



REPORT TO DESIGN COMMISSION City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671

STAFF REPORT
June 16, 2010

To: Members of the Design Commission

Subject: Statement of Initiation to Establish the Florin Road Corridor Design Review District (LR07-008)

Location/Council District: Florin Road from Tamoshanter Way at the western edge to Franklin Boulevard in the east. The district boundaries are approximately one to two parcels deep along the corridor except around the Florin Light Rail Station area near Florin Road and Indian Lane. Council District 5 and 8.

Contact: Desmond Parrington, Infill Coordinator, Community Development Department, (916) 808-5044; Luis R. Sanchez, AIA, LEED-AP, Senior Architect, Community Development Department, (916) 808-5957

Applicant: Not applicable

Owner: Not applicable

Summary: The Florin Road Corridor Plan and the related implementation actions are being readied for public hearing. As part of the preparation of the Florin Road Corridor Plan design guidelines were prepared. In order to apply the design guidelines for the Florin Road Corridor area, establishment of a new design district is preferred. Under Chapter 17.132 of the City Code, a Statement of Initiation must be approved before the Design Commission can hold a public hearing to make a formal recommendation for Council adoption of the ordinance to implement this proposal.

Staff Recommendation to Commission: Adopt a) a motion to approve a Statement of Initiation to establish the Florin Road Corridor Design Review District; and b) review and provide initial comments on an early draft of the Florin Road Corridor Design Guidelines.

Staff Evaluation: Design quality is a concern among staff, residents and business on or adjacent to Florin Road. The section of Florin Road (refer to Attachment 1, Exhibit A) that was selected is primarily commercial in nature and this corridor has struggled in recent years from both economic and site design issues. While the corridor was once a major retail destination for the region in the 1980s, it faced significant decline during the late 1990s and again more recently as a result of the severe economic recession. All of the auto dealerships are either closed or will be closed in the next two years. Many of

the other properties have vacancies and some are deteriorating. Much of the corridor was developed in a suburban style during the 1970s and 80s. The corridor is dominated by small strip centers and some big box format retailers with little landscaping and buildings set back great distances from the street front to accommodate parking. Many buildings are aging and little focus has been paid by developers in the past to site design, building design, articulation and massing or to the relationship of buildings to pedestrians or the street.

The City's efforts in conjunction with Sacramento County, the Florin Road Partnership, the auto dealers and other property owners and residents have led to the development of the Florin Road Corridor Plan. This planning effort, including implementation efforts such as rezoning, is aimed at encouraging reinvestment and redevelopment along the corridor. Staff believes that creating a new design review district and adopting design review guidelines along this section of Florin Road will help improve overall design quality and over time make the corridor a more attractive destination. A well-designed environment is critical to revitalization and redevelopment efforts on Florin Road.

In general, design guidelines help protect and enhance the appearance and promote quality development of public and private property. Inclusion of property in a design review district imposes the requirement for formal design review either by staff, the Design Director or the Design Commission depending on the type and size of the project. The establishment of the new district also streamlines the development process by incorporating the Florin Road Corridor design guidelines into the formal design review process.

The draft design guidelines (refer to Attachment 2) are in an early form and staff is seeking initial feedback on major design issues or challenges along the corridor that should be addressed in the guidelines. The draft guidelines incorporate and, in many cases, build upon the City's Commercial Corridor Design Guidelines from 2003, as well as recent guidelines, including the Florin Station Area TOD Concept and Guidelines, Swanston Station TOD Design Guidelines, the Del Paso Heights Design Guidelines, Oak Park Design Guidelines and Central City Urban Design Guidelines.

The boundaries of the proposed design review district follow the existing boundaries in the City for the Florin Road Partnership, the property-based improvement district covering the corridor. However, a few areas were included that extend beyond the Florin Road Partnership boundary. These include the area around the Florin light rail station as well as a couple areas in the west and southeast that result in a more clearly defined district for property owners and residents as well as for staff.

Public/Neighborhood Outreach and Comments: In conjunction with the County and its consultant team, City staff conducted extensive outreach for the Florin Road Corridor Plan in late 2007 and 2008 including several community meetings; stakeholder interviews; youth planning sessions, on-line surveys; and booths at the Florin farmer's market. City staff will be conducting additional outreach and noticing during June and July with the Florin Road Partnership, local property owners, residents and the public. A community meeting on the design review district and rezoning proposal will be held on July 14th.

Environmental Considerations: Approval of the Statement of Initiation is not a project under CEQA. The City is preparing an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Florin Road Corridor Plan and adoption of the design review district ordinance would be included as part of the actions implementing the Florin Road Corridor Plan.

Policy Considerations: The recommended actions further the 2030 General Plan goal to require excellence in the design of the City's form and structure through development standards and clear design direction. The recommended actions are also necessary to promote an appropriate regulatory environment and streamline the entitlement process.

Adoption of the Florin Road Corridor Plan implementation actions including the design guidelines and the establishment of the Florin Road Corridor Design Review District promotes several city policies by increasing development opportunities adjacent to a light rail station and on the corridor; creating policy and vision for the redevelopment of a blighted and under-utilized area; encouraging compact, higher density development with a mix of land uses; utilizing existing infrastructure; and refining development guidelines to support mobility and promote pedestrian and bicycle activity.

The Florin Road Corridor Plan and related implementation actions including the establishment of a design review district plan are also consistent with the policies contained in the newly adopted 2030 General Plan, specifically those pertaining to infill, transit oriented development areas, and the revitalization of the City's corridors:

Respectfully submitted by: 
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Community Development Dept.

Recommendation Approved:


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Attachment 1

STATEMENT OF INITIATION

**Establishment of the Florin Road Corridor
Design Review District**

June 16, 2010

In accordance with the procedures for establishment of new design review districts as set out in Section 17.132.160 of Title 17 (Zoning Code) of the Sacramento City Code, the Design Commission hereby initiates establishment of the Florin Road Corridor Design Review District as shown in the attached Exhibit 1.

After approval of this Statement of Initiation, it shall be filed with the Secretary of the Design Commission and thereafter a public hearing shall be noticed and held to consider the proposed establishment of the Florin Road Corridor Design Review District in accordance with the procedures specified in Section 17.132.160.

Exhibit A - Proposed Florin Road Corridor Design Review District Boundaries

Attachment 2

Draft Florin Road Corridor Design Review Guidelines

Please note that the design guidelines are still in an early draft state. Staff realizes that additional work is needed in many sections, especially those dealing with mixed-use development and higher density single-family building types. However, staff wanted to provide Design Commission with an opportunity to provide input early in the process.

Staff is seeking feedback on major design issues on the corridor that should be refined in the guidelines or that may need to be added. Some of these corridor design issues include:

- balancing retailer site requirements with aesthetic concerns;
- the relationship of new buildings on the corridor to existing neighborhoods and businesses;
- treatment of “gateway” buildings on the corridor;
- treatment of horizontal mixed use compared to vertical mixed use development;
- parking location versus retailer demands; and
- signage (type, location, etc.)

The guidelines will be refined based on input from the public, City Design Review staff, and the Design Commission prior to staff returning to the Commission in late summer/early fall.



Florin Road Corridor Design Guidelines

Administrative Draft

June 10, 2010



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Introduction

PURPOSE OF THE DESIGN GUIDELINES

The Florin Road Corridor Commercial and Residential Design Guidelines (Design Guidelines) have been developed for the Florin Road Corridor and Design Review District. They provide consistent design principles for residential and commercial structures to contribute to the creation of a neighborhood with a positive, cohesive sense of place, and can improve the overall character of the neighborhood by making it a more attractive, safe, and inviting place to live. In addition, the Florin Light Rail Station Design Guidelines provide guidances for new development at the existing Light Rail stop.

The Design Guidelines have been created for use by residents, developers, design professionals, City of Sacramento (City) planning staff, and the City's design review boards. They are intended to facilitate the design review process by helping applicants and staff identify and devise solutions for design issues early in the application process. In summary, these Design Guidelines are intended to:

- create a sense of place and enhance community identity;
- promote neighborhood pride;
- encourage high-quality development and creative design options;
- provide clear and usable design direction to project applicants, developers, designers, and City planning staff;
- protect and enhance property values and community economic viability
- facilitate a clear and expeditious project review process.

Projects will be reviewed for compliance with the design principles identified in this document. Although it is understood that not all design principles will be applicable to all proposed projects, conformance with relevant principles is required.

Overall, the Design Guidelines are intended to encourage consistent design while allowing for variety and innovation. City staff do not advocate a particular architectural style or styles, and will review all applications on the basis of this document.

THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

The City of Sacramento is committed to creating a sustainable future for its residents. The 2030 General Plan outlines the city's strategies to achieve this goal. Planning and developing a truly sustainable future depends on a healthy environment, strong economy, and the social well-being of Sacramento residents. Factors that contribute to achieving this goal are as follows:

- Protect the environment: reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change, conserving air, water, land, soils, minerals, natural habitat, energy, and protecting aesthetic resources;
- Foster economic growth: create good jobs, income, and financial resources;
- Promote equity and social well-being: provide good education, income, health, safety, arts, and cultural attainment for all;
- Focus on compact, mixed-use growth patterns; encourage infill development and the reuse of underutilized properties;
- Encourage transit-oriented development: intensify development near public transit and mixed-use activity centers to encourage walking, biking, and use of public transit;
- Locate jobs close to housing: provide opportunities for employees to live close to their jobs which will lead to increased walking and reduced automobile use;
- Encourage "green building" practices: use solar energy systems, architectural design to reduce heat gain, recycled construction materials, and water conservation measures;

By carrying out these strategies, the City of "Sacramento will become the most livable city in America"

HOW TO USE THE DESIGN GUIDELINES

Each subsection within the Design Guidelines is organized to include the following elements:

Design Principle

The *design principle* is a general concept that must be met by all projects, and is further delineated by the individual design guidelines.

Rationale

The *rationale* explains the key features of the design principle and how it relates to the neighborhood context.

Design Guidelines

The *design guidelines* provide a list of specific recommendations to ensure that appropriate Design Principles are applied to project design.

Sustainability Design Guidelines

The *sustainability design guidelines* provide suggestions for high performance building and landscape design.

Graphics

Each section within the Design Guidelines is supplemented by drawings and photos that are intended to provide visual support for the principles and guidelines.

DESIGN REVIEW PROCESS

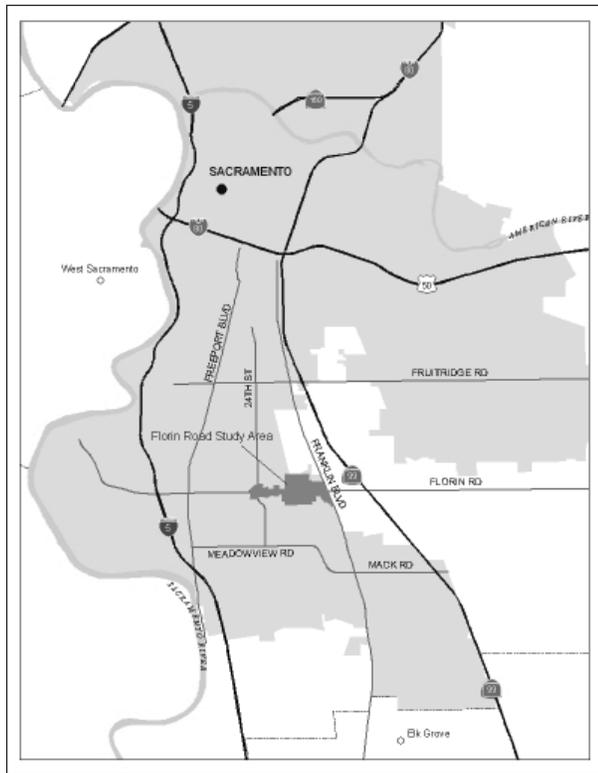
City planning staff must review the design of any proposed infill project or major renovation of or addition to an existing structure within the Florin Road Corridor and Design Review District. City staff will then provide early notification to adjacent property owners and community groups of the proposed project. Applicants should expect to communicate with planning staff at several key junctures in the application process, including a pre-application meeting and a meeting following the review process to discuss any revisions. Once a project has been approved by City planning staff or the appropriate review board, as necessary, an application for a building permit may be submitted if other planning entitlements needed for the project have been approved.

LOCATION OF THE FLORIN ROAD CORRIDOR AND DESIGN REVIEW DISTRICT

The Florin Road Corridor and Design Review District is located within the City of Sacramento, from Tamoshanter Way in the west to Franklin Boulevard in the east, as shown on the maps below.

Residents and business owners who wish to determine whether their property is within the Florin Road Corridor Design Review District may call the help line at (916) 808-5656 or view maps at the City's website:

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/dsd/maps/DesignReviewMaps.cfm>



Introduction



HISTORY OF THE FLORIN ROAD CORRIDOR

The colonial history of Florin began with an English born settler named James Rutter, who arrived in California in 1852. In 1858, Rutter moved south, becoming the first to settle in the area, near present day Florin and Power Inn roads, which later became known as Florin. Spanish cattle were grazing on the untilled land when he first arrived. Rutter obtained cuttings of Tokay grapes from Senator George Rich, who had imported them from Europe, and established the first commercial planting of Tokays in the state. His grapes won him many awards in the east and Midwest as well as California, thus bringing national recognition to the Florin area. It was cuttings taken from Rutter's vineyards that were introduced to Lodi where they also flourished and brought fame to that area as well.

According to common belief, the name of Florin was given to the locality about 1864 by Judge E.B. Crocker who noted the profusion of wildflowers in the area and commented that it should be called Florin, after the Spanish word for, meaning flower. A post office was established in 1869, the same year the Southern Pacific Railroad (then the Central Pacific Railroad) completed its line through the area. However, the town was not officially established and its name accepted until 1875.

With the completion of the railroad, Chinese laborers began to arrive seeking agricultural work and while the Chinese had been free to immigrate to the United States in the 1850s, the Japanese had not. By 1885, a centuries-old ban on the emigration of Japanese from their country began to ease, and the first Japanese came to this country. In 1898, four Japanese families settled in Florin, leased some land, and began to grow strawberries. The successful cultivation of strawberries, first assisted by the availability of Chinese labor, grew in volume. By 1902, three shipping companies had been established in Florin, and strawberries were being shipped by train to locations as far away as Chicago and the Mississippi Valley. This success attracted more Japanese who were anxious to find employment and would work for low wages.

The ethnic gap widened in Florin between the Japanese and Americans in the early teens. The Japanese population in Florin greatly increased and by 1912 appeared to equal or even outnumber Caucasians. In 1913, the Anti-Alien Land Bill, excluding Japanese from land ownership, was passed. The rural communities of Florin, Walnut Grove, Isleton and Courtland in Sacramento County adopted the legislative amendment and established separate schools for Asian students.

In 1941, with the onset of World War II and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, fear gripped the west coast. The Japanese Americans in Florin were gathered and put on trains to internment camps for the duration of the war. Their removal from Florin essentially caused its demise, because 80 percent of the population at that time was Japanese American.

Introduction

When the war was over and the Japanese Americans returned to Florin, there was little of what they had left. The agricultural lands and residences that remained had suffered from a lack of care and maintenance. The markets had changed and could not support the same type of pre-war agricultural activity. A number of former Japanese American residents left the area and turned to other vocations. Changing markets and the loss of so many of its former residents started the town of Florin on a path of decline.

The post World War II era also brought changes to the farms on the west side of Florin Road and in the City of Sacramento. The Meadowview community was emerging out of thousands of acres of farm land as home after home was constructed to meet the demands of growth in the city. By 1957 new three bedroom homes starting at an affordable \$13,000 had attracted thousands of new residents in the area, with many of Sacramento's leaders calling Meadowview one of the most desirable new communities in the city.

The residential development in Meadowview was balanced by appropriate commercial developments, including local retail establishments. In the late 1960s and throughout the 70s new federal policies that targeted poverty and new housing projects began to take their toll on communities similar to Meadowview. Residents feared large affordable housing projects in their thriving community, but the push for new projects, driven by policy leaders was strong. In time, many of the residents that flocked to Meadowview as young professionals seeking quality housing for their young families had started to move away. Eventually businesses closed and the thriving intersection of 24th Street and Meadowview Road, in the heart of the Meadowview community, showed few signs of activity. It would take the community two decades to rebound.

To the east, what was once the town of Florin is lower density housing large affordable housing projects in their thriving community, but the push for new projects, driven by policy leaders was strong. To the east, what was once the town of Florin is lower density housing and vacant land. Once productive and verdant, the farms are now surrounded by an encroaching development. Old Florin Town has lost some of its identity, and a number of its old structures have been destroyed. However, there is still an identifiable core of residences, churches and commercial buildings that can evoke a sense of the time and place when Old Florin Town was the center of a thriving agricultural community.

Introduction

One-time farm land to the west slowly transformed in the 1950s and 60s into one of the regions premier destinations for retail, with a number of roadways connecting to Meadowview, Franklin, Valley Hi and Greenhaven. Southgate Plaza, on the city/county line, first anchored the retail corridor with a full-scale department store and a number of other large and small retailers. In the early 1960s the Cordano Company developed Florin Mall and through the 1970s and 80s retail flourished as people across the region flocked to the booming retail establishments on Florin Road.

Residential growth continued to push southward and by 1980 nearly all of the land around the Mall and Southgate Plaza was developed. The primarily blue collar, middle class residential areas in the Florin area continued to prosper through the 1980s, with dozens of large scale retail stores calling the three mile corridor home, including Best Products, Montgomery Ward, Sears, Weinstocks, JCPenney, four grocery stores, hundreds of community serving retailers and nearly a dozen car dealerships.

The 1990s brought new challenges to the corridor, with a changing retail marketplace and continued growth in the south county (Elk Grove). The aging roadway and shopping establishments needed significant updating to compete with the new retail development further to the south. Slowly businesses began to close their doors. By the late 1990s the businesses had launched a new initiative, and created the state's first commercial corridor Property-based Business Improvement District (PBID). Leaders of the new district, in conjunction with community advocates and elected officials, charted a path for the future. Their plan called for extensive economic development and the pursuit of dozens of streetscape enhancements on the corridor. The "pooling" of private resources, coordinated advocacy, and a renewed commitment from the public sector began to pay off by the late 1990s. Nearly \$12 million of funding had been secured for roadway improvements by the end of the decade, and just in time. Vacancy rates on the corridor had climbed to their highest point in history by 1997.

By the early 2000s the area showed signs of recovery, vacancies dropped and the Partnership cemented its place as the organization that would help lead the charge. The historic area of Florin and its surrounding diverse population, continued to contribute to the community's successes.

Although very few historic resources remain in the area that reflect Florin's early prosperity and its significant role in the development of the region and state, new examples of retail success and community development are leading the way to the next 100 years of prosperity.

Commercial Design Guidelines

Well-designed commercial development can help create a sense of place for the Florin area. Developing an urban pattern which is pedestrian oriented, walkable, safe and a visually appealing is the focus for new commercial development along the Florin Road Corridor. The following commercial design guidelines lay the ground work to assist developers, building professionals, and residents in positively transforming the Florin Road Corridor.



New commercial development on Florin Road should be designed to encourage pedestrian activity adjacent to the street with site furniture, shade trees, and other amenities.

Introduction

SITE DESIGN

This section provides direction for the site design of new commercial development and the renovation of existing structures. Effective site planning techniques should create a unified commercial environment with an urban form that promotes a pedestrian oriented walkable corridor. The major principles of commercial site design are intended to:

- create a comfortable and welcoming pedestrian environment;
- enhance the vitality of the commercial district;
- create a distinctive character and sense of place for commercial streets; and
- clearly define the public realm with a “streetwall” of commercial buildings that frame the street.

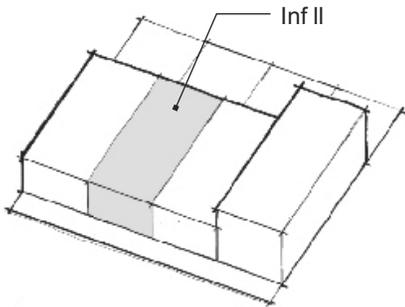


A pedestrian-oriented commercial district can include street trees, cafe seating, and wide sidewalks.

