

## ARTICLE 6: DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

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## **ARTICLE 6 DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

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### **6-1 Uniform Application of Design Standards**

Unless otherwise stated, all design standards herein and in Article 7, Sections 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, and 6.10, shall be applied to all new nonresidential development in the City and to bring properties into conformance, as allowed by Article 10.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

### **6-2 Building Design and Architectural Character**

The purpose and intent of this section is to establish standards to guide development that is aesthetically pleasing and compatible within the context of the surrounding area. These guidelines are intended to allow for creativity and diversity and avoid to monotony in design.

#### **A. Applicability**

1. The standards and guidelines contained in Section 6-2 shall apply to all new nonresidential structures or combined structures greater than 15,000 square feet and to expansions or alterations of any such existing building where the expansion or alteration exceeds 50 percent of the building value as assessed for real property taxes except in HM, LM Zoning Districts.

(Amended March 4, 2013; June 6, 2022)

2. All development subject to this Section shall be compatible with the established architectural character of the City of Mebane by utilizing a design that is complementary to existing City architectural styles, designs, and forms. Compatibility shall be achieved through techniques such as the repetition of roof lines, the use of similar proportions in building mass and outdoor spaces, similar relationships to the street, similar window and door patterns, and the use of building materials that have color, shades, and textures similar to those existing in the immediate area of the proposed development.

#### **B. [Reserved] Amended June , 2022**

#### **C. Building Design Standards**

Design standards promote creativity and innovation while discouraging obtrusive, incongruous structures. The City discourages architectural styles that do not build upon and promote the existing character of the City. The City supports the view that inspiring, well-maintained, and harmonious development is in the best economic development interests of all residents and businesses.

1. Emphasize Human Scale

Building design shall emphasize a human scale at ground level, at entryways, and along street frontages through the creative use of windows, doors, columns, canopies, and awnings.

2. **Major Building Design Features Proportional**  
Major building design features, such as windows, doors, eaves, and parapets, shall be designed to be in proportion to one another.
3. **Structural Lines Retained at Storefront Level**  
The structural lines of a building and its materials shall be retained at the storefront level. For instance, brick piers and columns shall be carried down to street level.
4. **Awnings and Canopies**  
Awnings and canopies shall complement the color and material of the building to which they are affixed.
5. **Massing**  
A single, large, dominant building mass shall be avoided. Where large structures are required, mass should be broken up through the use of setbacks, windows, projecting and recessed elements, and similar design techniques. Changes in mass shall be related to entrances, the integral structure, and/or the organization of interior spaces and activities and not merely for cosmetic effect.
6. **Front entrances must face the street whenever practicable, and combined with windows, shall comprise a minimum of 30% of the front-facing facade.**

*Amended June 6, 2022*

#### **D. Avoiding Monotony of Design**

Monotony of design in single or multiple building projects shall be avoided by varying detail, form, and siting to the maximum extent practicable, within the standards set forth in this article, to provide visual interest.

#### **E. Harmony of Design**

The purpose of this subsection is to preserve the design character of existing development, to protect the visual pattern of the community, and to promote harmony in the visual relationships and transitions between new and older buildings. New buildings should respect the scale, form, and proportion of existing development. This can be done by repeating building lines and surface treatments and by requiring some uniformity of detail, scale, proportion, texture, materials, color, and building form.

1. **Building Color Shades**  
Building color shades shall be used to facilitate blending into the neighborhood and unify the development. The color shades of building materials shall draw from the range of color shades that already exist on the block or in the adjacent neighborhood.
2. **Building Materials**

Building materials shall either be similar to the materials already being used in the neighborhood or, if dissimilar materials are being proposed, other characteristics such as scale and proportions, form, architectural detailing, color, and texture, shall be utilized to ensure that enough similarity exists for the building to be compatible, despite the differences in materials.

3. **Similar Size and Height for Infill Development**  
New infill development shall either be similar in size and height or, if larger, be articulated and subdivided into massing that is proportional to the mass and scale of other structures on the same block, or if no buildings exist thereon, then on adjoining blocks.
4. **Unify Individual Storefronts**  
If several storefronts are located in one building, the individual storefronts shall be unified in all exterior design elements, such as mass, window and door placement, color, materials, and signage.
5. **Additions and Renovations**  
Building additions and façade renovations should be designed to reflect existing buildings in scale, materials, window treatment, and color. A change in scale may require a transitional design element between the new development and existing buildings.
6. **Varying Architectural Styles**  
In developments with multiple structures of varying architectural styles, buildings shall be compatible by such means as a pattern of architectural features, similar scale and proportions, and consistent location of signage.

## **F. Architectural Character**

Architectural character focuses on the specific details that greatly affect the overall appearance of a particular development. These architectural character standards in this subsection provide direction in aspects of color, facade materials, rooflines, and the enhancement of entryways. The primary goal is to define the 'finishing touches' that provide the development with a sense of permanence, style, and compatibility. The City discourages proposals that have not taken these matters into account. The City policy is that all development be treated as a lasting contributor to the community and as a 'good neighbor' to its surroundings.

### **1. Roofs**

The following standards are intended to foster variations in roof lines to soften and reduce the massive scale of large buildings:

- (a) Roof lines shall be varied to reduce the scale of structures and add visual interest.
- (b) Roof shape (for example: flat, hip, mansard, or gable) and material shall be architecturally compatible with façade elements and the rest of the building.

- (c) Flat roofs must be enclosed by a parapet that screens mechanical equipment from view by pedestrians at street level.
- (d) The height of the parapet shall not exceed one-third of the height of the supporting wall. Such parapet shall not be of a constant height for a distance greater than 150 feet.

## **2. Facades**

- (a) **Recesses and Projections**  
Facades greater than 100 feet in length, measured horizontally, shall incorporate building wall offsets including recesses and projections along at least 20 percent of the length of the façade. Windows, awnings, and arcades shall total at least 60 percent of the façade length abutting a public street.
- (b) **Repeating Design Patterns**  
Facades greater than 100 feet in length, measured horizontally, shall incorporate a repeating pattern of change in color, texture, and material modules. All elements should repeat at intervals of no more than 30 feet, either horizontally or vertically.
- (c) **Renovations**  
Façade renovations shall incorporate original building details to the maximum extent practicable.
- (d) **Materials**  
Brick, stone, or wood facades shall not be covered or replaced with artificial siding or panels.
- (e) **Roof Cornices**  
If roof cornices have been removed or damaged on an existing building, renovations of that building must include retaining, repairing, and replacing the roof cornices if previously removed.
- (f) **Replacement of Windows**  
Replacement of windows on the façade of an existing building shall be accomplished by using windows of the same trim, size, and character as the original or by using a different style of window that complements the architectural style of the building.
- (g) **Exterior Wall Cladding**  
All exterior walls visible from a parking lot or public right-of-way in any zoning district except the HM and LM Industrial zoning districts shall be clad with the same material required for the front of the building.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- (h) **Building Orientation**  
New buildings shall be oriented so that the largest and longest façade faces the primary road. To the maximum extent feasible, new buildings shall be oriented or designed to minimize shadows falling on public or semi-public spaces.

### **3. Entryways**

- (a) **Required Entryway Features**  
Entryway design elements and variations shall provide orientation and aesthetically pleasing character to the building. The following standards identify desirable entryway design features. Each principal building on a site shall have clearly defined, highly visible customer entrances featuring no less than three of the following:
  - (1) Canopies or Porticos
  - (2) Arcades
  - (3) Overhangs
  - (4) Recesses/projections
  - (5) Raised corniced parapets over the doors
  - (6) Peaked roof forms
  - (7) Arches
  - (8) Wing walls
  - (9) Outdoor patio
  - (10) Display windows
  - (11) Planters
  - (12) Architectural details such as tile work and moldings which are designed into the building structure and overall design
- (b) **Sides Facing Abutting Street**  
All sides of a principal building that directly face an abutting public street shall feature at least one customer entrance.

### **4. Exterior Building Materials and Colors**

- (a) **Predominant Exterior Building Materials**

Predominant exterior building materials shall be high quality materials, including EIFS, brick, wood, cast stone, stucco, sandstone, other native stone, tinted/textured concrete masonry units, and high-quality metal siding, including flat metal siding with a non-metallic appearance or if integrated as an ornamental feature and standing seam or batten metal siding featuring interlocking rivets. The Development Director may approve the use of similar materials not identified.

- (1) Prohibited building materials:  
Metal siding composed of sheets that are not interlocking and/or not of durable construction, including corrugated metal siding and box rib metal siding.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

**(b) Colors**

- (1) Façade colors shall be of low reflectance and/or subtle colors. Building trim may feature brighter colors, but neon tubing is not allowed as an accent material. The use of high intensity colors or fluorescent colors shall be prohibited.
- (2) Variations in color schemes are encouraged in order to articulate entryways and public amenities so as to give greater recognition to these features.

**5. Outdoor Plazas**

Outdoor plazas shall contain benches spaced every 250 feet and at least two of the following features:

- (a) Landscaping island
- (b) Fountains
- (c) Clock tower
- (d) Pond or other prominent water feature
- (e) Sculptures or similar artwork

*Amended June 6, 2022*

**G. Evidence of Compliance**

The Planning Director shall require such evidence of ability to comply with the building design standards as set forth in this Section as the Director deems necessary prior to issuance of a certificate of zoning compliance.



### **6-3 Compatibility Standards**

The standards of Section 7-6 of this Ordinance shall apply to all lots, excepting those lots otherwise exempted by Section 4.4. The operational compatibility standards in Section 6-3 shall apply to all uses.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

#### **A. Glare**

Glare from arc welding, acetylene torch cutting, or similar processes shall be contained within a completely enclosed and vented building.

#### **B. Heat and Humidity**

Uses, activities, and processes shall not produce any unreasonable, disturbing, or unnecessary emissions of heat or humidity at the property line of the site on which they are situated, which cause material distress, discomfort, or injury to a reasonable person.

#### **C. Noise**

No activity or operation subject to this Ordinance shall exceed the maximum permitted sound levels as set forth in this Ordinance and in Article IV of the Mebane City Code of Ordinances.

#### **D. Vibration**

No use, activity, or process shall produce vibrations that are perceptible without instruments at the property line for more than three minutes in any one hour of the day between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., or for more than 30 seconds in any one hour between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

#### **E. Operational/Physical Compatibility**

The following conditions may be imposed upon the approval of any development to ensure that it is compatible with existing uses, including but not limited to, restrictions on:

1. Hours of operation and deliveries;
2. Location on a site of activities that generate potential adverse impacts on adjacent uses, such as noise and glare;
3. Placement of trash receptacles;
4. Location of loading and delivery areas;
5. Location, intensity, and hours of illumination;
6. Placement and illumination of outdoor vending machines, telephones, ATMs, signage, bicycle parking, and similar outdoor services, structures, and activities;

*Amended June 6, 2022*

7. Additional landscaping and buffering;
8. Height restrictions to preserve light and privacy and views of significant features from public property and rights-of-way;
9. Preservation of natural lighting and solar access;
10. Ventilation and control of odors and fumes; and
11. Dust-control paving.

#### **F. Evidence of Compliance**

The Planning Director shall require such evidence of ability to comply with appropriate performance standards, mitigation measures, and conditions as set forth in this Section as the Director deems necessary prior to issuance of a certificate of zoning compliance.

### **6-4 Landscaping, Buffering, and Screening**

#### **A. Purpose and Applicability**

##### **1. Purpose:**

Protection of Mebane's natural environment and enhancement of the community's built environment with installation of new landscape areas are important to the City of Mebane and its citizens. The regulations of this Section are a tool to ensure these goals are accomplished. The purposes of this Section are:

- (a) To encourage the proper use of the land by promoting an appropriate balance between the built environment and preservation/conservation of open space;
- (b) To preserve and improve property values and protect private and public investment through preservation of open space, protection of the existing tree canopy, providing buffers between incompatible uses and along roadways, and encouraging the planting of new vegetation as deemed appropriate;
- (c) To consider the guidelines and recommendations in Mebane's adopted planning documents and policies;

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- (d) To preserve and protect the identity and character of Mebane;
- (e) To enhance the business economy; and

- (f) To set forth development standards and requirements for preserving existing vegetation and installation of new landscape areas.

## **2. Application:**

The requirements of this Section shall apply to all uses of land, buildings, and structures located within the City of Mebane Planning and Zoning Jurisdiction which are not exempted in subsection 3 below. Fencing criteria are all applicable and available in 4-2.D.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

## **3. Exemptions:**

None of the landscaping and screening requirements of this Section shall apply to:

- (a) A detached single-family dwelling on its own separate lot, with the exception of requiring one tree be planted in the front yard as described in Part H-8.
- (b) A two-family dwelling on its own separate lot, with the exception of requiring one tree be planted in the front yard as described in Part H-8.
- (c) Existing uses and buildings, including repairs, alterations, or improvements to the interiors and exteriors of existing buildings which do not result in additions or expansions to them.
- (d) Additions or expansions made to existing buildings within any consecutive 12-month period where the gross floor area of the additions or expansions does not exceed 35% of the gross floor area of the existing buildings. Any required vegetation removed for this expansion shall be replaced elsewhere on site. This allowance shall not exempt a property from addressing nonconformances, subject to the criteria of Article 10.
- (f) Additions or expansions made to existing vehicular parking areas within any consecutive 12-month period where the total area of the additions or expansions will not exceed 35% of the existing vehicular parking areas.
- (g) Application to Small Developments and Lots:  
Non-residential development of parcels that exist at the adoption of this ordinance of 2 acres or less, shall not be subject to the perimeter landscaping standards of Section 6-4. All other provisions of this section shall apply, including streetscaping. Such uses and development shall submit an alternative landscape plan

to the Zoning Administrator showing the following landscaping and screening requirements:

- A perimeter buffer of average width of fifteen feet (15') with a minimum of five feet (5') buffer area in width shall be located along the outer perimeter of parcel to separate that use from adjacent residential uses. This buffer shall function as a semi-opaque Type B buffer.
- There shall be a minimum of one canopy tree every 2500 square feet or one understory tree for every 1400 square feet of parking area. Parking spaces shall all be within 60 feet of the trunk of a canopy tree or 30 feet from understory trees, should utility conflicts or circumstances prevent compliance. All vehicular parking areas shall be screened from adjacent properties and streets by evergreen plantings that will attain a height of three feet (3') within three years. The use of shrubs and ground covers is encouraged in parking area islands and along the borders of parking areas.

*Adopted on May 7, 2012; Amended on September 10, 2018; June 6, 2022; June 3, 2024*

## **B. General Provisions**

### **1. Landscaping plans**

Landscaping and tree preservation plans shall be submitted for approval as part of each site plan required by this Ordinance.

### **2. Pre-Submittal Conference**

A presubmittal conference with the Zoning Administrator is required to understand the requirements of this Section.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- (a) Under certain circumstances the application of the standards delineated in this Section may either be inappropriate or ineffective in achieving the purposes of this Section. When landscaping and screening is required by this Section or by other provisions of this Ordinance and the site design, size, topography, unique relationships to other properties, lot configuration, spatial separation, natural vegetation, existing or proposed utility easements, or other special considerations exist relative to the proposed development, the developer may submit a specific alternative plan to the Zoning Administrator. The alternative landscaping plan shall indicate how the proposed alternative

means of compliance are justified by site or development conditions and illustrate how compliance with the standards which need deviation can be achieved to the maximum extent practicable. If approved by the Zoning Administrator, the alternative landscaping plan may be utilized to meet the requirements of this Ordinance. Any party aggrieved by the staff's approval or disapproval of an alternative landscaping plan may appeal to the Board of Adjustment for its decision, as allowed by Section 8-1.

- (b) A combination of natural vegetation, fences, walls and berms may be utilized to achieve the screening requirements of this Section provided that the following standards are met:
  - (1) Walls (a minimum of six feet in height and constructed of masonry, stone or pressure treated lumber) or an opaque fence (a minimum of six feet in height) may be used to reduce the widths of the buffer yards required by 10 feet.
  - (2) Understory trees shall be substituted for canopy trees if, a conflict exists with overhead utility lines.
  - (3) Wall planters shall be constructed of masonry, stone or pressure treated lumber and shall have a minimum height of 30 inches. The minimum height of shrubs in wall planters shall be 12 inches. The effective planting area of the wall planter shall be 4 feet in width (7 feet if the wall planter contains trees).
  - (4) Any berm utilized for screening purposes shall comply with the standards and requirements of subsection H, 4.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- 4. All portions of required perimeter and streetscape buffer yards not planted with trees or shrubs or covered by a wall, driveway, or other barrier shall be planted with grass, ground cover, or natural mulch of a minimum depth of 3 inches, and shall be maintained to prevent mulch, dirt and other materials from washing into streets and sidewalks.
- 5. All tree and plant material selections shall be native or adapted to the Mebane region and its climate. A minimum of three (3) species of trees shall be used in all landscaping plans. A recommended plant materials list is provided in Appendix G. All species identified as invasive by the NC State University Agricultural Extension or NC Department of Agriculture are prohibited from being planted to satisfy the landscaping requirements and are recommended for removal and replacement.
- 6. Installation and construction practices should be utilized which preserve and replace existing topsoil.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

### **C. Perimeter Buffers: Existing Vegetation or New Perimeter Landscaping, General Requirements**

#### **1. Applicability**

All land uses for which site plan approval is required shall provide a buffer to separate that use from adjacent land uses in accordance with the buffer chart (see Table 6-4-1). Within the B-1 Central Business District, however, the requirements of this Section shall apply only to boundaries between properties located within the district and properties located outside the district, and not to boundaries between properties which are each located within the B-1 Central Business District. In cases where a required setback is smaller than the required buffer, the width of the buffer shall not be reduced.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

#### **2. Purpose of buffers**

Natural and landscaped buffers to separate adjacent land uses shall be provided in order to:

- (a) Shield properties from any adverse external effects of adjacent development, so as to mitigate incompatibilities between adjacent uses;
- (b) Preserve open space;
- (c) Preserve or create tree canopy and vegetation;
- (d) Minimize future increases in stormwater runoff;
- (e) Improve appearance of developments; and
- (f) Reduce glare and moderate temperature of impervious areas; and
- (g) Provide connectivity of buffers and dedicated open space among properties.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

#### **3. Existing Natural Buffers**

Existing buffers should be preserved rather than removing existing vegetation, in order to promote the preservation of existing natural areas. Where possible, buffers should remain in an undisturbed condition; but if the buffer is not a stream buffer, some maintenance may be necessary to prevent overgrowth. If an existing buffer does not meet the required buffer type as specified in Table 6-4-1, it must be enhanced to meet the specifications. The buffer shall have the width, amount of vegetation, and other features to properly mitigate negative effects of contiguous land uses.

4. Landscaped or Re-vegetated Buffers  
If the Zoning Administrator determines that there is not an existing buffer on the site or has been disturbed, then a re-vegetated natural buffer shall be installed.
5. Type and width of buffer required  
Table 6-4-1 determines the type and width of existing buffer or landscaped buffer that must be installed.

