the online document outlining the inspection process and requirements. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palo Alto, CA Not Designated 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Energy Storage Field Inspection Checklist Template SolSmart 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battery Energy Storage System Electrical Checklist New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) • Solar + Storage, A Guide for Local Governments SolSmart Webinar • EVSE Permitting and Inspection Guidelines New Buildings Institute 			

PI-24	10	Train fire and safety staff on solar PV and/or solar and storage systems. Training must have occurred in the past two years.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Regular solar PV training, completed every few years, is a best practice to ensure firefighters and first responders are up-to-date on new procedures, codes, and products within the solar industry. Though fires caused by rooftop solar PV systems are extremely rare, firefighters responding to fires caused by other means need to take special precautions when a solar PV system is present. Training fire safety staff on how to identify and avoid potential hazards can help ensure the safety of first responders and reduce misconceptions or discomfort around increased solar deployment.</p>			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a signed memo with details about the fire and safety staff training including name of training, name of trainer, attendees (name, title, department), date and time, location. 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Training Verification Memo SolSmart 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firefighter Safety and Photovoltaic Systems (Training Course) UL • Photovoltaic (PV) Systems National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) • Solar + Storage, A Guide for Local Governments SolSmart Webinar • Solar PV Safety for Firefighters Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) • Fire Safety for Solar PV SolSmart Webinar • Fire Safety for Solar PV SolSmart Slide Deck 			

PI-25	10	Train fire and safety staff on specific plans and procedures for responding to an emergency at a large-scale solar PV system within the jurisdiction. (This may include a walk-through of the site, coordinated with the project’s owner/operator). Training must have occurred in the past two years.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Though fires and other emergencies at large-scale solar PV systems are extremely rare, fire and safety staff should partner with a large-scale solar system owner/operator to ensure first responders have a standard operating procedure (SOP) outlining how to address a fire or rescue operation at the large-scale solar project. The solar system owner/operator should work with fire responder to ensure SOPs are established and that the fire and safety staff have received any necessary training. Along with a basic understanding of solar PV and fire safety, firefighters and safety staff should be familiar with the project site and characteristics, including where to enter the site, location</p>			

of system components, if battery storage is present at the site, and proper shutdown procedures. First responders should also know key points of contact for the project in case of an emergency.

Recommended Verification:

- Provide a signed memo with details about emergency response plans and procedures.
- Provide a link to the requirement in the community's code of ordinances.

Community Examples:

- [Putnam County, GA](#) (e,9) | SolSmart Silver
- [York, ME](#) (pg. 178 – f,3) | Not Designated

Templates:

- [SolSmart Training Verification Memo](#) | SolSmart

Resources:

- [Fire Fighter Safety and Emergency Response for Solar Power Systems](#) | The Fire Protection Research Foundation
- [Solar PV Safety for Firefighters](#) | Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)

PI-26	10	Share site specific solar PV and/or solar and storage permit data, including addresses, with first responders and their departments. (e.g., through software that allows users to view searchable, filterable data about a specific site and system).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire and safety staff can benefit from having access to the locations of permitted solar PV systems. This gives fire departments advanced knowledge about homes or businesses that have on-site solar and allows them to develop a plan before arriving onsite.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide details about the process for information sharing, including how fire and safety staff received the data. • Provide a link to the platform that allows fire and safety staff to access the data. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adams County, CO SolSmart Gold • Freeport, IL SolSmart Gold 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar PV Construction: Codes, Permitting, and Inspection SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments • Solar PV Safety for Firefighters Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) 			
PI-27	5	Clearly identify all local amendments to model codes where local code deviates from model code for solar and solar plus storage. Summarize those local amendments on a public webpage.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometimes local codes must deviate from model codes for reasons specific to that community. Informing the public which local codes differ and why increases transparency and trust. Post on the community's website or solar landing page a table summarizing the current model code adopted by the community and list amendments relevant to solar PV and energy storage.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to this information posted on the community's website or solar landing page. 			
PI-28	10	Demonstrate that current model code (IRC, IBC, and NEC) cycle is implemented in the community for solar and solar plus storage (codes must be the most recent editions (or penultimate edition)).	<input type="checkbox"/>
The safe and reliable installation of solar PV systems and their integration with the nation's electric grid requires timely implementation of the foundational codes and standards governing solar deployment. The codes, which are typically updated every three years, are not necessarily adopted as soon as they are published. State and local governments generally adopt the codes on schedules related to state and local governmental processes. This variability makes it more difficult (and costly) for a solar installer to operate across multiple jurisdictions. Therefore, states and localities are encouraged to update their codes to more effectively regulate solar development.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to this information posted on the community's website or solar landing page. 			

Planning and Zoning

PZ-1	Req'd	Review zoning requirements and identify restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit solar PV development. Compile findings in a memo. (Required for Bronze). Examples include: height restrictions, set-back requirements, screening requirements, visibility restrictions, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>A community's zoning ordinance and land use regulations create statutory limits on what individuals may do with their property as a matter of right and often provides additional processes to consider special exceptions. Land use regulations often contain use standards that provide additional requirements for certain types of development. Local governments should be aware of any restrictions that could intentionally or unintentionally prohibit solar energy development within their community and consider removing those barriers to promote easier and more equitable solar deployment. Often, removing restrictive zoning language can save property owners time and money because they can avoid going through a more extensive process to have their solar system considered.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a signed SolSmart Zoning Review Memo. 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gurnee, IL SolSmart 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for Solar Energy American Planning Association (APA) • Planning, Zoning & Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			
PZ-2	5	Present PZ-1 memo findings to planning commission or relevant body.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The zoning ordinance review memo can be the starting point for ordinance amendments to remove barriers to solar or add language that could promote development. Presenting the findings of the memo to a relevant commission or body can start conversations about updates to solar energy regulations within the community. If the relevant commission or body is interested in updating the zoning ordinance, they can direct staff to draft recommendations.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide meeting minutes, meeting agenda, or materials prepared for the meeting (e.g., handouts and slides) that demonstrate a discussion about the zoning review. 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Bluffs, IA SolSmart Gold 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for Solar Energy American Planning Association (APA) • Planning, Zoning & Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			
PZ-3	5	Draft proposed language for changes to zoning code based on PZ-1 memo and PZ-2 dialogue. Involve planners and/or local zoning experts and/or the public (e.g., through community-based organizations) in the creation of the draft language.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>A local government interested in enabling solar energy development should consider including basic solar information in the zoning ordinance such as a purpose, definitions, clarification on accessory use and primary use solar, and use standards. Zoning codes that contain no or little information about solar energy can complicate the process for homes and businesses that want to install a solar energy system. Including basic information about solar energy improves transparency of processes and clarity of development requirements and can enhance the growth of the local solar market in an organized and efficient manner. The local government should provide education to the public about the drafted changes to the zoning code and how that impacts residents.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide draft language of the proposed zoning ordinance changes that clarify solar energy requirements, address gaps identified by PZ-1 memo, and remove barriers to solar development. 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun Prairie, WI SolSmart Platinum 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable Energy Ordinance Framework: Solar PV Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) • Planning for Solar Energy American Planning Association (APA) • Planning, Zoning & Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

PZ-4	0	Post an online document from the Planning/Zoning Department that states accessory use solar PV is allowed by-right in all major zones. (e.g., via a zoning determination letter). (Required for Silver unless Gold Requirement PZ-5 is achieved. If PZ-5 is achieved, PZ-4 is not necessary.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Including solar energy in the zoning ordinance provides the highest level of policy certainty and clarity. A zoning ordinance change that codifies accessory use solar as an allowed or by-right use is a best-case scenario. However, this may be impractical or politically difficult to achieve in the short term, or outside of a zoning update cycle. Instead of an ordinance change, local governments may write and publish a zoning determination letter clarifying that accessory use solar is an allowed or by-right use in all major zones. This clarification removes uncertainty and can increase solar adoption and lower costs for residents and businesses.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to an online document (and the parent webpage) that clarifies that accessory solar PV is an allowed or by-right use in all major zones. • This document should: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) show that the process does not involve staff discretion, special permits, conditional permits, use permits, or variances 2) have language that demonstrates its applicability in all major zones 3) be made public; and 4) be dated and signed by a Department or Committee head. 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg Harbor, WI SolSmart Silver • South Miami, FL SolSmart Silver 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for Solar Energy American Planning Association (APA) • Planning, Zoning & Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