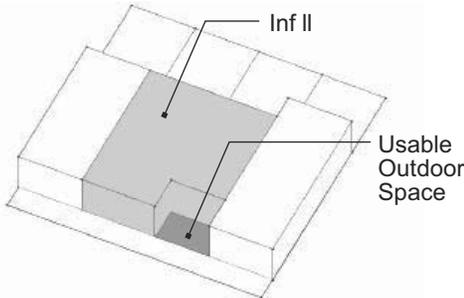


This commercial district creates a comfortable and welcoming pedestrian environment.

Commercial



New construction and additions should be built to the back of the sidewalk or at the front of the property line.



New construction and additions may increase a portion of the front setback if designed as usable outdoor space.



Commercial districts have buildings built to the property line.

1 Building Orientation, Setbacks, and Build-To Lines

Design Principle

Buildings should be constructed to the front of the property line behind the sidewalk, with allowable variation in the setback to provide for café seating, plazas, and other additions to the public realm.

Rationale

Commercial buildings in urban areas have typically been built to the front of the property line behind the sidewalk, creating a line of buildings with a consistent “streetwall” that supports a strong relationship between the building, the sidewalk, and the street. This streetwall should be reinforced by new construction and additions. The streetwall may be varied to create usable public spaces such as outdoor café dining and small plazas with seating.

Design Guidelines

- 1-1 Buildings should be constructed to the edge of the build to line (BTL), 6 feet from back of sidewalk.
- 1-2 A portion of the front setback may be increased by as much as 15 feet, if that setback is used as public space, such as outdoor restaurant seating or a courtyard with public access. A minimum of 60% of the front facade should be constructed up to the front setback.
- 1-3 Many existing commercial structures on Florin Road have parking in lots at the front of the buildings. To create a more pedestrian-oriented commercial district, new commercial construction on Florin Road should place buildings at the front of the lot line near the sidewalk, with parking lots located at the rear or side of buildings.
- 1-4 Deep building setbacks behind large expanses of parking or vacant areas are discouraged.
- 1-5 Encourage distinction between buildings on the same block face by varying setbacks, roof heights, stepbacks, building articulation, landscaping treatment, etc to provide a richer pedestrian experience.
- 1-6 Buildings on corner lots should address both streets with windows, entryways, architectural detailing, and/or landscaping. If possible corner projects should provide some architectural element to anchor the corner. This can be accomplished using a building feature element and/or strong landscaping features.

2 Parking

Design Principle

Parking areas should provide vehicular access without compromising pedestrian accessibility and the character of the public realm on primary commercial streets. Parking lots should be placed at the rear of the building, when feasible, to not obstruct views of the building's front facade from the street.

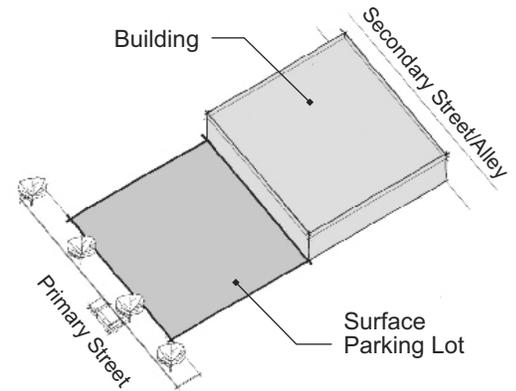
Rationale

Adequate and accessible parking areas are important to the viability of commercial districts. However, large surface parking lots fronting the street can create the appearance of a vacant and uninviting area that detracts from the visual appearance of the corridor and impedes and discourages pedestrian traffic. Smaller parking lots located at the rear or sides of commercial buildings are a recommended alternative.

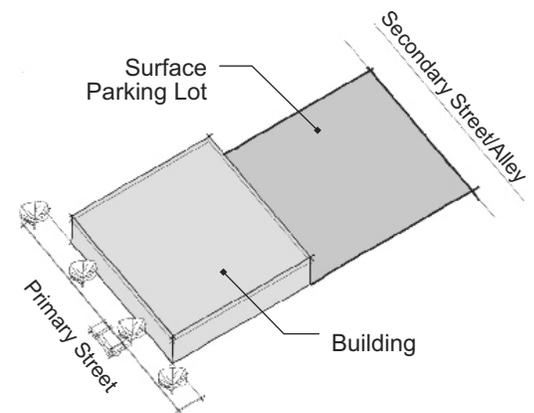
Design Guidelines

Surface Parking

- 2-1 Parking lots should be located behind the commercial frontage on major pedestrian streets. Where parking at the rear of the building is not possible, it may be located in an interior side lot. Parking at the front of the building or corner lots is highly discouraged.
- 2-2 Driveways into parking lots should be located on side streets, where feasible. Access to parking on major pedestrian streets should be minimized.
- 2-3 Parking lots should include signage and well-designed locations for ingress and egress that reduce conflicts with pedestrian movement.
- 2-4 Access to commercial buildings from rear or side parking lots or alleys should be well maintained and kept clear of obstructions.
- 2-5 Parking within or underneath new building projects is encouraged.
- 2-6 Shared parking arrangements between uses is strongly encouraged, especially if the building uses have peak-demand time periods.
- 2-7 Screening parking areas from views exterior to the site is encouraged.



Avoid placing parking at the front of the building.



Parking should be unobtrusive to encourage an active street life and a comfortable pedestrian environment. Parking should be placed behind, under, or on the side of buildings.



The facade of this parking structure has been designed to complement the adjoining commercial building.

Commercial

Structured Parking

- 2-8 Parking structures that are located on primary commercial streets should have a minimum of 25% of the total ground floor area devoted to retail, office, or other uses at the street level to avoid monotonous blank walls.
- 2-9 Parking structures should be designed to incorporate passive safety design features to create a secure facility. The use of glass for pedestrian stairways and adequate interior lighting are encouraged.
- 2-10 Parking structure entry/exit ramps should be mid-block or toward service areas rather than facing pedestrian streets.

3 Circulation

Design Principle

Balanced circulation routes must be provided for both vehicular and pedestrian movement. Conflict between vehicles and people must be minimized, and convenience should be maximized. Access points should be clear and obvious and articulated to announce 'entry' or 'exit'. Prominent, attractive pedestrian circulation routes must be provided from the public streetscape to each building or complex entrance.

Rationale

Vehicular movements on commercial sites include customers, employees, as well as delivery trucks and trucks that remove trash. Pedestrians include people walking and bicycles. There are also visual impacts to circulation. For the customer, the arrival to the site is part of the 'first impression' that can contribute to a positive experience. Getting into the site should be convenient and clearly obvious to avoid frustration. Once on the site, it should be clear where to go to park the car or bicycle, and the parking area should be reasonably secure and protected from the overhead sun. Trucks that arrive and leave the site for delivery, or picking up of trash, may conflict with both cars, and pedestrians. The service areas trucks access are usually separate from access points of customers and employees.

Increasing the walkability of commercial corridors enhances pedestrian activity and opportunities for retail spending. Turning shopping from a goal-oriented to an experience oriented activity produces friendly and vibrant areas where people choose to return.

Design Guidelines

Pedestrian Circulation

- 3-1 Pedestrian planning should provide for easy access to public bicycle/pedestrian ways, nodes, neighborhood centers and transit stops. Pedestrian routes should be as obvious, direct, and simple as possible.
- 3-2 Pedestrian walkways should connect each primary entrance of a commercial building to adjacent parking lots, structures, or site amenities and public sidewalks. Pedestrian routes are required, by law, to be ADA accessible.
- 3-3 Pedestrian and vehicular entries should be separate. For purposes of improving visibility and safety, pedestrian access may employ changes grade, texture, material, color and/or finish to differentiate from driveways.

Commercial

- 3-4 Walking distances to transit services should be considered in project design. Pedestrian accessibility should be measured by the actual paths available.
- 3-5 Bicycle parking should be located close to, and with direct access to buildings. Parked bicycles should be out of the travel paths. Screening for bicycles may be desirable, if they can still be visible for security.
- 3-6 Projects should be consistent with and supportive of the policies of the City's Pedestrian Master Plan and Bicycle Master Plan (see Appendix).
- 3-7 All facilities and amenities should be made accessible to people with disabilities.

Vehicle Circulation

- 3-8 Driveways, parking lots, and access routes should be consolidated whenever feasible to limit curb cuts, minimize development costs, and reduce auto/pedestrian conflicts. Minimizing curb cuts reduces impacts to pedestrians, cyclists and on-street parking.
- 3-9 Access to parking lots should be generally provided from side streets whenever possible.
- 3-10 Parking lots with dead ends or that require backing out onto drives should be avoided whenever possible.
- 3-11 When possible, large parking lots (over 50 vehicles) should have more than one point of entry/exit.
- 3-12 Textures, patterns, and colors are encouraged in the design of paved parking areas or entries.
- 3-13 Large monolithic areas of unbroken, single-color, untextured paving are discouraged. Use planting, site features, berms, etc to break up large areas.
- 3-14 Where practicable and appropriate, connections between adjacent non-residential development should be provided, so that vehicles will not have to re-enter public streets. This reduces traffic conflict at entry/exit points.
- 3-15 Highlighting project entryways drives and parking court entries by using landscape or pavement features is generally encouraged to enhance the streetscape.
- 3-16 To the greatest extent feasible, common or shared service and delivery access should be provided for adjacent buildings. Locations for service access can be prone to greater potential conflict between trucks and cars and pedestrians, and be higher maintenance areas, so minimizing their occurrence can provide design and operation benefits.

- 3-17 Access points for service trucks and pick up of garbage and trash should be separated to the extent possible from cars. The heavier demands of trucks, particularly when lifting dumpsters, should be considered in the paving design (such as by using concrete in front of dumpster enclosures rather than asphalt).

ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

Architectural design guidelines address the exterior of buildings, as well as the relationship of these buildings to the surrounding built context. It is paramount to ensure that the design of the building enhances the corridor and strengthens the character of the community. Architectural design should promote commercial buildings that are:

- visually welcoming from the primary pedestrian street;
- use appropriate mass and scale to create and support a pedestrian oriented urban environment.
- constructed of high-quality materials that will contribute to the longevity of the building.
- encourage the use of materials, forms and colors on buildings that provide visual interest to the pedestrian and contribute to the street edge.
- encourage architectural styles that use sustainable building practices and materials, and ecologically-sensitive design solutions, including solar panels, light shelves and cool roofs.



Human-scaled design can contribute to a pedestrian-friendly commercial district.

4 Building Height, Massing, and Scale

Design Principle

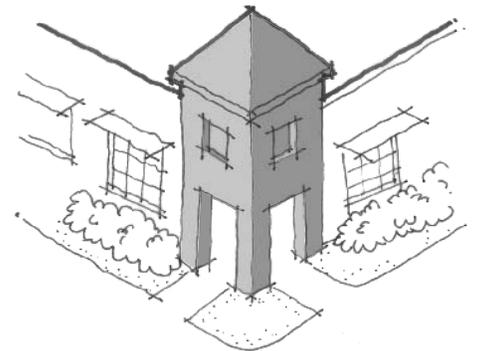
The size and scale of commercial buildings should be compatible with existing development and should encourage an urban pattern along the Florin Road corridor.

Rationale

To ensure new development uses appropriate massing and scale to promote a pedestrian-friendly urban form along Florin Road.

Design Guidelines

- 4-1 Encourage building heights of 20 to 35 feet floor to floor, but avoid blocking important view corridors in the neighborhood.
- 4-2 New, higher buildings can reinforce the established building heights along a block by stepping back upper floors that are above the average building height along the street.
- 4-3 A building that is larger than the average of buildings on the same block should break up the mass of the structure with articulation of the structure into smaller components, and the creation of multiple surfaces.
- 4-4 Appropriately scaled doors, windows, awnings, and detailing, particularly at the ground floor level, can reduce the appearance of mass.
- 4-5 Projects at defined nodes or gateways are encouraged to provide prominent visual landmarks such as a projecting tower, promenade, arcade, or other pedestrian-oriented feature. These types of 'signature' elements can help anchor a node and give it a unique identity and sense of place.
- 4-6 Buildings on corner lots provide an opportunity for structures that exceed the average height on the block and can serve as anchor points.
- 4-7 Commercial buildings sharing street frontage with residential uses should maintain a residential character.
- 4-8 Provide transitions between large scale, tall buildings and existing small scale buildings by stepping down building heights or providing setbacks within buildings.
- 4-9 Step back the massing of the building development such that it is at its highest intensity along major streets and at its lowest when adjacent to existing residential development.



Buildings at corners can exceed the average height and anchor the block.



Structures that exceed the average height on the block and can serve as anchor points.



Building facade .

5 Building Facades

Design Principle

Building facades should be designed to create visually interesting buildings that offer variety along the commercial street.

Rationale

Building facades provide the interface between the built environment and the public realm. Historically, commercial districts have consisted of buildings that are one or two stories in height and cover entire lots. This pattern creates a regular rhythm of building mass and streetwalls. A streetwall of varied building facades is visually appealing and enhances the pedestrian environment. Blank walls at the ground floor level or large expanses of parking are unattractive and uninviting that should be avoided. Instead, elements should be used to create visual interest, including awnings and canopies, trellises, detailed parapets, or arcades.

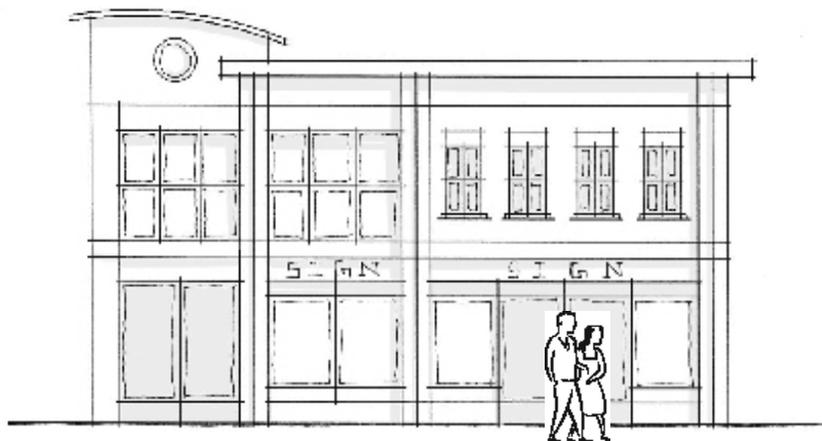
In recent decades, new buildings have increased in size and scale, creating greater challenges to creating human-scaled commercial environments. Therefore, appropriate architectural elements, such as window openings, commercial displays, frequent building entries, ornamentation, windows, doors, awnings and canopies, contribute to a pleasant urban streetscape.

Design Guidelines

- 5-1 The primary facade of a building must face a public street and include entries that are accessible from the street, where feasible.
- 5-2 The main entrance of a building without street edge facades should open directly onto a publicly accessible walkway. This walkway should connect directly to an adjacent street sidewalk.

Commercial

- 5-3 Building facades facing streets should be lined with windows, entries, and openings that provide indoor and outdoor views to the public rights-of-way and sidewalks. Continuous blank wall surfaces are not allowed.
- 5-4 Utilize appropriately scaled elements such as doors, windows, lintels, sills, balconies, stoops, cornice lines, signage, and awnings to enhance building facades.
- 5-5 Architectural features, such as display windows, pilasters, lattices, and alcoves for the display of products, can provide visual relief on buildings that cannot achieve continuous openings along the street and sidewalk.
- 5-6 Facades can also be articulated with insets, partial setbacks, and small pedestrian plazas (see Section 1, "Building Orientation, Setbacks, and Build-to Lines").
- 5-7 Highly reflective or dark tinted glass should be avoided.
- 5-8 Incorporate vertical and horizontal architectural elements to mitigate long unbroken building facades.
- 5-9 For developments with long frontages, monotonous facades should be avoided. This can be achieved by breaking up the building mass, in particular the roof line, and incorporating variety, articulation, vertical elements, color, landscaping and material changes to add interest.



This building is a contemporary interpretation of traditional design.

Commercial

5-10 Building facades should be designed to create a recognizable “base” and “top.” Building bases and tops can be created with variations in:

- building wall thickness;
- use of special materials;
- changes in colors and materials on window trim;
- cornice treatments;
- roof overhangs with brackets; and
- use of ornamental building lines.

5-11 Long facades should be designed with sufficient building articulation and landscaping to break them up into smaller visual elements. Long expanses of uninterrupted wall area, unbroken roof forms, and box-like structures should be avoided.



New construction and additions are encouraged to use horizontal elements to create a “top” and “base” that give definition to the building and break down the facade into elements that can be comprehended by pedestrians at the street level.

DELETE PAGE

Commercial

6 Additions

Design Principle

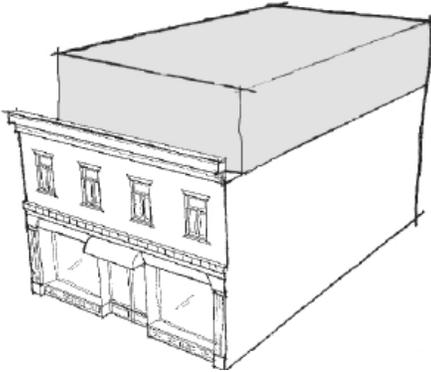
Additions should be consistent with and not disrupt the architectural style, massing, proportions, and scale of the existing building.

Rationale

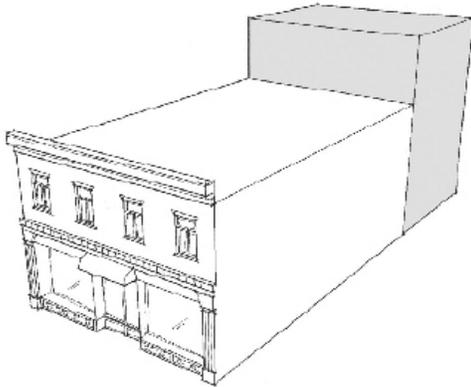
Additions should be designed as an adjunct that does not visually interfere with the original structure. The architectural details on the addition should be designed to reflect those on the original building.

Design Guidelines

- 6-1 An addition should respect, but be subordinate to, the design of the original building, and should be designed so that the form of the original structure can still be recognized.
- 6-2 An addition should not alter or destroy the architecturally defining features of the building, such as original porches, columns, railings, stairs, windows, doors, and roof and eave forms.
- 6-3 A large addition should be broken down into smaller, varied components that relate to the scale and massing of the original structure.
- 6-4 An addition should be compatible with the overall character of the property, block, and neighborhood.
- 6-5 An addition should be set back from the primary facade, especially if the additions are taller than the original building.
- 6-6 Where appropriate, additions should bring the building closer to the street front.



Addition to the top of the structure, with a second-story setback from the existing facade



Addition at the rear of the original structure

7 Roof Forms

Design Principle

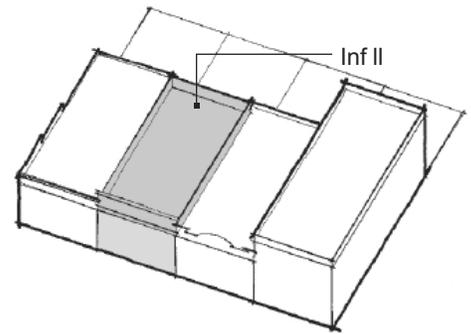
The roof forms of new development should reflect the roof lines of the best quality existing commercial structures.

Rationale

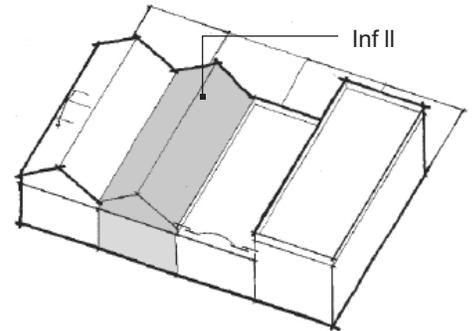
Flat roof lines are typical of much established commercial development. New commercial development should try to emulate this existing form to maintain the character of the corridor. However, variation in roof shapes can be desirable if compatible with existing buildings on the block.

