

Sec. 66.343. - Traditional neighborhood district design standards.

(a) *Applicability.* The traditional neighborhood district design standards under paragraph (b) below apply to development within T1—T4 traditional neighborhood districts, as indicated in table 66.343, applicability of traditional neighborhood district design standards. Site plans and other development proposals within traditional neighborhood districts shall be consistent with the applicable design standards unless the applicant can demonstrate that there are circumstances unique to the property that make compliance impractical or unreasonable. In cases where more specific design standards or guidelines have been developed as part of city council-approved master plans, small area plans, or other city-approved plans for specific sites, those shall take precedence. All standards in section 63.110, general design standards, are also applicable to development within T1—T4 traditional neighborhood districts.

Table 66.343. Applicability of Traditional Neighborhood District Design Standards

Guidelines	T1	T2	T3	T4
1. Land use diversity			✓	✓
2. Transitions to lower-density neighborhoods		✓	✓	✓
3. Block length		✓	✓	✓
4. Compatible rehabilitation and reuse	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. Use established building facade line	✓	✓	✓	
6. Buildings anchor the corner	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Front yard landscaping	✓	✓	✓	✓
8. Building facade continuity		✓	✓	✓
9. Building facade articulation - base, middle and top	✓	✓	✓	✓
10. Building height - treatment of 1-story buildings	✓	✓	✓	✓
11. Definition of residential entries	✓	✓	✓	✓
12. Entrance location	✓	✓	✓	✓
13. Door and window openings - minimum and character	✓	✓	✓	✓

14. Materials and detailing	✓	✓	✓	✓
15. Screening of equipment and service areas		✓	✓	✓
16. Interconnected street and alley network		✓	✓	✓
17. On-street parking		✓	✓	✓
18. Parking location and entrance design	✓	✓	✓	✓
19. Residential garage location	✓	✓	✓	✓
20. Parking lot lighting		✓	✓	✓
21. Entrance location for transit access	✓	✓	✓	✓
22. Street trees	✓	✓	✓	✓
23. Sidewalks	✓	✓	✓	✓

(b) *Traditional neighborhood district design standards.*

- (1) *Land use diversity.* In general, it is desirable for each block to include some diversity in housing type, building type, and mix of land uses. In T3M districts any two (2) abutting block faces shall include more than one (1) land use or building type.
- (2) *Transitions to lower-density neighborhoods.* Transitions in density or intensity shall be managed through careful attention to building height, scale, massing and solar exposure.
- (3) *Block length.* Block faces in mixed use areas shall typically not exceed four hundred (400) feet. Block faces in residential areas shall typically follow the pattern of neighboring blocks, but shall not exceed six hundred sixty (660) feet, the length of the standard Saint Paul block. This standard may be modified to ensure compliance with the city's adopted comprehensive plan and development or project plans for sub-areas of the city.
- (4) *Compatible rehabilitation and reuse.* Remodeling, additions or other alterations to existing traditional buildings shall be done in a manner that is compatible with the original scale, massing, detailing and materials of the original building. Original materials shall be retained and preserved to the extent possible.
- (5) *Use established building facade lines.* New buildings shall relate to the established building facade line on the block where they are located. On most nonresidential or mixed use blocks, this is the inside edge of the sidewalk. For corner buildings, each facade that fronts a public street shall maintain the established building facade line. Portions of the facade may be set back a greater distance to emphasize entries or create outdoor seating and gathering areas.
- (6) *Buildings anchor the corner.* New buildings on corner lots shall be oriented to the corner and both public streets. On corner lots at light rail transit station platforms, no portion of a structure

shall be permitted in the triangular area of the lot included within fifteen (15) feet of the corner along each lot line.