PZ-5	10	Codify in the zoning ordinance that accessory use rooftop solar PV is explicitly allowed by-right in all major zones. (Required for Gold, PZ-4 is optional)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>A community's zoning ordinance and land use regulations create statutory limits on what individuals may do with their property as a matter of right. Zoning often provides additional processes, which can be long and costly, to consider special exceptions when a proposal is inconsistent with current land use regulations. Codifying solar as an accessory use and as an allowed or by-right use in all major zoning categories provides policy certainty and clarity which can promote easier and more equitable solar deployment. It can increase solar development and save property owners time and money because they can avoid going through a more extensive process to have their solar system considered.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the zoning ordinance, use table, and/or land use regulations that codify solar as an accessory use and is an allowed, permitted or by-right use. Please indicate the relevant section(s). 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lansing, MI (pg. 36) SolSmart Silver • Philadelphia, PA (Section 14-604.7.a) SolSmart Gold • Pepperell, MA SolSmart Gold 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practice Guidance for Solar and Zoning – Accessory Use SolSmart • Georgia's Model Solar Ordinance Georgia Tech Strategic Energy Institute • Model Solar Energy Local Law (NY) New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) • Model Zoning for the Regulation of Solar Energy Systems Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources • Renewable Energy Ordinance Framework: Solar PV Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission • Solar Model Ordinance Grow Solar Toolkit • Template Solar Energy Development Ordinance for North Carolina North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC) • Are You Solar Ready? National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) • Best Practices in Zoning for Solar National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) • Planning for Solar Energy American Planning Association (APA) • Planning, Zoning & Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

PZ-6	10	Ensure the zoning ordinance language does not include intentional or unintentional barriers to accessory use rooftop solar PV, including but not limited to aesthetic or performance standards, screening requirements, limits to visibility, excessive restrictions to system size or rooftop coverage, glare or glint regulations, and subjective design reviews. (Required for Gold, PZ-4 is optional)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>While communities may set standards to further regulate the design, size, use, and placement of rooftop solar PV systems, it is important to ensure these do not intentionally or unintentionally impose barriers to accessory use rooftop solar. For example, such standards can increase system costs/reduce production (e.g., screening, visibility limits), go beyond a local government's jurisdiction (e.g., limits on electricity production/ consumption), perpetuate myths about solar PV (e.g., glare, aesthetics), be subjective (e.g., glare, aesthetics, design reviews), and/or open up the community to legal battles.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to the zoning ordinance or land use regulations regarding accessory use rooftop solar. Please indicate the relevant section(s) that describe the review process, standards, or related exemptions applicable to accessory use rooftop solar. 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brownsville, TX SolSmart Silver Plymouth, IN (pg. 204, 210 D.2.a) SolSmart Gold Philadelphia, PA SolSmart Gold 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Practice Guidance for Solar and Zoning – Accessory Use SolSmart Model Zoning for the Regulation of Solar Energy Systems Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Renewable Energy Ordinance Framework: Solar PV Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Planning for Solar Energy American Planning Association (APA) Planning, Zoning & Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

PZ-7	5	Ensure the zoning ordinance permits small ground-mounted solar PV as an accessory use in at least one zoning district.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Sometimes a property is not suitable for rooftop solar because the building has structural limitations, or the rooftop is shaded. In this case, a small ground-mounted solar PV system can still allow the property owner to install solar and enjoy the benefits. Permitting or allowing small ground-mounted solar PV as an accessory use in at least one zoning district can promote easier and more equitable solar deployment. It can increase solar development and save property owners time and money because they can avoid going through a more extensive process to have their solar system considered.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to the zoning ordinance or land use regulations that allows small ground-mounted solar PV as an accessory use. Please indicate the relevant section(s). 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philadelphia, PA SolSmart Gold La Crescent, MN SolSmart Gold 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Practice Guidance for Solar and Zoning – Accessory Use SolSmart Model Zoning for the Regulation of Solar Energy Systems Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Renewable Energy Ordinance Framework: Solar PV Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Best Practices in Zoning for Solar National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Planning for Solar Energy American Planning Association (APA) Planning, Zoning & Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

PZ-8	5	Ensure the zoning ordinance exempts small ground-mounted solar PV from certain restrictions on accessory uses (e.g., setbacks, coverage or impervious surface calculations, or other restrictions).	<div>Item 3.</div> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Opportunities for small ground-mounted PV may be limited if they are subjected to certain restrictions such as setbacks, lot coverage, and impervious surface ratios. These types of regulations are normally applied to accessory structures like sheds, garages, or accessory dwelling units which can have a greater impact on neighbors when built up against a lot line or covering a larger percentage of the lot. Solar is less obtrusive and contains pervious surfaces underneath the panels and it can be exempted from certain restrictions to promote easier and more equitable solar deployment.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to the zoning ordinance or land use regulations that exempts small ground-mounted solar PV from certain restrictions on accessory uses. Please indicate the relevant section(s). 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edina, MN SolSmart Gold Swarthmore, PA SolSmart Bronze 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Practice Guidance for Solar and Zoning – Accessory Use SolSmart NREL Analysis Quantifies Impacts of Setback Ordinances on Land Available for Renewable Energy Deployment National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) Model Zoning for the Regulation of Solar Energy Systems Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Renewable Energy Ordinance Framework: Solar PV Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Planning for Solar Energy American Planning Association (APA) Planning, Zoning & Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			
PZ-9	5	Ensure the zoning ordinance establishes a clear regulatory pathway for large-scale solar PV (e.g., through a special use permit or through inclusion among allowed conditional uses).	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>A local government should consider including large-scale solar regulations in their zoning ordinance or land use regulations to provide clarity and consistency to the development process. Including the type of district (e.g., commercial, industrial, low productivity agricultural land) where development is allowed, the type of applicable permit(s) (e.g., conditional use permits, use permits), and use standards or special regulations provide solar developers with a clear set of guidelines and a more predictable approval process.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to the zoning ordinance or land use regulations that establishes a regulatory pathway for large-scale solar PV development. Please indicate the relevant section(s). 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeport, IL SolSmart Gold La Crosse, WI SolSmart Gold Chisago County, MN SolSmart Silver 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model Zoning for the Regulation of Solar Energy Systems Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Renewable Energy Ordinance Framework: Solar PV Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Are You Solar Ready? National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Land Use Considerations for Large-scale Solar SolSmart Issue Brief Planning for Solar Energy American Planning Association (APA) Solar@Scale Guidebook ICMA and APA Top Five Large-scale Solar Myths National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) 			
PZ-10	10	Ensure the zoning ordinance includes a native perennial vegetation and/or habitat-friendly ground cover standard for large-scale solar PV.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Large-scale solar projects cover many acres that can be used for the dual purpose of providing clean, renewable energy and growing native perennial vegetation or habitat-friendly ground cover. Planting native perennial vegetation under solar PV systems can improve soil health and water retention, while providing habitat for pollinators and native species.</p>			

Recommended Verification:

- Provide a link to the zoning ordinance or land use regulations that includes language about native perennial vegetation and/or habitat-friendly ground cover requirement or standard. Please indicate the relevant section(s).

Community Examples:

- [Stearns County, MN](#) (6.54.1 H) | SolSmart Silver
- [St. Joseph County, IN](#) | SolSmart Gold

Resources:

- [Minnesota Solar Model Ordinance](#) | Great Plains Institute (GPI)
- [Land Use Considerations for Large-scale Solar](#) | SolSmart Issue Brief
- [State Pollinator-friendly Scorecards](#) | Fresh Energy
- [Pollinator Habitat Aligned with Solar Energy \(PHASE\)](#) | University of Illinois
- [Innovative Solar Practices Integrated with Rural Economies and Ecosystems \(InSPIRE\)](#) | National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL)
- [Solar Pollinator Habitat Resources](#) | AgriSolar Clearinghouse

PZ-11	5	Ensure the zoning ordinance enables co-location of solar PV with an agricultural use such as grazing, apiaries, or crops (agrivoltaics).	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Large-scale solar projects cover many acres that can be used for the dual purpose of providing clean, renewable energy and co-locating with forms of agriculture. Co-locating solar PV with agriculture creates an additional revenue stream for farmers and can enhance yields, soil health, and water retention while improving system efficiency by reducing air temperature near the panels. Allowing co-location of solar PV with agricultural land use can also increase resident support of renewable energy in regions where agriculture is a primary source of income.