Design Guidelines

- 7-1 Articulated facade surfaces with multiple roof lines are encouraged for taller buildings to avoid an appearance of mass and to add interest.
- 7-2 Roof parapets may be used to add visual interest to flat roof lines.
- 7-3 One-story buildings should avoid the use of exaggerated, sloped roof forms.
- 7-4 Special roof forms on corner buildings are encouraged to help accentuate the corner location.



Infill project with a flat roof similar to other nearby existing structures.



An infill project with a pitched roof in areas where nearby buildings have pitched roofs is acceptable.



Typical flat commercial roof

Commercial



A contemporary recessed entry



Even simple entries can be embellished with architectural detailing to improve their appearance. This building has decorative painted trim.

8 Entry Features

Design Principle

Entry features of commercial buildings should be clearly visible to pedestrians, with a defined relationship to the street and sidewalk.

Rationale

A recessed entry helps to break up the massing of a building and make the threshold immediately apparent to pedestrians. Decorative features, such as awnings, canopies, lighting, and signage, can also be used to clearly define and articulate an entryway.

Design Guidelines

- 8-1 Primary entries should be located on major sidewalks to provide clearly visible pedestrian access.
- 8-2 The size of the entry should be proportional to the building.
- 8-3 Secondary entries may be located at the side or rear of the building to provide access from parking areas.
- 8-4 Entries should be clearly defined with signage and architectural details.
- 8-5 In mixed-use buildings, the entrance to residential uses on the second story should be clearly defined and easily approachable from a public street or sidewalk.

9 Windows and Doors

Design Principle

The proper placement and design of windows and doors should be used to create visual interest in commercial buildings and contribute to the stylistic coherence of development along the street.

Rationale

The proper placement of windows and doors along a street frontage is one of the best methods of creating visual interest and reducing the appearance of mass. Storefront windows at the street level can be used to allow pedestrians to see into the structure, and individuals inside the building to view the street, improving visual surveillance of the area outside the building and increasing security.

Design Guidelines

- 9-1 Windows, entries, and doors should occupy most of the wall surface on the ground floor.
- 9-2 Building openings, such as windows and doors, should maintain the proportions and spacing of other openings on the block.
- 9-3 Headers, trim, and sills of windows of new buildings should be well articulated in design, dimensions, and profiles.
- 9-4 Windows should be made of clear glass to allow pedestrians to see into the structure. A 70% visible light transmittance is recommended for visibility. Use of mirrored or dark tinted glass is not allowed.
- 9-5 Windows with authentic mullions that contain true divided lights are encouraged.
- 9-6 Doors should primarily be constructed of transparent materials, such as panels with glass, full-light glass, or glass panes in a wood or metal frame.
- 9-7 Security bars on the outside of commercial windows are highly discouraged.
- 9-8 Require all ground floor commercial uses to have non-reflective glass windows fronting onto sidewalks. When windows face southwest and west, frame them with protruding vertical and horizontal shading elements such as lintels, sills, and awnings to provide adequate protection from glare.



A commercial facade lined with transparent glass is highly desirable.



Commercial doors should primarily be constructed of transparent glass.

Commercial

- 9-9 Window grills are a common element in many City commercial corridors. Simple tubular metal grills mounted on the exterior are discouraged, since they are generally unattractive and do not meet the intent of this section. Alternatives that are architecturally integrated include:
- Interior mounting of the grills
 - Using grills that are decorative in character
 - Using windows that by their size and geometry offer inherent protection from intrusion.
- 9-10 Innovative solutions to window security that have architectural enhancement character are encouraged.
- 9-11 Solid roll-down security grates should not be used on the exterior of the building; however, they may be placed on the interior of storefront glazing or entry doors.

10 Color

Design Principle

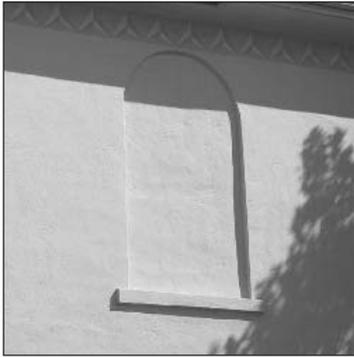
Color should be used in a way that complements the surrounding structures and adds to the liveliness and character of commercial districts.

Rationale

The use of pre-approved colors can lead to a repetitive streetscape that is lacking in distinction and interest. Matching existing color schemes can also lead to blocks, or an entire district, in one repetitive color. In general, the major design principle in the selection of building colors is to be compatible with, but not identical to, surrounding development.

Design Guidelines

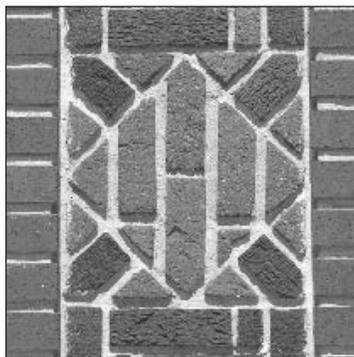
- 10-1 Colors should be compatible with those of the neighboring buildings.
- 10-2 Creative use of colors is encouraged. Unique or unusual color schemes will be considered on a case-by-case basis during the design review process.
- 10-3 Building colors that complement natural materials, such as brick, stone, tile, and terra cotta, are encouraged as a primary building color. Building colors should avoid more intense colors as a primary design element.
- 10-4 Contrasting accent colors are encouraged for architectural details, awnings, and entrances.
- 10-5 Colors should be selected with consideration for the orientation of buildings. Colors on south- and west-facing facades will often appear warmer, due to sun exposure, than the same colors on the north or east sides.
- 10-6 Fluorescent, neon, or “dayglo” colors are strongly discouraged as the primary color.



Stucco



Stucco, tile, and glass block



Brick of varied textures and patterns

11 Materials

Design Principle

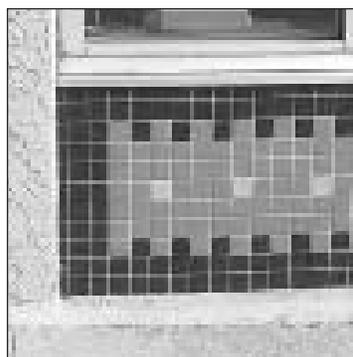
Buildings should be constructed of high-quality materials that add to the longevity of the structure and provides a pleasing appearance as the materials age.

Rationale

High-quality finish materials promote the longevity of a building and add to its character, particularly on the ground floor, where people are most likely to come in contact with the building and can easily see and touch the materials.

Design Guidelines

- 11-1 Durable, solid facing materials should be used.
- 11-2 Brick, tile and other masonry-type materials are encouraged. When using these materials as a veneer, attention should be paid to the corner treatment and similar details so that the materials do not appear to be too thin.
- 11-3 Wood should be milled, with a smooth, painted finish.
- 11-4 Use of the following materials is not allowed:
 - vinyl or grooved plywood siding
 - sprayed-on, textured stucco
 - raw, raised grain, or rough-sawn wood
- 11-5 Stucco covered foam, although not recommended, can be acceptable if properly detailed and applied. Special attention to durability is required at lower levels accessible to the pedestrian.



Ceramic tile



12 Canopies, Awnings, and Arcades

Design Principle

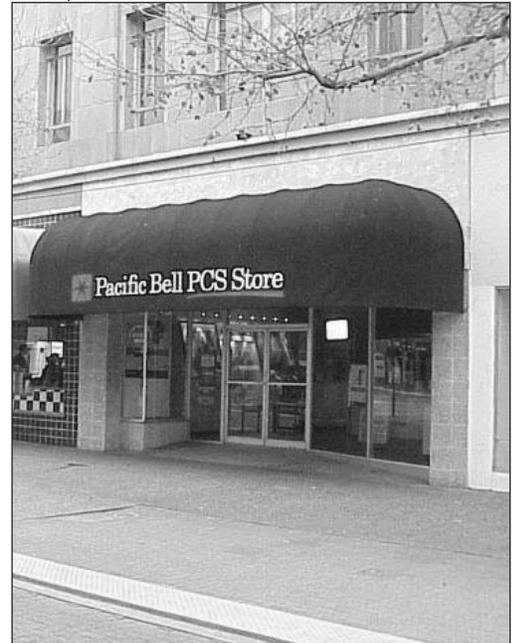
When incorporated into a commercial building, canopies, awnings, and arcades should be made of high-quality components that complement the overall design, colors, and materials of the building.

Rationale

Canopies, awnings, arcades, and overhangs are traditional commercial design elements that articulate the building facade and create variety and interest at the street level. They also serve the practical purposes of providing space for signage of commercial uses, shading windows during the summer to reduce energy use, and providing shade and weather protection for pedestrians, encouraging walking instead of auto use.

Design Guidelines

- 12-1 Canopies, awnings, arcades, and overhangs are encouraged over window displays and entries along public sidewalks on the ground floor of commercial buildings.
- 12-2 Canopies, awnings, and overhangs that project into the public right-of-way are subject to a City revocable encroachment permit. Contact the Building Division of the City Community Development Department for more information.
- 12-3 Canopies, awnings, and arcades should be designed with respect for the proportions of the building in terms of size, shape, and placement unless a unique architectural style encourages something different.
- 12-4 Canopies and awnings should fit within individual bays or structural divisions of the building facade rather than extending beyond a single bay, unless the building structure dictates an alternative placement.



Canvas awning



Steel overhangs help to articulate commercial entries, offer shade, and add architectural interest to the building.

Commercial



A corner awning

- 12-5 Use of a continuous awning for the windows in the upper floors is discouraged. Each window should be articulated with an individual canopy or awning, with awnings extending no more than halfway down the window. The color and style should complement ground-level awnings and canopies on the same building.
- 12-6 Self-supporting canopies and awnings are recommended.
- 12-7 A variety of solid and striped colored awnings may be considered.
- 12-8 Brightly colored awnings should be compatible with the colors used on the main building. Uncolored or light-colored canvas awnings may be appropriate for dark and north-facing facades to allow daylight to filter through to storefronts and second-story windows.
- 12-9 Canvas, fire-resistant acrylic, and metal are preferred materials for awnings. Vinyl, plastic, plasticized fabric, and fiberglass awnings are strongly discouraged.
- 12-10 Canvas awnings often fade and deteriorate over time. Canvas awnings will need regular maintenance and periodic replacement.
- 12-11 Awnings, decorative roofs, and miscellaneous entry features may project into the front public right-of-way, provided that they are not less than 8 feet above the sidewalk.
- 12-12 Canopies and awnings should only be internally illuminated where appropriate to the architectural style of the building.
- 12-13 Canopies and awnings should be designed to provide window shading to reduce energy use.



Steel awnings



13 Signage and Graphics

Design Principle

Building identification signs and graphics should enhance the appearance of the building and contribute to the overall character of the street while minimizing the appearance of clutter.

Rationale

Attractive, artistic, well-proportioned, and carefully located signs can enhance the character of commercial districts. Signage should be used for information, direction, and wayfinding, and not for advertising specific products. Too much and too prominent signage can be confusing, visually cluttering, and detract from a streetscape. Large monument signs are useful only when viewed from far away, and at high speeds. Smaller signs can be functional, and do not compete with the building design for prominence.

Design Guidelines

- 13-1 All commercial signage is subject to a City of Sacramento sign permit. Contact the Building Permits Division of the Community Development Department for more information.
- 13-2 Signage can be wall-mounted, projecting, combined with awnings, or placed on windows. Hanging signs with projecting lettering are encouraged.
- 13-3 Allow commercial signage and awnings to extend up to five feet into setbacks.



Signage applied to a glass window



Wall-mounted, projecting "blade" signage

Commercial



Signage for multiple tenants

- 13-4 Cabinet and pole signage are discouraged.
- 13-5 Materials and colors of signage must be compatible with those of the building as well as adjoining buildings.
- 13-6 Signage should be modest in scale and appearance, and should complement, not overpower, the building.
- 13-7 Signage should not obscure important architectural elements, such as windows, cornices, or decorative details.
- 13-8 Individual shop signs in a single storefront should relate to each other in design, size, color, lettering style, and placement on the building.
- 13-9 Buildings with multiple tenants should have a common signage program and include a multiple directory.
- 13-10 Monument signs are discouraged. If monument signs must be used then they should be placed near gateways or parking entrances.
- 13-11 Signage should be designed for its effect both during the day, and at night. Sign lighting should be indirect to avoid glare and harshness.
- 13-12 Signage should be the minimum in size and number needed to do the job. Excess signage creates visual clutter and defeats the purpose of signage.
- 13-13 Signs at site entries should be sized and designed to accommodate all future tenants and individual businesses.
- 13-14 Attached or monument signs are encouraged for use in all non-freeway oriented development. These signs are to be directed to pedestrian use and should be at the average pedestrian eye level.

14 Lighting

Design Principle

Lighting fixtures should be designed to complement and enhance the site and architectural style of the building and should be compatible with the character of the corridor.

Rationale

Lighting on buildings and sites can have a dramatic effect on the mood, quality, and character of commercial districts. The color, intensity, and types of lighting used in streets, on buildings, and in landscaping contributes to the character of commercial areas.

Adequate and carefully placed lighting can improve the safety and security of a site, adjacent streets, and surrounding properties. Visibility at intersections and pedestrian crossings can also be enhanced with appropriate lighting.

Design Guidelines

Building

- 14-1 Building lighting should relate to the style and character of lighting on the whole site.
- 14-2 Use of neon, marquee lighting, and other specialized lighting is appropriate in some areas, and may be used for restaurants and entertainment uses.
- 14-3 Specialized lighting is appropriate for building features, entries, building towers, and other architectural elements.
- 14-4 Lighting should provide even illumination. Flashing, pulsating, rotating, or otherwise moving light fixtures are not appropriate.
- 14-5 Lighting fixtures must not obscure major architectural features.
- 14-6 Lighting should not direct unwanted glare toward adjacent residential or other sensitive areas. Downlighting and specialized fixtures that reduce sky-lighting and glare are encouraged.
- 14-7 Exterior lighting should be architecturally integrated with the building style, material and colors.
- 14-8 Lighting should be provided at building entries, for safety and to visually accent the entry.
- 14-9 Non-directional up-lighting that contributes to back scatter and fugitive light against the nighttime sky is discouraged.

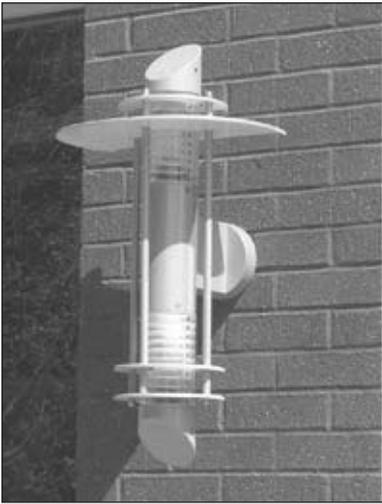


Pedestrian pole lighting with a solid top eliminates light spillover and glare.



Pedestrian-scaled bollard lighting

Commercial



Contemporary lighting

- 14-10 Building lighting should be architecturally integrated with the building style, material and colors. Surface-mounted lights should be selected and located to not produce unwanted glare either on the property, to the street, or to adjoining properties. The typical 'wall-mounted box' security fixture is unattractive, produces significant glare, and adds no enhancement to the appearance of a building at night. These types of lighting solutions are discouraged. More architecturally-integrated solutions to building lighting include, placing fixtures in the landscape or on poles aimed at the building. The light source then is not seen; only the effect of the light illuminating the building.
- 14-11 Entries should get accent lighting that creates a focal point, such as by the use of recessed fixtures over the door locations.

Site

- 14-12 Pedestrian areas should be lighted by pole- or bollard-type fixtures that are not more than 14 feet in height for pole lighting, or 3 feet in height for bollards.
- 14-13 Raised light pole bases should be attractively designed and well-detailed to be compatible with the overall project.
- 14-14 Parking areas and entry drives should be lighted to facilitate pedestrian movement and safety, especially where parking is located away from street views. Pole mounted lighting should be spaced for both functional effectiveness as well as energy efficiency, and generally be no taller than 16 feet. Cutoff type fixtures should be used where glare could be a problem for adjacent properties or streets.
- 14-15 Coordinate planting and lighting plans. Choose appropriate light pole size and location to avoid conflicts between mature trees and lighting.
- 14-16 Pedestrian walk lighting should be of an appropriately lower scale and style such as bollard type lighting, step lighting and/or low pole mounted lights.
- 14-17 Landscape lighting which creates a sense of beauty and character is encouraged. Most effective landscape lighting design hides the light source; for example uplighting trees can create a pleasing night effect, but this is negated if the glare from the fixture is visible.

15 Service Areas and Utilities

Design Principle

Service and utility areas, including loading docks, storage areas, mechanical systems, and trash bins, should be screened from view and integrated into the design of the project.

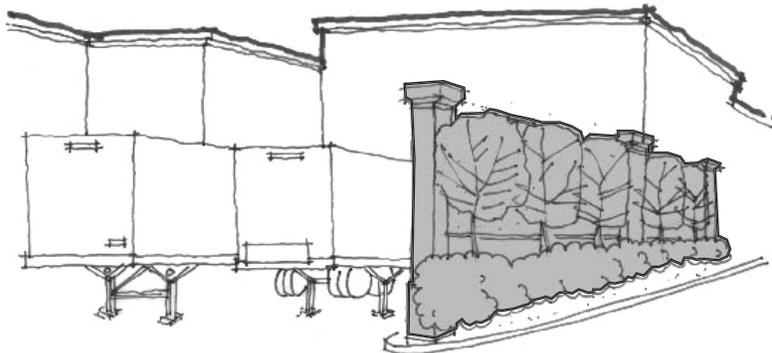
Rationale

Although necessary and functional aspects of commercial districts, service areas, loading docks, delivery areas, and mechanical equipment can be unsightly and noisy and may detract from the quality of the urban environment. Functional service areas of buildings should receive the same design attention and consideration as more public spaces and should be carefully placed and screened to reduce noise and visual blight.

Design Guidelines

Service Areas and Loading Areas

- 15-1 Service areas, including loading docks, storage areas, and trash bins, should be screened from adjoining walkways.
- 15-2 To the extent feasible, loading areas should be located and designed to minimize their visibility from public areas and adjacent properties. Loading areas should be accessible from side streets, interior parking garages, or the rear of buildings rather than from the fronts of buildings.
- 15-3 Landscaping and decorative walls and fences should be used to screen mechanical equipment, loading areas, and other service areas.
- 15-4 Where feasible, loading areas should be functionally separated from parking and pedestrian walkways for safety and to provide convenient access for delivery trucks.



Service/loading and trash areas should be screened from view with landscaping, walls, or other structures.

Commercial



The rear of this commercial building has been carefully screened.

- 15-5 Prefabricated trailers, metal shipping containers, and other temporary structures create a negative and cluttered appearance. These types of elements are not permitted by City ordinances to be used as part of ongoing business operations or site design.
- 15-6 The design of accessory structures and storage areas should be consistent with the overall architectural design of the adjoining building. Roof pitches should match those of the main building roof. Exterior materials and colors should also be consistent with primary structures.

Mechanical Systems

- 15-7 Mechanical equipment, such as air conditioning units, pipes, ducts, vents, access doors, meters, transformers, and other building systems equipment that produce noise, exhaust, or visual unsightliness, should be located away from pedestrian ways.
- 15-8 All such equipment should be screened or hidden from public view in a manner consistent with the character of the building and the surrounding district.
- 15-9 Roof-mounted equipment should be concealed behind parapets or screen walls whenever feasible. Where equipment cannot be fully concealed, it should be painted to match the visually adjoining surfaces. Any new equipment should be located in as unobtrusive a position as possible. Where screened walls are used, they should be integral to the building design.
- 15-10 Where possible, provide shade adjacent to mechanical equipment to reduce temperature at air intakes.
- 15-11 Utility equipment such as transformers, electric and gas meters, electrical panels and junction boxes should be screened by walls and/or landscaping. Cluster utilities and services where feasible.