<b>Table 6-4-1: Width and Type of Buffers* for Existing Perimeter Buffers and Landscaped Perimeter Buffers</b> <i>Amended June 6, 2022</i>											
	<b>IF DEVELOPED Adjacent Use Class</b>							<b>IF VACANT Adjacent Property Zoning District</b>			
<b>Proposed Use Class</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Residential Zones</b>	<b>O&amp;I</b>	<b>B-3 B-2 B-1</b>	<b>HM LM</b>
<b>4</b>	20' B	40' B	30' B	20' B	20' B	20' B	20' B	25' B	10' B	10' B	10' B
<b>5</b>	25' B	40' B	30' B	20' B	20' C	20' C	20' B	25' B	10' C	10' C	10' B
<b>6</b>	50' B	100' B	70' B	40' B	20' C	20' C	25' B	50' B	20' C	20' C	10' C
<b>7</b>	75' B	125' B	100' B	50' B	30' B	25' B	20' C	70' B	25' B	25' B	10' C
<p>* see subsection C, 7, (a) and (b) for descriptions of buffer types</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When no significant trees and shrubs occur within the perimeter buffer, new trees and shrubs are required to be planted to meet the requirements for the applicable buffer type. The new plantings shall be spread across the entire width of the buffer and not always planted in a row or rows.</li> <li>2. No buffer is required between shared public uses (example a park adjacent to a school, library, or other shared public facility).</li> <li>3. Buffers consistent with these land use classes are required between out-parcels and the adjacent shopping center or development to which the parcel is related. However, a required perimeter buffer between outparcels may be shifted elsewhere on the site per subsection C, 9.</li> <li>4. Buffer areas along the perimeter of a small lot subdivision shall be required to provide a greater separation from adjoining lower density residential areas.</li> </ol>											

6. Land use classes for purposes of determining buffer width and type  
The seven land use classes appearing in Table 6-4-1 include the following uses and structures:

<b>Table 6-4-2</b> <b>LAND USE CLASSES</b> <i>Amended June 6, 2022</i>	
<b>Land Class</b>	<b>Land Uses Included within the Land Class</b>
<b>Class 1</b>	Parks (except for active outdoor recreation), resource conservation facilities, farms (bona fide) and like uses.
	Open space—No buffer is required for any use adjacent to recorded permanent open space unless it is needed to meet the buffer width and type requirements in Table 6-4-1. Buffer width and type is based on the land use on the opposite side of the open space. Setbacks from open space will be the same as those for buffers since the open space is being used to meet buffer requirements.
<b>Class 2</b>	Single family detached dwellings on lots that are 8,000 square feet in area or larger and like uses.
	In addition, ‘underdeveloped’ properties (larger size properties greater than 10 acres that have the potential for higher density development as specified on the Land Use Plan Map) that may presently be zoned and/or used for residential shall be placed in the class according to the future land use as shown on the adopted Land Use Plan Map. This shall not apply to properties that contain an existing residential dwelling unit within 200 feet of the proposed use property line.
<b>Class 3</b>	Single family detached dwellings in residentially zoned districts on lots of less than 8,000 square feet and like uses (including detached patio homes).
	Privately-maintained residential amenities
<b>Class 4</b>	Animal hospitals/clinics having no outside kennels
	Churches
	Clinics
	Clubs and lodges
	Colleges
	Day care centers
	Duplex, attached or semi-detached dwellings
	Golf course sales, service and maintenance areas
	Guest houses
	Libraries
	Manufactured home parks
	Multi-family dwellings
	Museums
	Nursing homes
	O&I District not containing retail stores and/or restaurants, nightclubs and/or bars
	Offices and banks with a gross floor area on the property of 50,000 square feet or less
	Parking lots as a principal use containing less than 50 parking spaces
	Patio homes attached
	Public safety stations
	Recreation centers
	Recreation, outdoor active public (includes those associated with schools and parks)
	Schools



	Townhouses
	Towers: water, radio, television or telecommunication up to 75 feet in height from the finished grade elevation to the top of the tower (not including antennae)
	Walk-up teller machines and/or depositories
<b>Class 5</b>	Amphitheater, outdoor (government) seating not more than 250 persons
	Amusement establishments, indoor
	Assisted living facilities
	Banks (including drive-through)
	Bowling alleys
	Drive-through windows associated with banks and similar uses
	Farm markets
	Hospitals
	Hotels and motels which are not located adjacent to a residential district that have no more than 150 rooms
	Life Care Communities
	Nursery, landscape supply businesses
	O&I District containing retail stores, and/or restaurants, nightclubs and/or bars
	Offices which are not specifically listed in Class 4 above with a total gross floor area greater than 50,000 square feet
	Parking lots as a principal use containing greater than 50 parking spaces
	Theaters
	Towers: water, radio, television or telecommunication, up to 150 feet in height from the finished grade elevation to the top of the tower (not including antennae)
	Utility substations
<b>Class 6</b>	Amphitheater, outdoor (government) seating more than 250 persons
	Amusement establishments, outdoor
	Automobile service stations
	Car washes
	Convenience stores
	Drive-through windows with uses otherwise permitted by this class
	Event center
	Hotels and motels, 150 rooms and greater, which are not located adjacent to a residential district
	Mini-storage warehouses
	Recreation, outdoor (commercial/private)
	Retail stores, shopping centers, or restaurants, nightclubs and/or bars not included within the O&I zoning district
	Towers: water, radio, television or telecommunication up to 199 feet in height from the finished grade elevation to the top of the tower (not including antennae)
	Vehicle sales, service, and rental
	Wholesale and jobbing establishments
	Adult Establishments
	Amphitheaters, outdoor (commercial/private)
	Dog kennels, outdoors
	Hotels and motels which are located adjacent to a residential district
	Manufacturing, heavy

<b>Class 7</b>	Manufacturing, light
	Outdoor storage
	Prototype process and production plants
	Public utility facilities
	Railroad lines, stations and yards
	Recycling and salvage operations
	Research laboratories
	Resource extraction
	Towers: radio, television or telecommunication above 199 feet in height from the finished grade elevation to the top of the tower (not including antennae)
	Vehicle raceway, motor
	Warehousing and distribution establishments

As an additional reference guide, Appendix C includes an alphabetical listing of land uses by land use class.

#### 7. Types of Buffers and Landscaped Areas; Performance Standards

The two types of landscaped buffers that appear in Table 6-4-1 are described below along with performance standards for each. The use of existing plantings and trees is the preferred method of meeting the buffer and landscape requirements.

These types of buffers may be achieved by meeting the requirements listed below or by an approved alternative method that meets the performance requirements.

##### (a) Type B, Semi-opaque

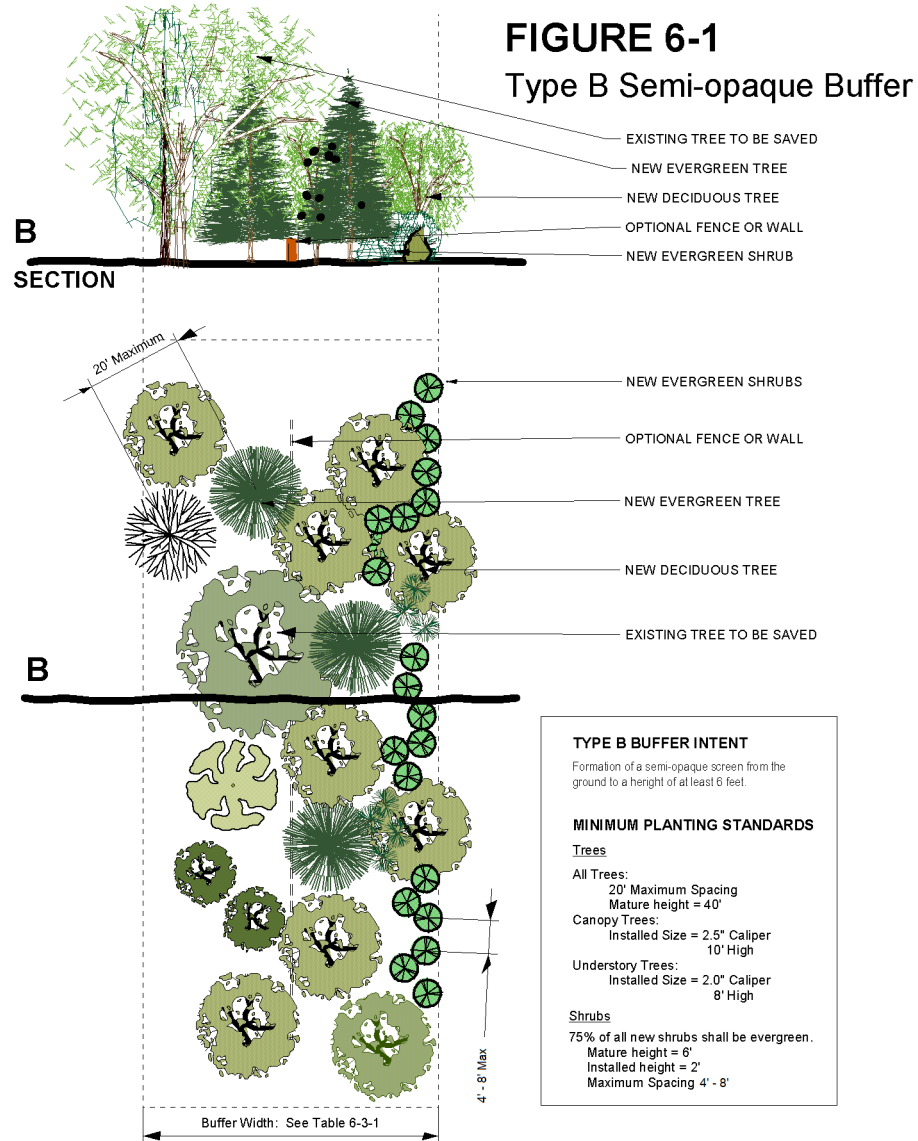
**Performance Standards:** This perimeter buffer functions as an opaque screen from the ground to at least a height 6 feet. Vegetative material within this buffer shall meet the following criteria:

- (1) Existing or planted deciduous and/or evergreen trees shall attain a height at maturity of no less than 40 feet.
- (2) At least 50% of understory trees shall be evergreen and attain a height at maturity of no less than 10 feet.
- (3) At least 75 percent of the required shrubs shall be evergreen species locally adapted to the area.
- (4) Maximum spacing shall generally be no wider than 20 feet between tree trunks (but may be wider depending on tree type, if approved by the zoning administrator), with evergreen shrubs spacing ranging from four to eight feet on center.
- (5) Composition of the Semi-opaque Type B buffer may include a wall, fence, landscaped earthen berm, planted vegetation,

existing vegetation, or any appropriate combination of the elements.

- (6) Plantings shall be spread across the entire span of the buffer and not planted in a single row.

*Amended June 6, 2022*



**Figure 6-a: Type B Semi-Opaque Buffer**  
*Amended June 3, 2024*

**(b) Type C, Aesthetic**

**Performance Standards:** This perimeter buffer functions as an intermittent visual obstruction from the ground to a height of at least 20 feet, and creates the impression of spatial separation without eliminating visual contact between uses. Vegetative material within this buffer shall meet the following criteria:

- (1) Existing or proposed tree plantings and shrubs of either deciduous and/or evergreen species may be installed in either a random, clustered, and/or linear fashion.
- (2) At least 50% of shrubs shall be evergreen.
- (3) Maximum spacing shall generally be no wider than 40 feet between canopy tree trunks, 20 feet between understory trees, and 8 feet between shrubs (Amended 12/05/11)
- (4) Composition of the Aesthetic Type C buffer may include a wall, fence, earth berm, planted vegetation, existing vegetation, or any appropriate combination of these elements.
- (5) Plantings shall be spread across the entire span of the buffer and not in a single row.

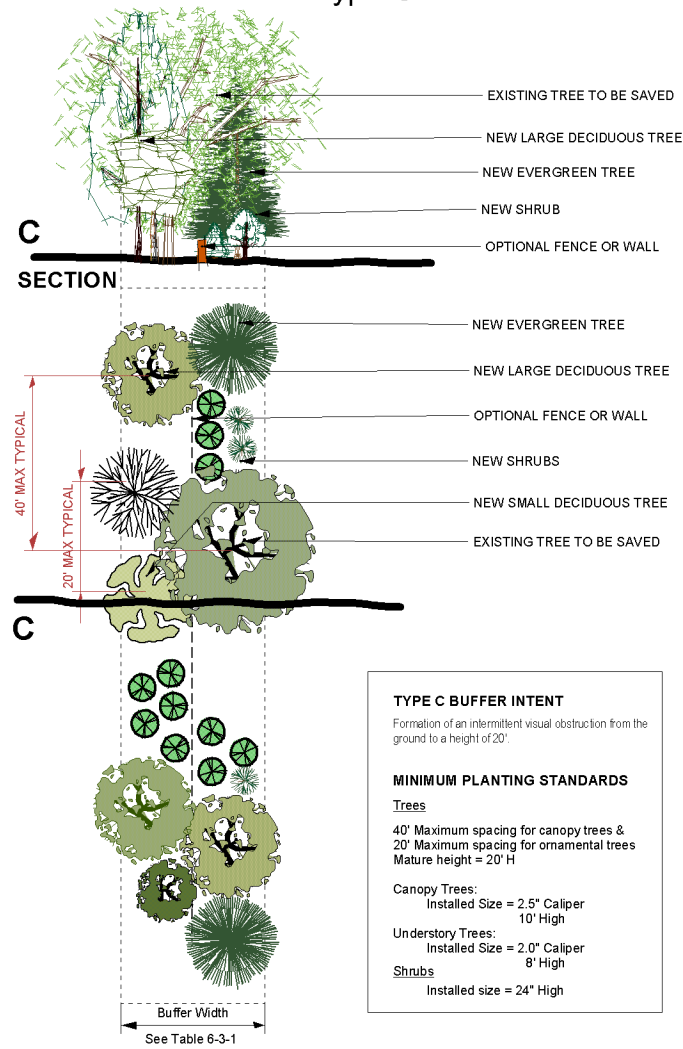
*Amended June 6, 2022*

**(c) General Buffer Standards**

Buffer plantings shall conform to the following standards:

- (1) The new plantings comprising the buffer shall be spread across the entire span of the buffer and not always planted in a row or rows. In some cases, planting in a row or rows is necessary to achieve the desired performance objective. Specifically, the entire buffer width may not be needed to achieve the desired performance objective of the buffer type. However, the remainder of the required buffer area should have a minimum spacing of trees as required by the applicable buffer type.
- (2) Buffer performance requirements must be achieved within five years.
- (3) Additional trees and shrubs may be required in addition to the existing vegetation to meet these buffer requirements.

**FIGURE 6-2**  
Type C Aesthetic Buffer



**Figure 6-b: Type C Aesthetic Buffer**

8. Location of buffers

The perimeter buffers required by this Section shall be located along the outer perimeter of the parcel and shall extend to the parcel boundary line or right-of-way line; however, the buffers may be located along shared access easements between parcels in non-residential developments. Within shopping centers or other non-residential centers/developments, the perimeter buffer area between outparcels may be shifted totally or in part, elsewhere on the site. For example a 20-foot buffer between like uses may be shifted elsewhere on the site preferably interior to the site as long as the total area is provided for. In Manufacturing zoning districts featuring loading docks, the parking lot trees may be shifted elsewhere on the site to enhance perimeter buffers or streetscapes in an effort to buffer adjoining land uses of lesser intensity. The intent of this subsection is to provide for more flexibility in designing sites and potentially save larger natural areas elsewhere on the site.

Perimeter buffers shall not include any portion of an existing or proposed public or private street right of-way and public or private easements. Stormwater control measures may be allowed in a buffer provided that it can be landscaped to meet the intent of the buffer requirements.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

9. Existing vegetation, fences, walls, and berms

Existing significant vegetation within the required buffer shall be preserved and credited toward standards for the type of buffer required, unless otherwise approved by the Zoning Administrator at the time of site plan approval. Existing berms, walls, or opaque fences within the buffer, but not including chain link fencing, may be used in part to fulfill the requirements for the 6-foot tall screen where required, provided that these elements are healthy and/or in a condition of good repair. Other existing site features within the required buffer area which do not otherwise function to meet the standards for the required buffer shall be screened from the view of other properties or removed, as determined during review and approval of the site plan.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

10. Installation of new vegetation and other features

If existing significant vegetation and other site features do not fully meet the standards for the type of buffer required, then additional vegetation and/or site features (such as fences) shall be planted or installed within the required buffer area to meet the performance criteria outlined in subsection 7 above (Types of Buffers/Landscaped Areas; Performance Standards).

11. No development within the required buffers

With the exceptions noted below, the required buffer shall not contain any development, impervious surfaces, or site features that do not function to

meet the standards of this Section or that require removal of existing vegetation. No grading, development, or land-disturbing activities shall occur within the buffer or within the tree protection fence area unless approved by the Zoning Administrator.

Sidewalks and trails may be placed in buffers provided that damage to existing vegetation is minimized, and the intent of the buffer requirement is met. Utilities are not permitted in buffers unless no reasonable alternative exists. If utilities are placed in a buffer, they shall be located and installed in a way that minimizes disturbance of the buffer area (for example, installed not parallel but perpendicular or not less than at a 75 degree angle). Streets may not be placed within a buffer except to cross the buffer where necessary to connect to adjoining properties.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

12. Ownership and maintenance of buffers  
Whenever possible, buffers in residential subdivisions shall be dedicated in an easement in common area exclusive to privately-owned lots and managed by the Homeowners Association. No required buffer in a residential subdivision shall be wholly owned (in fee simple absolute) by the owner of an individual residential building lot unless adequate, legally binding covenants are in place which ensure that the buffer is properly maintained and is not removed. If the buffer is placed upon privately-owned lots, the lots shall be sized to accommodate the buffer in addition to the minimum lot standards for the zoning district.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

#### **D. Streetscape Landscaping: Preservation of Existing Vegetation and Installation of New Landscape Areas**

1. Preservation of Existing Vegetation along Roadways  
All uses which are subject to the requirements of this Ordinance shall preserve existing healthy vegetation within the streetscape or street front along all existing and proposed streets to meet the goals of a Type B perimeter buffer. Construction access to a site should occur where an existing or proposed entrance or exit is located.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- (a) Residential Development Perimeters: Natural and dense vegetation should be maintained along major collectors and thoroughfares to mitigate the impact of these roadways.
- (b) On sites zoned for commercial or manufacturing, selective thinning may occur to improve the health of trees within the buffer. In addition, existing low-growing healthy vegetation and undergrowth for typical trees may be removed, if necessary, to allow for greater visibility of the site; however, healthy native ornamental specimen

species should be saved if practical. Proposals for thinning buffers must be approved by the Zoning Administrator.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- (c) The Zoning Administrator may allow the installation and maintenance of a planted streetscape in lieu of preservation of the existing vegetation along each thoroughfare or all streets which are adjacent to the site. Such modifications can be made with sound justification related to topography, drainage, site configuration, quality and quantity of existing healthy vegetation, road construction requirements or other similar issue. If a planted streetscape is permitted, then the required vegetation will be installed or in an amount comparable to what existed naturally (given time for maturity at a later date). If no existing healthy vegetation exists, then a minimum of a Type C planting is required.