Recommended Verification:

- Provide a link to the zoning ordinance or land use regulations that includes language enabling the co-location of solar with agricultural use. Please indicate the relevant section(s).

Community Examples:

- [Leon County, FL](#) | SolSmart Gold
- [San Luis Obispo County, CA](#) (D.9) | Not Designated

Resources:

- [Illinois Solar Model Ordinance](#) | Great Plains Institute (GPI)
- [Indiana Solar Model Ordinance](#) | Great Plains Institute (GPI)
- [AgriSolar Clearinghouse Information Library](#) | National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)
- [Case Studies](#) | National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)
- [Co-Location of Solar and Agriculture Webinar](#) | National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- [Land Use Considerations for Large-scale Solar](#) | SolSmart Issue Brief
- [Center for Pollinators in Energy](#) | Fresh Energy
- [Innovative Solar Practices Integrated with Rural Economies and Ecosystems \(InSPIRE\)](#) | National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL)
- [Dual-Use Solar and Agriculture](#) | University of Massachusetts Amherst

PZ-12	5	Ensure the zoning ordinance requires a decommissioning plan that outlines the terms and conditions for a large-scale solar PV system's proper removal at the end of its useful life cycle or in the event of cessation of operation. (The decommissioning plan may include steps to remove the system, requirements for disposal and/or recycling of system components, and restoration as needed to allow for return to agriculture or other land use).	<input type="checkbox"/>
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A community's zoning ordinance can require a decommissioning plan that clearly outlines the roles, responsibilities, terms, and conditions to ensure the local government will not be responsible for the removal of a large-scale solar PV system. Decommissioning is the responsibility of the system owner and requiring a plan can alleviate concerns that a local government will be unnecessarily burdened with system removal.

Recommended Verification:

- Provide a link to the zoning ordinance or land use regulations that includes language about a decommissioning plan for large-scale solar PV. Please indicate the relevant section(s).

Community Examples:

- [La Crosse, WI](#) | SolSmart Gold
- [McFarland, WI](#) | SolSmart Gold

Resources:

- [Template Solar Energy Development Ordinance for North Carolina](#) | North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC)
- [A Survey of Federal and State-Level Solar System Decommissioning Policies in the United States](#) | National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- [Land Use Considerations for Large-scale Solar](#) | SolSmart Issue Brief

PZ-13	5	Ensure the zoning ordinance establishes solar energy zones and/or solar overlays for large-scale solar PV.	<input type="checkbox"/>
A community's zoning ordinance and land use regulations could establish a solar energy zone or overlay. This strategy can encourage solar development on favorable sites and reduce the project development timeline by streamlining permitting and zoning requirements.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the zoning ordinance or land use regulations that establish solar energy zones and/or solar overlays for large-scale solar PV. Please indicate the relevant section(s). 			
Community Examples:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framingham, MA (pg. 96) SolSmart Silver • Wellesley, MA (pg. 101) SolSmart Silver 			
Resources:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for Solar Energy American Planning Association (APA) • Planning, Zoning & Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

PZ-14	10	Require new construction to be solar ready in at least one zoning district by adopting Appendix U (International Code Council), Appendix RB (International Energy Conservation Code), or another mechanism.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local governments can proactively plan for increased solar deployment by requiring new construction to be solar ready which can reduce the installation costs if a solar system will be installed at some point in the future. Solar ready buildings are designed and engineered in such a way that allows for the easy installation of a future solar system. The International Code Council (ICC) has developed model codes and standards for solar ready construction.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the adopted code(s) or language that requires new construction to be solar ready. 			
Community Examples:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El Paso, TX SolSmart Gold • Warrenville, IL SolSmart Gold 			
Resources:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for Solar Energy American Planning Association (APA) • Planning, Zoning & Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

PZ-15	20	Codify a solar requirement for new construction and/or retrofits meeting a specific threshold, in at least one zoning district.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local governments can proactively promote solar development by requiring a solar installation on new construction, and/or retrofits. Installing solar on new construction is cost-effective and can rapidly increase solar deployment in a community. A solar requirement can be mandated at a local level in the code of ordinances or, as in the case of California, at the state level.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the adopted code(s) or language that requires solar on new construction or retrofits. 			
Community Examples:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santa Monica, CA SolSmart Gold • South Miami, FL (Section W) SolSmart Silver 			
Resources:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better Roofs Ordinance San Francisco Planning Department • Planning for Solar Energy American Planning Association (APA) • Planning, Zoning & Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

PZ-16	10	Require new construction affordable housing and multifamily housing to be solar ready.	<input type="checkbox"/>
While affordable housing and multi-family housing projects may not be able to install solar at the time of construction due to upfront costs or other challenges, they can be designed and built to ensure they are ready to support solar in the future. Local governments can require these buildings to be designed and engineered in such a way that reduces the cost and complexity of solar installation. The International Code Council (ICC) has developed model codes and standards for solar ready construction.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to the adopted code(s) or language that requires new construction to be solar ready. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Austin, TX (pg 4) SolSmart Gold 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix U International Residential Code (IRC) Appendix RB International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) Planning for Solar Energy American Planning Association (APA) Planning, Zoning & Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

PZ-17	10	Provide clear guidance for the installation of solar PV in areas such as historic properties, flood zones or special overlay districts.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Many communities contain historic properties or historic districts that aim to preserve a community's character and heritage. These properties and districts are often regulated by specific design guidelines that outline how a historic property may be modified. These guidelines can include the best methods to incorporate a solar energy installation while maintaining the historical nature of the structure and surrounding neighborhood and provide a clear review process.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to the zoning ordinance or land use regulations that includes guidance on the installation of solar PV on historic properties and in special overlay districts. Please indicate the relevant section(s). Provide a link to guidance for the installation of solar PV on historic properties and in special overlay districts. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ann Arbor, MI SolSmart Silver Park City, UT SolSmart Gold 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Practice Guidance for Solar and Zoning – Accessory Use SolSmart Implementing Solar PV Projects on Historic Buildings and in Historic Districts National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Installing Solar Panels on Historic Buildings North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC) Planning for Solar Energy American Planning Association (APA) Planning, Zoning & Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

PZ-18	10	Train planning and zoning staff on best practices in planning and zoning for solar PV. Training must have occurred in the past two years.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular solar PV training, at least every two years, is a best practice to ensure planning and zoning staff are up-to-date on strategies for incorporating solar into plans, ordinances, and development regulations. Training staff in planning and zoning best practices for solar can help them to evaluate the options available for reducing barriers to solar and enable them to customize these best practices to their local context. Training can help staff develop clear, transparent, well-defined, and consistent planning and zoning regulations and processes that provide certainty for property owners and solar developers. Local governments can require staff to attend full or half-day workshops (either live or online) and provide or create resources designed to help staff keep up with advances in solar planning and zoning best practices.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a signed memo with details about the planning and zoning training including name of training, name of trainer, attendees (name, title, department), date and time, location, agenda, and presentation/slides. 			

Templates:

- [SolSmart Training Verification Memo](#) | SolSmart

Resources:

- [Best Practices in Solar Planning and Zoning](#) | SolSmart Webinar
- [Planning for Solar Energy](#) | American Planning Association (APA)
- [Planning, Zoning & Development](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments
- [Solar@Scale Webinar Series, Session 5](#) | ICMA and APA

PZ-19	5	Post an online fact sheet that provides an overview of what zoning allows for solar PV under what conditions and in which districts (e.g., types and sizes of solar systems permitted, the processes required, and other relevant information).	<input type="checkbox"/>
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A community's zoning ordinance and land use regulations create statutory limits on what individuals may do with their property as a matter of right and often provides additional processes to consider special exceptions. Land use regulations often contain use standards that provide additional requirements for certain types of development. However, these regulations can sometimes be unclear and difficult to access, especially for topics like solar PV. Posting an online fact sheet that summarizes zoning regulations for solar represents a major step toward overcoming informational barriers.