Trash Enclosures

- 15-12 All outdoor trash and garbage containers should be located at the rear of lots away from public view and screened with solid, decorative walls that match the design of the primary structure. Where possible, trash enclosures should not be located along the pedestrian ways and streets.
- 15-13 Trash enclosures should contain enough space to facilitate both waste disposal and recycling. Containers should not block each other and should be user friendly.
- 15-14 Trash enclosure design should address solid waste personnel safety. All enclosures should have access routes that allow solid waste personnel to easily access dumpsters for collection. Vertical curbs should be avoided, and materials for sidewalk or driveway access should be flat to prevent wheels from becoming stuck.
- 15-15 Trash enclosures are required to be constructed of split face block, brick, stucco over block or similar quality materials that are durable. Avoid the use of plain cinder block.
- 15-16 Landscaping should be incorporated around trash enclosures to provide for more effective screening.

Commercial

STREETSCAPE GUIDELINES

The design of the streetscape should address the relationship between commercial buildings and the public realm by providing such amenities as street trees, street furniture, landscaping, and paving. A successful streetscape should foster a sense of place and feelings of community pride and ownership. It can also enhance the value of commercial properties. Elements such as street trees and street furniture should contribute to a walkable, pedestrian-scaled environment. The streetscape design in the neighborhood should also support public social interaction and enhance the vitality of the commercial district. The *Florin Road Streetscape Master Plan* provides additional guidance for streetscape improvements along the Florin Road Corridor.



Streetscapes that include landscaping, lighting, and street furniture help to create an inviting commercial district.

17 Parking Lot Design

Design Principle

The visual prominence of parked vehicles shall be minimized whenever possible. Parking lots should be screened from the street and nearby sidewalks and provide shade to parked automobiles.

Rationale

Pedestrian safety, screening, and efficient vehicle circulation should be the focus of parking lot design. Parking areas should be as small as is needed for the purpose intended. Parking lots should be adequately screened with fences, walls, and landscaping. Trees and landscaped areas incorporated into parking lots can help to soften paved areas, reduce heat during the summer months by providing shade, and filter pollutants from the air.

Design Guidelines

- 17-1 Surface parking lots adjacent to public sidewalks should be screened with appropriate design elements, such as fences, walls, landscaping and or 'micro-retail'.
- 17-2 Screening materials should not block views of the parking lot from passing cars to promote visual surveillance of the lot.



Landscaping should screen parking lots from the street while still allowing some visibility to promote safety.



This landscaped walkway allows pedestrian access to local businesses.

Commercial



Example of micro-retail treatment at corner of parking lot

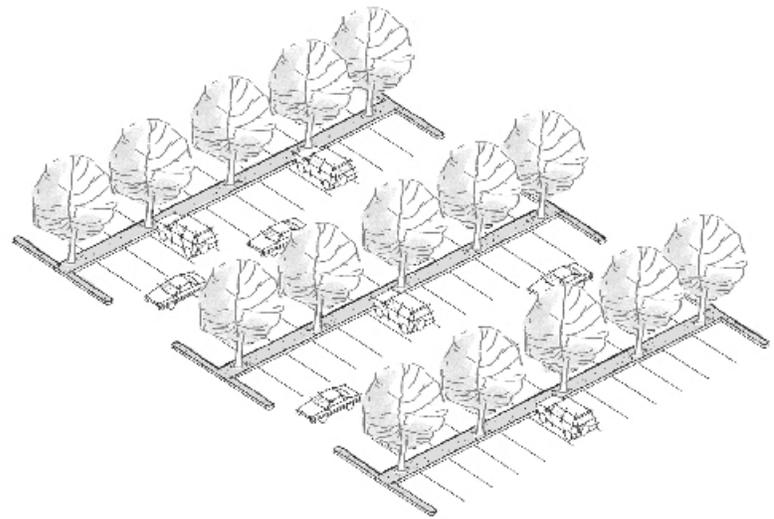


Large unbroken expanses of asphalt are ugly and get extremely hot in the summer.



A trellis and fence used effectively as screening for parked cars

- 17-3 Use of a trellis-style structure attached above a wall or fence can help maintain the character of the streetwall and improve the pedestrian environment along the street.
- 17-4 Parking lots shall be planted with trees to provide a minimum of 50% shading after 15 years in conformance with City Municipal Code Section 17.68, "Landscaping and Paving Regulations." Shading should be calculated by using the expected diameter of the tree at 15 years. A link to the City of Sacramento Parking Lot Tree Shading Design and Maintenance Guidelines is available at:
- h http://www.cityofsacramento.org/parksandrecreation/ppdd/pdf/SHADING_GUIDELINES_06-05-03.pdf
- 17-5 Trees planted in parking lots should be protected with curbs, bollards or tree grates, or located on landscaped walkways.
- 17-6 Lighting in parking areas is a key design component. Lighting should avoid glare that affects adjacent properties. The design of the fixture and its height should be compatible with the overall site and building design. See also the principles under site security.



Parking lots should be designed to provide 50% shading after 15 years.

18 Street Trees

Design Principle

Street trees should provide a visual frame to the street and offer shade and comfort to visitors to commercial districts.

Rationale

Street trees soften the appearance of the commercial streetscape, and make it more comfortable for pedestrians by providing essential shade during the summer months.

Design Guidelines

- 18-1 Street trees should be carefully planted and spaced to ensure that commercial businesses are easily visible and accessible.
- 18-2 Street trees that are not planted and maintained by the City, and that project into the public right-of-way, are subject to a City revocable encroachment permit. Contact the Community Development Department for more information.
- 18-3 Street trees should be easy to maintain, reduce sidewalk damage, and provide a sufficiently large, wide canopy to shade the sidewalks.
- 18-4 Street trees must be pruned to provide a clear space between the lower branches and the sidewalk and roadway to prevent damage and provide a clear view of building signage, ground floor windows, and doors.
- 18-5 Street trees within the public right-of-way must not be trimmed or removed without consulting the City Department of Parks and Recreation Urban Forest Services at 916-433-6345.
- 18-6 Tree species should be suitable for the Sacramento climate, and should be selected for water conservation. Refer to the following lists for recommended species:

Sacramento Tree Foundation

<http://www.sactree.com/>

City of Sacramento Urban Forest Division

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/transportation/urbanforest/>

- 18-7 The Florin Road Streetscape Master Plan calls for canopy trees to be placed in 7-foot wide tree wells. An approved tree list includes the following species: *Quercus agrifolia*, *Celtis australis*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, *Pistachia chinensis*, and *Platanus acerifolia* 'Bloodgood', which is a species that should be used primarily at the intersection of Florin and Franklin Blvd.



Street trees soften the appearance of a commercial street.



Street trees provide welcome shade for pedestrians.



Landscaped areas add to the beauty of commercial districts.

19 Landscape Elements

Design Principle

Landscape elements should be used to foster an attractive and comfortable commercial environment.

Rationale

Landscape elements, such as ornamental plants and water features, help to create visual interest and create an attractive, appealing environment.

Design Guidelines

- 19-1 Landscaping compatible with building design is encouraged. Trellises, arbors, cascading landscaping, vines and perimeter garden walls are encouraged.
- 19-2 Landscaping shall conform to the City Municipal Code Section 17.68, "Landscaping and Paving Regulations."
- 19-3 Plant species should be suitable for the Sacramento climate. Low-water landscaping materials are encouraged.
- 19-4 High-maintenance annuals and perennials should be used only as smaller landscape elements.
- 19-5 The full growth of landscaping materials should be anticipated so that trees and shrubs do not conflict with signage, lighting and roofs.
- 19-6 Landscaped areas are preferred over impermeable paved surfaces.
- 19-7 An automatic irrigation system must be installed to provide consistent coverage of all landscaped areas. Automatic controllers with rain shut-off valves will allow for greater water conservation. Irrigation controls should be screened from view by landscaping or other attractive site materials.
- 19-8 Turf and groundcover are more effectively irrigated with a conventional spray system. Head-to-head spray coverage is recommended. Avoid overspray onto sidewalks and adjacent properties.
- 19-9 A drip irrigation system is recommended for shrubs and trees to provide deeper, more even watering. Drip irrigation also permits greater water conservation than a conventional spray system.
- 19-10 Bare soil should be planted or mulched to avoid unsightliness and unnecessary run-off.
- 19-11 Landscaping must not impede access to hydrant connections or other essential services, but can be used in a good design to soften these elements and make them blend in.

- 19-12 Retain existing mature trees in landscaping, site, and building plans whenever possible. Note that large trees may require city permission for removal or major pruning.
- 19-13 Security issues should be considered in the landscape design of the site, including creation of barriers and screening. Openness and visibility can be maintained even with significant landscape coverage, with proper selection and maintenance of plant materials.

Commercial



Seating can consist of conventional benches.



Trash receptacles should be provided at regular intervals



Seating can even be combined with public art.

20 Site Amenities

Design Principle

Appropriate site amenities that complement the surrounding architecture should be selected and installed along the entire building front so as to increase opportunities for people to congregate and interact.

Rationale

Site amenities, such as pedestrian kiosks, benches, transit shelters, newspaper racks, trash cans, and café tables, encourage pedestrian use and increase opportunities for casual social interaction and enhance the appeal and vitality of the commercial corridor.

Design Guidelines

- 20-1 Street furniture should be attractive, functional, easy to maintain, high quality, and vandal resistant.
- 20-2 Street furniture must not block the sidewalk or access to parking.
- 20-3 Seating is highly encouraged. A variety of seating alternatives, such as benches, seat walls, and café tables is possible.
- 20-4 Incorporation of public art into site and building design is recommended.
- 20-5 The pattern and texture of ground paving materials should enhance the quality of the district. Use of high-quality brick, stone, textured concrete, terrazzo tile, or other decorative pavers is encouraged.
- 20-6 Hardscape materials that can endure Sacramento's intense weather conditions should be selected.
- 20-7 Bicycle racks that complement other street furniture should be provided.
- 20-8 Site amenities provided by a commercial development project should be accessible from the sidewalk and/or public walkways. Site amenities that are 'fragile' or moveable, or those that might serve as icons attracting vandalism, should be in secure areas of the site.
- 20-9 Site amenities such as public art/sculpture, fountains or other water features, public plazas or open space, and landscape features, are strongly encouraged. Where architectural features of a building do not provide a focal point or anchor at a major street corner.

21 Fences Walls and Gates

Design Principle

Fences, walls and gates should be made of high quality materials that are consistent with the style of the building to enhance the overall character of the site and contribute to the positive appearance of the corridor.

Rationale

Fences, walls and gates are useful in screening unattractive areas such as parking lots and utilities and providing safety and security for the site and building.

Design Guidelines

- 21-1 Gates should be integrated into a design to be unobtrusive when open, and obvious when closed. Please note there are city requirements that will affect gates, to avoid 'backing up' of vehicles into the street.
- 21-2 Fencing and gating should be designed as an integrated part of the site, rather than as a separate element. For example, a planter can be integrated with a wall; or a wall can be a continuation of the architecture of an adjacent building.
- 21-3 Masonry walls or fences should be designed to minimize visual monotony through changes in plane, height, material or texture and/or significant landscape massing where appropriate.
- 21-4 Blank, undivided expanses of wall without changes in plane, texture, masonry pattern, or without relation to human scale are discouraged.
- 21-5 Fencing should be of decorative design compatible with the building architecture and with the wall element, if provided.
- 21-6 Alternative fencing designs and materials, (for example wrought iron with brick columns eight foot on center, or hedges combined with shortened walls) are encouraged. Woven wire (chain link) fencing, or razor/barbed/concertina wire is highly undesirable or in some cases not permitted (refer to the City's Zoning Code).
- 21-7 Wrought iron fencing of the stock black tubular variety is encouraged to be accented with plants, brick or stone pilasters, or other features. Long uninterrupted lines of tubular black fencing are discouraged.
- 21-8 Fencing should be screened to the greatest extent possible with landscaping to soften the appearance.
- 21-9 Solid fencing, walls, large hedges, or other similar barriers exceeding four (4') feet in height are generally discouraged.

Commercial

- 21-10 Fencing should allow pedestrian ingress and egress to the project site. Fencing should not create a barrier to pedestrian movement.
- 21-11 Where a portion of the site is concealed for aesthetic reasons, secure access should be provided. Where gates are provided, they should enhance the appearance of the property as seen from the street or adjoining properties.
- 21-12 Fencing must not exclude use of hydrants or fire department connections. All gates should have “knox” access for emergency use subject to review and approval by the City of Sacramento Fire Department.
- 21-13 Screen walls at outdoor dining areas should be scaled accordingly for visibility and safety.

Residential Design Guidelines

The Residential Design Guidelines are intended to be applied to all residential infill construction, as well as additions or renovations to existing dwellings. Separate sections in this document address the design of single-family and multi-family dwellings and manufactured homes.

These Design Guidelines are intended to provide principles and guidelines that support reinvestment and redevelopment of the corridor, transforming the Florin Road over time from an auto-dominated suburban retail environment into an active, vibrant mixed-use urban corridor.

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT BUILDING TYPES

A variety of residential building types should be considered for new residential development in the Florin Road Corridor area. A mix of multi-family, attached and detached single family, and mixed use building types, where zoning permits, will provide equitable housing options and enhance the overall character of the Florin Road Corridor community.

Multi-family

Multi-family buildings are defined as residential structures with three or more units. Examples include apartments and condominiums.

Single family

Attached Buildings

Row houses and town homes

Row houses and town homes are defined as multi-story single-family residential units. Row houses generally front public streets, while town homes are located along internal pedestrian pathways and mews.

Detached Buildings

Single-family homes

Mixed-use

Mixed-use buildings

Mixed-use buildings provide a variety of residential units and ground floor commercial/ retail services. Where higher residential densities and commercial uses are appropriate, mixed-use buildings should be incorporated throughout the Florin Road Corridor.

Live-work lofts

Live work lofts provide space for unique small business which adds to the mix of commercial services along the Florin Road Corridor.

Multi-family Residential

The Multi-family Residential Design Guidelines outline good design practices for multi-family development. Florin Road has some existing multi-family development. Future multi-family development near established single-family homes should complement those homes without appearing too massive or out of scale. Multi-family development in the vicinity of Florin Road should be designed to complement nearby commercial development.



This multi-family development has been designed with architectural features similar to those in single-family homes.

Multi-family Residential

SITE DESIGN

This section discusses the location of multi-family structures on the lot, their orientation toward the street and adjacent buildings, and the location of parking lots and parking structures.

Good site design of multi-family structures should ensure that residents can easily access them from the street, with entryways clearly located on the street side. Parking areas, utilities, and service facilities should be located toward the rear of the site. Common spaces should be toward the interior of the site so that all residents can easily access these facilities, and to provide additional safety for small children.

Setbacks for multi-family structures should be similar to those of established structures in the area. If the established context consists of single-family homes, multi-family structures should have similar setbacks, and the design of the multi-family structures should minimize the mass of the buildings. Multi-family structures located in or near commercial corridor may have smaller setbacks similar to the guidelines for new commercial buildings.



A multi-family structure with defined entries, gates, and paths.

22 Relationship to the Street

Design Principle

Multi-family structures should present a facade that encourages interaction with the street by including entry features, windows, and landscaping along the street side of the building.

Rationale

Multi-family structures that are adjacent to a public street should encourage residents to actively engage with that street through a variety of design elements. In addition to improving the visual quality of the streetscape, design elements should allow residents to see and be seen from the street, enhancing neighborhood interaction, improving safety and providing “eyes on the street.”

Design Guidelines

- 22-1 Multi-family structures that present a blank wall to the street are not allowed.
- 22-2 Multi-family structures that are constructed as infill near an existing single-family residential neighborhood should provide a streetside facade that is complementary to these single-family homes in style and massing.
- 22-3 Multi-family structures should have entry features that front onto the street, including a door and porch or stoop that relate directly to the street frontage.
- 22-4 Recessed entry features are strongly discouraged. Residents should be able to see and be seen as they enter and exit their residences.
- 22-5 Streetside windows should be installed that provide views of the street from active living spaces.
- 22-6 Small, landscaped private entry yards afford an attractive appearance on the street side and allow residents to control and take pride in these areas.
- 22-7 Pedestrians should have clear, unobstructed access to the street and to nearby transit stops.
- 22-8 Paths and access points should be clearly visible during the day and well lit after dark.



Blank walls facing the street are not allowed.



Private front yards that are visible to the street can help residents to see and engage with the public realm.

Multi-family Residential

23 Setbacks

Design Principle

Setbacks of multi-family residential structures should reflect the appropriate commercial or residential context.

Rationale

When multi-family residential structures are placed on busy commercial streets, smaller setbacks that locate the building closer to the street are preferred. Multi-family structures constructed near single-family residential neighborhoods should reflect the larger setbacks typically found in those areas.

Design Guidelines

- 23-1 Large multi-family developments should be designed with varied setbacks that contribute to an interesting streetscape and avoid a monotonous streetwall. Continuous lines of buildings with the same setback should be avoided.
- 23-2 Individual buildings can also be designed with an articulated front, with porches closer to the street than recessed garages.
- 23-3 In residential neighborhoods, multi-family housing should adopt the predominant setback, but should also vary the building facade to relieve the appearance of mass.
- 23-4 Design front setbacks to allow maximum opportunities for interaction between residents and neighbors.



These multi-family homes have been designed with setbacks and architectural features similar to those found in single-family homes.



This contemporary multi-family development has been designed with setbacks similar to adjacent commercial development.

Multi-family Residential

24 Interior Common Spaces

Design Principle

Multi-family structures should provide interior common spaces that are easily accessible. Individual units adjacent to common spaces should have facades with entry features and windows that open onto those common spaces.

Rationale

Interior common spaces should ideally foster a sense of community. This can be facilitated by building facades that allow residents to see and easily use common spaces. Common spaces should offer amenities that invite use, such as seating, shade, and tot lots.

Design Guidelines

- 24-1 Ground floor units should have doorways that open onto interior common spaces.
- 24-2 All units that overlook interior common spaces should have windows that allow residents to easily see these areas.
- 24-3 Common amenities, such as tot lots, seating areas, and swimming pools, should be provided that cater to all age ranges, from small children to the elderly, as appropriate.
- 24-4 Common facilities such as recreation rooms, and laundry and mail areas should be located adjacent to common open space to increase activity in these areas.
- 24-5 Common open space should be designed as a visible, accessible transition between the street and individual units.



Interior common spaces can offer seating and areas for informal activities.



This multi-family complex has an inviting interior common space with picnic area.

Multi-family Residential

25 Scale and Mass

Design Principle

Multi-family residential structures should be consistent with the scale and mass of existing structures in the vicinity.

Rationale

Multi-family development should use design and construction methods that minimize the appearance of mass with multiple roof lines, articulated facades, and architectural detailing that break up the facade.

Design Guidelines

- 25-1 Multi-family structures that are constructed as infill near an existing single-family residential neighborhood should provide a streetside facade that is complementary to these single-family homes in style and massing.
- 25-2 Encourage two- to four-story buildings.
- 25-3 Set back upper floors to create opportunities for balconies.
- 25-4 The second story on two-story structures should be articulated to break up the facade and minimize the appearance of mass.
- 25-5 Two-story structures should have multiple roof lines with corresponding gables that are consistent in style and materials with the overall structure.
- 25-6 Architectural detailing, such as dormer and other types of decorative windows, complementary trim, porch details, decorative shutters, and wainscoting, can reduce the appearance of bulk and mass by providing visual interest.



Multiple roof lines can reduce the appearance of mass in large multi-family structures.



The facade of this multi-family structure has been designed with architectural detailing to add interest and reduce mass.

Multi-family Residential

26 Parking Lots

Design Principle

Parking should be located at the rear or interior of the complex, where feasible. Parking lots that face the street or are on the side of multi-family housing should be minimized.