Existing healthy vegetation may be removed in order to achieve required automobile sight distance triangles at intersections, driveways, or ingress/egress points, drive access to the site or to locate sidewalks or trails after review and approval by the Zoning Administrator

- (d) The applicant may appeal the Zoning Administrator's decision by electing to have the development plan forwarded to the City Council for consideration, after review and recommendation by the Planning Board.

## 2. Required Width of Streetscapes for All Types of Development

The width of the streetscape for non-residential uses (except when located in the B-1, Central Business District) shall be a minimum of 20 feet and a Type B design along thoroughfares and major collectors, as measured from the right-of-way line. The width of streetscapes in the B-1 district shall be determined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the provisions of subsection I, 2, (c).

- (a) For residential developments along thoroughfares and major collectors, the width of the streetscape shall be a minimum of 20 feet in width. In accordance with subsection I, Incentives the Zoning Administrator may grant reductions in the width for residential streetscapes, only when the remaining streetscape is effective at reducing the impact of the adjacent roadway (i.e. use of walls, berms with a substantially more intensive landscape plan). The City Council may permit other reductions, after review and recommendation by the Planning Board.
- (b) On redeveloped sites or existing non-conforming sites, Council may reduce the streetscape to less than ten feet to promote redevelopment and reuse of existing developments (see subsection I, Incentives). The following criteria shall be considered in reducing the width of a streetscape:



- (1) The relationship of existing topography to the finished street grades;
  - (2) The type, amount, and location of existing vegetation within 30 feet of the right-of-way line;
  - (3) The size and configuration of the site;
  - (4) The location and extent of existing and proposed underground and overhead utilities;
  - (5) Slopes steeper than two and one-half to one (2.5:1) next to the right-of-way;
  - (6) Natural barriers to installation or maintenance of the streetscape, such as waterways, rock formations, and soil conditions;
  - (7) Proposed landscaping within the streetscape that exceeds the minimum.
- (c) If reductions are granted, the total area or part of that area that is reduced may be required to be placed elsewhere on the site, after review and approval by the Planning Director.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

3. Streetscape Landscaped Area

Table 6-4-2 below lists the full widths of streetscape required for the development based on land use across an adjacent street. The full width listed is required on each proposed site (not split between the two uses).

<b>Table 6-4-3</b> <b>STREETSCAPE LANDSCAPED AREA WIDTHS</b> <i>Amended June 6, 2022</i>				
Proposed Land Use Class*	Land Use Class Across Adjacent Street			
	1 or 2	3	4 or 5	6 or 7
<b>4</b>	30'	30'	10'	15'
<b>5</b>	30'	30'	10'	15'
<b>6</b>	75'	50'	15'	10'
<b>7</b>	75'	50'	15'	10'
<p>* Refer to land use class descriptions in subsection C, 6.</p> <p>Width represents the full width required along the street frontage of the proposed use.</p> <p>If property across the adjacent street is vacant, then the existing land use designation shall be used</p> <p>A minimum 20-foot streetscape buffer is required for all uses located adjacent to thoroughfares and major collector streets.</p> <p>A minimum 50-foot streetscape buffer is required for all uses located adjacent to interstate corridors.</p> <p>Subdivisions with lots fronting on interior streets which have rear yards directly adjacent to thoroughfares or collector streets shall provide a minimum 30' wide Type B Streetscape.</p>				

#### 4. Plantings in Streetscape

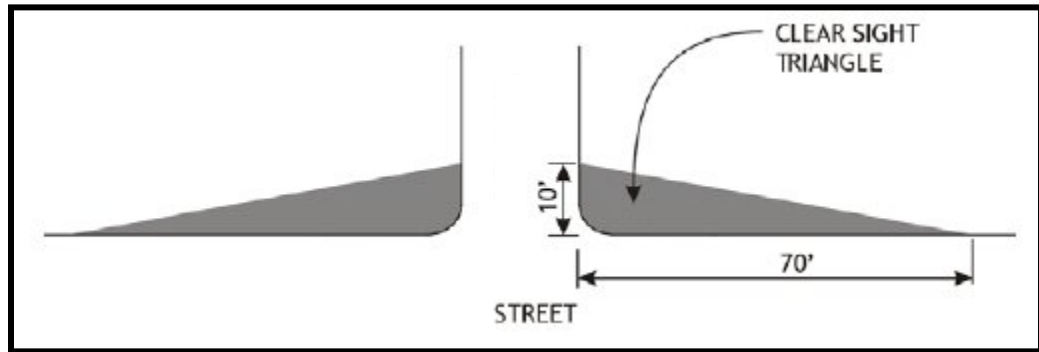
The property owner or developer shall preserve existing healthy trees or, if none exist, install or maintain one canopy tree for each 40 linear feet of streetscape. One understory ornamental tree every 20 feet on average is also required. Shrubs shall be planted four to eight feet from the center, depending on the type of shrub. New plantings comprising the streetscape should be spread across the entire span of the streetscape rather than planted in a single row. To provide more effective screening, some streetscape plantings may need to be placed interior to the site where building elevations are significantly higher than the roadway. The planting throughout the streetscape should be designed to achieve a natural tree stand area in future years. Additional trees may be required to be installed where existing healthy trees are preserved to ensure that the spacing of streetscape trees is met. The selected tree type located under overhead power lines may reach a maximum height of 20-25 feet at maturity.

*Amended June 6, 2022; June 3, 2024*

#### 5. Tree Placement

Trees shall be installed on the thoroughfare side of any berm or screen planting, no less than 5 feet from the sidewalk or back of curb where no sidewalk exists or is planned within the right-of-way. Trees should be installed in a staggered fashion, or in clusters or groupings of large and/or small trees in combination with associated plantings. Trees may be planted in a linear arrangement parallel to the street depending upon the area (e.g., downtown areas, neotraditional developments, etc.). Street trees shall be spaced at least 8 feet from light poles and 10 feet from electrical transformers in order to safely service these utilities (understory

trees may be placed closer if approved by the Zoning Administrator). No plantings shall impede vehicular visibility or movement at any intersection. For any corner lot, a sight triangle measuring ten feet from the right of way and extending 70 feet from the edge of each side of the corner lot shall be required when designing the landscaping dimensions.



**Figure 6-c: Required 10'x70' Sight Triangle**

(Amended September 11, 2017)

6. Pervious Area for New Trees

A minimum of 300 square feet of pervious ground area per canopy tree shall be provided (understory trees may be allowed in less area but no less than 240 square feet). Any planting area bounded by an impervious surface should be at least ten feet wide. No canopy tree should be planted closer than 5 feet to a sidewalk, paved areas or other impervious surfaces (other types of trees may be closer).

7. Stabilizing Steep Slopes

All slopes two to one (2:1) and steeper shall be stabilized with permanent slope retention devices or a suitable combination of plantings and retention devices. Slopes greater than three to one (3:1) shall not be stabilized with turf grass (i.e. grasses that are mowed) but with other permanent ground cover such as weeping love grass, low junipers, etc.

8. Screening Parking Areas

Where there is a parking area between the thoroughfare and a non-residential building, streetscaping shall provide a semi-opaque screen or barrier between the right-of-way and the parking area. The screen or barrier may consist of plants, earthen berms, fences, walls, or any combination thereof which meets the following:

- (a) The screen shall occupy the length of the parking area except for the area within any sight triangles and sidewalks and driveways that cut through the screen to connect the parking area to streets and other properties. Shrubs shall be at least two feet in height above the ground and healthy at the time of installation.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- (b) Berms may be used or installed instead of or in addition to plantings. If the berm does not meet the performance standards of this Section, then plant materials shall be installed which meet these performance standards. The installation of additional plant materials is encouraged so as to enhance the visual and aesthetic qualities of the streetscape.
- (c) Berms must, at a minimum, be planted with and maintained with a groundcover vegetation or grass that will permanently stabilize the soil.
- (d) Shrubs, plantings, hedge, or wall shall provide a screen or barrier for the first three feet of height within three years and shrubs shall be maintained at a height of no less than three feet.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

9. **Planting Criteria for Steep Slopes adjacent to Rights-of-Way**  
Where the right-of-way is bounded by slopes steeper than two to one (2:1) or is otherwise not suitable for the planting of street trees, the following standards shall apply:
  - (a) If natural areas are permitted to be removed and/or graded, the streetscape shall provide a planting strip at a grade no greater than 4 feet horizontal to 1 foot vertical, for street trees at least ten feet wide located parallel to the thoroughfare. All street trees required by this Section shall be located at least 6 feet from the curb or sidewalk.
  - (b) Existing significant vegetation within thirty feet of and extending to the right-of-way may be used to satisfy the requirements of this Section.
10. (Reserved)
11. **Ownership of Streetscapes**  
No required streetscape in a residential subdivision shall be wholly owned (in fee simple absolute) by the owner of an individual residential building lot zoned for residential uses unless adequate, legally binding covenants are in place which ensure proper maintenance of the areas as a streetscape. Any required buffer or streetscape for a residential development shall not be credited toward meeting the lot size requirements. The preferred method is that the residential streetscape be a separate lot and owned by a separate entity (e.g. homeowners association).
12. **No Development within the Required Streetscapes**  
The required streetscape shall not contain any development, impervious surfaces, or site features that do not function to meet the standards of this Section or that require removal of existing vegetation, as permitted in this Ordinance. No grading, development, or land-disturbing activities shall

occur within the streetscape or within the tree protection fence area unless approved by the Zoning Administrator or the City Council and shown on City-approved drawings. Sidewalks and trails may be placed in streetscapes provided that damage to existing vegetation is minimized, and the screening requirements of the streetscape are met.

Access drives and roadways may be permitted to cross streetscapes. Utilities are not permitted in streetscapes unless no reasonable alternative exists. If utilities are placed in a buffer, they shall be located and installed in a way that minimizes disturbance of the buffer area (for example, installed not parallel but perpendicular or not less than at a 75 degree angle). Streets may not be placed within a buffer except to cross the buffer where necessary to connect to adjoining properties.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

## **E. Tree Survey**

### **1. Purpose and Intent**

Preserving existing healthy vegetation on a site during development enhances the visual character of the community by screening and softening the impact of buildings and controlling surface water runoff. The purpose of a tree survey is to identify those areas of vegetation, including specimen trees and significant vegetation, before development plans are so far advanced that it is impractical to modify the plans to protect the vegetation identified to be saved. Preserving specimen trees or significant vegetation on a site should not prevent a particular site from being developed for reasonable uses, given existing zoning.

### **2. Tree Survey Requirements**

A tree survey is prepared by the developer and is a description of the existing vegetation to be saved on a site. This is necessary to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to protect the tree stands from damage during construction. Trees should be protected in stands or clusters whenever possible. The survey:

- (a) Identifies significant vegetation found within the required buffers and other undisturbed areas (This is done to protect this vegetation during construction through proper location of tree protection fencing).
- (b) Provides a written description of the forest stand(s) and understory vegetation within buffer areas and other undisturbed areas and an indication of the general health and vigor of the stand or specimen trees for any existing vegetation to be preserved and counted toward required buffers and streetscape.

- (c) Locates all streetscapes and buffers as required under subsections C and D.
- (d) Locates all tree protection fencing as required under subsection F, Tree Protection During Construction on landscape plan sheet and grading plan sheet.
- (e) Locates all other important natural features influencing site design (including perennial and intermittent streams).
- (f) Shows buffers required under other Sections of this Ordinance and other areas proposed for preservation.
- (g) Shows other important natural features influencing site design, such as the location of wetlands, rock outcroppings, streams, lakes and other bodies of water should be shown on the survey.

*Amended June 6, 2022; June 3, 2024*

#### **F. Tree Protection During Construction**

1. During development of the property, the owner shall be responsible for the erection of barriers necessary to protect any existing or installed vegetation located within the preservation or undisturbed buffer areas from damage both during and after construction. Except for driveway access points, sidewalks, curb and gutter, no paving with concrete or other impervious material shall be allowed within a tree dripline. No nails, ropes, cables, signs or fencing shall be attached to any part of a tree that is to remain. Landscaping or other activities taking place after removal of protective fencing shall be accomplished with light machinery or hand labor.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

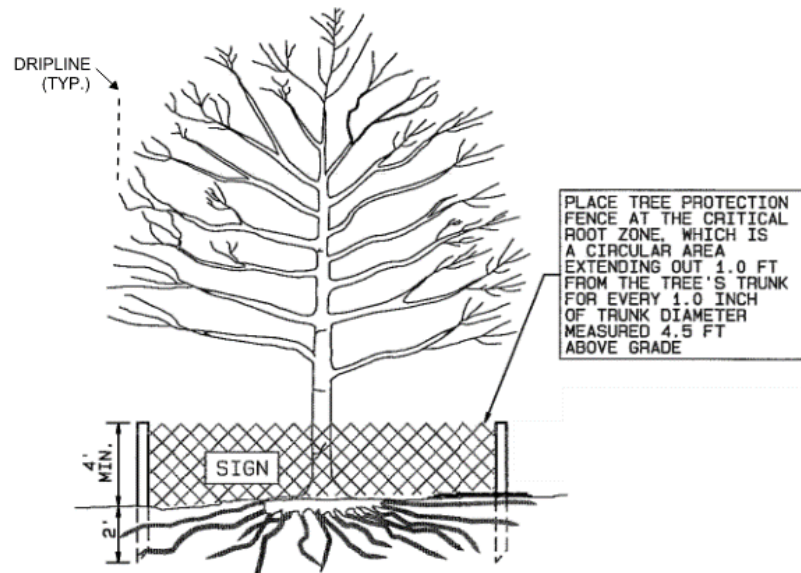
2. **Tree Protection Fencing**  
All existing vegetation that is to be preserved, including buffers, shall be fenced with a sturdy and visible fence before grading begins. Fencing of these areas adjacent to existing and proposed roadways is also required. Fencing is required on all City and NCDOT road projects that are adjacent to protected streetscapes or buffers. The fencing must be a minimum 4 feet high and of durable construction and must be placed outside of the drip line of the tree to be protected. Passive forms of tree protection, such as continuous rope or flagging, may be used to delineate tree save areas that are remote from the area of land disturbance.

Both applicant and the Zoning Administrator, in determining the exact location of any tree protection fencing, will consider the existing site conditions. The fence shall be maintained on the site until all site work is completed. It shall be removed before final site inspection for the certificate of occupancy.

3. **Tree Protection Zone Signs**

Tree Protection Zone signs stating that the area is not to be disturbed must be installed on the tree protection fence visible on all sides of the fenced in area (minimum one on each side and/or every 300 linear feet).

*Amended June 6, 2022; June 3, 2024*



## **G. Landscaping for Parking Areas**

### **1. Purposes**

The requirements of this subsection are intended to ensure attractive views of a property from streets and adjacent properties; to block views of parking lots from the adjacent rights-of-way, to moderate temperatures of impervious areas and abate glare from parking lots or service areas; to filter automotive exhaust; and to encourage the preservation of stands of existing trees.

### **2. Existing vegetation**

Existing healthy, well-formed, canopy trees may be counted toward the requirements of this subsection, provided that these trees are protected, in accordance with subsection F, before and during development of the site and maintained after development in a healthy growing condition. No credit shall be given for retention of species identified as invasive by the NC State University Agricultural Extension or NC Department of Agriculture.

- (a) **Within the parking area:** All parking areas must have at least one canopy tree trunk within 60 feet of each parking space. Two understory trees may be used instead of one canopy tree only if overhead or underground utility lines will impair the canopy tree's growth to mature habit. (Amended December 5, 2011)
- (b) **Screening the parking area:** All parking areas shall be screened from adjacent properties and streets by evergreen plantings that will attain a height of three feet within three years. The use of shrubs and ground covers is encouraged in parking area islands and along the borders of parking areas.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

### **3. Design standards**

The design of the parking area with landscaped areas, and the selection of plant materials, shall meet the standards noted below. Parking area trees are in addition to required streetscape trees. Where parking lot elevation is significantly higher or lower than the roadway, parking lot plantings shall be located to provide the most effective screening.

- (a) All parking spaces shall be within 60 feet of the trunk of a canopy tree, or 30 feet from understory trees if needed due to overhead utilities or with special circumstances. There shall be a minimum of one canopy tree every 2,500 square feet and one understory tree every 1400 square feet of parking area. All parking areas shall be screened from adjacent properties and streets by evergreen plantings that will attain a height of three feet within three years. The use of shrubs and ground covers is encouraged in parking area islands and along the borders of parking areas.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- (b) All planting medians and/or islands in parking areas should be at least ten feet long by ten feet wide with a minimum of 300 square feet of space per canopy tree where these trees are proposed. This dimension must be measured from the back of the curbs. Linear planting strips between the length of parking isles are strongly encouraged rather than numerous small one tree islands. If linear planting strips are used then the distance of parking spaces from a trunk of a canopy tree may be increased to 70 feet.
- (c) A minimum 10 foot wide continuous planted median shall be installed in off-street parking areas approximately every 250 linear feet in one direction for vehicular surface areas exceeding 75,000 square feet. Other design options may be approved provided that the intent of 'breaking up' large areas of parking is met. In vehicular use areas primarily serving multi-axle trucks where landscaping is



not practical, required plantings may be placed elsewhere on site if the purposes and standards of this Ordinance are met.

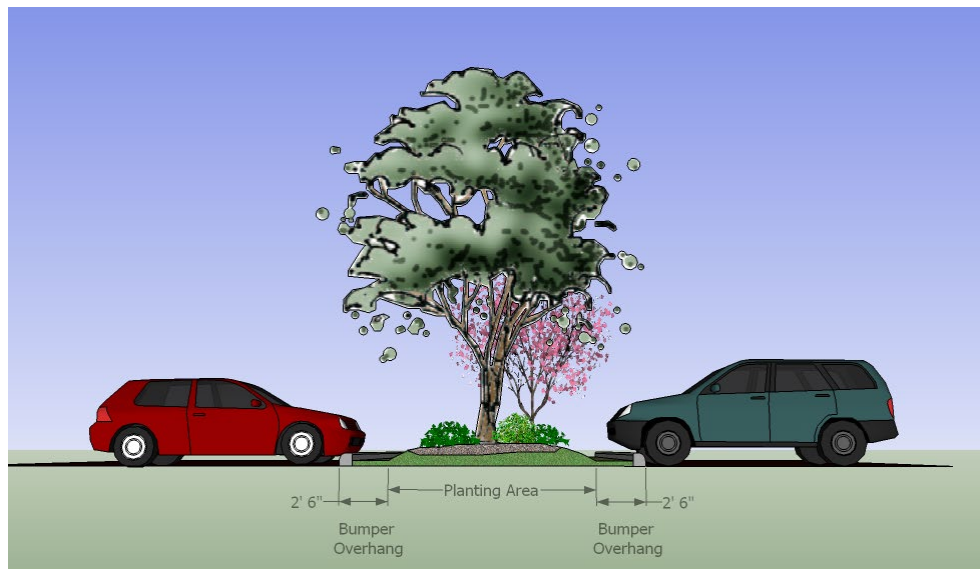
*Amended June 6, 2022*

- (d) All sidewalks shall be at least five feet from the trunks of canopy trees, unless otherwise approved by the Zoning Administrator. For example, when the placement of the sidewalk would require the removal of an existing canopy tree to meet this requirement or where there is not enough space on the site to accommodate both the tree and the sidewalk this requirement may be modified.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- (e) Parking lots shall be graded so that landscape islands do not impound water, unless surface impoundment is required as a method of on-site retention of stormwater. Landscape islands should be thoroughly cultivated and amended so as to support healthy plant growth.
- (f) Preservation of existing groups or stands of trees, as well as isolated islands with single trees, is strongly encouraged (see subsection I, Incentives)

## **FIGURE 6-4** Parking Lot Landscaping



**Figure 6-d: Required Parking Lot Landscaping**

- (g) Canopy trees shall be at least two and one-half inches in caliper when installed and at least 10 feet in height.