Recommended Verification:

- Provide a link to the fact sheet, zoning determination letter, or other online document that clarifies and summarizes how the zoning ordinance and land use regulations regulate solar energy.

Community Examples:

- [San Diego County, CA](#) | SolSmart Gold
- [Sedona, AZ](#) | SolSmart Bronze

Resources:

- [Planning, Zoning & Development](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments

PZ-20	10	Include specific solar PV goals, metrics, and strategies in the most current published version of relevant local plans (e.g., energy plan, climate plan, comprehensive plan).	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Planning documents provide the foundation for a community's vision for how and where it would like future development to occur. Development is governed largely by the components of the comprehensive plan and guided by the policies and strategies outlined in other functional plans such as a Climate Action Plan or Sustainability Plan. These planning documents should align to have solar energy goals, metrics, and strategies that promote solar development in an organized and efficient manner.

Recommended Verification:

- Provide a link to the relevant plans that incorporate solar PV goals, metrics, and/or strategies. Please indicate the relevant section(s).

Community Examples:

- [Ann Arbor, MI](#) | SolSmart Silver
- [Philadelphia, PA](#) | SolSmart Gold

Resources:

- [Integrating Solar Energy into Local Plans](#) | American Planning Association (APA)
- [Solar Power in Your Community](#) | Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- [Energy Transitions Playbook](#) | Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- [Local Government Strategies for 100% Clean Energy](#) | SolSmart Webinar
- [Planning for Solar Energy](#) | American Planning Association (APA)
- [Planning, Zoning & Development](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments

PZ-21	5	Draft new or updated language and provide a timeline for the inclusion of specific solar PV goals, metrics, and/or strategies into existing and/or future plans.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Planning documents provide the foundation for a community's vision for how and where it would like future development to occur. Comprehensive, sub-area, and functional plans also provide policy guidance to the local government as it weighs how future development aligns with other objectives. Communities that would like to promote solar development in an organized and efficient manner should draft solar energy goals, metrics, or strategies for inclusion in new or updated plans.

Recommended Verification:

- Provide draft language of the proposed plan changes that relate to solar energy and a timeline for inclusion in future plans.

Community Examples:

- [Chatham County, NC](#) | SolSmart Gold
- [South St. Paul, MN](#) | SolSmart Bronze

Resources:

- [Solar Resource Development Requirement](#) | Metropolitan Council (Met Council)
- [Integrating Solar Energy into Local Plans](#) | American Planning Association (APA)
- [Planning for Solar Energy](#) | American Planning Association (APA)
- [Planning, Zoning & Development](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments

PZ-22	5	Share solar PV progress towards achieving targets or metrics from PZ-20 on the solar landing page.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publicly reporting progress toward solar goals helps to create transparency and accountability. These metrics allow local governments to see the impacts of their policies and identify the need to adjust their strategies. To be meaningful, metrics should be updated annually at a minimum, but communities should strive for quarterly updates. Please specify the reporting period for which the reported metrics apply.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the relevant information on the solar landing page. Include date when the information was last updated. 			
Community Examples:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge, MA SolSmart Bronze • Madison, NJ Not designated 			
Resources:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and Local Planning for Energy (SLOPE) National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) 			

PZ-23	10	Include specific large-scale solar PV goals, metrics, and strategies in the most current published version of relevant local plans (e.g., energy plan, climate plan, comprehensive plan).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning documents provide the foundation for a community's vision for how and where it would like future development to occur. Development is governed largely by the components of the comprehensive plan and guided by the policies and strategies outlined in other functional plans such as a Climate Action Plan or Sustainability Plan. These planning documents should align to have large-scale solar energy goals, metrics, and strategies that promote solar development in an organized and efficient manner.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the relevant plans that incorporate large-scale solar PV goals, metrics, and/or strategies. Please indicate the relevant section(s). 			
Community Examples:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stearns County, MN SolSmart Silver • Santa Barbara County, CA SolSmart Bronze • City of Boise, ID SolSmart Gold 			
Resources:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar@Scale Guidebook ICMA and APA • Planning for Utility Scale Solar Energy Facilities American Planning Association (APA) • Mapping Opportunities for land based renewable energy generation in Ontario: a guidebook for local planners and analysts Community Energy Knowledge-Action Partnership • Planning, Zoning & Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

PZ-24	20	Develop a solar PV assessment that identifies community-wide feasibility for solar PV development within a jurisdiction (differentiate between large-scale, municipal, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local governments can proactively identify sites that are favorable for solar PV projects. Identifying sites that have high solar potential and the best characteristics for large-scale solar development can reduce potential conflicts between solar and other land uses and speed up the project development timeline.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the PV assessment. 			
Community Examples:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain Iron, MN SolSmart Bronze • Santa Clara County, CA Not Designated 			

Resources:

- [Solar Development on Public Facilities and Under-Utilized Land](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments
- [Decision Support Tools for Local Solar Planning and Development](#) | SolSmart Webinar
- [Solar Project Development Pathway- Site and Opportunity Assessment](#) | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- [System Advisor Model \(SAM\)](#) | National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL)

PZ-25	10	Enable solar rights through a local solar access ordinance.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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In some states, local governments have jurisdiction to enable solar rights through an ordinance. A solar rights or access ordinance protects a property owner's right to sunlight, ensuring a solar installation has access to the sunlight it needs to generate electricity. A solar access ordinance can also remove restrictive covenants for solar PV in relevant zones.

Recommended Verification:

- Provide a link to the zoning ordinance or land use regulations that protects solar rights and access. Please indicate the relevant section(s).

Community Examples:

- [Ashland, OR](#) | Not Designated
- [Freeport, IL](#) | SolSmart Gold

Resources:

- [Best Practices in Zoning for Solar](#) | National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- [Planning for Solar Energy](#) | American Planning Association (APA)
- [Planning, Zoning & Development](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments

PZ-26	20	Codify in the zoning ordinance that accessory use energy storage systems are explicitly allowed by-right in all major zones.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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A community's zoning ordinance and land use regulations create statutory limits on what individuals may do with their property as a matter of right. Zoning often provides additional processes, which can be long and costly, to consider special exceptions when a proposal is inconsistent with current land use regulations. Codifying residential energy storage as an accessory use and allowed or by-right use in all major zoning categories provides policy certainty and clarity which can promote easier and more equitable energy storage deployment. It can increase energy storage development and save property owners time and money because they can avoid going through a more extensive process to have their energy storage system considered.

Recommended Verification:

- Provide a link to the zoning ordinance or land use regulations that codify energy storage as an accessory use and allowed or by-right use. Please indicate the relevant section(s).

Resources:

- [Battery Energy Storage Model Law](#) | New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
- [NYC Energy Storage Systems Zoning Guide](#) | Sustainable CUNY Smart Distributed Generation Hub

Government Operations

GO-1	20	Install solar PV on local government facilities and/or local government-controlled land (Required for Platinum)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local governments can lead by example and install solar on their facilities and/or land to achieve clean energy goals. Solar installations can generate revenue for local governments, deliver electricity cost savings, and serve as an educational tool for community members. Local governments are encouraged to install solar at highly visible locations to maximize the educational value.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide news articles, a press release announcing the commissioned system, or webpage that summarizes the details of the installation(s) including total number of systems, size, location, visibility and photos. A signed contract for project installation is also an acceptable form of verification. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Johnson County, IA SolSmart Gold New York City, NY SolSmart Gold 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement Guidance American Cities Climate Challenge Renewables Accelerator Solar Decision Support and Resources for Local Governments National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Solar Development on Public Facilities and Under-utilized Land SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments Solar Power Purchase Agreements: A Toolkit for Local Governments Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) 			