Rationale

Multi-family residential structures should encourage residents to have an active relationship with the street(s) adjacent to the development. To this end, parking lots should be located at the rear or in the interior of the development so as not to interfere with access to the street or interior common spaces.

Design Guidelines

- 26-1 Parking lots shall conform to City Municipal Code Section 17.64.030, "development standards for parking facilities," which specifies stall size and design.
- 26-2 Smaller, scattered lots will provide better access to residents and be less visually obtrusive than a single large lot.
- 26-3 Covered parking should be located so that it does not interfere with front entries or access to interior common spaces.
- 26-4 Parking areas should be screened from adjacent structures with landscaping strips. However, screening should not exceed 4 feet in height, and should be permeable so that areas can be viewed by passing pedestrians and vehicles.
- 26-5 Underground parking in private or shared garages accessible from the street is acceptable if it does not interfere with pedestrian access to the street.
- 26-6 Provide parking in the rear of lots accessed by side streets or alleyways.



These units face the street, while parking is located at the rear of the building.



Parking is in small, dispersed lots in the interior of this multi-family development. The materials on the carport also match those on the main buildings.

Multi-family Residential

ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

This section addresses the specific structural elements that can contribute to the positive appearance of multi-family housing.

All architectural elements should be constructed of high-quality materials to promote longevity and a visually pleasing appearance. Variety of design and materials is desirable if complementary to the existing neighborhood. If located in an established residential neighborhood, multi-family housing should be designed with architectural features that complement the character of adjacent single-family homes. Similarly if located adjacent to primarily commercial area the housing should complement and connect with neighboring office and retail uses.



These townhomes have facade details and colors that distinguish them as individual units.

Photo Courtesy of DesignLens

27 Garages

Design Principle

The visibility of multi-family garages from the street should be minimized. Instead, garages should be located beneath, at the side, or at the rear of multi-family structures. Garage and carport materials and architectural styles should complement the materials and styles of the primary buildings.

Rationale

To minimize the visual prominence of garages, they should be placed underneath or at the rear of multi-family structures. Garages should be grouped in small clusters rather than unbroken lines.

Design Guidelines

- 27-1 Garages should be varied in their location to minimize the impact of a row of garage doors.
- 27-2 Rows of garages or carports around the perimeter of a development should be avoided.



The garages are located at the rear of this multi-family structure.

Multi-family Residential

28 Entry Features

Design Principle

The principal entry to each unit should be clearly visible from the street and include a porch, stoop, or other entry feature.

Rationale

To give definition to the facade of multi-family structures and provide visual interest, entryways should be defined by entry features such as a porch, stoop, portico, or overhang.

Design Guidelines

- 28-1 Entryways to each individual unit should include some form of entry feature, such as a porch or portico, that adds visual interest to the overall structure.
- 28-2 To promote visibility and security, front doorways should not be recessed to the extent that they are not clearly visible.
- 28-3 The style of porch and portico columns should be consistent with the scale and style of the building.
- 28-4 Porch columns and railings should be constructed of high-quality materials that complement the materials used in the overall structure.
- 28-5 Encourage the provision of individual entries to units rather than a single entry to promote interaction between residents and neighbors.
- 28-6 Provide privacy for ground floor residential units by allowing them to be three feet above the sidewalk level.



Landscaped entry area, steps, and a small porch have been constructed for each unit in this multi-family structure.



The entryways in these contemporary units are marked by a change of material - high quality wood paneling - that contrasts with the adjacent stucco.

29 Lighting

Design Principle

All common areas and accessways should be adequately lit during low-light periods. Light fixtures should complement the architectural style of the home.

Rationale

Lighting fixtures should be selected with consideration for the type of use in each area of the complex. Parking lots should be adequately lit so that residents and visitors can easily negotiate parking areas. The lighting of paths and walkways should be adequate for pedestrians to walk safely without light spillover into nearby units. The design and style of light fixtures should complement the style of the buildings.

Design Guidelines

- 29-1 Lighting should be provided in all common areas, including parking, vehicular and pedestrian entries, walkways, and at common facilities such as mailboxes and swimming pools.
- 29-2 Lighting fixtures should be designed for exterior use and should be weather resistant.
- 29-3 Materials, size, color, and design of light fixtures should be consistent with the style of the structures.
- 29-4 Ornamental pedestrian lighting in common areas should not exceed 12 feet in height. Lighting for parking areas should not exceed 14 feet in height. Pedestrian lighting, such as lighted bollards, should not exceed 4 feet in height.
- 29-5 Lighting of parking lots, landscaping, and pedestrian walkways should not result in light spillover to interior residential units or adjacent homes, and should not cast glare on the public way and adjacent properties.
- 29-6 Lighting fixtures should be selected to attract attention to the building details instead of the fixtures themselves.
- 29-7 The lights should provide even illumination levels. Flashing or pulsating light fixtures should be avoided.



Decorative lighting



Pedestrian-scaled pathway bollard lighting

Multi-family Residential

30 Signage and Addresses

Design Principle

Entry signage should be provided at all primary access points to the complex and within the complex, as needed, to ensure wayfinding. Entry signage identifying the development and its address should be easily visible from the street to assist visitors and emergency vehicles.

Rationale

Signage promotes wayfinding, and should be easy to read from the street and well-lit at night. Signage also contributes to the character of the complex, and should complement the style and character of the buildings.

Design Guidelines

- 30-1 Interior vehicle and pedestrian circulation routes should be clearly marked by signage.
- 30-2 Individual units should have addresses with letters that are 4-8 inches high.
- 30-3 All signage should be illuminated and clearly visible after dark.



Pedestrian-scaled signage assists wayfinding in multi-family developments.



Signage with lighting (in landscaping)



Signage with landscaping and lighting

Multi-family Residential

SITE ELEMENTS

Site elements include those features that are auxiliary to the buildings, including landscaping and fencing, as well as common facilities, such as mailboxes and trash receptacles.



Lighting, landscaping, fencing, and other site elements have been carefully selected to enhance this new multi-family development.

Multi-family Residential

31 Landscaping

Design Principle

Landscaping should be provided within all streetside setbacks, common areas, and parking lots to provide shade and create visually appealing exterior spaces.

Rationale

A variety of landscaping plants and materials can contribute to the visual interest of a neighborhood. Landscaping elements should be selected not only with consideration for the style of the multi-family structures, but should also complement the landscaping of other buildings on the block.

Design Guidelines

- 31-1 Landscaping shall conform to the City Municipal Code Section 17.68.010, "Landscaping requirements," which requires that the front and street side setbacks must be planted with landscaping materials that primarily consist of turf or low-growing groundcover.
- 31-2 Trees should be planted in the setbacks and common areas at intervals appropriate to the full spread of the mature trees.
- 31-3 Bare soil should be planted or mulched with bark, stone, or other suitable materials to avoid unnecessary runoff.
- 31-4 Street trees should be retained. Consult the City of Sacramento Parks and Trees Service (916-264-5200) for questions regarding the care of street trees. Private tree services are available to consult before trimming or removing mature trees.
- 31-5 Plant species should be suitable for the Sacramento climate. Low-water landscaping materials are encouraged.



Landscaping and fencing define the common area, but interior spaces are easily seen from the street.



Add caption

Multi-family Residential

31-6 Refer to the following lists for more information about recommended species:

Sacramento Tree Foundation

<http://www.sactree.com/>

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)

<http://www.smud.org/en/residential/trees/Pages/index.aspx>

City of Sacramento Urban Forest Division

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/transportation/urbanforest/>



Interior pedestrian path



Add Caption

Multi-family Residential



Irrigation spray head

32 Irrigation

Design Principle

An automatic irrigation system should be provided for new construction to maintain the health and positive appearance of all landscaped areas.

Rationale

The seasonal extremes of the Sacramento climate make regular irrigation of planted areas mandatory. Automatic irrigation ensures regular and consistent watering, and is desirable for the health of landscaping.

Design Guidelines

- 32-1 An irrigation system must be installed to provide consistent coverage of all landscaped areas.
- 32-2 Turf and groundcover are more effectively irrigated with a conventional spray system. Head-to-head spray coverage is recommended. Avoid overspray onto sidewalks and adjacent properties.
- 32-3 A drip irrigation system is recommended for shrubs and trees to provide deeper, more even watering. Drip irrigation also permits greater water conservation than a conventional spray system.
- 32-4 Automatic controllers with rain shut-off valves will allow for greater water conservation.
- 32-5 Irrigation controls must be screened from view by landscaping or other attractive site materials.



A drip irrigation system provides deeper watering for shrubs and trees.

33 Fencing

Design Principle

Fencing should complement the design of the buildings and define the boundary of the complex without obstructing physical or visual access.

Rationale

The design of fencing should be used to improve the appearance of the complex and enhance its character. Fencing should not obstruct access or visually screen the area, particularly on the street side of the complex.

Design Guidelines

- 33-1 Fencing shall conform to the City Municipal Code Section 17.76, "Wall, Fence and Gate Regulations," which states that front fencing may not exceed 4 feet in height, while side and rear fencing may not exceed 6 feet in height.
- 33-2 Fencing should be perceived as an enhancement, not a barrier, and should not obstruct pedestrian access.
- 33-3 Fencing adjacent to any street should have a minimum of 50% transparency.
- 33-4 High-quality materials, including wood, metal, stucco, and some forms of vinyl fencing, are acceptable fencing materials. Stucco must be smooth plaster.
- 33-5 Combining materials, such as metal with brick or stucco pillars, is an attractive way to give interest to fencing and is recommended.
- 33-6 Articulate property edges with fences and landscaping. Ensure fences and shrubs are no more than three feet high.



Fencing should be a visual enhancement of the buildings.



This fencing defines the boundaries of the complex but allows easy visibility from the exterior.

Multi-family Residential



Concrete paving can be enhanced with detailing and the use of integral color.



The interlocking pavers in this shaded parking lot help to keep stormwater runoff on-site.



Pervious paving reduces stormwater runoff.

34 Paving/Hardscape Surfaces

Design Principle

Walkways and common areas should incorporate decorative paving treatments and pervious paving treatments. Parking lots should incorporate pervious paving treatments, where feasible.

Rationale

All paved areas, such as parking lots, common areas, and pedestrian walkways, can be enhanced with the use of a variety of decorative paving treatments, such as stamped concrete or concrete with integral color.

Design Guidelines

- 34-1 Impervious surfaces should be limited to driveways, parking lots, walkways, and common areas.
- 34-2 Alternative paving surfaces are encouraged for walkway surfaces in common areas, where brick, modular pavers, and various forms of stamped or integrally colored concrete are appropriate. Pedestrian walkways must balance enhanced appearance with universal access; therefore, materials such as flagstones are not appropriate for common walkways unless installed in a manner that ensures accessibility.
- 34-3 Use of permeable materials, such as permeable asphalt, grasscrete, and modular pavers, are encouraged to reduce stormwater runoff in parking lots. Where possible, drainage should be directed into planting areas to increase percolation of water runoff. Alternative paving treatments must be approved by the Community Development Department.

35 Services and Utilities

Design Principle

Accessory structures, such as mailboxes and laundry rooms, should be easily accessible to residents. Service elements, such as trash enclosures and mechanical equipment, should be screened from view.

Rationale

Common facilities, such as mail areas, laundry rooms, swimming pools, and playgrounds, should be easy for residents to find and use. Trash receptacles and utility boxes should be equally accessible but screened from public view to protect the visual quality of the development.

Design Guidelines

Trash and Recycling Enclosures

- 35-1 Trash and recycling receptacles should be screened from view. Landscaping around trash enclosures will help to soften and screen what may otherwise be an unattractive structure.
- 35-2 Curbs and other impediments should be avoided so that receptacles are easily accessible for trash removal.
- 35-3 Trash/recycling enclosures must be made of a durable material, such as brick, concrete, or stucco, and should complement the design of the primary structures.
- 35-4 Trash/recycling enclosures should be located so that noise and odors are not detectable by nearby residents.

Storage Areas

- 35-5 Storage for personal items should be provided in structures that match the design and materials of the primary buildings.
- 35-6 Storage areas should be located so that residents can easily access them from parking areas.

Utilities, Mechanical, Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning

- 35-7 All utilities, including radio and cable lines, should be installed underground. The visibility of roof-mounted satellite dishes should be minimized.
- 35-8 Mechanical equipment should be included in the design of the building where possible. If this is not feasible, it should be screened with a solid enclosure and landscaping.
- 35-9 Exterior utility equipment should be placed in low-traffic areas and screened by landscaping.
- 35-10 Where feasible, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units should be placed on the north side of buildings (if not the street side) to shade the units and minimize energy consumption.



Attractive and accessible mailbox facility



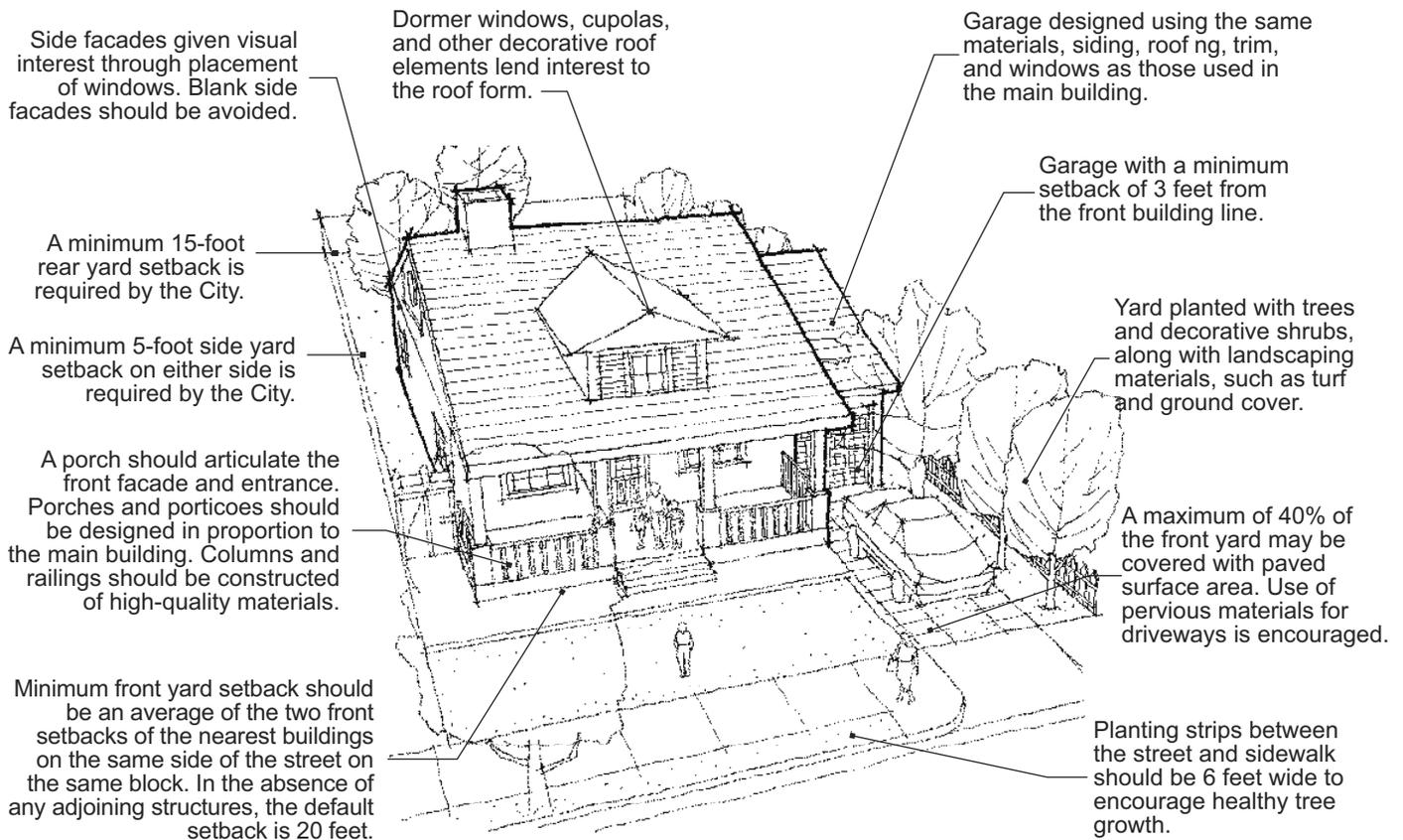
Appropriate screening of HVAC unit behind fence

Multi-family Residential

Single-family Residential

There are many ways to design a good home. The City Community Development Department has pre-approved plans that can reduce application time and aid the new home builder, and these plans do not exhaust the many possible design options.

The home shown below displays some of the key characteristics that are recommended in the Design Guidelines, and how these design features might be applied to residential infill, additions, and renovations. This sample home is intended as an example only, since the Design Guidelines are sufficiently flexible to allow for many variations in home styles and design.



Single-family Residential Home with Required and Recommended Design Features

Single-family Residential

SITE DESIGN

Site design addresses a home's location on the lot, its orientation toward the street and adjacent buildings, and its overall layout relative to the site. The site design of inf II homes and additions to existing homes should emphasize respect for the context of established structures. In addition, inf II homes and some additions, where appropriate, should:

- reflect the scale of existing homes on the block;
- in most cases, be located toward the front of the lot;
- provide an entry facing the street to create a welcoming appearance and to give homes "curb appeal";
- minimize the appearance of the garage by locating it recessed to the main structure at the side or rear of the home; and
- minimize the appearance of mass in two-story homes with an articulated facade.



Typical home near the Florin Road Corridor

36 Setbacks and Orientation

Design Principle

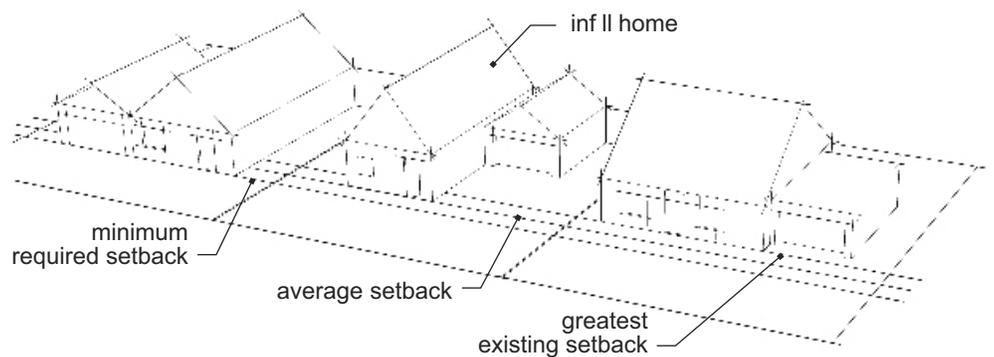
The front setback and the placement of the home on the lot should correspond to the prevailing setbacks of other homes on the block to create a consistent appearance along the street.

Rationale

Well-designed homes enhance their street by respecting the existing context while not succumbing to uniformity. Front yard setbacks may be slightly varied to create interest, but should contribute to the established assemblage of homes on the block.

Design Guidelines

- 36-1 Homes should be oriented toward the front of the lot to encourage an active visual relationship with the street.
- 36-2 Homes should face the street, with the front entry toward the street side.
- 36-3 Inf II structures should reinforce the existing rhythm of building widths and side setbacks.



Build to the average front setback

Single-family Residential



Relatively smaller front yard setbacks are typical of many homes near the Florin Road Corridor.

- 36-4 The front setback of the home should be an average of the setbacks of existing homes on the block.
- 36-5 If all construction footprints should generally be parallel to lot lines. Residential structures should not be placed at odd angles to the street and neighboring properties.

Single-family Residential

37 Scale and Mass

Design Principle

An infill home should be compatible with the overall scale and mass of other homes on the block. An addition to an existing home should be compatible with the scale and mass of the existing home, as well as with the scale and mass of other homes on the block.