- (h) Evergreen shrubs shall be at least 24 inches in height and minimum three-gallon container size at the time of installation.
- (i) Adequate drainage and mulching shall be provided for landscaped medians and islands.
- (j) The property owner or developer shall provide for continuous maintenance of the landscaped areas after occupancy of the building. The property owner shall ensure that performance criteria within this ordinance and/or included on the approved development plan are met. Failure to correct deficiencies in a timely manner shall result in a citation for violation of this Ordinance, as provided for in Article 11.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- (k) Parking lots shall be designed and constructed so as to prevent vehicles from striking trees or overhanging shrubs.
- (l) The size of the planting area and size of plant material at maturity shall allow for a 2.5-foot vehicle overhang from the face back of the curb. Barriers, such as curbs or wheel stops, shall be provided between parking lots and loading areas and landscaped areas.

## **H. Other Landscape Requirements**

### **1. Required Foundation Plantings for Nonresidential Buildings**

With the exception of buildings in the B-1 Central Business District, foundation plantings are required on all non-loading and non-service sides of non-residential buildings unless an exception is approved by the Zoning Administrator. If deemed appropriate and in an effort to maintain ADA-compliant walkways, minimize encroachments, or not place an undue financial burden upon an property owner, the Zoning Administrator may allow the use of planter boxes for permanent vegetation.

### **2. Standards for New Planting**

Canopy trees shall be at least 10 feet high above ground level and a minimum of two and one-half inches in caliper, and understory trees shall be at least 8 feet high above ground level and a minimum of 2 inches in caliper at the time of installation and shall have an expected mature height based on the buffer type. All shrubs shall be healthy, measure at least 24 inches above ground level and shall reach the height required for performance within three years after installation.

### **3. Easements**

Nothing shall be planted or installed within an underground or overhead utility easement or a drainage easement without the consent of the City and the easement holder at the time of site plan approval. Any encroachments shall be solely the responsibility of the property owner unless otherwise stated in a legal agreement with the City.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

#### **4. Design standards for Berms**

All berms used in a perimeter buffer (or in a streetscape or streetfront landscape area) shall meet all of the following design standards:

- (a) The slope of all berms shall not exceed a 2:1 ratio (horizontal to vertical), shall have a top width at least one-half the berm height, and a maximum height of 4 feet above the toe (top) of the berm. The Zoning Administrator shall approve all berms. Berms proposed to be greater than four feet in height may be permitted if deemed appropriate by the Zoning Administrator.
- (b) Proposed berms to be placed over an existing or proposed utility easement(s) shall be approved by the Zoning Administrator;
- (c) All berms, regardless of size, shall be stabilized with a ground cover or other suitable vegetation;
- (d) Berms shall be vegetated as required by this subsection. Berms must be stabilized with ground cover to prevent erosion and sedimentation. It is strongly discouraged to use berms as a substitute for existing healthy vegetation. However, if berms are allowed to replace existing vegetation which already meets the standards in this Section then they must also meet the buffer standards and must be approved by the Zoning Administrator; and
- (e) Berms shall in no case damage the roots of existing healthy vegetation designated to be preserved.

#### **5. Screening of Stormwater Devices**

Culverts, rip rap structures, holding ponds, and other stormwater-related devices must be landscaped to reduce their visual impacts. This landscape screening must consist of evergreen plantings and be part of the approved landscape plan.

#### **6. Designated Utility Corridor**

In order to reduce the damage to root systems of existing vegetation within streetscapes, buffers or any other tree save areas, designation of planned

utility connection corridors is required to be shown on all development plans to coordinate the location of electrical, telephone, cable and other similar utilities.

## **7. Open Space**

Open space is to be left in an undisturbed state if wooded or shall be landscaped to provide an area for passive recreation and to replace any tree canopy removed for the development.

## **8. Residential Development**

One tree shall be planted in the front yards of single-family homes, two-family homes, and townhome buildings for new minor and major subdivisions. The tree may be canopy or ornamental.

*Amended June 6, 2022; June 3, 2024*

# **I. Incentives**

## **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this section is to allow alternative ways to meet the standards set forth in this ordinance. This subsection provides flexibility provided that the overall intent of this Section is met. These incentives are discretionary and are subject to approval of the Zoning Administrator.

## **2. Incentives**

The following incentives are provided to encourage the preservation of existing healthy vegetation and innovation in site design. The Zoning Administrator may approve use of these incentives unless otherwise noted.

- (a) Existing healthy non-invasive vegetation and the area of land used to maintain the vegetation may be counted towards meeting the performance criteria for buffers, streetscapes, and parking areas set out in subsections C, Perimeter Buffers and subsection G, Landscaping for Parking Areas.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- (b) A five to twenty percent reduction in the number of parking spaces required on the site shall be allowed to the extent that the reduction in the amount of required pavement will: (i) preserve existing healthy trees in an undisturbed natural condition, or (ii) allow an existing development to retrofit parking to conform to these

regulations. The amount of reduction can be determined only after taking any unique site conditions and the impact of the reduction on parking needs for the use into account and must be agreed upon by both the applicant and the Zoning Administrator.

- (c) City Council may reduce the width of streetscapes required under subsection D, Streetscape Landscaping and buffers under subsection C, Perimeter Buffers. Buffer reductions between uses may be considered based on the use of innovative site/building design concepts. Council may make exceptions to the minimum buffer widths for developments within the downtown area and for redevelopment sites. Reducing widths of streetscapes and buffers should be done only when meeting the required width prevents reasonable use of the property based on the zoning and/or additional existing healthy vegetation or open space is provided elsewhere on the site.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- (d) Interior buffer areas may be relocated provided (i) the square footage of area is relocated elsewhere on site (preferably to save more existing vegetation) and (ii) parking lot landscape areas are designed in a combined linear fashion instead of small isolated pockets.

## **J. [Reserved]**

## **K. Time for Installation of Required Landscaping**

### **1. Time Limit**

All landscaping, including mulching and seeding shall be completed in accordance with the approved development plan or Developer Agreement, as allowed by Article 2 Section 26 before a certificate of occupancy for the site is issued unless the Zoning Administrator grants an exception. If an exception is granted, a performance bond or other type of security is required and will be identified in the Developer Agreement to ensure required landscaping will be done at a predetermined later date. The amount of the bond shall be 125% the cost of the plant material yet to be installed, based on the highest estimate received.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

### **2. Extensions and Exceptions**

Extensions and exceptions to the above time limit may be granted under the following conditions:

- (a) Unusual environmental conditions, such as drought, ice, over-saturated soil, or inappropriate planting season for the plant species (plantings between June through August are strongly discouraged).
- (b) Substitution or unavailability of plant species or acceptable plant size as specified on the site plan.
- (c) Circumstances beyond the developer's or property owner's control, such as incomplete construction or utility work to occur in a proposed landscaped area within 30 days after expected site completion.

#### **L. Implementation of Landscape Plan; Inspections**

- 1. Inspections before Certificate of Occupancy: The Zoning Administrator shall inspect the site before the issuance of a permanent certificate of occupancy for the development and shall not issue the permanent Certificate of Occupancy if the landscaping required under this Section is not living or healthy or is not installed in accordance with the standards set forth in this Section and in accordance with the approved site plan.

#### **M. Maintenance Responsibility**

- 1. In order for any landscaping and screening to fulfill the purpose for which it was established, it must be properly maintained. The owner of the property, the HOA, and any tenant on the property where screening is required will be jointly and severally responsible for the maintenance of all landscaping and screening materials required under this Ordinance. Maintenance includes actions necessary to keep screening materials healthy, neat and orderly in appearance and free of litter and debris.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- 2. The landscaping and screening requirements of this Ordinance are intended to be performance-oriented and the failure of trees and planting materials to achieve adequate growth and development shall constitute noncompliance. All screening and landscaping areas must be protected from damage by motor vehicles or pedestrians which could reduce the effectiveness of the screening.
- 3. Any dead, unhealthy, or missing vegetation, or vegetation disfigured by severe or excessive pruning (e.g. "topping"), shall be replaced with locally adapted vegetation that conforms to the standards of this Ordinance and the approved site and/or subdivision plan. In the case of removal of existing original vegetation from required vegetation protection areas, the replacement requirements of subsection O below shall apply.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- 4. In the event that any vegetation or physical element functioning to meet the standards of this Ordinance is severely damaged due to an unusual

weather occurrence or natural catastrophe, or other natural occurrence such as damage by wild or domestic animals, the owner may be required to replant if the buffer standards are not being met. The owner shall have one growing season to replace or replant after reconstruction is complete. The Zoning Administrator shall consider the type and location of the landscape buffer or required vegetation area as well as the propensity for natural revegetation in making a determination on the extent of replanting requirements.

5. Any appeals of the Zoning Administrator's decision relating to the amount of required revegetation shall be made to the City Council within ten days following the notice of decision, and the City Council shall consider reduction requests at the next available regular meeting.
6. All required buffers, streetscapes, vehicular use areas, and other landscaped areas shall be free of refuse and debris, shall be treated for pest/diseases in accordance with the approved site and/or subdivision plan, and shall be maintained so as to prevent mulch, straw, dirt, or other materials from washing onto streets and sidewalks.
7. The owner should take actions to protect trees and landscaping from unnecessary damage during all facility and site maintenance operations. Plants must be maintained in a way that does not obstruct sight distances at roadway and drive intersections, obstruct traffic signs or devices, and/or interfere with the use of sidewalks or pedestrian trails. Viable plants shall not be removed, damaged, cut or severely pruned so that their natural form is impaired (shrubs within existing vehicle use areas and streetscapes may be pruned, but must maintain the minimum required height).
8. In the event that existing required vegetation located within any required buffers, streetscapes, vehicular use or other landscape areas poses an immediate or imminent threat to improved structures on private or public property, severe pruning and/or removal of the vegetation is allowable provided prior approval from the Zoning Administrator is obtained, and the performance standard of the landscape area is maintained consistent with this Ordinance.
9. Unapproved removal of vegetation and/or severe or excessive pruning in non-emergency situations will result in a violation of this Ordinance.
10. The owner of the property on which a required fence or wall is located shall maintain the fence or wall in a safe and attractive condition. This shall mean the following:
  - (a) No fence or wall shall have more than 20 percent of its surface area with disfigured, cracked, ripped or peeling paint or other material;
  - (b) A fence or wall shall not stand with bent or broken supports, including loose or missing appendages; and
  - (c) Fences and walls shall be plumb (vertical) to the ground.

## **N. Replacement of Disturbed and Damaged Vegetation**

1. The disturbance or damage of vegetation within any required buffers, streetscapes, vehicular use areas, or other landscape areas required by this Ordinance, or by zoning condition, shall constitute a violation of this Ordinance.
2. The natural death of existing vegetation within any required landscape area does not constitute a violation and would not require revegetation to replace the plant material unless the required landscape area no longer achieves the required performance standards of this Ordinance.
3. All disturbed or damaged landscaped areas and natural vegetation shall be replanted so as to meet the standards of this Ordinance, as well as the approved site and/or subdivision plat, if applicable. A replacement planting plan shall be submitted for review and approval by the Zoning Administrator prior to replacement. This plan will ensure proper replacements are made.
4. In situations where existing required vegetation on a developed site or vacant site with an approved site and/or subdivision plat has been removed or damaged in violation of this Ordinance, the Zoning Administrator may require that the entire site be reviewed and revegetated consistent with the current provisions of this Ordinance.

## **O. Failure to Comply**

Failure to substantially comply with the standards and requirements of Section 6-4, including the maintenance of required landscaping materials and replacement of damaged vegetation shall result in the revocation of the zoning or special use permit. Permit revocation shall follow with the procedures delineated in Section 11-6.

## **6-5 Parking, Stacking, and Loading**

### **A. General Requirements**

#### **1. Parking, Stacking and Loading Space Required**

When any building or structure is erected, modified, enlarged or increased in capacity, or any open use is established, modified or enlarged, the requirements of this Section shall be met. For enlargements, modifications, or increase in capacity, the requirements of this Section shall apply only to such enlargements, modifications or increases in capacity. Parking requirements for uses in the B-1 Central Business District shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and deviations in the number of required parking spaces may be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 6-5.C.5.

#### **2. Required Number**



The minimum number of required off-street parking, stacking and loading spaces is indicated in subsection 6-5.C (parking), subsection 6-5.D (stacking) and subsection 6-5.G (loading). In cases of mixed occupancy, the minimum number of off-street parking, stacking and loading spaces shall be the cumulative total of individual use requirements unless otherwise specified. Bicycle racks shall be required at a ratio of one bicycle space for every dedicated handicapped space, as required by 6-5.A.3.

*Amended June 6, 2022; June 5, 2023*

### **3. Handicapped Spaces**

Spaces for the physically handicapped shall be provided as required by the NC Building Code, Volume I-C and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

### **4. Minimum Number of Parking Spaces**

In all instances, except for residential and accessory uses, where less than five off-street parking spaces is required by Table 6-5-1, a minimum of five automobile parking spaces and one bicycle rack shall be provided.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

### **5. Reduction of Minimum Requirements**

Unless there is a change in use requiring fewer spaces, the number of spaces shall not be reduced below the minimum requirements of this Article.

### **6. Maintenance**

All parking, stacking and loading facilities shall be permanently maintained by the owners or occupants as long as the use they serve exists.

### **7. Access**

All parking, stacking and loading facilities shall have vehicular access to a public street or approved private street.

### **8. Use for No Other Purpose**

Land used to provide required parking, stacking, and loading shall not be used for any other purposes, except for authorized temporary events. If such land is devoted to any other purpose, the Certificate of Occupancy of the affected principal use shall immediately become void.

## **9. Compliance with Air Quality Standards**

The construction of or modification to (i) open parking lots containing 1,500 or more spaces or (ii) parking decks and garages containing 750 or more spaces shall comply with the concentrated air emissions standards of the NC Division of Environmental Management.

## **10. Parking of Vehicles in Residential Districts**

Parking vehicles in excess of one ton rated capacity shall be prohibited in a residential zoning district except for loading and unloading purposes, for emergency home service, or for use in the conduct of a legal nonconforming use; and then parking of such vehicles shall be permitted only on the property occupied by the legal nonconforming use. In no case shall parking of such a vehicle be permitted on the street.

## **11. On-street Parking Restrictions**

See Chapter 34 of the City of Mebane Code of Ordinances for specific regulations regarding parking restrictions on public streets, including prohibitions against the on-street parking or storage of certain types of motor vehicles and the on-street parking of oversized motor vehicles.

## **12. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**

Provision of an electric vehicle charging station shall be credited as the equivalent of two parking spaces for vehicles with combustion engines.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

## **B. Parking Requirements for Change in Use**

If a change in use causes an increase in the required number of off-street parking, stacking or loading spaces, such additional spaces shall be provided in accordance with the requirements of this Ordinance; except that if the change in use would require an increase of less than five percent in the required number of parking spaces, no additional off-street parking shall be required.

## **C. Number of Parking Spaces Required**

1. The minimum number of required off-street parking spaces is indicated in Table 6-5-1. However, in no event shall a nonresidential use or the nonresidential component of a mixed-use development provide more than 150 percent of the minimum parking spaces established in Table 6-5-1 except through the approval by the Zoning Administrator of a parking demand study, prepared by a qualified

professional, which demonstrates the need for parking spaces in excess of 150 percent of the minimum requirement established in Table 6-5-1.

*Amended June 5, 2023*

2. Whenever the number of parking spaces required by Table 6-5-1 results in a requirement of a fractional space, any fraction of one-half or less may be disregarded while a fraction in excess of one-half shall be counted as one parking space.
3. For any use not specifically listed in Tables 6-5-1 or 6-5-2, the parking and stacking requirements shall be those of the most similar listed use, as determined by the Zoning Administrator. The Zoning Administrator may also consider parking demand data from acceptable sources that report data for uses or a combination of uses that are the same or comparable to the proposed use.

*Amended June 5, 2023*

4. All developments in all zoning districts shall provide a sufficient number of parking spaces to accommodate the number of vehicles that ordinarily are likely to be attracted to the development in question. The City recognizes that the B-1 zoning district serves the needs of a denser land use environment and that parking requirements may need to be reduced, as allowed by subsection 5.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

5. The City Council recognizes that, due to the particularities of any given development, the inflexible application of the parking standards set forth in Table 6-5-1 may result in a development either with inadequate parking space or parking space far in excess of its needs. Therefore, the permit-issuing authority may permit deviations from the requirements of Table 6-5-1 and may require more parking or allow less parking whenever it finds that such deviations are more likely to satisfy the general standard delineated in subsection 4 above.

The permit-issuing authority may allow deviations, for example, when it finds that a residential development is irrevocably oriented toward the elderly, disabled or other population that demonstrates a lesser parking need or when it finds that a business or service is primarily oriented to walk-in trade. The permit-issuing authority may also, for example, require additional overflow or visitor parking in cases where the proposed lot sizes are such that anticipated parking needs for occasional visitors cannot be accommodated on individual lots. Whenever the permit-issuing authority allows or requires a deviation from the requirements of Table 6-5-1, it shall enter on the face of the permit the parking requirement that it imposes and the reasons for allowing or requiring the deviation.