GO-2	10	Discuss community goals for solar PV, net metering, community solar, and/or interconnection processes with the local utility and explore areas for future collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local governments can leverage their relationship with electric utilities to encourage increased support for, and development of, solar energy. Local governments and utilities can partner to provide community solar programs, solar incentives, and help improve the solar interconnection process. Utilities can also help local governments meet municipal or community-wide renewable energy goals by procuring large amount of solar energy.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide meeting minutes (including a list of follow-up action items), e-mail correspondence, meeting agenda, materials prepared for the meeting (e.g., handouts and slides), or other evidence that at least one meeting occurred with your local utility. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minneapolis, MN SolSmart Gold Missoula, MT SolSmart Silver 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement Guidance American Cities Climate Challenge Renewables Accelerator Making Solar & Electrification Policies Mutually Beneficial SolSmart Webinar Procurement Guidance American Cities Climate Challenge Renewables Accelerator Solar & Electrification, A Beneficial Partnership SolSmart Issue Brief Utilizing City-Utility Partnership Agreements to Achieve Climate and Energy Goals World Resources Institute (WRI) 			

GO-3	10	Coordinate with regional organizations and/or local governments to engage utilities on advancing solar policies such as utility procurement of solar PV, green tariffs, and/or interconnection process improvements.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local governments can find strength in numbers as they advance ambitious energy transformation goals. Collaborating with other local governments and/or regional organizations (such as Councils of Government and Regional Planning Councils) allows resources, expertise, and staff to be pooled together which can enhance efforts to work with utilities. Networks of communities and utilities can provide opportunities to share best practices and common strategies through peer-to-peer learning. They can also help build coalitions and advocate for state policy.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide details about your community's participation in coordinated efforts between local governments and/or regional organizations to engage utilities with the goal of advancing solar initiatives. 			

Community Examples:

- [Lake Forest, IL](#) | SolSmart Bronze
- [Salt Lake City, UT](#) | SolSmart Bronze

Resources:

- [Engagement Guidance](#) | American Cities Climate Challenge Renewables Accelerator
- [Engagement Tracker](#) | American Cities Climate Challenge Renewables Accelerator
- [PJM Cities & Communities Coalition](#) | World Resources Institute (WRI)
- [Procurement Guidance](#) | American Cities Climate Challenge Renewables Accelerator
- [Utilizing City-Utility Partnership Agreements to Achieve Climate and Energy Goals](#) | World Resources Institute (WRI)
- [Municipal Franchise Agreements and Clean Energy Objectives](#) | National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL)

GO-4	20	Demonstrate coordination between local government inspectors and utility staff to reduce Permission to Operate timeline for solar PV.	<input type="checkbox"/>
A solar system that has not been granted permission to operate (PTO), is not allowed to produce electricity which can have economic impacts for the system owner. To reduce economic loss, local governments can coordinate with the electric utility to ensure solar PV systems can begin operation as soon as it has been confirmed that the systems are properly constructed and connected to the grid. Consolidating and/or coordinating local government inspections and utility interconnection inspections can save time and money for solar installers and property owners.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide details about the coordination process and explaining how this process reduces the time between inspection and Permission to Operate 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leon County, FL SolSmart Gold • Mount Prospect, IL SolSmart Gold 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utility Engagement SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

GO-5	10	Conduct feasibility analysis for solar PV on local government facilities and/or local government-controlled land.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local governments can lead by example and install solar PV on their facilities and/or land to achieve clean energy goals and generate electricity cost savings. The first step is conducting a feasibility analysis to discover which rooftops or grounds have the highest solar potential and best characteristic for a solar installation. A feasibility analysis can be done using outside consultants, or with tools provided by federal agencies, such as the Department of Energy (DOE). An RFP can then be issued for the most favorable sites. Communities that receive GO-1, GO-6 or GO-7 may also receive GO-5 if they completed a feasibility analysis as part of the project development process.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the feasibility analysis or details about the feasibility analysis that was conducted – who conducted, what were the sites, when was it conducted, what were the recommendations and next steps. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asheville, NC SolSmart Gold • Mountain Iron, MN SolSmart Bronze 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision Support Tools for Local Solar Planning & Development SolSmart Webinar • Solar Development on Public Facilities and Under-utilized Land SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments • System Advisor Model (SAM) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) 			

GO-6	20	Install solar PV integrated with other technologies such as battery storage or electric vehicle charging on local government facilities and/or local government-controlled land.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Solar can provide unique benefits when paired with other distributed energy technologies. Co-locating solar with other technologies can improve resilience, provide demand-charge reductions, and charging electric vehicles with a renewable source of energy.			

Recommended Verification:

- Provide a news article, a press release announcing the commissioned system, or webpage that summarizes the details of the solar installation(s) integrated with other technologies including total number of systems, size, location, technologies used, and photos.

Community Examples:

- [Duluth, MN](#) | SolSmart Gold
- [Montgomery County, MD](#) | SolSmart Gold
- [Boulder, CO](#) | SolSmart Gold

Resources:

- [Best Practices for Solar & Electric Bus Charging at Transit Agencies](#) | SolSmart Webinar
- [REopt: Renewable Energy Integration & Optimization](#) | National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- [Solar and Electric Vehicles: A Guide for Local Governments](#) | SolSmart
- [Solar & Electric Vehicle Best Practices for Local Governments](#) | SolSmart Webinar

GO-7	20	Install solar PV on local government-controlled brownfields and/or under-utilized properties.	<input type="checkbox"/>
As large, open spaces with limited future uses, brownfields, landfills, and other under-utilized lands are favorable locations for solar PV systems. Local governments can lease these lands for solar development to increase locally installed solar capacity while generating land lease revenue.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a news article, a press release announcing the commissioned system, or webpage that summarizes the details of the installation(s) including total number of systems, size, location, and photos. 			
Community Examples:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cary, NC SolSmart Silver • Eau Claire, WI SolSmart Gold 			
Resources:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Solar on Brownfields SolSmart Webinar • RE-Powering America's Land Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) • Solar Development on Public Facilities and Under-utilized Land SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments • The Guide to Developing Solar Photovoltaics at Massachusetts Landfills Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources 			

GO-8	10	Require new local government facilities and/or facility retrofits meeting a specific threshold to be solar ready.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local governments can lead by example and require new facilities or those completing a retrofit to be solar ready. Solar ready construction can reduce the installation costs if a solar system will be installed at some point in the future. Solar ready buildings are designed and engineered in such a way that allows for the easy installation of a future solar system.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to adopted code(s) or language that require new construction and/or retrofits of local government facilities to be solar ready. 			
Community Examples:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montgomery County, MD (Sec. 8-55) SolSmart Gold 			
Resources:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar-Ready Building Design: A Summary of Technical Considerations National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) 			

GO-9	20	Procure solar energy for municipal operations through an offsite physical PPA, virtual PPA, green tariff, or similar structure.	<input type="checkbox"/>
To meet climate and energy goals, local governments can procure a large amount of solar energy through an appropriate structure, depending on the types of contracts allowed by state and utility regulations.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a document such as a news article, contract, press release, or similar official document containing the details how the local government has procured solar energy. 			

Community Examples:

- [Cincinnati, OH](#) | Not Designated
- [Denton, TX](#) | SolSmart Gold

Resources:

- [How Cities Benefit from Power Purchase Agreements](#) | Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)
- [How Local Governments Can Buy Renewable Energy & Support Market Development](#) | SolSmart Webinar
- [Local Government Strategies for 100% Clean Energy](#) | SolSmart Webinar
- [Procurement Guidance](#) | American Cities Climate Challenge Renewables Accelerator
- [Municipal Solar Procurement](#) | SolSmart Webinar

GO-10	5	Obtain a Community Benefits Agreement with solar developer for solar installation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
A community benefits agreement (CBA) is a contract between a developer and one or more community groups or organizations. The CBA outlines benefits the developer will deliver to the community in exchange for community support of the solar project. A CBA goes above and beyond a typical siting or development agreement, which commonly list annual local tax payments or local infrastructure upgrades (e.g., road re-pavement). Examples of common CBA benefits include jobs training programs, local hiring goals, and living wage requirements.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the CBA or a public document that summarizes the details of the CBA. 			
Resources:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Benefit Agreement Toolkit U.S. Department of Energy Office of Economic Impact and Diversity 			