Rationale

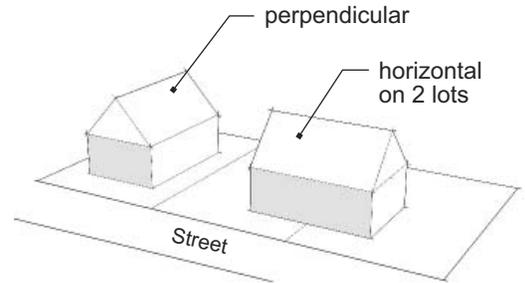
Although new infill homes and additions to existing homes are addressing demand for more square footage, they also should respect earlier, established homes by minimizing the appearance of bulk and mass through site layout and architectural design.

Design Guidelines for Infill Construction

- 37-1 Homes on long, narrow lots should be oriented perpendicular to the street to minimize the appearance of mass.
- 37-2 The mass of a larger structure should be broken down into smaller components that are similar in scale to other buildings in the neighborhood.

Design Guidelines for Additions

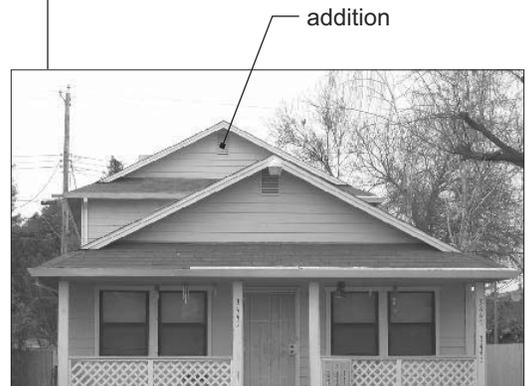
- 37-3 Additions should respect the massing, scale, and height of the primary structure.
- 37-4 Additions that are taller than the original building should be located at the rear of the building so that the new addition does not visually overpower the original structure.
- 37-5 Large additions should be broken down into smaller, varied components that relate to the scale and massing of the original structure.



Orient homes on small lots perpendicular to the street. These buildings have identical square footage, but the home on the left appears smaller because it is perpendicular to the street.



The facade of this home has been broken down into smaller components to reduce the appearance of mass.



Additions should be located at the rear so as not to overpower the original structure.

Single-family Residential



Architectural details and articulated facades can help to minimize the appearance of two-story infill homes.



Bay or bow windows can help to articulate a residential facade as exemplified in these two-story duplex units.



Dormer windows and other decorative roof elements help to break up the mass of a two-story home.

38 Number of Stories

Design Principle

Two-story homes are acceptable in areas where one-story homes predominate, but they should be designed to minimize the appearance of mass of the second story.

Rationale

Although many streets in Florin Road have the occasional two-story home, the majority of homes are one story. Because two-story infill structures have the capacity to appear out of scale with other homes on a block, they should be carefully designed so as not to overwhelm adjacent one-story homes.

Design Guidelines

- 38-1 The front of the home should not present an unbroken two-story wall to the street. Facades should be articulated to break up the surface, add interest, and minimize the appearance of mass. Articulation should include at least two of the following features:
- protruding or recessed facade surfaces
 - bow, bay, or dormer windows
 - horizontal elements such as cornices, window lintels, or horizontal bands
 - porches or porticoes
- 38-2 All sides of the homes should be given visual interest through the careful placement of windows, while also protecting the privacy of the adjacent home. No side of a two-story home should present an entirely blank facade.
- 38-3 Porches and porticoes should be one story in two-story homes to maintain the proportion and context of the surrounding homes on the block (see Category 8, “Entry Features”).
- 38-4 Architectural elements, such as dormers, multiple gables, and windows, should be added to the second story to impose articulation on the facade, as feasible.
- 38-5 Infill duplexes constructed on narrow lots (40 feet wide or less) should be designed as two-story stacked units. These structures should conform to the same principles outlined above, with articulation of the facade and the addition of architectural elements.

39 Garages

Design Principle

The garage should be placed at the side or rear of the home to minimize its visibility from the street.

Rationale

New garages on inf II homes should be recessed behind the front facade at the side or rear of the home.

Design Guidelines

- 39-1 Garages shall conform to all relevant City regulations and guidelines, including the City Municipal Code Section 17.80.040, "Residential Accessory Structures and Use Regulations."
- 39-2 On-site parking may be an attached or detached garage. Attached garages should be recessed a minimum of 3 feet behind the front facade (the main front wall) of the home. However, garages that are recessed 3 feet behind the front of the porch will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 39-3 Garages should be recessed a minimum of 3 feet behind the front facade.
- 39-4 Alley access to garages on Florin Road is discouraged, but will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
- 39-5 Garage design, siding, roofing, trim, and window materials should match the character and materials used on the primary residence.
- 39-6 City Municipal Code permits a carport if 50% or more of the dwellings on the block do not have enclosed parking. The carport should be designed to the same standards as an enclosed garage, with similar roofing materials and roof pitch.
- 39-7 The simplest, least adorned garage door that can be used is a raised panel metal sectional door.

40 Parking and Driveway Location

Design Principle

On-site parking should be located at the side or rear of the lot, whenever feasible, to minimize parking along the facade facing the street and afford an unobstructed and attractive view of the home.



Detached garage at the rear of a home



Attached garage recessed from the front facade of the home

Single-family Residential



Parking in Florin Road is often at the front of the home on a driveway. Infill homes should minimize driveways and parking at the front facade of the home through recessed garage placement.



Alternative driveway materials, such as turf strips, can minimize the amount of paving in driveways.



Shared driveways between two adjacent lots are encouraged, where feasible, to minimize the paved area at the front of the home

Rationale

Many homes have been designed with extensive driveways and parking at the front of the home. Infill development should place driveways and parking toward the side of the lot so that the front yard is visually attractive and can be landscaped.

Design Guidelines

- 40-1 Parking shall conform to all relevant City regulations and guidelines, including the City Municipal Code Section 17.64.020, "Parking Requirement by Land Use Type," which states that one off-street parking space is required per dwelling unit.
- 40-2 Shared driveways between two adjacent lots are encouraged, where feasible, to minimize the paved area at the front of the home.
- 40-3 Concrete and asphalt are typical driveway paving materials. Alternative driveway paving surfaces, such as mortared brick or concrete pavers, or tinted concrete, are encouraged to minimize the appearance of a monotonous paved front yard. Permeable materials, such as pavers, cobblestone, or similar treatments, are also recommended paving materials for driveways. Driveway strips with turf between the strips are another desirable alternative. Alternative treatments must be approved by the relevant reviewing agencies per City development standards for paving surfaces.
- 40-4 Single-car garages or tandem garages are encouraged to reduce the extent of paved driveway areas.

ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

Architectural elements include the detailing of the home, such as roofing, siding, windows, and doors. Infill homes and additions or renovations to existing homes should respect the architectural style of established homes on the block, while also reflecting contemporary construction methods.

All architectural elements should be constructed of high-quality materials to promote longevity and a pleasing appearance. Variety of design and materials is desirable if complementary to the existing neighborhood context.

Single-family Residential

41 Architectural Character and Detailing

Design Principle

An inf II home should be designed in a cohesive architectural style that complements the best examples of existing residential development on the block.

Rationale

Structures that are compatible with existing homes contribute to a sense of place and add to the character of the neighborhood. Use of character-defining features, such as porches, columns, balustrades, brackets, rafters, and decorative trim, enhances visual compatibility.

Design Guidelines

- 41-1 The architectural design of inf II construction should complement the architectural styles of existing homes on the block. If there is a mixture of styles on a block, then the design of inf II construction may be more flexibly interpreted.
- 41-2 Architectural features and detailing should be proportional to the scale of the home, as well as to other homes on the block of a similar architectural style.
- 41-3 Additions should be designed with architectural details that are similar to those of the existing structure, but simpler and visually distinguishable.
- 41-4 A contemporary sundeck may be added to an existing structure, provided that it does not visually detract from the main building. The scale, material, color, and details of the deck should be compatible with the existing building. Removal of significant features of the existing building, such as a porch, is strongly discouraged.
- 41-5 Individual architectural elements of the home should be consistent with the structure's overall design.
- 41-6 All elevations should be given equal design treatment and architectural consideration.



This renovated home has architectural details scaled to the proportions of the home.

42 Roof Styles

Design Principle

The design of a roof on an inf II home should correspond to the prevailing designs of roofs on homes in the established neighborhood context. The design of the roof on additions and renovations should correspond to the roof style and pitch of the existing structure.

Rationale

The pitch, style, and orientation of the roof in an inf II home should be similar, but not necessarily identical to, the roof styles of existing homes on the block to encourage respect for the established context while allowing for variety.

However, the pitch, style, and orientation of the roof on a renovation or addition should be identical to that of the existing home, while any crossing gables should match the established pitch and style of the existing roof.

Design Guidelines

- 42-1 Roof design on inf II structures should be similar to the shape, pitch, overhang, and material of the roof design of existing homes on the block.
- 42-2 Flat roofs are discouraged and should be used only if they are common in neighboring residences.
- 42-3 Inf II homes should respect the primary gable orientation of the majority of existing homes on the block.
- 42-4 The roof forms and slopes of additions should be similar to those of the original structure. The roof of the addition should be subordinate to that of the primary building. Gable, hip, and shed roofs are appropriate for additions.
- 42-5 A dormer addition should be subordinate to the scale of the primary structure. The number and size of dormers should not be visually overwhelming. The new dormers should be placed below the ridgeline of the primary roof.



Gable roof with front-facing gables



Gable roof with side-facing gables and shed-roofed dormer windows



Gable roof with clipped end

Single-family Residential

43 Entry Features

Design Principle

Inf II homes and additions to the front facade of the home should have an entry feature such as a porch or stoop that faces the street side.

Rationale

Entry features accent the front facade of a home and add visual interest. Entry features and their components, such as columns and steps, should be proportional to the overall scale of the home.

Design Guidelines

- 43-1 Entry features are encouraged on all new inf II homes, and are a recommended renovation for existing homes, where feasible.
- 43-2 Entry porches and porticoes in two-story homes should be one story to minimize the appearance of bulk.
- 43-3 Entry features should be built to a depth of 6 feet from the front of the entry feature to the front facade of the home; however, shallower entry features will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 43-4 The style of porch and portico elements should be consistent with the scale and style of the home, and should strive to respect the scale and style of porch and portico elements in the other homes on the block.
- 43-5 Porch and portico columns should be given some form of detailing, such as a defined plinth and capital.
- 43-6 Porch columns and railings should be constructed of high-quality materials that complement the materials used in the overall exterior of the home.



Attractive porch detailing complements home



Entry clearly visible and single-story porch proportional to the home



Columns scaled to home with appropriate detailing

44 Doors

Design Principle

Doors should be made of high-quality materials and include decorative elements such as raised panels, sidelights, and transoms that are appropriate to the overall design of the home.

Rationale

Doors are an important architectural feature that offer security and visual appeal. For this reason, doors should be made of high-quality materials that protect the home, while also offering aesthetic appeal through decorative elements that correspond to the style of the home.

Design Guidelines

- 44-1 Doors are character-defining features of a home and should be appropriately designed to contribute to the overall composition of the house.
- 44-2 Doors should not be flat surfaces, but should include raised panels, glass, or some other form of detailing and articulation.
- 44-3 Doors should be of high-quality materials, such as metal or solid-core wood.
- 44-4 Doors may be metal or wood-framed. High-quality metal framing can afford enhanced security and fire protection and should be considered. Whether wood or metal, door framing should be slightly recessed or extended to lend interest and definition to the entry.



Door with sidelights, transom, and raised panels

Photo Courtesy of DesignLens



Door with sidelights and inset panels

Single-family Residential



Window detailing, such as shutters, adds interest.

Photo Courtesy of DesignLens



Casement window with wooden frame and sill



Single-hung windows with wooden frame



Attractive window detailing

Photo Courtesy of DesignLens

45 Windows

Design Principle

Windows should be constructed of high-quality materials and designed to complement the style of the home.

Rationale

High-quality materials and construction techniques should be used to ensure the longevity of windows and enhance their aesthetic appeal.

Design Guidelines

- 45-1 Windows should complement the style of the home. Recommended window styles include casement, single-hung sash, and double-hung sash windows.
- 45-2 Windows with multiple panes provide interest and definition to a home's facade and are encouraged.
- 45-3 Window frames, sash, trim, and sills may be wood, vinyl, or a paintable fiberglass composite. Unpainted metal is not allowed.
- 45-4 A consistent window treatment should be used on all sides of the building.
- 45-5 Reflective or tinted glass and opaque plastic skylights are discouraged.
- 45-6 Windows used in new additions and remodels should be similar to those in the primary structure.

46 Siding

Design Principle

The siding used on an inf II home or addition to an existing home should be durable, consistent with the style and character of the home, and complement the siding materials used on other homes on the block.

Rationale

Siding, and other forms of architectural cladding, should not only complement the style of new inf II homes, but should be consistent with siding materials commonly used on other homes in the neighborhood to avoid appearing out of context. Siding used on additions should match siding on the existing home to the greatest extent possible.

Design Guidelines

- 46-1 The architectural cladding should be consistent with the majority of the homes on the block.
- 46-2 The architectural cladding should be used consistently on all sides of the house.
- 46-3 Where lap siding is the predominant form of siding on the block, it should be used for inf II construction as well.
- 46-4 Wood lap siding should be applied horizontally and should be similar in scale, proportion, texture, and finish to the wood lap siding traditionally used on the block. Other types of siding, such as flush siding and drop siding, are acceptable if they have precedence in other homes on the block.
- 46-5 Several lap siding materials are available, with some recommended over others:

Recommended:	Discouraged:
Wood	Vinyl
Cement fiber	T1-11
	Aluminum

- 46-6 Where lap siding is not the predominant material, wood, brick, stone, and stucco are also acceptable materials.
- 46-7 Stucco must be smooth, troweled plaster. Spray-on, "popcorn" stucco is not allowed, and foam trim sprayed with stucco should be avoided.
- 46-8 The use of two materials, with one employed as wainscoting, can often add to the interest of the home.
- 46-9 Highly reflective metals, glass, plastic, and vinyl should be avoided.

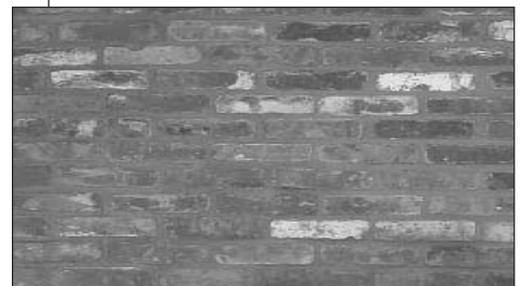


Wood lap siding

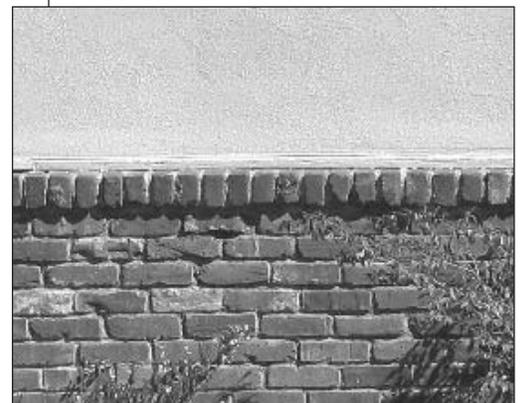
© 2005 JupiterImages Corporation



Smooth Stucco



Brick

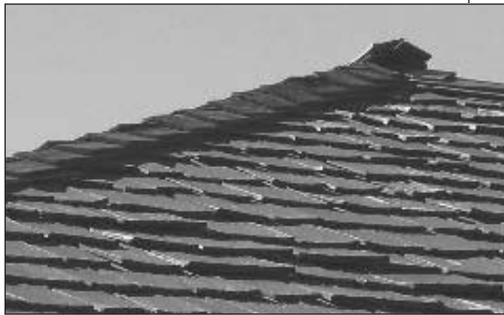


Brick wainscoting on smooth stucco

Single-family Residential



Laminated dimensional shingles



Wood shakes



Lightweight concrete shingles

47 Roofing

Design Principle

Roofing on an infill home should be durable and complement the style of the home. Roofing on an addition or renovation should be durable, and complement the roofing on the existing home.

Rationale

Roofing materials should be durable to ensure their attractiveness and continued functionality for many years. Roofing materials should also be suitable for the context.

Design Guidelines

47-1 Roofing materials must have a minimum 30-year guarantee. Roofing with a 40-year guarantee is encouraged.

47-2 The color and materials used for roofing should complement the color and architectural style of the home. Accent colors may be used, but they should not overwhelm the home, or clash with other homes on the block.

47-3 The following materials are recommended:

- laminated dimensional (asphalt) shingles;
- wood shingles/shakes;
- laminated dimensional fiberglass shingles;
- lightweight concrete shingles;
- terra cotta tile or lightweight concrete tile; or
- slate shingles.

Exceptions to these roofing materials will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Single-family Residential

- 47-4 Metal roofing is typically inappropriate and highly discouraged.
- 47-5 Composition shingles should only be rolled over side barge boards when appropriate to the overall design of the structure.
- 47-6 When installing gutters, rafter tails should only be trimmed when the rafter tail design is not an architectural feature specific to the overall design of the structure.



Tile shingles



"Cool roof" options can achieve higher energy efficiency.

Photo Courtesy of Met Tile



Example of low-profile solar panel array that blends in with the home.

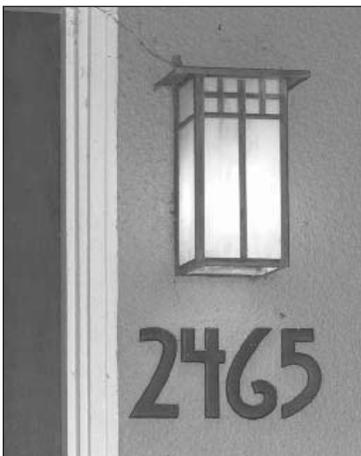
Single-family Residential



Simple, streamlined lighting fixtures can complement a wide variety of home styles.



High-quality lighting fixtures can enhance the appearance of the home.



Addresses should be illuminated and easily visible from the street.

48 Lighting and Addresses

Design Principle

Light fixtures should be consistent with the architectural style of the home and should provide adequate illumination of the front entry and addresses so that both are clearly visible from the street.

Rationale

To assist emergency vehicles and contribute to the safety of the home, address lettering should be affixed near the door and should be large enough to be seen from the street. Lighting fixtures should be adequate to illuminate the addresses and the front entryway.

Design Guidelines

- 48-1 Lighting contributes to the security of the home and is required for the front entry, walkways, and garage area. Recessed entryways should be clearly lit.
- 48-2 Lighting fixtures should be designed for exterior use and should be weather resistant.
- 48-3 The address should be illuminated and clearly visible at night.
- 48-4 The address should be visible from the street.
- 48-5 Address numbers should be 4-8 inches high.
- 48-6 The preferred location to display the address is affixed to the front of the home, adjacent to the front door. If structural considerations preclude affixing the address adjacent to the front door, then the address may be attached on the front of the home or garage as long as it is still clearly visible from the street and illuminated at night.

SITE ELEMENTS

Site elements include those features that are auxiliary to the home, such as landscaping, fencing, and paving. Site elements are typically used to enhance the appearance and functionality of the home.

High-quality site elements can increase the beauty and value of the home, and when carefully selected, can also contribute to the visual continuity of the street.



This newer home has fencing that complements the architectural style of the home and trash containers and utilities that are not visible from the front of the home.

Single-family Residential



Add Caption



Groundcovers, such as this *Vitex* species, can provide a low-water alternative to turf.



Landscaped areas should be mulched with bark or stone.

49 Landscaping

Design Principle

Landscaping should be used on the site to positively contribute to the appearance of the home and site and to create a sense of visual continuity along the street. The front yard should be planted with landscaping materials that may include a mixture of turf, groundcover, and decorative shrubs.

Rationale

Use of a variety of landscaping plants and materials can help create visual interest and define the character of the neighborhood. Trees provide shade, reduce energy consumption in the summer, help to filter air pollution, and can increase property values.