**Table 6-5-1**  
**Off-Street Parking Requirements**  
*Amended June 6, 2022; June 5, 2023; June 3, 2024*

USE	MINIMUM SPACES REQUIRED
<b>Residential Uses</b>	
1) Group (i.e. homeless and temporary emergency shelter, boarding and rooming house, family care, or group care facilities)	1 per 4 beds 1 per 2 employees/volunteers 1 per vehicle used in the operation
2) Multi-family dwellings (including condominiums)	
0 to 1 bedroom units	1.50/unit
2 bedroom units	1.75/unit
3 or more bedroom units	2.00/unit plus 0.5 per bedroom over 3 bedrooms
3) Single-family detached & two-family dwellings; manufactured homes; townhouse dwellings; manufactured home parks; residential use in a nonresidential building	2/dwelling unit plus 0.5 per bedroom over 2 bedrooms
4) Pool, club house, meeting facility, or similar amenity in a residential or mixed-use development with more than 50 dwelling units	10 spaces plus 1 space for every 20 dwelling units farther than a half-mile from the amenity
5) Mail kiosk	Mail kiosks should be ADA accessible and accommodate off-street parking when possible.
<b>Accessory Uses</b>	
1) Accessory dwelling unit	1/attached unit, 2/detached unit
2) Caretaker dwelling	2/unit
3) Home occupation	1/each non-resident employee
<b>Recreational Uses</b> The minimum off-street parking requirements shall be established on the basis of a parking and loading study prepared by the applicant. Such a study must include estimates of parking demand based on recommendations of the Institute of Traffic Engineers (ITE), or other acceptable estimates as approved by the Zoning Administrator, and should include other reliable data collected from uses or combinations of uses that are the same as, or comparable with, the proposed use. The study must document the source of data used to develop the recommendations.	
<b>Educational and Institutional Uses</b> shall provide parking according to the following standard(s) unless otherwise specified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational Land Uses: 5 spaces plus 1 space per employee</li> <li>• Institutional Land Uses: 1 space per 300 square feet of floor area</li> </ul>	
1) Ambulance services; fire stations; law enforcement stations; government offices	5 spaces plus 1/employee on the largest shift plus 1/vehicle used in operation
2) Career and education centers; technical institutes	1/300 square feet of office space plus 1/2 persons based upon the design capacity of the building
3) Churches or other places of worship	1/every 4 seats; Additional parking is required at a rate of 1 space for every 500 square feet of space dedicated as fellowship halls and similar areas.
4) Colleges and universities	7/classroom plus 1/4 beds in main campus dorms plus 1/250 square feet of office space plus 1/5 fixed seats in assembly halls and stadiums

USE	MINIMUM SPACES REQUIRED
5) Correctional institutions	1/10 inmates plus 2/3 employees on largest shift plus 1/vehicle used in the operation
6) Day care centers; day care homes	1/employee plus 1/10 clients
7) Hospitals; nursing/convalescent homes; wellness center  <i>For doctor's office, please refer to 'Medical' land use under the Business, Professional, and Personal Service category.</i>	1/4 in-patient or out-patient beds plus 2/3 employees on largest shift plus 1/vehicle used in the operation
8) Libraries; museums and art galleries	1/450 square feet of gross floor area for public use plus 2/3 employees on the largest shift
9) Senior high schools	In addition to the required parking for educational land uses, 1/4 students
<b>Business, Professional and Personal Services</b> shall provide parking according to the following standard(s) unless otherwise specified: 1 space for every 300 square feet of gross floor area.	
1) Automobile repair services	3/service bay plus 1/wrecker or service vehicle plus 2/3 employees on the largest shift
2) Barbers; salons; tattoo and body piercing studios	3/operator
3) Bed and breakfast	1/bedroom plus 2/3 employees on the largest shift
4) Car/truck washes	
a) Full-service	3 spaces in the manual drying area plus 2/3 employees on the largest shift
b) Self-service	2 drying spaces/washing stall
5) Delivery services	2/3 employees on largest shift plus 1/vehicle used in the operation
6) Equipment rental and leasing	In addition to the minimum space for gross floor area, individual spaces will be devoted to parking/storage of automobiles and/or equipment.
7) Funeral homes or crematoria	1/4 seats in main chapel plus 2/3 employees on the largest shift plus 1/vehicle used in the largest operation
8) Hotels and motels	5 spaces plus 1/room  Restaurant/bar/meeting room space shall be calculated using 1 space per 300 square feet.
9) Medical, dental, or related offices	1.25/exam room plus 1/employee including doctors
10) Repair of bulky items (appliances, furniture, boats, etc.)	2/3 employees on largest shift plus 1/vehicle used in operation
11) Theaters (indoor)	1/4 seats  Restaurant/bar/event space shall be calculated using 1 space per 300 square feet.
12) Veterinary service	2/doctor plus 1/employee including doctors
<b>Retail Trade</b> shall provide parking according to the following standard(s) unless otherwise specified: 1 space for every 200 square feet of gross floor area.	
1) Bars, night clubs, taverns, and restaurants	1/3 persons based upon the design capacity of building plus 2/3 employees on the largest shift

USE	MINIMUM SPACES REQUIRED
2) Fuel oil sales	2/3 employees on largest shift plus 1/vehicle used in the operation
3) Retail sales of bulky items (appliances, building materials, furniture, etc.)	1/500 square feet of gross floor area
4) Vehicle sales/rentals (i.e., motor vehicle, motorcycle, or recreational vehicle sales or rental; manufactured homes sales, etc.)	5 spaces plus 1/unit displayed for sale or rent plus 1/10,000 square feet of display area plus 2/3 employees on the largest shift
<b>Wholesale Trade</b> shall provide parking according to the following standard(s) unless otherwise specified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 space for every 2 employees on the largest shift</li> <li>• 1 space for every 200 square feet of retail sales or customer service area</li> <li>• 1 space per vehicle used in the operation</li> </ul>	
<b>Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities</b> shall provide parking according to the following standard(s) unless otherwise specified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 space per 2,000 square feet of gross floor area</li> </ul> <p>Additional parking or reductions in parking may be considered in accordance with this ordinance and with consideration to the expected number of employees on the largest shift and the type of operations and technology in use.</p>	
1) Airport, bus and railroad terminals	In addition to employee and vehicle parking, 1/4 seats (i.e., passenger waiting area)
2) Communications towers; demolition debris landfills; heliports; utility lines or substations	No required parking
3) Self-storage warehouses	Minimum of 5 parking spaces or 1 space per 100 storage units, whichever is greater plus 1 space per vehicle stored.
<b>Manufacturing and Industrial Uses</b>	<p>1 space per 1,000 square feet of gross floor area for buildings less than 400,000 square feet.</p> <p>1 space per 2,000 square feet of gross floor area for buildings over 400,000 square feet.</p> <p>Additional parking or reductions in parking may be considered in accordance with this ordinance and with consideration to the expected number of employees on the largest shift and the type of operations and technology in use.</p>
<b>Other Uses</b>	
Shopping Centers	
a) < 250,000 square feet gross floor area	1/200 square feet gross floor area in main building(s) (excluding theaters) plus parking as required for outparcels or theaters
b) > 250,000 square feet gross floor area	1,250 spaces plus 1/225 square feet gross floor area above 250,000 square feet

/ = per

## D. Stacking Standards

1. In addition to required parking and loading spaces, various land uses have vehicle stacking requirements designed to address internal vehicle queuing and staging needs. These regulations help ensure that there is adequate on-site maneuvering and circulation, that stacking vehicles do not impede the free flow of traffic on a parcel or on abutting streets, that provisions are made to separate stacking vehicles from loading areas and emergency vehicle lanes, that vehicular ingress/egress to a property is not impeded, and that stacking lanes will not have nuisance impacts on nearby land uses.
2. A stacking space:
  - i. Designated as a waiting area for vehicles whose occupants are queuing to make use of a service.
  - ii. Located outside of required drive-aisles, fire lanes, parking, and pedestrian areas to ensure vehicles do not impede the free flow of traffic through a property.
  - iii. Sized at 9 feet of width by 20 feet in length.
3. Stacking lanes shall be designed and laid out in accordance with applicable Ordinance requirements and engineering specifications and shall be clearly identified through such means as striping, landscaping, pavement design, and/or signage.
4. Stacking lanes shall be separated from drive aisles, parking, and pedestrian areas using landscaped islands, decorative pavement, and/or painted lines.
5. The following land uses shall provide the following vehicular stacking space(s):

**Table 6-5-2  
Stacking Requirements**

Bank, Dry Cleaner, Laundry Service, Pharmacy		8 stacking space per individual drive-thru lane, pneumatic tube system, or automated teller machine (ATM).
Car Wash	Full Service	Stacking for 30 vehicles or 10 stacking spaces per approach lane, whichever is greater
	Self Service	3 stacking spaces outside of wash bay (either side of wash bay)
Gate house		3 stacking spaces at gate/guard house for residential communities (entrance and exit lanes)  Industrial gate houses should accommodate stacking for at least one tractor trailer.
Fuel Sales		4 stacking spaces at pump islands

Restaurant with drive through/pick up window service	11 total stacking spaces* with minimum 5 spaces at or before ordering station
Vehicle service stations (including oil changing services, tire services, vehicle repair, etc.)	2 stacking spaces per individual service bay entrance and 1 at the exit of the service bay.

\*NCDOT may require additional stacking spaces for uses abutting state or federal highways.

*Amended June 5, 2023*

## **E. Design Standards for Parking, Stacking and Loading Areas**

### **1. Parking facilities shall be designed and constructed so as to:**

- a. Allow unobstructed movement into and out of each parking space without interfering with fixed objects or vehicles;
- b. Minimize delay and interference with traffic on public streets and access drives;
- c. Maximize sight distances from parking lot exits and access drives; and
- d. Allow off-street parking spaces in parking lots to have access from parking lot driveways and not directly from streets.

### **2. Dimensional Requirements**

Parking facilities shall be designed and constructed to meet the minimum parking space dimensions, aisle dimensions and other standards found in Table 6-5-3.



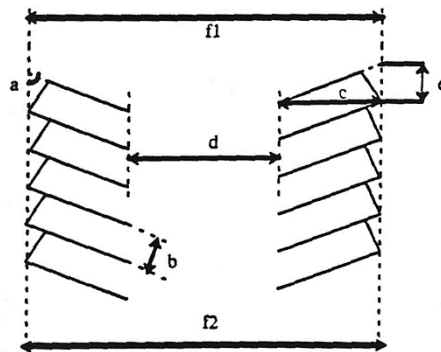
**Table 6-5-3**  
**Parking Space Geometric Design Standards**  
*Amended June 6, 2022; June 5, 2023*

A	B	c	d
PARKING ANGLE (degrees)	STALL WIDTH (*)	STALL TO CURB (ft.)	AISLE WIDTH (ft.)
0	9'-0"	23'	12.0
45	9'-0"	20'	13.0
60	9'-0"	20'6"	18.0
90	9'-0"	18'	26'

(\*) 9'-0" Minimum (\*) 7'-6" Compact Cars Only, for non-required spaces only.

- (1) Curb length for end space of 3 or more parallel spaces may be 20' in length with no obstruction at the end.
- (2) Parking spaces adjacent to landscaping and/or sidewalks may be allow for a vehicle overhang of up to 12 inches, provided that any walkways maintain a walking path compliant with ADA standards.
- (3) Spaces may be widened up to 10' and accordingly reduce the aisle width so that the curb-to-curb distance is unchanged.
- (4) Minimum width of painted lines shall be 4".
- (5) Depth of space is measured from face of curb. If provided, a concrete gutter is not required to be painted.
- (6) Stacking Space Geometric Design Standards: Stacking Spaces shall be nine feet (9) by twenty (20) feet.

*Amended June 5, 2023*



### 3. Improvements

- a. Except as provided for in subsection 3 below, required parking spaces, access drives, and loading areas shall be paved and maintained with concrete, asphalt, or similar material of sufficient thickness and consistency to support anticipated traffic volumes and weights.
- b. Access drives shall be paved and maintained from the curbline or edge of pavement to a point at least ten feet beyond the public right-of-way line for all parking and loading facilities, whether paved or unpaved.
- c. Paving shall not be required for:
  - (1) Detached single-family residential dwellings.
  - (2) Parking areas for tracked heavy construction equipment, skid-mounted equipment and similar equipment, provided they are constructed with an all-weather surface.
- d. Parking lots containing 12 or more spaces shall also include curbing and storm drainage facilities. Driveway aprons shall be constructed to extend to the improved roadway. Provided, however, upon application the City may waive the requirement of curbing and/or storm drainage facilities where it is clearly demonstrated that curbing would be detrimental to the environment due to erosion or run off concerns or that the strict requirement of curbing and storm drainage would be unduly burdensome and financially not feasible, as reviewed and recommended by the City Engineer.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- e. All facilities shall be graded, properly drained, stabilized and maintained to minimize dust and erosion.
- f. All parking spaces and stacking lanes shall be clearly identified with paint lines, bumper guards, curbs, or similar treatment.
- g. All parking spaces shall be provided with wheel guards or curbs located so that no part of the parked vehicle will extend beyond the property line or encroach more than two feet into a required planting area.
- h. Concrete pads for stationary refuse containers shall be provided beneath and in the approach to each container.
- i. Parking lots shall be designed and constructed such that walkways shall maintain a minimum unobstructed width of five feet (vehicle encroachment is calculated as two feet beyond curb).

*Amended June 6, 2022*

## **F. Location**

1. **Off-site Parking Lots**  
When required off-street parking is permitted to be located off-site, it shall begin within five hundred feet of the zone lot containing the principal use. Required off-street parking shall not be located across an intervening major or minor thoroughfare.
2. **Parking in Nonresidential Districts**  
Automobile parking for any use may be provided in any nonresidential district.
3. **Nonresidential Parking in Residential Districts**  
Surface parking in a residential zoning district for any use not permitted in that district is allowed under the following conditions:
  - a. Property on which the parking is located must abut the lot containing the use that the parking serves. The property must be under the same ownership or subject to a parking encumbrance agreement. All access to such property shall be through nonresidentially-zoned property;
  - b. Parking shall be used only during daylight hours;
  - c. Parking shall be used by customers, patrons, employees, guests, or residents of the use that the parking serves;
  - d. No parking shall be located more than one hundred twenty feet into the residential zoning district.
  - e. No parking shall be permitted closer than one hundred fifty feet to any public road right-of-way upon which the principal use would not be permitted driveway access; and
  - f. Long-term or dead storage, loading, sales, repair work or servicing of vehicles is prohibited.
  - g. The parking lot complies with the landscaping and screening requirements of Section 6-4.

## **G. Combined Parking**

### **1. Separate Uses**

The required parking for separate or mixed uses may be combined in one facility.

## 2. Shared Parking

The parking spaces required for a church, theater, auditorium or assembly hall or other similar use may also serve as required spaces for another use located on the same zone lot. Shared spaces may also be located off-site as allowed in Section 6-5.F.1, Off-site Parking Lots. In either case, the Zoning Administrator must determine that the various activities will have peak parking demand at different periods of the day or week. Otherwise, no off-street parking required for one building or use shall be applied toward the requirements of any other building or use. A shared parking plan shall be enforced through a written agreement between the owners of record of all properties involved. The agreement shall be submitted to the Zoning Administrator prior to the issuance of a building permit for any use served by the shared parking area.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

## 3. Reassignment

Required off-street parking spaces shall not be leased or otherwise assigned to another use except as provided in subsection B.

## H. Loading Areas

### 1. General

Every building or structure used for business, trade or industry hereafter erected shall provide space as indicated in this subsection for the loading and unloading of vehicles off the street. The space shall have access to any alley, or if there is no alley, to a street.

### 2. Location

Off-street loading areas shall be located on the same zone lot as the use they serve.

### 3. Design Standards

#### a. Minimum Number of Loading Spaces Required:

- (1) Retail operations, including restaurant and dining facilities within hotels and office buildings:

Gross Floor Area (FT <sup>2</sup> )	Number of Spaces
0 - 20,000	0
20,001 - 40,000	1
40,001 - 75,000	2

75,001 - 150,000	3
150,001 - 250,000	4
For each additional 250,000 square feet or fraction thereof	1

(2) Office buildings and hotels:

Gross Floor Area (FT <sup>2</sup> )	Number of Spaces
0 - 100,000	0
For each additional 100,000 square feet or fraction thereof	1

(3) Industrial and wholesale operations:

Gross Floor Area (FT <sup>2</sup> )	Number of Spaces
0 - 10,000	0
10,001 - 40,000	1
40,001 - 100,000	2
100,001 - 160,000	3
160,001 - 240,000	4
240,001 - 320,000	5
320,001 - 400,000	6
For each additional 90,000 square feet or fraction thereof	1

- b. Each loading space shall be at least twelve feet wide, sixty feet long, and fourteen feet in clearance.  
*Amended June 3, 2024*
- c. All off-street loading areas shall be arranged and marked to provide for orderly and safe unloading and loading, and shall not hinder the free movement of vehicles and pedestrians. All loading and unloading maneuvers shall take place on private property. No backing in from a road or maneuvering on the road right-of-way shall be permitted.

#### **I. Parking and Loading Area Landscaping**

Parking lots shall provide landscaping and screening in accordance with the standards delineated in Section 6-4, Landscaping for Parking Areas.

#### **J. Excessive Illumination in Parking Lots and Loading Areas**

Lighting within any parking and loading area that unnecessarily illuminates any other lot and substantially interferes with the use or enjoyment of such other lot is prohibited. Floodlights, spotlights, or any other similar lighting shall not be used to illuminate parking and loading areas.

All parking and loading area lighting shall be designed and located in accordance with the requirements of Section 6-6, Outdoor Lighting.

## **6-6 Outdoor Lighting**

*Amended June 3, 2024*

### **A. General Requirements**

1. All exterior lighting, such as that used in and around buildings, recreation areas, parking lots, and signs, shall be designed to protect against the spillover of light to adjacent properties. It shall also be designed to protect against glare onto public rights-of-way thereby impairing the vision of motorists and adjoining properties.
2. Glare control and the mitigation of light trespass shall be accomplished primarily through the proper selection and application of lighting equipment and shielding. This includes but is not limited to the use of directional lighting, lighting shields, special fixtures, timing devices, appropriate light intensities, luminaries, and mountings at appropriate heights. Only after those means have been exhausted shall vegetation, fences, or similar buffer methods be considered for reducing glare.
3. Exterior lighting shall be architecturally integrated with the building's style, materials, and colors in the selection and design of light poles, brackets, and fixtures.

### **B. Prohibited Lighting**

The following lighting fixtures or light types shall not be permitted, erected or maintained within the City of Mebane planning and zoning jurisdiction. Temporary lighting associated with holiday decorations are exempt from these rules.

1. Flashing or Revolving: Flashing, revolving, or intermittent exterior lighting visible from any lot line or street.
2. High-Intensity Lighting:
  - a) High intensity light beams, such as search lights or laser lights, except when used by federal, State, or local authorities.
  - b) High intensity LED or neon lighting fixtures mounted around the interior or exterior of a window, door, or other architectural feature on a structure and used for purposes other than traditional holiday decorations.
3. Luminous Tube Lighting: Luminous tube lighting (e.g. neon, rope lighting, etc.) is prohibited on building exteriors and in configurations where it outlines a window or glass door from the inside of a structure. This does not include luminous tubing used in signs.

4. Floodlights: Floodlights, spotlights or any other similar lighting shall not be used to illuminate buildings or other site features unless approved as an integral architectural element on the development plan. On-site lighting may be used to accent architectural elements and may not be used to illuminate entire portions of building(s).