- (7) *Front yard landscaping.* Front yard areas located between the principal building and the street shall be landscaped, except on University Avenue where the first four (4) feet may be paved similar to the public sidewalk. Other hard surfaced front yard areas should include amenities such as benches, tables, and planters.
- (8) *Building facade continuity.* New buildings along commercial and mixed-use streets shall provide a continuous facade along the street. Where breaks occur, the street edge shall be continued through the use of fencing, low walls and/or landscaping.
- (9) *Building facade articulation.* The bottom twenty-five (25) feet of buildings shall include elements that relate to the human scale. These should include doors and windows, texture, projections, awnings and canopies, ornament, etc.
- (10) *Building height - treatment of 1-story buildings.* New buildings of two (2) or more stories are encouraged. One-story buildings shall be designed to convey an impression of greater height in relation to the street. This can be achieved through the use of pitched roofs with dormers or gables facing the street, a higher parapet, and/or the use of an intermediate cornice line to separate the ground floor and the upper level.
- (11) *Definition of residential entries.* Porches, steps, pent roofs, roof overhangs, hooded front doors or similar architectural elements shall be used to define all primary residential entrances.
- (12) *Entrance location.* There shall be a primary pedestrian building entrance on all arterial or collector streets. At a corner location where both streets are arterial or collector streets, this standard may be satisfied with a single entrance at the corner. In multi-tenant buildings, any ground floor use with street frontage shall have an entrance facing the street.
- (13) *Door and window openings - minimum and character.*
 - a. For new commercial and civic buildings, windows and doors or openings shall comprise at least fifty (50) percent of the length and at least thirty (30) percent of the area of the ground floor along arterial and collector street facades.
 - b. Windows shall be designed with punched and recessed openings, in order to create a strong rhythm of light and shadow.
 - c. Glass on windows and doors shall be clear or slightly tinted, and allow views into and out of the interior.
 - d. Window shape, size and patterns shall emphasize the intended organization of the facade and the definition of the building.
- (14) *Materials and detailing.*
 - a. Residential buildings of more than six (6) units and nonresidential or mixed use buildings shall be constructed of high-quality materials such as brick, stone, textured cast stone, tinted masonry units, concrete, glass or metal. The following materials are generally not acceptable:
 - Unadorned plain or painted concrete block;
 - Tilt-up concrete panels;
 - Synthetic stucco products;
 - Reflective glass; and
 - Vinyl, fiberglass, asphalt or fiberboard siding.
 - b. All building facades visible from a public street or walkway shall employ materials and design features similar to those of the front facade.

- (15) *Screening of equipment and service areas.* If an outdoor storage, service or loading area is visible from adjacent residential uses or a public street or walkway, it shall be screened by a decorative fence, wall or screen of plant material at least six (6) feet in height. Fences and walls shall be architecturally compatible with the primary structure.
- (16) *Interconnected street and alley network.* The existing street and alley network shall be preserved and extended as part of any new development. If the street network has been interrupted, it shall be restored whenever possible. Cul-de-sac streets are discouraged; crescent-shaped or courtyard street arrangements may be used when street connections are impractical.
- (17) *On-street parking.* Streets shall generally have parking on both sides to buffer pedestrians, calm traffic and supplement off-street parking unless the space is needed to accommodate traffic volume, emergency vehicles, transit or deliveries. Parking bump-ins are permitted in special cases (such as adjacent to large development sites) in conjunction with a redevelopment project that has at least three-hundred (300) feet of street frontage.
- (18) *Parking location and design.*
- a. Off-street parking shall be provided within a principal structure, underground, or to the rear of buildings to the greatest extent possible. Limited side yard parking may be appropriate. Entrance drives and garage doors for underground or structured parking may face the street, except adjacent to light rail transit platforms, but shall be designed for pedestrian convenience and safety.
 - b. Surface parking shall not be located within thirty (30) feet of a corner. Buildings shall be located to emphasize and "anchor" the corner whenever possible.
 - c. Vehicular entrances to structured parking shall be minimized so that they do not dominate the street frontage of the building. Possible techniques include recessing the entry; extending portions of the structure over the entry; using screening and landscaping to soften the appearance of the entry; using the smallest curb cut and driveway possible; and subordinating the vehicular entrance to the pedestrian entrance in terms of size, prominence in the streetscape location, and design emphasis.
 - d. New above-grade parking structures fronting on arterial and collector streets shall be lined with active commercial/retail uses at street level with direct access to the sidewalk.
 - e. Upper levels of new parking structures shall be designed with exterior wall treatments, detailing, fenestration and materials that screen the view of vehicles and relate to existing adjacent buildings.
- (19) *Residential garage location.* Attached residential garages shall be recessed at least ten (10) feet behind the front facade of the building. Detached residential garages shall be located in the side or rear yard, recessed at least twenty-five (25) feet behind the front facade of the building. When an alley is present, garages shall be located in the rear yard and accessed through the alley. Individual residential unit garage entrances shall be off alleys or interior courtyards.
- (20) *Parking lot lighting.* Pedestrian-scale lighting shall be provided within parking areas. Light standards shall be no more than twenty-five (25) feet in height in parking lots and sixteen (16) feet in height along interior sidewalks and walkways, and have a downcast glow.
- (21) *Entrance location for transit access.* New and existing retail, office and multifamily housing shall coordinate with the transit agency in locating bus stops and related improvements. Building entrances shall be located to provide easy access to bus stops and shelters.
- (22) *Street trees.* Street trees in the street right-of-way, as prescribed by the city forester and section 69.600 of the subdivision regulations, and other landscape improvements shall be provided along all streets at regular intervals to help define the street edge, buffer pedestrians from vehicles, and provide shade. Trees shall be located in a planting strip at least five (5) feet wide between the curb and sidewalk, or in a planter or planting structure of a design acceptable to the city.

- (23) *Sidewalks.* Streets shall be designed with sidewalks on both sides except where they abut a park or other open space. Sidewalk width shall be at least five (5) feet, and six (6) feet or more in areas of high pedestrian activity. The T4 district is defined as an area of high pedestrian activity.

(Ord. No. 11-27, § 1, 4-20-11)