GO-11	10	Post metrics related to the number of municipal solar PV or solar PV plus storage/EV installations and installed capacity, municipal solar PV energy procured (ownership, PPAs, community solar offtake), and percent (%) of municipal energy usage offset by renewable energy.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Posting metrics publicly provides transparency and allows community members to understand how the community is progressing toward its goals. This is an important way to create accountability and will help identify the need to implement further actions if goals are not being met. Metrics must be updated annually at a minimum, but communities should strive for quarterly updates. Please specify the reporting period for which the posted metrics apply.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to this information on the solar landing page. Include date when the information was last updated and date tracking began. 			
Templates:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Solar Landing Page Template SolSmart • Metrics Guide SolSmart 			
Community Examples:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge, MA SolSmart Gold 			
Resources:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and Local Planning for Energy (SLOPE) National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) • Electric Vehicle Charging Station Locations Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy 			

GO-12	10	Directly install or provide technical or financial support for the installation of solar PV on affordable housing, multifamily housing, community-based organizations, and/or resilience hubs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local governments can partner with community-serving organizations, housing developers and managers of resilience hubs to support the implementation of solar. Local governments may be able to offer technical support if they have relevant expertise for example in project development, energy or project finance. In other instances, local governments may be able to offer direct financial support to these projects.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide links and/or a signed memo outlining the support provided. 			
Community Examples:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hillsborough County Not designated 			

Resources:

- [Process Guide for City-Community Collaboration](#) | Greenlink Analytics
- [Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator Toolkit](#) | U.S. Department of Energy Better Buildings
- [The Inflation Reduction Act: What does it mean for Affordable Housing \(webinar\)](#) | Enterprise Community Partners

GO-13	10	Train local government staff on regulatory and (where applicable) wholesale market barriers to solar deployment and potential engagement pathways to address these barriers. Training must have occurred in the past two years.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular solar PV training, at least every two years, is a best practice to ensure local government staff are up to date on regulatory practices and wholesale markets. Trainings increase staff knowledge of solar energy system deployment and ensures they know the best procedures to address any barriers. Increased staff knowledge can improve involvement in the regulatory process, making their needs and concerns heard. Local governments can require staff to attend full or half-day workshops (either live or online) and provide resources designed to help keep staff informed about advances in solar and storage technologies.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a signed memo with details about the regulatory and wholesale market training, including name of training, name of trainer, attendees (name, title, department), date and time, location 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Training Verification Memo SolSmart 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Impacts of Wholesale Market Rules and Policies on Clean Energy Goals: A Primer for Local Governments World Resources Institute 			

GO-14	10	Train local government staff on best practices and issues regarding solar interconnection with the local utility. Training must have occurred within the past two years.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular solar PV training, at least every two years, is a best practice to ensure local government staff are equipped to work with the local utility on interconnection issues. Trainings increase staff knowledge of the solar interconnection process to the grid, thereby decreasing time from installation to an active PV system. Local governments can require staff to attend full or half-day workshops (either live or online) and provide resources designed to help keep staff informed about advances in solar and storage technologies.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a signed memo with details about the interconnection training including name of training, name of trainer, attendees (name, title, department), date and time, location 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Training Verification Memo SolSmart 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Model Interconnection Procedures Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) • Toolkit and Guidance for the Interconnection of Energy Storage and Solar-Plus-Storage Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) • Generic Technical Interconnection and Interoperability Requirements (TIIRs) EPRI • Solar Photovoltaics Guide ConEdison • Guidelines for Generator Interconnection Eversource 			

Community Engagement

CE-1	10	Post a solar landing page on local government's website with information that may include the community's solar goals, educational materials and tools that promote solar, and resources for solar development (e.g., permitting checklist, application forms, zoning regulations, etc.). (Required for Silver)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>A solar landing page is a way to provide residents, businesses, and solar installers with important information about your community's solar energy policies, processes, goals, and metrics from one centralized location. It is also a way to educate community members about solar energy topics like financing options and consumer protection best practices. Information and resources posted should be up to date and made available in multiple languages as appropriate for your community. In addition, information and resources should be available to community members in print form if requested.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to the solar landing page. 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Olympia, WA SolSmart Gold Pulaski County, VA SolSmart Gold Tyngsborough, MA SolSmart Gold 			
<p>Templates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SolSmart Solar Landing Page Template SolSmart 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeowner's Guide to Going Solar (View in Spanish) U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Residential Consumer Guide to Solar Power Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) 			
CE-2	20	Establish partnerships with local community-based organizations or other organizations focused on serving disadvantaged communities within your community to define your community's solar equity goals, develop implementation strategies, and establish a plan for tracking and reporting on progress. (Required for Platinum)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Community-based organizations can assist local governments to define and develop solar equity goals grounded in the needs and priorities of the community. Partnering with organizations that have strong ties with disadvantaged communities is an important way to ensure that solar projects and programs, as well as outreach efforts, are designed to meet the needs of those communities. For example, a local government, a CBO, and a local solar installer could come together to implement a solarize campaign customized to LMI households or to develop a targeted outreach strategy related to a community solar project. The partnership may have a scope that is broader than solar (for example, partnering on a range of climate-related goals or economic development initiatives) as long as it clearly includes solar deployment goals strategies. Developing a shared approach to tracking and reporting helps create transparency and accountability and can be an important component to building trust.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed memo summarizing the names of partner organizations, scope of the partnership, defined goals, outcomes (or intended outcomes), plan for tracking progress and next steps for the partnership. 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating Equity into City Clean Energy Initiatives American Cities Climate Challenge Renewables Accelerator Solar with Justice Clean Energy States Alliance From Community Engagement to Ownership Urban Sustainability Director's Network (USDN) Process Guide for City-Community Collaboration Greenlink Analytics Greenlink Equity Map Greenlink Analytics Shared Accountability Guide and Framework 100% Accountability Cohort Justice40 Screening Tool Justice40 Initiative Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator Toolkit U.S. Department of Energy Better Buildings 			

CE-3	5	Post online resources about residential and commercial solar PV financing options and incentives.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Many different financing options are available for residential and commercial solar PV. Local governments can play an important role in providing access to information about available options. Information and resources posted should be made available in multiple languages as appropriate for your community. In addition, information and resources should be available to community members in print form if requested.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to this information on the solar landing page. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walnut Creek, CA SolSmart Gold • Wood County, WI SolSmart Gold 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Solar Landing Page Template SolSmart 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Homeowner's Guide to Solar Financing: Leases, Loans and PPAs Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) • Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE) North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC) • Financing your solar panel system EnergySage • Homeowner's Guide to the Federal Tax Credit for Solar Photovoltaics (View in Spanish) U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) 			

CE-4	5	Post online resources about consumer protection and solar PV.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Solar energy can be a new and complex topic for community members. Local governments can provide online guides and resources to help community members have a clear understanding of solar PV, allowing them to make informed decisions. Information and resources posted should be made available in multiple languages as appropriate for your community. In addition, information and resources should be available to community members in print form if requested.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to a webpage containing consumer protection resources. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandria, VA SolSmart Gold • James City County, VA SolSmart Bronze 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Solar Landing Page Template SolSmart 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Solar Checklist Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) • EnergySage EnergySage • Residential Issues and Existing Regulatory Framework SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments • Solar Customer Resource Portal Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) • Solar Owner's Manual (View in Spanish) Solar United Neighbors (SUN) 			

CE-5	5	Post an online summary of state policies related to a property owner's solar access and solar rights, including links to state-level policy.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community members are often unaware that state policy could impact their property's solar rights. Solar rights and solar access are terms which describe the ability of property owners to utilize sunlight on their property. Each state has its own unique policy and enforcement regime. Information and resources posted should be made available in multiple languages as appropriate for your community. In addition, information and resources should be available to community members in print form if requested.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to a webpage with summary of state policies relating to solar access and/or rights. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torrance, CA SolSmart Gold • Wilmette, IL SolSmart Silver 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Solar Landing Page Template SolSmart 			

Resources:

- [Homeowners Associations and Solar Access](#) | Solar United Neighbors
- [Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency \(DSIRE\)](#) | North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC)

CE-6	5	Post an online summary of state policies related to Homeowner Associations (HOAs) ability to regulate and/or restrict solar PV, including links to state-level policy.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homeowner Associations often aim to impose restrictive measures on solar PV systems. Community members should be aware of state policy that defines what HOAs are allowed and not allowed to do in terms of regulating solar PV systems.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the summary of state policies relating to Homeowner Associations and solar PV. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hallandale Beach, FL SolSmart Silver • Torrance, CA SolSmart Gold 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Solar Landing Page Template SolSmart 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeowners Associations and Solar Access Solar United Neighbors 			