Design Guidelines

- 49-1 Landscaping shall conform to the City Municipal Code Section 17.68.010, "Landscaping requirements," which states that a maximum of 40% of the front yard setback may be paved for parking and driveways, with an additional 10% for walkways or uncovered patio use. The remaining portion of the yard must be landscaped.
- 49-2 A minimum of two trees should be planted in the front yard. A minimum of three trees should be planted for homes on corner lots where the yard permits full canopy growth.
- 49-3 Bare soil should be planted or mulched with bark, stone, or other suitable materials to avoid unnecessary runoff.
- 49-4 Street trees should be retained. Consult the City Parks and Trees Service at 916-808-5200 for questions regarding the care of street trees. Private tree services are available for consultation before trimming or removal of mature trees on private lots.
- 49-5 Refer to the following lists for more information about recommended species:

Sacramento Tree Foundation

<http://www.sactree.com/>

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)

<http://www.smud.org/en/residential/trees/Pages/index.aspx>

City of Sacramento Urban Forest Division

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/transportation/urbanforest/>

Single-family Residential

- 49-6 Trees species should be selected so that each tree's canopy at full growth can be accommodated by the site. A variety of tree species representing a range of sizes will contribute to the visual interest of the yard and is recommended.
- 49-7 New planting strips located between the sidewalk and street should be a minimum of 6 feet wide to promote the health of shade trees.
- 49-8 Proper tree staking techniques should be followed to promote healthy tree growth.



Native and low water use ornamental plants can significantly reduce water consumption.

Single-family Residential



A conventional spray system is most effective for turf and groundcover.



A drip irrigation system provides deeper watering for shrubs and trees.

50 Irrigation

Design Principle

Irrigation is essential to maintain the health and beauty of a home's landscaping and should be provided for all inf ll homes.

Rationale

The seasonal extremes of the Sacramento climate make regular irrigation of planted areas mandatory. Automatic irrigation ensures regular and consistent watering, and promotes healthy landscaping.

Design Guidelines

- 50-1 An automatic irrigation system should be installed in the front yard to provide consistent coverage of all planted areas. A home on a corner lot should have an automatic irrigation system that covers the yards fronting both streets. Automatic controllers with rain shut-off valves provide greater water conservation.
- 50-2 If there is a front planting strip, the homeowner is responsible for the irrigation and maintenance of it.
- 50-3 Turf and groundcover are more effectively irrigated with a conventional spray system. Head-to-head spray coverage is recommended. Avoid overspray onto sidewalks and adjacent properties.
- 50-4 A drip irrigation system is recommended for shrubs and trees to provide deeper, more even watering. Drip irrigation also permits greater water conservation than a conventional spray system.
- 50-5 Irrigation controls must be screened from view by landscaping or other attractive site materials.

51 Fencing

Design Principle

Fencing must be of high quality materials that are consistent with the style of the home to enhance the overall character of the home and contribute to the positive appearance of the neighborhood.

Rationale

Fencing should be selected to complement the character of the home as well as the overall character of the neighborhood. Front yard fencing should be selected not simply as a security measure, but for its decorative qualities.

Design Guidelines

- 51-1 Fencing shall be located and constructed in conformance with the City Municipal Code Section 15.156, "Fences," and Section 17.76, "Wall, Fence and Gate Regulations." Per Section 17.76, fencing on the front or side yard adjacent to a street of residential properties shall not exceed 4 feet in height, unless it is made of wrought iron or tubular steel, in which case the fencing may be up to 6 feet in height. However, to increase the aesthetic appeal of the Florin Road neighborhood, these Design Guidelines discourage the installation of fences over 4 feet in the front or side yard adjacent to the street.
- 51-2 Fencing must allow unobstructed visibility of the front entrance, and in the case of homes on corner lots, the front and side entrances, to promote visual surveillance of the front yard and aid in crime prevention.
- 51-3 Front yard fencing should have a minimum of 50% transparency.
- 51-4 The style, materials, and color of the fencing should complement the style, materials, and color of the home.
- 51-5 High-quality materials, including wood, metal, stucco, and some forms of vinyl fencing are acceptable fencing materials. Stucco must be smooth plaster.
- 51-6 Chain link fencing is highly discouraged for use as a front yard feature. Solid stucco walls are also discouraged, but stucco may be used in conjunction with other materials.



A tall hedge that provides a good place for intruders to hide should be avoided.



Wooden fence with 50% transparency

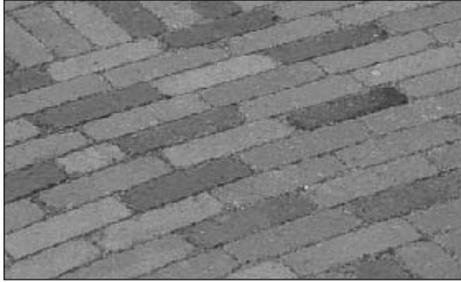


Metal fence with brick column

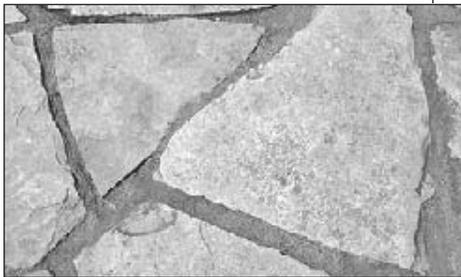


Metal fence with ornamental top

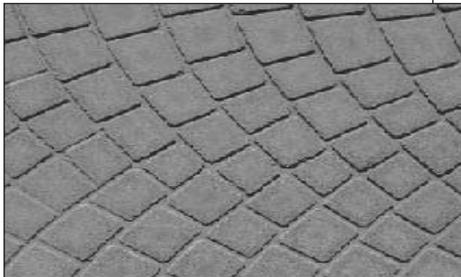
Single-family Residential



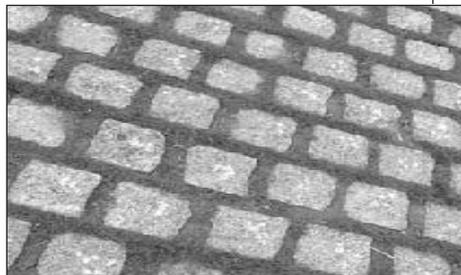
Brick set on sand and gravel base



Flagstone mortared on concrete



Patterned Concrete



Stone with turf areas between blocks

52 Paving/Hardscape Surfaces

Design Principle

The paving materials selected should contribute to the overall appearance of the home. Impervious paving surfaces should be minimized, and limited to the driveway, walkways, and patios.

Rationale

Large impervious surfaces constructed of concrete or asphalt should be minimized at the front of the home. Instead, alternatives, such as brick, stone, concrete pavers, and patterned concrete, should be used as appropriate. Some of these alternative forms of paving can offer the added benefit of minimizing stormwater run-off and the need for supplementary irrigation, as water is able to percolate down through the spaces between paving units.

Design Guidelines

- 52-1 Paved areas shall not exceed those defined by City Municipal Code Section 17.68.010, "Landscaping requirements," which states that a maximum of 40% of the front yard setback may be paved for parking and driveways, with an additional 10% for walkways or uncovered patio use.
- 52-2 Alternative paving surfaces, such as concrete pavers, brick, or stone are encouraged for driveway surfaces to reduce the appearance of large, paved areas.
- 52-3 Alternative paving surfaces that help to keep stormwater runoff on-site are encouraged.

53 Utilities and Storage Facilities

Design Principle

The visibility of utilities and storage facilities should be minimized by placing them at the side or rear of the home and screening them from view from the street.

Rationale

Utilities and service features are less attractive but necessary parts of the home. These features should be placed at the side or rear of the home, and screened by fences and landscaping. Alley access can facilitate placement of and access to these features at the rear of the home.

Design Guidelines

- 53-1 Trash receptacles should be placed in the side or rear yard and adequately screened by landscaping or a side yard fence.
- 53-2 Storage sheds should be located in the rear yard. Placement in the side yard is acceptable if the shed is adequately screened by landscaping or a side yard fence.
- 53-3 Accessory structures should be similar in character and materials to the main building, but subordinate in massing, scale, and height.
- 53-4 Antennae should be mounted at the rear of the home. Satellite dishes should be mounted on the home to minimize their visibility.
- 53-5 Heating and cooling units should not be roof-mounted or placed at the front of the home. Heating and cooling units should be placed in the attic or at the side or rear of the home and screened by a side yard fence or landscaping. Solar panels do not need to be screened.



This utility box should be screened by taller growing plants.



A conspicuous antenna is highly discouraged.

54 Access Ramps

Design Principle

Ramps that provide access to the front or side of the home should be safe, designed to match the style of the home, and constructed of durable materials that complement those used on the home.

Rationale

Ramps that provide universal access to single-family homes should be designed so that they look like they are a part of the home to the greatest extent possible. The ramp should be designed to minimize its size and bulk without compromising safety and ease of access. Materials used should complement those used on the home, i.e., a concrete ramp with brick facing could be used on a brick home, while a wooden ramp might be more suitable for a home with wood lap siding.

Design Guidelines

54-1 Any ramp providing access to a single-family residence should be designed to meet standards found in the Americans with Disabilities Act, available for review at:

www.ada.gov/stdspdf.htm

Under ADA standards, a ramp should be designed with a slope ranging between 1:12 and 1:20 (5 to 8% slope), and should include 60-inch landings at the top and bottom of any run. A handrail should be included on all ramps higher than 6 inches.

54-2 The ramp should be designed so that it does not detract from existing architectural elements at the front of the home. The specific location and angle of the ramp may vary, depending on the design of the home and its location on the lot.

54-3 Ramps should be constructed of sturdy, long-lasting materials, such as wood, brick, or concrete. Ramp materials should complement those used on the home. Where appropriate, facing materials used on the home may be affixed to the side of the ramp.

54-4 Modular aluminum ramps are discouraged from use at the front of the home.

Mixed-Use Development

INTRODUCTION

Mixed-Use Development



Mixed-use building with ground floor retail and residential above.

55 Mixed-Use Development

Design Principle

Mixed-use developments should be designed to activate the street and to promote active walkable corridors and transit friendly communities.

Rationale

Mixed-use development combines commercial development with other uses, such as office and residential. Vertical mixed-use buildings typically have higher residential densities and have ground floor commercial/ retail services. While horizontal mixed-use development incorporates different uses from building to building along the street frontage. Mixed-use development in general creates a more vibrant, active pedestrian environment in and around the public and private realms. Ideal locations may include frontage along Florin Road, side streets and locations adjacent to the transit plaza.

Design Guidelines

Site Design:

- 55-1 Orient the front facades of buildings towards the street edge to create a strong building edge that maximizes visibility to commercial uses and provides eyes on the street.
- 55-2 When mixed-use development is vertical in form, the commercial and office professional uses should be on the first story, with residential above.
- 55-3 When mixed-use development is horizontal in form, the commercial uses should relate to both the street and adjacent residential uses. Buildings should be designed with both connectivity between uses and the type of uses in mind. The use of courtyards and plazas can provide connections yet provide a separation to avoid noise and other impacts.
- 55-4 Locate the majority of the commercial uses within the building along the edge of the sidewalk.
- 55-5 Step back the massing of the building development such that it is at its highest intensity along major streets and at its lowest when adjacent to existing residential development.
- 55-6 Maximize the number of building entries, especially of office and retail businesses, along the façade fronting the major street.
- 55-7 Where possible, locate pedestrian-oriented entries of the upper floor residential units along the street fronting façade.

Mixed-Use Development

- 55-8 Provide privacy for ground floor office and residential units by allowing them to be three feet above the sidewalk level.
- 55-9 Provide parking in the rear or side of the lot, preferably accessed by side roads, and existing alleys.
- 55-10 The entrance to residential uses on the second story should be clearly defined and easily approachable from a public street or sidewalk.
- 55-11 Non-residential facilities should not present a rear elevation to the front or side of any residential unit.
- 55-12 Courtyards could be shared by different uses, such as office and residential. When a courtyard is to be shared by residential units and office or retail businesses, provide individual outdoor spaces for the residential units that are private visually and functionally.
- 55-13 Avoid views to private outdoor residential spaces and circulation from commercial uses to maintain privacy for the residential uses.



This mixed use building has a clearly defined base, and an articulated facade.

Mixed-Use Development

Architectural Elements:

- 55-14 Articulate the front facades with windows, both along the ground floor and upper residential floors.
- 55-15 Allow residential balconies and commercial awnings and signage to protrude four to six feet from the building edge into the sidewalk realm.
- 55-16 The first story should be designed with a large percentage of windows, doors, and other transparent surfaces. Upper stories should have a larger percentage of opaque surfaces, which can be articulated with windows, balconies, and patios.
- 55-17 Emphasize the primary entry of buildings (e.g. entrance lobby) with vertical elements.
- 55-18 Articulate the front facades with rhythm of windows, both along the ground floor and upper residential floors.
- 55-19 Ensure that the ground floor is as transparent as possible to connect the pedestrians and the building users.
- 55-20 Recessed or projecting room volumes, gables or other roof forms that break the roof line should be used to delineate individual rooms and dwelling units on upper floors.
- 55-21 The location and sizing of windows should be used to differentiate between types of uses.
- 55-22 The design of the commercial component of a mixed use project should maintain a strong public presence through clear glass, interior and exterior lighting, display areas, awnings, or signage.

Site Elements:

- 55-23 Landscape front setbacks of the street fronting ground floor residential component of the mixed-use buildings.

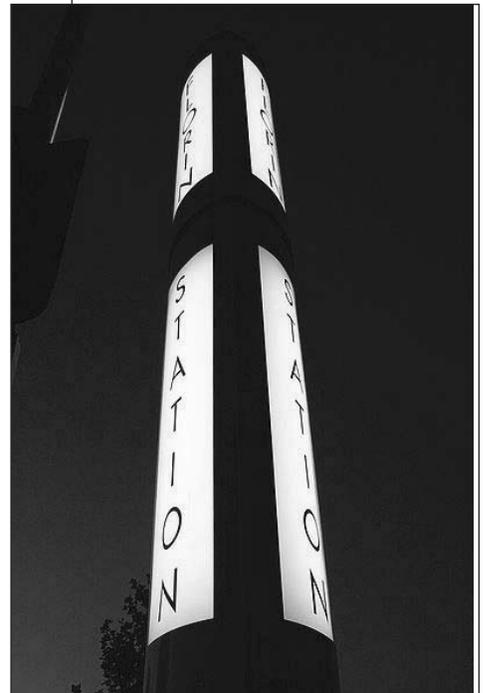
For additional site elements including: lighting, landscaping, irrigation, fencing parking, hardscape surfaces, and utilities, please refer to the appropriate section. Commercial mixed use buildings with retail and office should refer to the Commercial Guidelines section while residential mixed use developments should refer to the Multi-family Residential Guidelines section.

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Florin Light Rail Station Design Guidelines

The Florin Light Rail Station Design Guidelines are intended to be applied to the 22 acres surrounding the Florin Light Rail Station.

At the Florin Road Station, there is a tremendous opportunity to provide quality development which is oriented towards and compatible with the Sacramento Regional Transit (RT) system. It is the goal of the City of Sacramento to have this area develop into a transit oriented development (TOD). Achieving this goal will provide mixed-use housing opportunities for a variety of citizens while improving the opportunities to use rail transit for trip-making – thus providing travel options, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce traffic congestion in the area.



Add Caption



Sacramento Regional Transit-Light Rail

INTRODUCTION CONTINUED FROM ABOVE



Florin Light Rail Station

SITE DESIGN

The Florin Road Light Rail Station Transit Village is envisioned to be an urban mixed-use transit-oriented development TOD, which promotes the use of alternative modes of transportation. Quality pedestrian oriented design which supports walking and cycling and promotes light rail use, should be the focus of the development. The Transit Village shall consist of pedestrian oriented streets, blocks, buildings, and open spaces that reinforce safety and enhance the vitality of the community. The following guidelines are intended to be used in addition to the commercial and residential design guidelines in the design of the private realm, building types, and open space. The Transit Village development should:

- be considered in the context of the Florin Light Rail Station and the context of the surrounding Florin Road Corridor;
- create a comfortable and welcoming mixed-use transit oriented community;
- use a mix of residential and commercial building types to enhance the character of the community;
- provide a variety of commercial and retail services for light rail passengers and for the greater community;
- use green building and sustainable design methods;
- provide adequate pedestrian connections throughout the entire site; and
- create a distinctive character and sense of place for the Florin Road Corridor.

Transit Village



Add caption



Elevated patios



Outdoor seating

56 Private Realm

Design Principle

The “private realm” refers to the buildings and land that are on privately-owned lots and parcels. The private realm should consist of private and semi-private transitional spaces between the public realm and buildings, that serve to enhance the vitality of the community.

Rationale

The design of the private realm can have a significant impact on the quality of the public realm, as private buildings typically provide the edges to streets and open spaces. The guidelines serve to guide those aspects of the private realm that have a direct affect on the surrounding public context.

Design Guidelines

- 56-1 Buildings shall be set back 6 feet from back of sidewalk to allow for spill-out uses from ground floor retail such as outdoor seating.
- 56-2 Where possible, encourage trees within the setbacks to provide additional shade and enclosure for pedestrians.
- 56-3 Allow porches, stoops, etc. within the front setback for residential uses.
- 56-4 Utilize permeable pavers, porous concrete, porous asphalt, reinforced grass pavement (turf-crete), cobblestone block pavement etc. to detain and infiltrate run-off on-site.
- 56-5 Use shared driveways and alleyways to reduce impermeable paving.
- 56-6 If infiltration BMP's are applicable, encourage the use of infiltration planters, rain gardens and infiltration trenches to absorb stormwater.
- 56-7 If infiltration is not a desired goal, utilize flow-through planters and swales and rain gardens with clay, geo-textile or other impermeable material as liners.

57 Blocks

Design Principle

The overall design of the blocks should follow a grid-like pattern.

Rationale

The grid-like pattern is the most efficient use of land. Pedestrian scaled blocks promote walkability and enhance the public realm.

Design Guidelines

- 57-1 The perimeter of the blocks shall not exceed 1,600 feet.
- 57-2 Encourage distinction between buildings on the same block face by varying setbacks, roof heights, stepbacks, building articulation, landscaping treatment, etc to provide a richer pedestrian experience.
- 57-3 Provide variation in fenestration, color, architectural elements, etc. between multiple adjoining units to add interest to the pedestrian environment.
- 57-4 Encourage the development of apartments, live-work row houses, town homes and mixed-use buildings within the same block face to add variety to the pedestrian experience and to create a mixture of uses and types of residential units.
- 57-5 The neighborhood should consist of blocks of mixed use development defined by streets and sidewalks designed for pedestrians and bicycles first, and then, for cars.

Transit Village



Add caption



Add caption

58 Transit Plaza

Design Principle

The transit plaza is envisioned as the hub of the transit village. It should include a plaza with amenities such as shade shelters, benches, trees, and transit oriented retail for use by light rail passengers.

Rationale

The transit plaza is the focal point of the transit village. Users of light rail, both residents and non residents of the Transit Village, should be provided with services and amenities which bolster and enhance light rail use.

Design Guidelines

- 58-1 Improve the existing plaza at the transit station to better serve light rail riders and adjacent uses.
- 58-2 Provide a 25 feet wide multi-use path and landscaping area between the light rail platform and tracks and the adjacent buildings.
- 58-3 Provide a five foot wide planting strip along the tracks facing residential uses.
- 58-4 Include amenities at the transit plaza such as benches, trees and landscaping, pedestrian-scaled lighting and shade structures.
- 58-5 Include special paving at the transit plaza and along promenades leading to the transit plaza to increase visibility and identity.
- 58-6 Provide 10 feet front residential setbacks for buildings that front onto the light rail tracks.
- 58-7 Allow ground floor residential uses facing the light rail tracks to be three feet above grade for privacy.
- 58-8 Allow outdoor seating from small-scale retail uses on the transit plaza to activate the space.