### **C. Lighting Plan Required**

1. A lighting plan indicating illumination intensities shall be submitted with site plans and subdivision plats. A lighting plan is required for construction plan approval for developments with parking areas. The lighting plan must be certified by a licensed lighting professional holding the PE, LC, or CLEP Certification or similar certification that indicates proficiency in the designs of outdoor lighting, a lighting manufacturer, or the local electric utility. The Zoning Administrator is authorized to waive this requirement for small independent development projects on less than an acre if the fixture types are specified on the site plan or plat.
2. The following information, at a minimum, shall be provided for all lighting plans:
  - a) A photometric plan, superimposed on the site plan, indicating the location and aiming of outdoor light fixtures and illumination levels in compliance with the regulations of this Section.
  - b) A description of the outdoor light fixtures, including, but not limited to manufacturer's or electric utility catalog specifications sheets, drawings, or photometric reports, which indicate the outdoor light fixture classification (e.g. cutoff, semi-cutoff, full cutoff, or non-cutoff), type of light, and lumens proposed for each outdoor light fixture.
3. In reviewing the lighting plan, the Zoning Administrator may consider the impact of lighting on neighboring properties based on stated hours of operation, topographical differences across sites, and other considerations.
4. Any changes to the lighting plan must be approved by the Zoning Administrator.

### **D. Exterior Lighting Standards**

#### **1. General standards:**

- (a) Generally, light fixtures shall be full cutoff and shall be designed, located, and mounted at heights no greater than 35 feet above grade.

- (b) Non-cutoff light fixtures may be used only for decorative purposes, provided:
  - 1. They have lamps that produce no more than 1,500 lumens (approximately equal to a 100-watt incandescent bulb).
  - 2. They have a maximum height of 18 feet above grade.
  - 3. They use energy-efficient bulbs, such as compact fluorescent (CF) and light-emitting diode (LED).
- (b) All outdoor lighting shall be designed and located to minimize light trespass onto adjacent properties. The maximum light level shall not exceed 0.2 foot-candles at a nonresidential property line adjacent to a residentially zoned or used property. The maximum light level shall not exceed 1.5 foot-candles at a nonresidential property line adjacent to a nonresidential development or to a public right-of-way. The Zoning Administrator may allow the maximum light level to exceed 1.5 foot-candles onto a public right-of-way upon consulting with public safety officials.
- (c) For parking lots, the minimum light level shall be no less than 0.2 foot-candles. The average foot-candle maintained to the minimum foot-candles ratio shall be no greater than 4:1 (upper to lower limits).
- (d) All outdoor lighting fixtures shall be located a minimum of 10 feet from a property or right-of-way line and should not be within a required perimeter buffer or streetscape unless it is located at the interior edge.
- (e) The correlated color temperature (CCT) of lamps in exterior lighting shall not exceed 4,000 Kelvins. Lighting for outdoor sports fields and outdoor event areas shall be exempt from this requirement.

## **2. Lighting for Canopies**

- (a) Lighting for canopies shall be restricted to lighting fixtures (including lenses) that do not project below the bottom of the canopy. Lighting for canopies for service stations and other similar uses shall not exceed an average of 20 footcandles as measured at ground level at the inside of the outside edge of the canopy.
- (b) Canopies used for building accents over doors, windows, etc. shall not be internally lit (i.e., from underneath or behind the canopy).

## **3. Wall-Mounted Lighting**



- (a) Wall-mounted light fixtures shall be full cutoff when located on the front or side of a building or structure.
- (b) Wall-mounted light fixtures that are oriented towards a residentially zoned parcel or towards a lot with one or more existing dwelling units shall be full cutoff.
- (c) Low-intensity, architectural style wall outdoor light fixtures may be used if approved by the Zoning Administrator as an integral architectural element of a development plan and if they are used to accent architectural elements of the building or structure or to illuminate entrance areas.
- (d) Non-cutoff type wall pack lights are permitted only for security or service areas that are not otherwise restricted by subsections a and b above. The light source must not be visible from off site and the fixture must be of low wattage (preferably 100 watts or lower).

#### **4. Illumination of Outdoor Sports Fields and Outdoor Events Areas**

- (a) All such lighting fixtures shall be equipped with a glare control package (e.g., louvers, shields, or similar devices), and the fixtures shall be aimed so that their beams are directed and fall within the primary playing or event area; and
- (b) The hours of operation for the lighting system for any game or event shall not exceed one hour after the end of the game or event.

#### **5. Sign Lighting**

Lighting fixtures illuminating signs shall comply with the requirements of Section 6-7, and such fixtures shall be aimed and shielded so that direct illumination is focused exclusively on the sign face.

#### **6. Timer Devices**

- (a) Timer devices shall be employed to shut off luminaries or to reduce light levels when full lighting is not required, such as after normal business hours.
- (b) Special attention shall be given to protecting adjoining residential properties from off-site illumination after 10:00 pm.

### **6-7 Signs**

*Amended June 5, 2023*

### **6-7.1 Purpose and Intent**

The sign regulations, adopted and prescribed in this Section, are found by the City Council to be necessary and appropriate to:

- A.** Recognize that signs serve a legitimate public service and that they complement and support trade, tourism, and investment within the City of Mebane;
- B.** Encourage the effective use of signs as a means of visual communication;
- C.** Promote a positive community appearance for the enjoyment of all citizens;
- D.** Maintain and enhance the aesthetic environment and the community's ability to attract sources of economic development and growth;
- E.** Protect the public from damage or injury attributable to distractions and/or obstructions caused by improperly designed or located signs; and
- F.** Protect existing property values in both residential and nonresidential areas; and
- G.** Preserve the right of free speech and expression, while not condoning obscenity.

### **6-7.2 Permit Required**

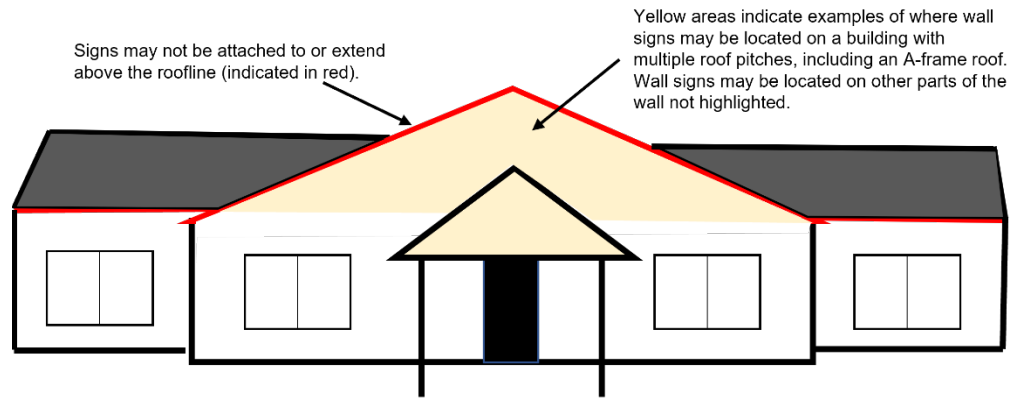
All signs except those specifically exempted in Section 6-7.4 shall be erected, installed, or modified only in accordance with a duly issued and valid sign permit issued by the Zoning Administrator. Sign permits shall be issued in accordance with the zoning permit requirements and procedures of Section 2-15, and the submission requirements of Appendix A. If plans submitted for a zoning or special use permit include sign plans in sufficient detail that the permit issuing authority can determine whether the proposed sign(s) comply with the provisions of this Section, then issuance of the requested land use or special use permit shall constitute approval of the proposed sign(s).

### **6-7.3 Prohibited Signs**

The following signs shall not be permitted, erected or maintained within the City of Mebane planning and zoning jurisdiction.

- A. Driver visual obstructions:** No sign may be located in such a manner as to obscure, or physically interfere with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, signal or device, obstruct or physically interfere with the driver's view of approaching, merging or intersecting traffic.
- B. Portable signs:** Portable signs, including signs painted on or displayed on vehicles or trailers used to serve primarily as a sign are prohibited, except that portable signs used as temporary signs in accordance with Section 6-7.7, J are permitted.

- C. **Sign spinners:** Persons spinning, tossing, waving, or moving any device used as advertising signage.
- D. **Signs above the roof line:** No wall sign may be attached to a roofline and/or extended above the highest portion of the roof. The below illustration depicts an example of a building with an A-frame roof.



- E. **Signs obstructing points of egress:** Signs which obstruct any fire escape, required exit, window, door opening, or wall opening intended as a means of ingress or egress or signs which interfere with any opening required for ventilation.
- F. **Signs on natural features:** Signs erected, maintained, painted or drawn on any tree, rock or other natural feature.
- G. **Signs projecting over the right-of-way:** Signs which project over a public right-of-way are prohibited, except that the following are allowed with an encroachment agreement issued by the City of Mebane or the North Carolina Department of Transportation:
1. Wall signs may project up to 12 inches over a public street right-of-way in zoning districts which permit structures to be built at the property line adjoining the street;
  2. Signs suspended underneath a canopy or awning may be located over a public sidewalk provided that they are at least 9 feet above the sidewalk;
  3. Projecting signs that comply with the requirements of Section 6-7.7, K are allowed; and
  4. Street banners that comply with the requirements of Section 6-7.4, A are permissible.
- H. **Signs with electronic animation:** Signs with lights, electronic messages, or illuminations which flash, move, rotate, scintillate, blink, flicker, vary in intensity, vary in color, or use intermittent electrical pulsations. Notwithstanding the above, the following signs are allowed if they comply with all requirements of this ordinance: time, temperature, and/or date signs; traditional barber poles; and

electronic changeable message signs with copy that changes at frequencies of once every two seconds or more.

- I. **Signs with moving parts:** Signs with moving, revolving or rotating parts, optical illusions or movement or mechanical movements by any description or other apparent movement achieved by electrical, electronic or mechanical means and signs with lights or illuminations which flash, move, rotate, scintillate, blink, flicker, vary in intensity, vary in color or use intermittent electrical pulsations, except for time, temperature, date signs; traditional barber poles; and electronically controlled message signs.
- J. **Snipe signs:** Snipe signs as defined in Article 12 unless expressly permitted as temporary signage.
- K. **String lighting:** Strings of light bulbs used in connection with commercial premises for commercial purposes other than traditional holiday decorations. Notwithstanding the above, restaurants, event venues, and similar uses may display non-flashing string lights in outdoor areas.
- L. **Unauthorized traffic signs:** No sign shall be erected so that by its location, color, nature, or message it is likely to be confused with or obstruct the view of traffic signals or signs, or is likely to be confused with the warning lights of an emergency or public safety vehicle.
- M. **Unauthorized warning signs:** No sign shall make use of the words 'STOP', 'SLOW', 'CAUTION', 'DANGER', or any other word, phrase, symbol, or character in such a manner as is reasonably likely to be confused with traffic directional and regulatory signs.

#### 6-7.4 Exempt Signs

The following listed signs are permitted in every district and shall comply with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and City of Mebane sight distance and road rights-of-way clearances. The following listed signs shall, however, be exempt from permit and fee requirements, except that any illuminated sign shall require an electrical permit. Exempt signs shall be maintained in good condition and shall not constitute a hazard to safety, health or public welfare. Exempt signs that are found to be in violation shall be ordered corrected or removed.

- A. **Approved banners:** Banners on or across public street rights-of-way that are expressly approved by the City of Mebane City Manager and the North Carolina Department of Transportation, as applicable. In addition to approval from the City of Mebane, approval from the North Carolina Department of Transportation is required for banners across public street rights-of-way maintained by the State of North Carolina.
- B. **Copy change-outs:** Changing copy of existing sign(s) without enlarging; however, a drawing of the new sign face must be submitted to the Zoning Administrator prior to changing the sign face.
- C. **Directional signs:** Signs directing and guiding traffic and parking on private property, provided such signs bear no advertising matter other than company

name, logo and do not exceed 4 square feet in area per display surface and off-premise directional or open house signs not to exceed 4 square feet.

- D. **Fence-wrap signs:** Signs affixed to fences surrounding a construction site in accordance with NCGS 160D-908.
- E. **Flags and insignia:** Flags and insignia of government, when not displayed in connection with a commercial promotion. Flags, emblems or insignia of corporate, political, professional, fraternal, civic, religious, or educational organizations.
- F. **Governmental signage:** Any sign erected by the City of Mebane or other governmental agencies, such as street signs, public service signs, and historical markers, which contain no commercial advertising matter.
- G. **Hand-carried signs:** Signs that are carried by a person by hand, if they are not displayed in a manner that constitutes a sign spinner as prohibited in Section 6-7.3, C.
- H. **Historical markers:** Historical or memorial signs or tablets, and names and construction dates of buildings when cut into any masonry surface.
- I. **Holiday lights and decorations:** Lights and decorations with no commercial message temporarily displayed on traditionally adopted civic, patriotic or religious holidays.
- J. **Incidental signs:** Signs with limited commercial messages that provide information for the convenience and necessity of the public. Company logos must not occupy more than 25% of the sign area.
- K. **Interior signs:** Signs located on the interior of buildings, courts, lobbies, stadiums, or other structures that are not intended to be seen from the exterior of such structures.
- L. **Legal notices:** Signs erected by, or on behalf of, a government body or judicial body carrying out required public duties including, but not limited to, traffic control devices, legal notices, official notices, or advertisements.
- M. **Political signs authorized by N.C. General Statutes:** Political signs sited and maintained in accordance with NCGS 136-32.
- N. **Property identification:** Signs bearing only property identification numbers and names, post office box numbers of occupants of the premises, or other identification of premises not of a commercial nature, provided such signs are not illuminated and do not exceed 2 signs per zoning lot and 2 square feet in area per display surface.
- O. **Religious symbols:** Religious symbols at a place of worship or at a church-owned or operated facility. Such symbols must meet all setbacks and lighting requirements for signs.

- P. **Signs affixed to vehicles:** Signs affixed to vehicles and trailers used in the normal transport of goods or persons where the sign is incidental and accessory to the primary use of the vehicle or trailer.
- Q. **Signs on dispensers:** Signs painted or attached to vending machines, gas pumps, ice machines, or similar devices which indicate the contents of the machine, name or logo of supplier, the price or operating instructions.
- R. **Temporary signs:**
1. Temporary signs allowed at any time:
    - a. A property owner may place one sign with a sign face no larger than four (4) square feet on residential property at any time.
    - b. A property owner may place two signs per street frontage, each no larger than four (4) square feet, on non-residential property at any time. A maximum of four temporary signs is allowed.
    - c. Multiple temporary signs with a noncommercial message and no larger than nine (9) square feet in area, may be erected by a property owner on their property for a ninety (90) day period prior to a primary or general election involving candidates for federal, state, or local offices. During this time, a property owner is also allowed one larger sign, not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet. These signs shall be removed within ten (10) days following the election.
  2. Temporary signs may be located on a property when:
    - a. The property is being offered for sale or lease through a licensed real estate agent or by the owners.
    - b. The signs are removed within 72 hours after the sale, rental, or lease of the property.
    - c. Number: One sign per street frontage.
    - d. Size: Nine square feet in area per display surface. The Zoning Administrator may approve larger signs when needed for large tracts of land for sale, rental, or lease.
  3. A maximum of two (2) temporary signs, each no greater than thirty-two (32) square feet in area, may be erected during development of a parcel of property. Such signs shall be removed within 72 hours after a request is submitted to the City of Mebane for a final inspection (zoning and/or building) of the property.

4. Two temporary signs, each no greater than nine (9) square feet in area, may be erected on a property under renovation or redevelopment. Signs shall be removed within 72 hours after the work is completed.
5. Pennants, banners, streamers, spinners, balloons, and other similar devices are prohibited except as temporary signs advertising a temporary event, promotion, or announcement. Such temporary promotional signs may be erected 10 days prior to the event and must be removed within 5 days after the conclusion of the event or promotion advertised but in any event within 40 days after erection.

Temporary signs of this nature may only be utilized four times within any calendar year for any zoning lot or business within the City's zoning jurisdiction. Provided, however, automobile sales lots located in business or industrial districts shall be allowed to utilize pennants, banners, and streamers on an unlimited basis.

Permits are not required, however, the owner or occupant of the premises upon which said signs are located shall maintain a log or other record indicating the date said sign or device was erected and removed. Said record shall be made available to the Zoning Administrator upon his request. Such log or record shall also include other temporary signage located on the premises. The Zoning Administrator may require the immediate removal of any sign or other device not listed within said record. In the event of a violation of the requirements of this section, including a failure to maintain the required record, no temporary signs to which this Ordinance applies may be utilized on the lot or business in question for a period of twelve months. Provided, however, the signs and devices referred to above may only be utilized in commercial and industrial zoning districts and may not be displayed in residential zoning districts.

- S. **Warning signs:** Any warning signs, utility sign, signs for public use, and no trespassing, no hunting, or neighborhood watch signs with no commercial message.

#### 6-7.5 General Sign Standards

- A. **Wind Loads:** All signs, except for those attached flat against the wall of a building, shall be constructed to withstand minimum wind loads as specified by the North Carolina State Building Code. Sufficient documentation shall be submitted to the Zoning Administrator for review to assure that wind and stress requirements have been met prior to any permit being issued. Such documentation shall be signed and sealed by a registered North Carolina architect or engineer.
- B. **Building & Electrical Code:** All signs shall be installed and maintained in compliance with the North Carolina State Building Code and the National

Electrical Code and shall have appropriate permits and inspections. Electrical signs and fixtures shall bear labels of a nationally accepted testing laboratory.

- C. **Sign Maintenance:** All signs shall be maintained in a state of good repair and shall present a neat, well-kept appearance.
- D. **Sign Illumination:**
  - 1. All lights used for the illumination of a sign shall be shielded so that the light will not shine directly on surrounding areas or create a traffic hazard or distraction to operators of motor vehicles.
  - 2. Illuminated signs may have either an exterior or interior source of illumination, unless otherwise prohibited herein.
  - 3. Except as specifically provided for herein, externally illuminated signs shall be lighted from the top of the sign downward to reduce light pollution.
  - 4. The maximum lamp wattage permitted for a sign with external illumination shall not exceed two watts per square foot of sign face area except that signs less than eight feet in height or less than 50 square feet in sign face area may be illuminated by ground mounted uplighting not exceeding 100 lamp watts per sign face. The Zoning Administrator is authorized to order a change in the illumination of any sign that becomes a hazard or a nuisance.
  - 5. The use of neon to illuminate a sign shall be evaluated according to the standards specified in Section 6-7.7, H.
  - 6. Electronically controlled message signs shall include mechanisms, such as dimmer controls and photocells, to appropriately adjust display brightness as ambient light levels change.
  - 7. Illuminated signs in O&I zoning districts within 200 feet of property zoned or used for residential purposes shall be turned off by 11:00 pm. provided the institution or business is not in operation at the time.
- G. **Number of Display Surfaces:** No sign shall have more than two display surfaces.
- H. **Repair of Hazardous Signs:** The Zoning Administrator or designee shall have the authority to order the painting, repair, alteration or removal of a sign, at the expense of the owner of such sign, which shall constitute a hazard to safety, health or public welfare by reasons of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation or obsolescence. The existence of a sign or its support structure with no message display for a period of 90 days shall be justification to declare the sign abandoned and require its removal.
- I. **Unpermitted Signs:** Any sign erected without proper permits or in violation of this Section shall be brought into compliance within 30 days of notification by the Zoning Administrator or said sign shall be removed immediately.