CE-7	5	Post online resources about solar installers and/or solar quote platforms for solar PV.	<input type="checkbox"/>
More solar companies operating in your community means residents and businesses are faced with more choices as they consider who to select for their solar project. Providing relevant local information on active solar installers can help community members make the best choice given their circumstances. Information and resources posted should be made available in multiple languages as appropriate for your community. In addition, information and resources should be available to community members in print form if requested.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to a webpage that contains information about local solar installers and/or solar quote platforms. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver, CO SolSmart Gold • Schaumburg, IL SolSmart Silver 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Solar Landing Page Template SolSmart 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Certified Professionals Directory North American Board Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) • EnergySage EnergySage • Pickmysolar Pick My Solar • Solar Buyer's Markets: Unlocking Lower Photovoltaic and Battery Prices on Online Quote Platforms National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) 			

CE-8	5	Post an online solar map for your community.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Solar maps can be a helpful and visual way to communicate solar potential to community members. Solar maps can be customized depending on the goals and needs of the community. For example, solar maps can provide community members with an estimate of the solar potential of their rooftop, they can be used to show the location of solar installations within a community (which may help residents understand the extent of solar projects happening in different parts of the community), or they may be used to communicate the potential for different solar installations (i.e., residential, commercial, large-scale, community solar, etc.).			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the solar map for your community. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Los Angeles County, CA Not Designated • Westminster, CO SolSmart Gold • Chicago, IL SolSmart Gold 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Solar Landing Page Template SolSmart 			

Resources:

- [Go Solar Ready](#) | Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments
- [NY Solar Map](#) | Sustainable CUNY Smart Distributed Generation Hub
- [Project Sunroof](#) | Google

CE-9	5	Post an online dashboard or summary of solar PV metrics for your community, including total installed solar PV capacity, solar PV + storage installations, and community solar and/or solarize subscribers (if applicable). Metrics should identify solar PV adoption in disadvantaged communities as well.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Key solar metrics such as the number of installations and total installed capacity can help communicate progress towards local and state renewable energy goals. Other related metrics could include the percentage of municipal energy provided by solar energy, installed capacity per capita and progress towards greenhouse gas emissions targets. In order to track progress toward equity goals, communities are encouraged to disaggregate data and report rates of solar PV adoption by income level or census track, as appropriate.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to a webpage displaying solar PV metrics. Include date when the information was last updated and date tracking began. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boulder, CO SolSmart Gold • Westminster, CO SolSmart Gold 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Solar Landing Page Template SolSmart 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Demographics Tool Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory • Justice40 Screening Tool Justice40 Initiative • Clean Energy for Low Income Communities: Metrics and Indicators U.S. Department of Energy Better Buildings • State and Local Planning for Energy (SLOPE) National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) • Distributed Energy Resources in Ohio Ohio Public Utilities Commission 			
CE-10	5	Distribute solar job training and career opportunities in coordination with local colleges and/or workforce development organizations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Solar jobs have grown 12 times faster than the U.S. economy since 2014. As local solar markets grow, local governments can promote solar job opportunities with community colleges and workforce development organizations to ensure a well-trained, local workforce. This can be done via a jobs fair, posting solar job training information to the community and local colleges/workforce development websites			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide posted job descriptions, screenshots from employment websites or advertisement of job trainings. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitchburg, WI SolSmart Bronze • Washington, DC SolSmart Gold 			
Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolSmart Solar Landing Page Template SolSmart 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Career Map Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) • Solar Ready Vets Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) • Solar Workforce Development Pilot St. Louis, MO • Workforce Development Grid Alternatives 			
CE-11	5	Demonstrate local government support for local solar projects through speeches, press releases, opinion articles, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local governments can encourage solar market growth by highlighting solar energy goals, initiatives, and success stories through various communications strategies. Share the links and/or videos of communications efforts on the community's solar landing page.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to this information posted on the community's website or solar landing page. 			

Templates:

- [SolSmart Solar Landing Page Template](#) | SolSmart

Community Examples:

- [Fayetteville, AR](#) | SolSmart Gold
- [Louisville, KY](#) | SolSmart Gold

Resources:

- [Stakeholder Engagement](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments

CE-12	10	Discuss solar PV goals and/or strategies for increasing solar PV development, including large-scale solar plans, solar access, and/or solar adoption in disadvantaged communities, within an appropriate committee, commission, taskforce, and/or working group. (e.g., solar is a recurring agenda item during monthly sustainability commission meetings).	<input type="checkbox"/>
An Environmental Advisory Council, Sustainability Committees, or Climate Action Taskforce is a great way to keep residents and key stakeholders actively engaged in community energy policy and development. These groups can assist in the development of solar energy goals and strategies, lead community-based solar initiatives, and provide communication and outreach support to inform community members about solar initiatives and plans.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide meeting minutes (including a list of follow-up action items) or materials prepared for the meeting (e.g., handouts and slides) from within the past year and provide documentation of the regularly scheduled frequency of these meetings. 			
Community Examples:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branford, CT SolSmart Bronze • Fairfield, CT SolSmart Gold 			
Resources:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Engagement SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments • Solar and Resiliency: Integrative Financing Strategies for SolSmart Communities SolSmart Issue Brief • Solar Power in Your Community Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy 			
CE-13	5	Support a solar informational session and/or solar tour explaining solar PV opportunities and policies. Show that session/tour was made accessible to all members of the community including those in disadvantaged communities. Session/Tour must have occurred within the last 2 years.	<input type="checkbox"/>
An engaged and informed community can encourage solar market growth and increase the likelihood that local homes and businesses will pursue solar installations. Solar informational sessions and solar tours are ways to educate community members about solar energy and the processes involved with an installation. Hosting these sessions in disadvantaged communities, providing transportation, offering tours and materials in other languages, and partnering with a CBO are a few potential ways to increase participation and make these sessions more accessible to all residents.			
Recommended Verification:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link(s) to details about the solar informational session or tour such as an agenda, date, time, and location. • Provide a signed memo describing efforts to make sessions inclusive, including presentational materials or tour itinerary, and information on the level of attendance. 			
Community Examples:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Merion, PA SolSmart Bronze • Sarasota County, FL SolSmart Silver 			
Resources:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Tour Resources National Solar Tour 			

Market Development

MD-1	20	Demonstrate activity in state regulatory and/or legislative proceedings regarding solar PV.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local governments can provide an important voice into the development of state-level solar energy policy, strategies, and incentives. Government staff can track policy developments actively and develop appropriate strategies to interact with state regulators and legislators. Activities can include meetings with state regulators (PUC) or legislators, State Energy Office Officials, submitting written comment and feedback on state Requests for Information or Rulemakings, submitting formal comments or other participation in legal docketed proceedings, etc.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to public comments on solar energy or related energy proceedings, the minutes and/or recordings of meetings attended by representatives of the local government, or a signed memo summarizing involvement in the proceedings. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ann Arbor, MI SolSmart Silver 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement Guidance American Cities Climate Challenge Renewables Accelerator Engagement Tracker American Cities Climate Challenge Renewables Accelerator The Federal and State Context: Policies Affecting Solar Energy Development SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			
MD-2	20	Support a community-wide group purchase program (e.g., Solarize). Program must have occurred within the last 2 years.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local governments can support or host community group purchase programs for solar energy. Bulk purchasing can reduce the costs of solar installations for community members. These limited-time offers have had consistent success in providing discounts of up to 20% of installed costs for residential systems. To be eligible for MD-2, the local government must be an official partner and/or provide tangible support (staff time, resources, etc.) to the group purchase program.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to a website where the Solarize campaign has been publicly announced. Provide details about the status of an ongoing solarize campaign or final metrics of a completed solarize campaign. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Montgomery County, MD SolSmart Gold 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement Guidance- Solarize American Cities Climate Challenge How to Develop a Solarize Campaign SolSmart Webinar Market Development and Finance SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments Solarize Your Community New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) Solarize Mass Massachusetts Clean Energy Center 			
MD-3	10	Define and implement a pathway specifically for low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents to participate in a community-wide group purchase program through program design and/or financing support options.	<input type="checkbox"/>
It can be particularly difficult for low-to-moderate income (LMI) households to participate in solar purchasing programs. These programs may require a minimum credit score, an upfront deposit, or have contract terms that present barriers for some residents. Local governments can help to identify these barriers and create strategies to overcome them, by providing incentives for income-qualified participants.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link to information on solar landing page or provide signed memo summarizing the forms of financing support or program design elements that support LMI residents in solar PV group purchase program. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durham, NC SolSmart Gold Philadelphia, PA SolSmart Gold 			