- J. **Sign Projection:** Any permitted sign projection over a public sidewalk shall be no lower than 9 feet above the level of the sidewalk or lower than 14 feet above the level of a vehicular driveway. An encroachment agreement must be obtained from the North Carolina Department of Transportation.
- K. **Vision Clearance:** No sign or sign structure shall be erected, constructed, or maintained so as to interfere with vision clearance along any street or highway or at any intersection of two or more streets or highways. No sign shall be located within a sight distance triangle of 10 feet x 70 feet at the intersection of public streets nor within a sight distance triangle of 10 feet x 35 feet at a point where driveways and private street rights-of-way intersect with public and private street rights-of-way. No sign or sign structure may be located within a street or street right-of-way except as allowed over sidewalks in subsection J above and in Section 6-7.4. A.
- L. **Noncommercial Speech:** Whenever the ordinance permits a commercial sign, a non-commercial message may be substituted for the commercial message. The right to substitute the non-commercial message does not waive any other requirement imposed by the UDO as to the number, size, type, construction, location, lighting, safety, or other regulated attribute.  
*Amended June 6, 2022*

#### **6-7.6 Calculations and Measurements**

- A. **Sign Area:** The area of a sign shall be measured in conformance with the following:
  - 1. The area of the face of a sign shall be calculated to include the outermost part that forms the shape or display. Necessary supports and trim moldings shall not be included when calculating the area of the sign. Aprons below advertising signs shall not exceed 3 feet in height. Aprons serve an aesthetic function and shall not be used for any purposes other than to identify, by name, the sign company responsible for the sign.
  - 2. In computing the area of a sign, standard mathematical formulas for common regular geometric shapes (triangle, parallelogram, circle and ellipse, or combinations thereof) shall be used.
  - 3. In the case of an irregularly shaped sign or a sign with letters and/or symbols affixed to or painted, displayed or incorporated into or upon a wall, canopy, awning or decorative facade of a building, the area of the sign shall be the area within the singular continuous perimeter, outlining the limits of the writing, representation, emblem, or any figure of similar character.
  - 4. A double-faced sign with an angle or a spacing between the sign backs shall be considered two separate signs except as otherwise allowed for outdoor advertising signs in Section 6-7.7, I. Outdoor advertising signs (billboards) shall not be stacked, horizontally or vertically.

- B. Sign Height:** The vertical distance measured from the ground elevation where the sign is located, to the highest point of the sign except as follows: When the ground elevation is different from the elevation of an adjacent road, the height of a sign shall be measured from the road elevation of the adjacent road at the edge of the pavement.

**6-7.7 Sign Placement, Size, Height, Setback, Separation, Clearance, and Construction by Sign Type**  
*Amended June 3, 2024*

SIGN TYPE	STANDARDS
<p><b>A. Awning or Canopy Sign</b></p> <p><b>1. Where Permitted:</b> O&amp;I, B-1, B-2, B-3, LM, HM</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> 	<p><b>2. Maximum Number:</b> One sign for single-occupancy building. For a multiple occupancy building, one sign for each occupant entrance.</p> <p><b>3. Illumination Method:</b> None permitted.</p> <p><b>4. Maximum Sign Area:</b> 9 square feet</p> <p><b>5. Maximum Height:</b> 12 inches</p> <p><b>6. Setbacks:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>7. Clearance:</b> Awnings shall clear sidewalks and pedestrian paths by a height of at least 9 ft.</p> <p><b>8. Landscaping:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>9. Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A sign attached to the underside of an awning or canopy is a suspended sign and subject to those requirements outlined in subsection M.</li> </ul>

SIGN TYPE	STANDARDS
<p><b>B. Ground or Monument Sign</b></p> <p><b>1. Where Permitted:</b> All zoning districts</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <div data-bbox="373 435 850 820" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="373 857 850 1286" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p><b>2. Maximum Number:</b> One sign per adjoining street frontage, except residential subdivisions may have one sign per entrance.</p> <p><b>3. Illumination Method:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Residential: External only.</li> <li>b) Nonresidential: Internal or external</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Maximum Sign Area:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Residential: 32 square feet</li> <li>b) Nonresidential, Single Tenant: 50 square feet</li> <li>c) Nonresidential, Multi-Tenant: 100 square feet</li> <li>d) Within 400 feet of the right-of-way of interstate highways and interchanges, the maximum nonresidential sign area shall be 300 square feet.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Maximum Height:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Residential: 8 feet</li> <li>b) Nonresidential, Single Tenant: 12 feet</li> <li>c) Nonresidential, Multi-Tenant: 35 feet</li> <li>d) Within 400 feet of the right-of-way of interstate highways and interchanges, the maximum nonresidential sign height shall be 60 feet.</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Setbacks:</b> 10 ft. separation from right-of-way and structures. Minimum separation from utility lines shall be in compliance with the requirements of the utility having jurisdiction.</p> <p><b>7. Clearance:</b> Signs shall clear driveway and parking areas by a height of at least 14 ft. and shall clear sidewalks and pedestrian paths by a height of at least 9 ft.</p> <p><b>8. Landscaping:</b> Base of sign shall be landscaped.</p> <p><b>9. Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Freestanding signs are not permitted on the same street frontage of a building along which there is a projecting sign.</li> <li>b) No unfinished surfaces or structures shall be exposed on a sign.</li> <li>c) The lot on which a ground or monument sign is located shall have frontage on a public street and contain off-street parking for the principal use(s).</li> <li>d) Changeable copy (either electronic or manual) is a permitted sign face.</li> </ul> <p>The City Council may permit deviations in sign height and sign area as conditions of approval for rezoning and special use requests.</p>

## SIGN TYPE

## e) STANDARDS

### C. Freestanding or Pole Sign

**1. Where Permitted:** B-2, LM, HM, O&I, and B-3. Permissible in B-1 districts only if off-street parking is available on-site.

**Example:**



**2. Maximum Number:** One sign per adjoining street frontage

**3. Illumination Method:** Signs taller than six feet shall only be internally illuminated. Signs with a height of six feet or less shall only be externally illuminated.

**4. Maximum Sign Area:** 15 square feet, except that within 400 feet of the right-of-way of interstate highways and interchanges, the maximum sign area shall be 300 square feet.

**5. Maximum Height:** 6 feet, except that within 400 feet of the right-of-way of interstate highways and interchanges, the maximum height shall be 60 feet.


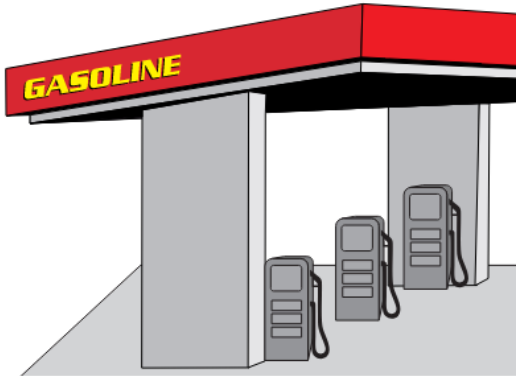
**6. Setbacks:** 10 ft. separation from right-of-way, property lines, and structures. Minimum separation from utility lines shall be in compliance with the requirements of the utility having jurisdiction.



**7. Clearance:** Signs shall clear driveway and parking areas by a height of at least 14 ft. and shall clear sidewalks and pedestrian paths by a height of at least 9 ft.

**8. Landscaping:** N/A



#### 9. Notes:

- Freestanding signs are not permitted on the same street frontage of a building along which there is a projecting sign.
- No unfinished surfaces or structures shall be exposed on a sign.
- The lot on which a pole sign is located shall have frontage on a public street and contain off-street parking for the principal use(s).
- Changeable copy (either electronic or manual) is a permitted sign face.
- Multiple tenant sign faces are not permitted on a pole sign.
- Pole signs not located within 400 feet of the interstate or interchanges must be supported by two posts or follow the standards of professional or occupational signs.
- The City Council may permit deviations in sign height and sign area as conditions of approval for rezoning and special use requests

SIGN TYPE	STANDARDS
<p><b>D. Gas Canopy Sign</b></p> <p><b>1. Where Permitted:</b> B-1, B-2, B-3, LM, HM</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p>  	<p><b>2. Maximum Number:</b> One sign per canopy face</p> <p><b>3. Illumination Method:</b> Internal only</p> <p><b>4. Maximum Sign Area:</b> 9 square feet</p> <p><b>5. Maximum Height:</b> Sign shall be erected on the canopy covering individual gas pumps. Sign shall not extend above the canopy.</p> <p><b>6. Setbacks:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>7. Clearance:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>8. Landscaping:</b> N/A</p>

SIGN TYPE	STANDARDS
<p><b>E. Marquee Sign</b></p> <p>1. <b>Where Permitted:</b> O&amp;I, B-1, B-2, B-3, LM, HM</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> 	<p>2. <b>Maximum Number:</b> One sign per premises</p> <p>3. <b>Illumination Method:</b> Internal only.</p> <p>4. <b>Maximum Sign Area:</b> The allowable sign area is calculated at one square foot of sign area per linear foot of building frontage. The maximum allowed sign area is 200 square feet.</p> <p>5. <b>Maximum Height:</b> The height of a marquee sign shall not exceed the height of the marquee.</p> <p>6. <b>Setbacks:</b> N/A</p> <p>7. <b>Clearance:</b> N/A</p> <p>8. <b>Landscaping:</b> N/A</p> <p>9. <b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A marquee sign may be substituted for a standard wall sign but in no case shall there be both a marquee and wall sign on the same building wall.</li> </ul>
<p><b>F. Menu Board Sign</b></p> <p>1. <b>Where Permitted:</b> O&amp;I, B-1, B-2, B-3, LM, HM</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> 	<p>2. <b>Maximum Number:</b> Two</p> <p>3. <b>Illumination Method:</b> Internal only.</p> <p>4. <b>Maximum Sign Area:</b> 32 square feet per sign</p> <p>5. <b>Maximum Height:</b> 6 feet</p> <p>6. <b>Setbacks:</b> 10 ft. from all property lines</p> <p>7. <b>Clearance:</b> Minimum of 12 inches from ground level.</p> <p>8. <b>Landscaping:</b> N/A</p> <p>9. <b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Menu board signs shall be located so as not to be legible from a public street right-of-way or adjacent property.</li> </ul>



SIGN TYPE	a) STANDARDS
<p><b>G. Mural</b></p> <p><b>1. Where Permitted:</b> B-1, B-2</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> 	<p><b>2. Maximum Number:</b> One wall mural on one façade is allowed per structure.</p> <p><b>3. Illumination Method:</b> No illumination is allowed.</p> <p><b>4. Maximum Sign Area:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>5. Maximum Height:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>6. Setbacks:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>7. Clearance:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>8. Landscaping:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>9. Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The materials used should be appropriate for outdoor use.</li> <li>b) The colors used should be harmonious with the exterior colors of the building and general area. Neon, fluorescent, or reflective colors or materials are not permitted.</li> <li>c) The name of a business, logo, or other identifying information included with a mural or work of art must meet the requirements for wall signs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>H. Neon Sign</b></p> <p><b>1. Where Permitted:</b> B-1, B-2</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> 	<p><b>2. Maximum Number:</b> One neon sign per structure.</p> <p><b>3. Illumination Method:</b> No more than three colors may be used.</p> <p><b>4. Maximum Sign Area, Height, Setbacks, Clearance:</b> Refer to the applicable standards (i.e., freestanding sign, wall sign, etc.)</p> <p><b>5. Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Neon is prohibited on property within 150 feet of residentially-used or -zoned property.</li> </ul>



## SIGN TYPE

### I. Outdoor Advertising Sign (Billboards)

**1. Where Permitted:** LM, HM, if located within 400 feet of on/off ramps of an Interstate Highway

#### Example:



## STANDARDS

**2. Maximum Number:** One

**3. Illumination Method:** Outdoor advertising signs may be illuminated provided such illumination is placed and shielded so as to prevent direct rays of illumination from being cast on nearby properties and/or motor vehicles approaching on a public way from any direction. All externally illuminated outdoor advertising signs shall be lighted from the top of the sign downward to reduce light pollution. No rotating, revolving, flashing, or intermittent lighting devices shall be attached to or made a part of any billboard.

**4. Maximum Sign Area:** 400 square feet


- a) Top outs and side outs are permitted in addition to the above sign area dimensions. Top outs and side outs shall be confined to the immediate plane of the sign and may extend above and/or to the side of the sign face a maximum of two feet. Top outs and side outs shall not exceed a total of 32 square feet in area.
- b) Double-faced, back-to-back signs may be permitted provided that each individual sign face does not exceed the maximum display area requirements in subsection (a) above. A double-faced sign with an angle or spacing between the sign backs shall be considered as one sign (amended April 7, 2008).

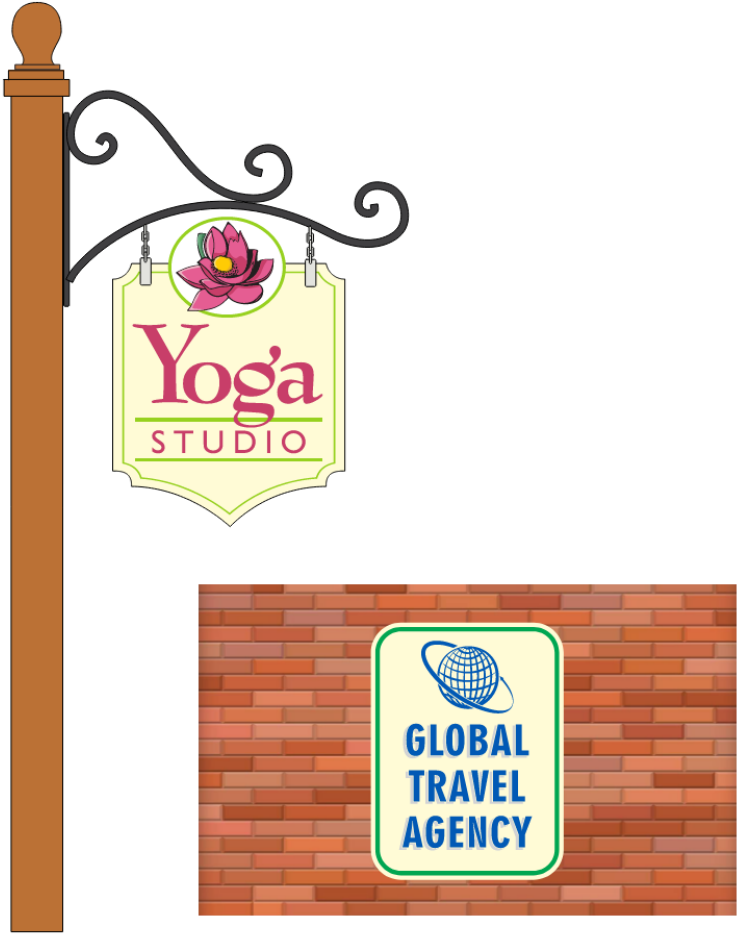
**5. Maximum Height:** 60 feet

**6. Setbacks:** Front and rear setbacks shall be the same as required in Table 4-2-1 for a principal building in the zoning district in which located. Billboards shall be set back a minimum of 25 from a side property line and 100 feet from an adjoining residentially-used or -zoned side property line.


#### 7. Notes:

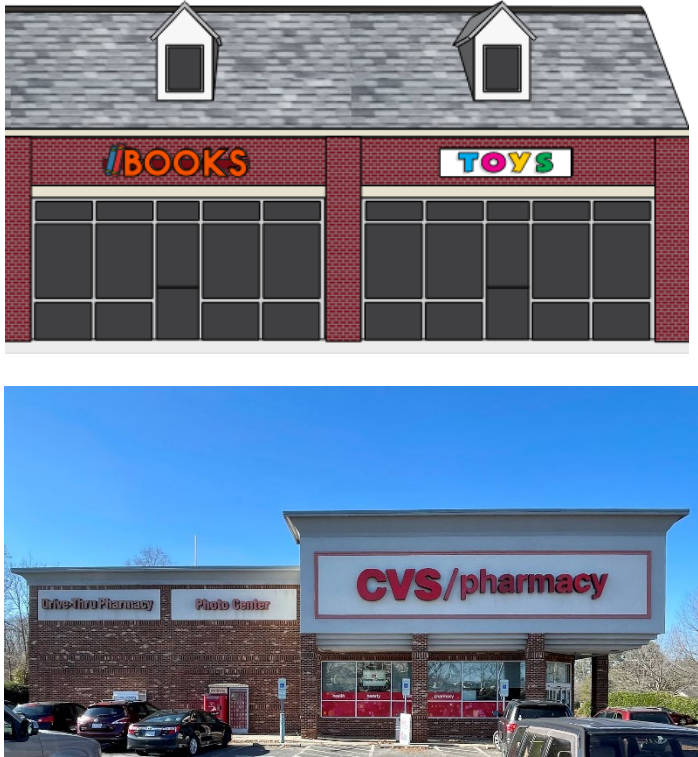
- a) Minimum separation from another billboard: 1,000 feet radius of another billboard.
- b) Construction: Billboards shall be constructed of metal with only one pole. Billboards shall not be stacked, horizontally or vertically.
- c) Minimum separation from utility lines shall be in compliance with the requirements of the utility provider having jurisdiction.
- d) Minimum requirements contained within the North Carolina Outdoor Advertising Control Act (North Carolina General Statute 136-126 et seq.) which are more stringent or in addition to those contained in this Section shall apply.
- e) Dilapidated and Abandoned Signs: If at any time a billboard falls into a state of dilapidation, disrepair, or becomes abandoned or discontinued as defined by the latest edition of Regulations for the Control of Outdoor Advertising in North Carolina by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the permits for such sign shall be revoked.

SIGN TYPE	STANDARDS
<p><b>J. Portable Sign (A- and T-shaped signs)</b></p> <p><b>1. Where Permitted:</b> B-1</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> 	<p><b>2. Maximum Number:</b> One per street frontage or business</p> <p><b>3. Illumination Method:</b> No illumination is allowed.</p> <p><b>4. Maximum Sign Area:</b> 8 square feet</p> <p><b>5. Maximum Height:</b> 4 feet</p> <p><b>6. Setbacks:</b> Shall not impede vehicular view or pedestrian circulation along public streets or sidewalks</p> <p><b>7. Clearance:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>8. Landscaping:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>9. Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Portable signs can only be displayed in the B-1 Zoning District during normal business hours.</li> <li>b) Portable signs may be displayed in other zoning districts to announce public events or as temporary signage in accordance with this ordinance.</li> <li>c) The Zoning Administrator shall require the removal of portable signs found to be in violation.</li> </ul>


SIGN TYPE	STANDARDS
<p><b>K. Professional or Occupational Signs or Name Plates</b></p> <p><b>1. Where Permitted:</b> All zoning districts</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> 	<p><b>2. Maximum Number:</b> One per business or establishment</p> <p><b>3. Illumination Method:</b> No illumination is allowed.</p> <p><b>4. Maximum Sign Area:</b> 3 square feet</p> <p><b>5. Maximum Height:</b> 30 inches if ground mounted, signs in this category may also be mounted flush against the structure.</p> <p><b>6. Setbacks:</b> No sign shall be located within a street right-of-way. However, in any area in which a curb or the edge of the street pavement lies less than 5 feet from a street right-of-way, no on-premises sign shall be located closer than 5 feet to such right-of-way.</p> <p><b>7. Clearance:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>8. Landscaping:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>9. Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Professional or Occupational Signs may be mounted to a single post in the ground.</li> </ul>

SIGN TYPE	STANDARDS
<p><b>L. Projecting Sign</b></p> <p><b>1. Where Permitted:</b> O&amp;I, B-1, B-2, B-3, LM, HM</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <div data-bbox="464 427 779 833" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="464 862 779 1279" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p><b>2. Maximum Number:</b> One sign per street frontage or business. No projecting sign shall be located closer than 50 feet to any other projecting sign.</p> <p><b>3. Illumination Method:</b> No illumination is allowed.</p> <p><b>4. Maximum Sign Area:</b> 16 square feet</p> <p><b>5. Maximum Height:</b> No projecting sign shall extend above the soffit, parapet, or eave line, as appropriate, of the building to which it is attached.</p> <p><b>6. Setbacks:</b> Projecting signs shall project no more than 5 feet from the building to which they are attached and shall not extend beyond the inner edge of the curb line.</p> <p><b>7. Clearance:</b> Projecting signs shall clear sidewalks and pedestrian paths by a height of at least 9 feet.</p> <p><b>8. Landscaping:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>9. Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The building to which a projecting sign is attached shall be 20 feet or more in width.</li> <li>b) No projecting sign shall be permitted on the same street frontage along which there is a freestanding sign.</li> <li>c) Projecting signs shall not be located at the intersection of building corners except at right angles to a building façade.</li> <li>d) The message of projecting signs shall be limited to the name(s) of the establishment(s) located on the lot and/or the name of a multi-use development located thereon.</li> </ul>

SIGN TYPE	STANDARDS
<p><b>M. Suspended Sign</b></p> <p><b>1. Where Permitted:</b> O&amp;I, B-1, B-2, B-3, LM, HM</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> 	<p><b>2. Maximum Number:</b> One sign for a single-occupancy building. For a multiple occupancy building, one sign for each occupant entrance.</p> <p><b>3. Illumination Method:</b> No illumination is allowed.</p> <p><b>4. Maximum Sign Area:</b> Where there are none, new suspended signs shall be no more than 10 inches high and 3 feet long.</p> <p><b>5. Maximum Height:</b> 10 inches</p> <p><b>6. Setbacks:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>7. Clearance:</b> Suspended signs shall clear the ground and sidewalk by at least 9 feet.</p> <p><b>8. Landscaping:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>9. Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Suspended signs shall conform in size and appearance to existing signs under the same marquee or awning.</li> </ul>

SIGN TYPE	STANDARDS
<p><b>N. Wall Sign</b></p> <p><b>1. Where Permitted:</b> B-1, B-2, B-3, LM, HM. Permissible in O&amp;I districts only on the front wall of buildings.</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> 	<p><b>2. Maximum Number:</b> One primary sign per building or unit façade. Secondary signs are allowed as described.</p> <p><b>3. Illumination Method:</b> Internal illumination is allowed. External illumination is allowed if directed downward.</p> <p><b>4. Maximum Sign Area:</b> One square foot of sign area for every linear foot of building façade or 32 square feet, whichever is greater. In no case shall the area of a single wall sign exceed 200 square feet. For buildings of four or more stories, the allowable sign area increases to 1.5 square feet of sign area for every linear foot of building façade.</p> <p><b>5. Maximum Height:</b> No wall sign shall extend above the soffit, parapet, or eave, as appropriate of the building wall to which it is attached.</p> <p><b>6. Setbacks:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>7. Clearance:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>8. Landscaping:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>9. Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) No wall sign shall protrude more than 12 inches from the wall to which it is attached.</li> <li>b) Wall signs, or portions thereof, placed between window spandrels shall not exceed in height two-thirds (2/3) of the height of the spandrels.</li> <li>c) Wall signs shall not cover or interrupt major architectural features.</li> <li>d) In industrial zoning districts, wall signs on the side of buildings adjacent to lots zoned residential are permitted only when the building is at least 50 feet from the side lot line of the residential lot.</li> <li>e) A maximum of two secondary signs are allowed for building façades of more than 75 linear feet. Secondary signs must be at least 15 feet from the primary sign and are limited to 50% of the sign area for the primary sign.</li> </ul>



SIGN TYPE	STANDARDS
<p><b>O. Window Sign</b></p> <p><b>1. Where Permitted:</b> O&amp;I, B-1, B-2, B-3, LM, HM.</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> 	<p><b>2. Maximum Number:</b> See sign area.</p> <p><b>3. Illumination Method:</b> Neon signs and LED signs may only cover 10% of the window area of a building façade.</p> <p><b>4. Maximum Sign Area:</b> Signage applied to the inside or outside of windows and visible from the exterior of the building shall not cover more than 30% of the window area of a building façade.</p> <p><b>5. Maximum Height:</b> Window signs are only permitted on the ground level.</p> <p><b>6. Setbacks:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>7. Clearance:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>8. Landscaping:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>9. Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Door and window signs covering less than 10% of the window area do not require permitting.</li> </ul>

## 6-7.8 Nonconforming Signs

It is the intent of this Ordinance to permit signs that were lawful before the effective date of this Ordinance to remain in service. Specific provisions regarding nonconforming signs are delineated in Section 10-7, Nonconforming Signs.

## **6-8 Recreation and Open Space Requirements**

All residential major subdivisions and multifamily developments shall be required to dedicate recreation and open space. Certain residential developments shall also be required to reserve a portion of land for private recreational development to serve the needs of the residents of the development. The City Council declares the purposes and intent of the recreational and open space regulations adopted and prescribed in this Section to be as follows:

- To provide adequate active recreational areas and passive open space;
- To encourage the preservation of existing trees and vegetation;
- To encourage the retention of environmentally fragile areas;
- To encourage the protection of air and water quality;
- To enhance flood control; and
- To provide higher quality development.

*Amended June 6, 2022; June 3, 2024*

### **6-8.1 Minimum Public Recreational Space Requirements**

The developer of land for residential purposes shall be required to dedicate a portion of land or pay a fee *in lieu* thereof for public recreational development to serve the needs of the residents of the subdivision or development. The decision to accept a land dedication or an *in lieu* of fee rests solely with the City Council.

- A. All dedications of recreational land and related infrastructure and amenities shall be reviewed as part of the preliminary plat review process. The subdivider shall designate on the preliminary subdivision plat the area or areas of land and/or recreation infrastructure and amenities proposed to be dedicated.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- B. All major residential subdivisions shall provide, through reservation or dedication, recreational space as required in subsection C or pay a fee *in lieu* thereof in accordance with the provisions of subsection H. The requirements of Section 6-8.1 shall be applicable to each of the following types of residential development:

1. Traditional detached single-family, attached single-family, two-family, and manufactured home subdivisions;
2. Residential cluster developments;
3. Townhouse developments;
4. Patio home developments;
5. Condominium developments;



6. Individual residential components of a Planned Unit Development or a Traditional Neighborhood Development that include the subdivision of property for sale to individual owners, including multifamily units; and
7. Subdivided developments that include live/work combination dwellings; and
8. Multifamily developments

*Amended June 6, 2022; June 3, 2024*

- C. At least 1,250 square feet shall be dedicated or reserved for each dwelling unit proposed in the subdivision plat or development plan. Flood Hazard Areas, stream buffers, wetlands, or area that has slopes greater than 15 percent shall be dedicated at a rate of at least 2,500 square feet per dwelling unit.

*Amended June 6, 2022; June 3, 2024*

- D. All residential developments shall provide, through reservation or dedication, recreational space as required in subsection C or pay a fee *in lieu* thereof in accordance with the provisions of subsection H.

*Amended June 6, 2022; June 3, 2024*

- E. The dedication of public recreational land shall be reviewed as part of the preliminary plat review process. The subdivider shall designate on the preliminary subdivision plat the area or areas of land proposed to be publicly dedicated. Upon receipt of the preliminary plat, the Director of the Mebane Recreation and Parks Department shall review the proposed dedication and shall forward a recommendation as to the acceptance or rejection of the proposed dedication to the City Council using the following criteria.

1. **Unity.**  
The dedicated land shall be a single parcel except where it is determined that two or more parcels would be in the public interest. It shall be contiguous with recreation areas and open space on adjacent properties to the maximum extent practicable. The City Council may require that the parcels be connected and may also require a path at least thirty feet in width that creates access to bicycles and pedestrians in addition to the land requirement.
2. **Location.**  
The dedicated land shall be located so as to serve the recreation needs of the immediate neighborhood within the subdivision.
3. **Physical Characteristics.**  
The shape, topography and subsoils of the dedicated land shall be such as to be suitable for the intended use.
4. **Accessibility.**  
Public access to the dedicated land shall be provided either by an abutting street or public easement. Such public easement shall be at least thirty

feet in width. Parking for all public dedications shall be provided as required by Section 6-5.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- F. The City Council shall have the authority to accept or reject offers for land and related infrastructure or amenities dedications made as a requirement of this Section. Land proposed by the developer as public recreational space on a subdivision plat shall be considered to be offered for dedication until such offer is officially accepted by the City Council. The offer may be accepted by the City through:
1. Written acceptance by the City Council; or
  2. Written acceptance by an administrative officer designated by the City Council.
- G. Fees *in lieu* of dedication.
- At the subdivider's request, the City Council may accept a land dedication located elsewhere in the town's jurisdiction *in lieu* of a land dedication at the site of the proposed development.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

1. *In lieu* of the dedication of land as required in subsection B above, a developer may provide funds in the amount of the total tax value of the land, prior to any agricultural credits or other permitted reductions, exemptions, exclusions, deferments, or credits, required to be dedicated to the City of Mebane. The total tax value shall be the overall, non-reduced tax value of the land as appraised for property tax purposes. The City may use the funds to purchase recreational land or areas to serve the subdivision or development in the immediate area. This may be done *in lieu* of providing the land required in subsection B above if so approved by the City Council. If the City Council determines that a combination dedication and partial payment *in lieu* of dedication is in the best interest of the citizens of the area to be served, such an arrangement is authorized.

*Amended June 3, 2024*

2. Fees *in lieu* of dedication shall be paid by the subdivider prior to final plat approval or as otherwise approved by the City Council.
3. The City of Mebane planning and zoning jurisdictional area shall be divided into recreational districts for the purpose of distributing funds that are collected from the cash-in-lieu-of-land payments. These funds shall be spent only on capital improvements to city-owned recreational facilities. The expenditure of recreation funds paid by the subdivider to the City *in lieu* of the dedication of land shall be determined by the City Council

4. The City Council may, in cases of an unusual or exceptional nature, allow adjustments in the dedication requirements established in this Section. Such adjustments shall be reviewed by the Director of the Mebane Recreation and Parks Department and the City Council. An unusual or exceptional nature may include, but not be limited to, land within the development set aside for private recreation or proposed expenditures for recreational facilities or equipment.
- H. If the land required for donation in a particular section of a subdivision exceeds the requirement in subsections B and/or C above, the difference may be applied to future sections or to any private open space requirements as delineated in Section 6-8.2.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- I. At the subdivider's request, the City Council may accept a land dedication of equal or greater assessed value located elsewhere in the town's jurisdiction *in lieu* of a land dedication at the site of the proposed development.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- J. After offered land dedications are officially accepted by the City Council, an executed general warranty deed conveying the dedicated land to the City of Mebane and a reproducible and electronic copy of a boundary survey shall be submitted to the City Manager no later than two years after the approval of the preliminary subdivision plat or by the time that 50 percent of the certificates of occupancy have been issued, whichever is earlier. The City Council may grant an extension of time after the initial two years following subdivision plat approval has elapsed.
- K. Recreational space that is accepted by the City Council for public dedication shall be identified on the recorded subdivision plat.

## **6-8.2 Minimum Private Recreational Space Requirements**

- A. The following are illustrative of the types of facilities that shall be deemed to serve active recreational needs and therefore count toward compliance with the private recreational space requirements of this Section: tennis courts, racquetball courts, swimming pools, sauna and exercise rooms, meeting or activity rooms with clubhouses, swings, slides, and play apparatus. Each development shall install the types of recreational facilities and equipment that are most likely to be suited to and used by the age bracket of persons likely to reside in the development. Facilities and equipment for active recreation shall be indicated on the site plan provided by the developer.

*Amended June 3, 2024*

- B. The developer of certain residential developments shall provide private recreation area as indicated in the following table:

Development Type	Minimum Amount of Required Recreation Space
Live/Work	100 square feet per du; No dedication required in B-1, B-2, B-3 districts
Multifamily/Apartment in B-1 District	50 square feet per du
Multifamily/Apartment	750 square feet per du
Townhome in B-1 District	100 square feet per du
Townhome	1,000 square feet per du
Patio Home	1,000 square feet per du
Manufactured Home Park	1,000 square feet per du

- D. The owner of the development shall be responsible for the continuing upkeep and proper maintenance of the private, active recreational space required by this Section.
- E. Exemption  
These private recreation criteria shall not be applied to developments providing six units or less.

*Amended June 6, 2022; June 3, 2024*

### **6-8.3 Private Common Open Space Requirements for Residential Developments**

- A. Private, common open space shall be required for all residential developments, excepting those that realize six or less dwelling units. Private, common open space shall be provided in addition to any public or private recreational space requirements required by Sections 6-8.1 and 6-8.2.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- B. Common open space may be passive or active and shall be owned and maintained by the property owner, a property owners association, or approved private, non-profit organization as authorized in Section 6-8.4, A.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- C. Non-Single Family Development  
The developer of residential development featuring dwelling units of the following descriptions shall reserve the amount of open space as indicated:

Development Type	Minimum Amount of Required Open Space
Multifamily/Apartment in B-1 District	50 square feet per du
Townhome or Condominium in B-1 District	100 square feet per du
Multifamily/Apartment	1,000 square feet per du
Manufactured Home Park	1,500 square feet per du
Live/Work	100 square feet per du; No dedication required in B-1, B-2, B-3 Districts
Townhome or Condominium	500 square feet per du
Patio Home	500 square feet per du

*Amended June 6, 2022; June 3, 2024*

- D. **Residential cluster development.** The developer of each residential cluster development shall reserve open space as follows:

The minimum amount of open space shall equal the amount of lot area by which all dwelling unit lots are reduced below the base zoning for single-family detached residential units for the zoning district in which located.

- E. **PUD and TND development.** The developer of each residential component (i.e., multifamily, condominiums, patio homes, etc.) of a planned unit development or traditional neighborhood development shall reserve open space as required above for that specific type of residential development. Single-family residential components of a PUD or TND shall reserve open space as required for residential cluster development.

The nonresidential components of each planned unit development or traditional neighborhood development shall reserve open space equal to a minimum of 15 percent of the gross land area of the nonresidential portion of the development (see also Section 4-7.3, N & P).

(Amended August 13, 2018; June 6, 2022)

- F. For purposes of Section 6-8.3, open space means an area that:
1. Is not encumbered with any structure unless such structure is intended for recreational purposes and is accessible to all residents of the development or general public;
  2. Is not contained within a street right-of-way or otherwise devoted to use as a roadway or parking area not associated with the use of the open space;
  3. If wooded, is left in its natural or undisturbed state (as of the date development began), except for the cutting of trails for bicycling, walking, or jogging or

If not wooded at the time of development, is dedicated for

- a. picnic areas, play areas, or similar passive recreational facilities,  
or
- b. is properly vegetated and landscaped with the objective of creating a wooded area or other area that is consistent with the objective set forth in subsection 4 below;

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- 4. Is capable of being used and enjoyed for purposes of informal and unstructured recreation and relaxation;
  - 5. Is legally and practicably accessible to the residents of the development out of which the required open space is taken, or to the public if dedication of the open space is proposed pursuant to Section 6-8.3, C; and
  - 6. Is not encumbered by underground private septic lines, any part of a private sewage disposal system, or any above-ground or below-ground structure.
- G. All floodplains, wetlands, streams, riparian buffers, ponds, lakes, and other water bodies shall be contained in or contiguous with common open space, whether or not they receive credit as common open space.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- H. Open space shall be shown on the site plan with a notation to indicate that the open space shall not be used for future structures except as allowed per subsection F, 1 above.
- I. The following shall not be counted towards open space areas:
- 1. Total area used for wet ponds used for stormwater management control to comply with requirements of Article 5. Crediting of other stormwater management controls (SMC) that do not have a standing pond depth (e.g. bioretention cells) as open space shall be allowed at half the credit of unmanaged open space. Should the SMC be integrated as a central feature into a recreational amenity, staff may consider that in its calculations of recreation area.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- 2. Private yards and building setback areas;
  - 3. Public or private streets or street rights-of-way;
  - 4. Parking areas and driveways for dwellings; and
  - 5. Land covered by structures except as allowed per subsection K, 1 above.
- J. Buffer areas required by Section 6-4 shall only receive half the credit for dedication towards private open space areas.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- K. Slopes >15%, floodzones, floodways, stream buffers, and wetlands are not considered developable area and shall only receive half the credit for dedication as open space.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

- L. Spaces that have been delineated as Conservation Areas or otherwise prioritized for protection in the City's adopted plans shall be preferentially preserved as open space and/or buffers with neighboring properties to preserve contiguous forest canopies and natural habitat in order to meet the City's open space, recreation area, and/or buffer requirements.

*Amended June 6, 2022*

#### **6-8.4 Ownership and Maintenance of Required Private Open Space**

- A. Common open space required by Section 6-8.3 shall not be dedicated to the public except upon the written acceptance of the City of Mebane pursuant to subsection C below but shall remain under the ownership and control of the developer (or successor in title) or a Property Owners' Association or similar organization established pursuant to Section 7-7. As an alternative to a Property Owners' Association, a private non-profit organization, such as a private land trust, whose primary purpose is the preservation or conservation of open space may own and manage the proposed open space.
- B. The person or entity identified in subsection A above as having the right of ownership and control over such open space shall be responsible for the continuing upkeep and maintenance of the same.
- C. The City Council shall have the authority to accept or reject offers for land dedications made as a requirement of Section 6-8.3. Land proposed by the developer as public open space on a site plan shall be considered to be offered for dedication until such offer is officially accepted by the City Council. The offer may be accepted by the City through:
  - 1. Written acceptance by the City Council; or
  - 2. Written acceptance by an administrative officer designated by the City Council.

Until such dedication has been accepted, land so offered may be used for open space purposes by the property owner or by a property owners' association. Land so offered for dedication shall not be used for any purpose inconsistent with the proposed public use. The property owner shall be responsible for the maintenance of all facilities and improvements until an offer of dedication is accepted by the City of Mebane.

*Amended June 6, 2022*