Resources:

- [Procurement Guidance- Solarize](#) | American Cities Climate Challenge
- [Narrowing the Equity Gap through Solarize](#) | Rocky Mountain Institute
- [How to Development a Solarize Campaign](#) | SolSmart Webinar
- [Market Development and Finance](#) | SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments

MD-4	20	Support a community solar program.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community solar offers residents and businesses an opportunity to own or lease a portion of a solar project in exchange for economic benefits proportional to their share. These economic benefits are commonly delivered in the form of electricity bill credits. For renters, and homes or businesses that are not suitable sites for solar, community solar programs allow consumers to access solar without installing panels on their homes or business. Community solar can be provided by utilities, a third party, or a non-profit. To be eligible for MD-4, the local government must be an official partner and/or provide tangible support (staff time, resources, etc.) to the community solar program.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to information about the community solar program, including any outreach materials and details about program design. • Provide documentation (e.g., signed memo) detailing the local government's partnership and/or other relevant support provided to the community solar program. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin, TX SolSmart Gold • Fort Collins, CO SolSmart Gold 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Solar SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments • Where to Find Community Solar Solar United Neighbors • National Community Solar Partnership Technical Expertise and Capacity Building U.S. Department of Energy National Community Solar Partnership • Expanding Solar Participation through Community Solar SolSmart Issue Brief • Expanding Solar Participation through Community Solar SolSmart Webinar • Procurement Guidance American Cities Climate Challenge Renewables Accelerator • Community Solar National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) • Equitable Access to Community Solar • Community Solar Resources U.S. Department of Energy 			

MD-5	10	Define and implement a pathway specifically for low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents to participate in a community solar program through program design and/or financing support options.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community solar provides opportunities to open access to solar to low-to-moderate income households. To fully achieve this potential, a community program should design programs and financing to support low to moderate income participation, including savings from day one. It is also important to ensure that appropriate and trusted messengers are used and that offerings are designed to be flexible without long-term commitments.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide details that explain program design elements, including outreach and financing, that support LMI resident participation in a community solar program. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver, CO SolSmart Gold • Washington, DC SolSmart Gold 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Solar SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments • Design and Implementation of Community Solar Programs for Low- and Moderate-Income Customers National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) • Procurement Guidance American Cities Climate Challenge Renewables Accelerator • Community Solar + Rocky Mountain Institute • National Community Solar Partnership Technical Expertise and Capacity Building U.S. Department of Energy National Community Solar Partnership • Equitable Access to Community Solar: Program Design and Subscription Considerations National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) • Building with Benefits (Webinar Series) U.S. Department of Energy 			

MD-6	20	Provide residents with Community Choice Aggregation/Energy that includes solar PV as a power generation source.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>In some states, local governments can increase access to solar energy for their operations and their residents through community choice aggregation. Community Choice Aggregation allows local governments to aggregate energy demand within their jurisdiction and procure power from an energy supplier while the local utility provides transmission and distribution services. Many local governments utilize community choice to procure more renewable energy, including solar, than would be available from their local electric utility. States must have enabling legislation for local governments to provide community choice aggregation.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to details about a Community Choice program (with solar PV as a power generation source) that is available for residents. 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Jose, CA SolSmart Gold • Somerville, MA SolSmart Gold 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Choice Aggregation Toolkit New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) • Starting a New CCA California Community Choice Association (CalCCA) • Community Choice Aggregation SolSmart Issue Brief • Community Choice Aggregation: Challenges, Opportunities, and Impacts on Renewable Energy Markets National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) • Using Community Choice Aggregation to Achieve Clean Energy Goals SolSmart Webinar 			

MD-7	10	Provide a PACE financing program that includes solar PV as an eligible technology.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing is an on-bill financing mechanism which enables repayment of long-term, low-interest loans on property tax bills. PACE can be used to finance renewable energy and energy efficiency projects on residential and/or commercial properties, depending on the PACE financing program design. In order for residents and businesses to access PACE financing, it must be enabled at the state and local level.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to the local ordinance creating a PACE program. • Provide a link to the PACE program webpage. 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deerfield Beach, FL SolSmart Silver • Grand Rapids, MI SolSmart Silver 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Development and Finance SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments • Resources PACENation 			

MD-8	20	Provide local incentives or locally-enabled finance (e.g., a revolving loan fund) for solar PV and/or solar PV + technologies (e.g., battery storage, and/or electric vehicle charging).	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>In addition to state and federal incentives, local governments can also encourage solar development within their jurisdictions by providing tax exemptions, rebates, or other financial incentives. Some jurisdictions have enabled community finance through revolving loan funds or credit enhancement facilities for renewable energy projects. These actions can help lower the cost of solar for residents. To be eligible for MD-8, the incentives or financing program must be currently available to residents.</p>			
<p>Recommended Verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a link to an ordinance creating local incentives or financing options. • Provide a link to an application or form that is required for a solar PV system to be eligible for incentives or financing. 			
<p>Community Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loudoun County, VA SolSmart Silver • St. Louis Park, MN SolSmart Silver 			
<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Development and Finance SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

MD-9	5	Provide local incentives for solar PV to low-to-moderate income (LMI) households, disadvantaged communities, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs), and/or non-profit organizations that provide community services.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local governments can support solar installations by LMI households, DBEs, and non-profit organizations by providing incentives such as low-interest loans, grants, on-bill financing and a variety of tax incentives and rebates. Local governments can expand solar programs to disadvantaged residents by implementing any number of these programs.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a signed memo describing the local incentives and who is eligible to receive them. • Provide a link to a webpage or press release with program information. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boulder, CO SolSmart Gold • Portland, OR Not Designated 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Development and Finance SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments • Projects & Programs in Low-to-Moderate Income Communities SolSmart Webinar • Resources to Support Initiatives for Low-to-Moderate Income Communities SolSmart Webinar • Unlocking Solar for Low- and Moderate-Income Residents: A Matrix of Financing Options by Resident, Provider, and Housing Type National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) 			

MD-10	20	Partner with financial institutions and/or foundations to offer loans, rebates, grants, or other incentives for solar PV projects. (Financial institutions could include entities such as a local or regional bank, CDFI, or credit union).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loans, rebates, or grants can improve the financial prospects of a solar project, allowing more community members to install solar. Local governments can work with local financial institutions to offer and/or promote financing options for solar projects.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide link to financing options for solar energy. • Provide a signed memo detailing how the local government partnered with the financial institution to offer a financial incentive for solar energy. 			
Community Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lafayette, CO SolSmart Gold • Milwaukee, WI SolSmart Gold 			
Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Development and Finance SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments 			

Innovative Action

IA-1	Varies	The actions identified in the categories above represent many of the most common and impactful efforts communities are taking to make going solar easier and more affordable for residents and businesses. However, we know that communities across the country are developing innovative ways to promote and deploy solar energy. If your community has taken action that was not captured in any of the criteria above, please share it with us.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Innovative actions will be reviewed by a team of solar experts and each action may be worth up to 20 points.			
Recommended Verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a signed memo describing the innovative action and include any supporting documentation or links that provide additional details. 			

Community Examples:

- [Grayslake, IL](#) | SolSmart Bronze
 - The Grayslake Sustainable Business Initiative recognizes local businesses that are choosing to be more sustainable. Solar energy is emphasized by awarding a business automatic gold designation if they have installed a solar energy system.
- [Montgomery County, MD](#) | SolSmart Gold
 - Montgomery County's 4th Solar Co-op offered EV charging as an option through the solar co-op. This helps promote EV charging and can reduce costs through group purchasing.

Acknowledgment

This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) under the Solar Energy Technologies Office Award Numbers DE-EE0009950 & DE-EE009951.

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