59 Open Space

Design Principle

A variety of open spaces should be incorporated into the overall design of the Transit Village to provide active and passive recreation opportunities for residents.

Rationale

A wide distribution of small open spaces are envisioned to provide more intimate open spaces. Pockets parks can serve daily open space needs and provide visual relief and buffers between development.

Design Guidelines

- 59-1 Ensure pocket parks are no less than 60 feet wide to provide adequate space for users.
- 59-2 Distribute pocket parks and greenways to be within 1/8-mile walking distance from all residents and commercial users.
- 59-3 Program each pocket park with play equipment areas, gathering space, and multi-use play areas.
- 59-4 Ensure provision of minimum five feet wide pathways for ADA access through pocket parks.
- 59-5 Ensure the provision of adequate lighting and trees within pocket parks.



Pocket park

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Sustainability Design Guidelines

The sustainability Design guidelines are intended to provide additional guidance on sustainable practices for design and construction of site and building. The use of sustainable practices, when feasible should be the goal of new development.

The guidelines are separated into Site design guidelines and building design guidelines.

INTRODUCTION CONTINUED FROM ABOVE

SITE DESIGN

63 Site Elements

Design Principle

The proper selection of site elements, consisting of landscape materials, irrigation materials, hardscape materials, and lighting materials will promote a long-lasting, resource efficient, sustainable development.

Rationale

Landscape elements are crucial to the sustainability of new development. Site level landscape design and building design should be considered as a whole. Trees and shrubs provide numerous benefits, such as aesthetics, shade to people and buildings, stormwater management and reducing the heat island effect.

Sustainable site design is the first step in reducing the amount of irrigation required. To conserve water select native and drought tolerant plant species. In addition to plant selection, proper operation and maintenance of the irrigation system should be done regularly to conserve water.

Hardscape materials that are durable and long lasting can reduce maintenance costs and more aesthetically pleasing than asphalt or plain concrete. Permeable materials reduce storm water run off and allows water to infiltrate into the ground. Light colored materials help to reduce the heat island effect.

Design Guidelines

Landscape: Trees and Vegetation

Landscape elements such as trees, shrubs, and groundcovers should be used throughout new development to enhance site and building sustainability.

- 63-1 Tree and plant species should be suitable for the Sacramento climate. Drought tolerant and native species are highly encouraged.
- 63-2 Deciduous shade trees and shrubs should be planted, where appropriate, to shade the west and south sides of buildings/ homes and all paved areas to reduce heat transmission.
- 63-3 Use groundcovers to prevent ground reflection and keep the surface cooler, preventing re-radiation.
- 63-4 For buildings with exposed east and west sides, use vegetation along the east and west walls as it is the most effective way of minimizing heat gain.



Bio-swales collect stormwater runoff and improve run-off water quality.

- 63-4 All planting areas, including those designed to accommodate the 2-foot overhang on parking spaces, should be landscaped with groundcover or other planting materials to reduce stormwater runoff.
- 63-5 Paved and hardscaped surfaces should be shaded by trees, shade structures, or photovoltaic solar panels, when possible, to reduce heat transmission and reduce energy consumption.
- 63-6 Deciduous shade trees and shrubs should be planted on the west and south sides of buildings and homes to minimize solar heat gain and increase energy efficiency.
- 63-7 Alternatives to turf, such as groundcovers that can tolerate foot traffic, are encouraged.
- 63-8 Use 2"-4" of bark mulch in planting beds to retain moisture, control weeds and to promote healthy soil.
- 63-9 Parking lot and building shading with deciduous trees can provide significant reductions in cooling requirements and reduce the urban heat island effect.
- 63-10 Provide rain gardens and stormwater planters to manage stormwater run-off from the disconnected drain spouts and impervious surfaces on-site. Ensure adequate space and design for water to drain to reduce opportunities for ponding and utilize splash pads to minimize erosion under the drain spout.
- 63-11 Ensure medium- to large-canopy trees are planted in the front yards of private development and in greenways, parks and plazas to serve as interceptor trees for rainfall, slowing and reducing the amount of rainfall that falls to the ground.
- 63-12 Meander swales to maximize surface area for treatment.
- 63-13 Encourage the use of landscaping with plants that can withstand pollutants and are effective in their removal. Explore grasses such as Juncus, Carex and Festuca are effective at removing pollutants and are attractive options for landscaping.
- 63-14 The use of bio-swales is encouraged to reduce stormwater runoff.
- 63-15 Use Drainage Swales to provide for surface water infiltration and groundwater recharge.

Irrigation

Every attempt should be made to conserve water by reducing the amount of irrigation required to sustain the landscape.

- 63-16 Landscape design should incorporate measures to conserve water, including plant selection and consideration of subsurface or drip irrigation.

63-17 Irrigate plants in the evening or early morning, to reduce water loss to evaporation.

63-18 Adjust irrigation controllers for seasonal weather conditions.

63-19 Use a shorter two cycle watering schedule, instead of a single long schedule.

Hardscape Materials

Durability, permeability and color should be considered in the selection of hardscape materials.

63-20 Use of permeable paving materials, such as permeable asphalt, grasscrete, and modular pavers, are encouraged to reduce stormwater runoff. Where possible, drainage should be directed into planting areas to increase percolation of water runoff.

63-21 Light colored paving materials should be considered for use as primary paving materials to reduce heat transmission.

63-22 The use of pervious paving and bio-swales is encouraged to reduce stormwater runoff.

63-23 Light colored paving materials are preferred for primary paving materials to reduce heat transmission. Darker colors may be used in small amounts to add visual interest.

63-24 Minimize on-site impermeable surfaces, such as concrete, asphalt and hardscaping.

63-25 Utilize permeable pavers, porous concrete, porous asphalt, reinforced grass pavement (turf-crete), cobblestone block pavement etc. to detain and infiltrate run-off on-site.

63-26 Pervious hardscape materials that reduce the heat island effect and stormwater runoff are encouraged.

63-27 Use of paving materials with recycled content is encouraged.

63-28 Parking lots which are part of new developments with 1 acre or more of impervious area are generally required to provide treatment control measures that capture and treat stormwater runoff through settling, filtration, and /or biodegradation.

Lighting

63-29 Compact fluorescent bulbs and photocell sensors are encouraged to achieve energy efficiency.

63-30 Reduce light pollution at night by properly sizing exterior light fixtures.

63-31 Use solar powered light fixtures where appropriate.



Alternative surfaces such as grass pavers keep stormwater runoff on-site and reduce heat production.



Modular pavers are another attractive alternative that helps to keep stormwater runoff onsite.

BUILDING DESIGN

64 Resource Conservation

Design Principle

New developments and rehabilitation of existing buildings must incorporate building design features that conserve resources.

Rationale

Attention to energy and resource conservation in design will lead to short- and long-term economically and environmentally sustainable development.

Design Guidelines

Energy: Building Orientation

- 64-1 Orient new buildings to minimize exposure to the southwest and west sun to minimize heat gain of buildings.
- 64-2 Orient new lots and buildings with the long axis along a north-south orientation to minimize heat gain.
- 64-3 Configure buildings in such a way as to create internal courtyards to trap cool air while still encouraging interaction with streets and open spaces.
- 64-4 Minimize shade cast by buildings on greenways, parks and open spaces by stepping back upper floors on north-facing sides of buildings on the south-side of open spaces.
- 64-5 Massing design should provide opportunities for daylighting and solar panels. Glazing should be located predominantly on the north and south sides of the structure, with glazing on the west side of the structure minimized unless the west side is the street side.
- 64-6 Configure residential developments so that the majority of units minimize exposure to the south-west and west sun while still allowing plenty of light and ventilation from at least two sides in each unit.
- 64-7 Whenever possible, buildings should be oriented on the site to maximize solar access on southern exposures so that features such as photovoltaic solar panels and daylighting can be incorporated into the architectural design.
- 64-8 Solar access for daylighting and solar panels should be considered in massing design. Glazing should be located predominantly on the north and south sides of the structure. Glazing on the west side of the structure should be minimized, unless the west side of the structure is the street side.

Energy: Passive Cooling

- 64-9 Orient new lots and buildings with the long axis along a north-south orientation to minimize heat gain.
- 64-10 Configure buildings in such a way as to create internal courtyards to trap cool air while still encouraging interaction with streets and open spaces.
- 64-11 Minimize shade cast by buildings on greenways, parks and open spaces by stepping back upper floors on north-facing sides of buildings on the south-side of open spaces.
- 64-12 Plant deciduous trees on the south side of buildings to shade the south face and roof during the summer while allowing sunlight to penetrate buildings in the winter.
- 64-13 Minimize impervious surfaces that have large thermal gain. Plant groundcovers that prevent ground reflection and keep the surface cooler, preventing re-radiation.
- 64-14 For buildings with exposed east and west sides, use vegetation along the east and west walls as it is the most effective way of minimizing heat gain.
- 64-15 Use exterior shades and shade screens on east, west and south-facing windows as alternate methods for blocking sunlight.
- 64-16 Maximize natural cooling by installing high vents or open windows on the leeward side of the building to let the hottest air, near the ceiling, escape. In addition, create low open vents or windows on the windward side that accepts cooler air to replace the hotter air.

Energy: Building Articulation

- 64-17 Provide awnings, canopies and deep-set windows on south facing windows and entries to minimize heat gain.
- 64-18 Use exterior shades and shade screens on east, west and south-facing windows as alternate methods for blocking sunlight.
- 64-19 Use horizontal overhangs, awnings or shade shelters above south windows to block summer sun but allow winter sun. Encourage overhang width to equal half the window height to shade the window completely from early May to mid-August yet allow for winter sun.
- 64-20 For buildings with exposed east and west sides, provide vertical shading or fins.

- 64-21 Maximize natural cooling by installing high vents or open windows on the leeward side of the building to let the hottest air, near the ceiling, escape. In addition, create low open vents or windows on the windward side that accepts cooler air to replace the hotter air.
- 64-22 Ensure that leeward openings have substantially larger total area (50 to 100%) larger than those on the windward side to ensure adequate pressure to facilitate air movement.
- 64-23 Include high ceiling vaults and thermal chimneys to promote rapid air changes and to serve as architectural articulation for buildings.
- 64-24 Use wing walls (vertical solid panels placed along side of windows perpendicular to the wall on the windward side of the building) to accelerate the natural wind speed due to pressure differences.

Energy: Windows and Doors

- 64-25 Skylights are encouraged to daylight the interior floor area, thus reducing energy use and creating a more pleasant retail/commercial environment.
- 64-26 Prismatic glazing is encouraged to increase the energy efficiency of skylights.
- 64-27 Windows should be oriented to maximize controlled daylighting from the south and north.
- 64-28 The use of insulating glazing such as LoE2 is encouraged to increase energy efficiency.
- 64-29 Daylighting should be incorporated into the architectural design of the home, where feasible, to increase energy efficiency.
- 64-30 Energy consumption of buildings can be reduced through design choices. Examples include building orientation that minimizes sun exposure on glazing, use of shade trees to reduce solar gain, reducing interior volume, using light colored roofing materials such as 'cool roof' coating, etc.
- 64-31 Install energy efficient lighting in public and private areas where feasible.
- 64-32 Install measures such as Energy Star rated roofs, strategically placed shade trees, shaded pavement and other landscaping to reduce site and building temperatures.
- 64-33 Where possible, include renewable energy measures such as photovoltaic roofs and ground source heat pumps.
- 64-34 Where feasible, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units should be placed on the north side of the building (if not the street side) to shade the units and minimize energy consumption.

64-35 LED's, Compact fluorescent bulbs and photocell sensors are encouraged to achieve energy efficiency.

64-36 Photovoltaic solar panels or solar shingles such as "solar slate" are encouraged to reduce the home's use of energy from conventional sources.

64-37 The use of "cool roof" options, including lighter colored roofing and reflective coatings, is encouraged to achieve energy efficiency.

Water

64-38 Encourage the use of intensive and extensive green roofs and water collection devices, such as cisterns and rain barrels, to capture rainwater from the building for re-use.

64-39 Utilize disconnected drain spouts to interrupt the direct flow of rainwater from the building to the stormwater system. Integrate these features to articulate building character.

Materials

64-40 Use recycled and sustainability harvested building materials wherever possible.

64-41 Use low voc paints and coatings when feasible, and avoid use of solvent and other materials that negatively impact air quality.

64-42 The use of materials that include recycled content is encouraged.

64-43 Reuse and recycling of materials, and selection of materials which are produced using sustainable methods such as plantation grown wood is encouraged.

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APPENDIX A — ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

These resources provide more information about the neighborhoods, as well as relevant City programs and ordinances.

General Planning Resources

Sacramento Municipal Code

Title 17 of the Sacramento Municipal Code contains information relevant to development standards, including height limits and setbacks. The code is available at:

<http://www.qcode.us/codes/sacramento/>

Go to the zoning code section.

Florin Road Streetscape Master Plan

(Insert Text)

Commercial and Home Improvement Funding

Commercial Revitalization Program

This SHRA program offers free architectural and construction management services for business owners interested in improving the appearance and function of older commercial buildings. Property owners must invest a minimum of \$10,000 in improvements to be eligible. Funding for improvements is provided as a matching rebate up to \$50,000. For more information, contact SHRA at (916) 440-1322.

Florin Road Partnership

<http://www.florinroad.com/>

Grow Sacramento Fund

The Grow Sacramento Fund (GSF) is a non-profit lender providing small business loans under the U.S. Small Business Administration's 7(a) program. GSF offers technical assistance and provides loans between \$25,000 and \$2,000,000 at market rate financing for new and expanding businesses in the City and County of Sacramento. Loans may be used to acquire land and buildings, make leasehold improvements, and purchase machinery and equipment. For more information, contact SHRA at (916) 440-1322.

Targeted Commercial Corridors

Older commercial corridors are key to the economic vitality of the city. Florin Road between Franklin Boulevard to 24th Street is a Targeted Commercial Corridor, which makes it eligible for technical assistance and public funding for commercial development. For more information, contact the City at (916) 808-7223.

Home Repair and Improvement Programs

SHRA administers several home repair and improvement programs, including emergency repair, accessibility, and repair assistance for seniors. Homeowner rehabilitation loans are also available. To learn more about these programs, see the SHRA website or contact the SHRA at (916) 264-1500.

www.shra.org/Content/Housing/HomeRepair/HomeRepairTOC.htm

Historic Preservation Standards

U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior sets the standard for the rehabilitation and maintenance of historic structures. While these Design Guidelines are not intended to set standards for historic structures, some of the information on this National Park Service website may be useful to individuals who want to learn more about how to protect residential properties that are 50 years old or older.

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/tax/rhb/index.htm>

City of Sacramento Historic Preservation

The City's Historic Preservation Department oversees the environmental review of potentially historic structures 50 years old or older. Structures proposed for demolition may also be subject to review as potentially eligible for listing on the City's register of historic landmarks and contributing resources. The City has adopted the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for review of historic preservation projects under Sacramento Municipal Code, Chapter 17.134, which can be found at:

http://www.qcode.us/codes/sacramento/view.php?topic=17-v-17_134&highlightWords=historic+preservation&frames=on

Work done in compliance with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards is considered to have a less than significant impact for purposes of environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Manufactured Homes

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/mhs/mhshome.cfm

Manufactured Housing Institute

The 2000 Manufactured Housing Improvement Act

www.manufacturedhousing.org/lib/showtemp_detail01.asp?id=106&cat=6

California Health and Safety Code

Mobilehomes-Manufactured Housing Act of 1980 (Division 13, Part 2 of the California Health and Safety Code)

www.leginfo.ca.gov/html/hsc_table_of_contents.html

California Manufactured Housing Institute

www.cmhi.org

National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB)

The NAHB website has many resources. Go to “search” and type in “manufactured” or “modular” to call up articles on the subject.

www.nahbrc.com

APPENDIX D — SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDING DESIGN

The City encourages builders and owners to construct structures that are designed, built, renovated, operated or reused in a sustainable and resource-efficient manner. Buildings should be designed to meet certain objectives such as protecting occupant health; using energy, water, and other resources more efficiently; and reducing the overall impact to the environment. These design features are not only the responsible thing to do for the environment and our community but they will also help lower expenses and create a more comfortable living space.

While the City has included a number of sustainability design guidelines in this document, this appendix includes more resources to assist in building cost-effective, sustainable and resource-efficient buildings.

Whole Building Design

U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Program

The LEED program is intended to promote "green" design and construction practices that can result in more environmentally sensitive site design, water quality and management practices, energy conservation, and the use of sustainable materials for New Construction, Existing Buildings, Homes, Commercial Interiors, Core & Shell, Schools, Healthcare, Retail, and Neighborhood Development. For more information, go to:

www.usgbc.org/

Build It Green, New Home Construction Green Building Guidelines, November 2009.

www.builditgreen.org/guidelines--checklists/#Guidelines

Celery Design Collaborative, *San Mateo Countywide Guidelines: Sustainable Buildings*, 2004.

www.recycleworks.org/greenbuilding/gbg_intro.html

National Institute of Building Sciences, Whole Building Design Guide.

<http://www.wbdg.org/>

Energy

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)

SMUD offers a variety of resources, including a reference room, educational workshops and seminars, and a program that promotes the use and evaluation of innovative technologies by consumers.

Overview of SMUD Programs

www.smud.org/en/education-safety/Pages/index.aspx

Promotions, Rebates, and Financing Website

www.smud.org/en/rebates/Pages/index.aspx

Residential Solar Website

www.smud.org/en/community-environment/solar/Pages/index.aspx

Energy Star Program

<http://www.energystar.gov/>

Lighting

California Lighting Technology Center, Residential Lighting Design Guide, Best Practice and Lighting Design to Help Builders Comply with California's 2005 Title 24 Energy Code

<http://cltc.ucdavis.edu/content/view/181/176/>

Energy Design Resources, Day-lighting Design Brief

www.energydesignresources.com/Technology/DaylightingDesign.aspx

Water

California Urban Water Conservation Council, H2ouse: Water Saver Home Website

www.h2ouse.org

Landscaping

Sacramento Tree Foundation, Publications and Guidelines Website,

www.sactree.com/aboutUs/publications.html

Cal Recycle Drought Tolerant Landscaping Guide

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/xeriscaping/>

Materials

California Integrated Waste Management Board, Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Recycling Specifications

www.ciwmb.ca.gov/ConDemo/Specs/

Green Project Specifications

www.ciwmb.ca.gov/greenbuilding/Specs/

Green Product Directories

www.ciwmb.ca.gov/greenbuilding/ToolKit.htm#Product

Cool Roofs

www.consumerenergycenter.org/coolroof/

APPENDIX E — GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Arcade: a roofed passageway with shops on either side.

Balustrade: a railing with supporting columns known as balusters.

Capital: the uppermost section of a column or pillar, which is often decorated.

Cladding: the protective exterior surface of a building, such as wood, metal, brick, or stucco.

Cornice: a crowning, overhanging projection from the roof, usually the uppermost segment of the entablature in classical architecture.

Dormer: a structure projecting from a sloping roof that usually includes a small gable with one or more vertical windows.

Facade: the exterior surface of a building.

Gable: the triangular end of a wall above the eaves that abuts the roof line above it.

Infill: new construction on vacant or redeveloped lots within an established neighborhood.

Manufactured Home: a factory-built home that is shipped to and installed at the site.

Massing: the arrangement of the physical volume of a building.

Mullion Window: a window with vertical and horizontal strips that divide the window into separate panes.

Pitch (of a roof): recorded as a ratio of vertical to horizontal measures. A 5:12 roof, for instance, means 5 inches of vertical rise for every 12 inches of horizontal run.

Plinth: the solid base of a column or pillar, which is often square, round, or rectangular.

Portico: a range of columns or arches connected to or merged with the facade of a building that forms a walkway or porch.

Ribbon Window: A horizontal series of narrow windows across the facade of a building.

Running Gear: the tires, wheels, axles, and springs that allow a manufactured home to be moved from place to place without dismantling it.

Setback: (1) The prescribed distance between the lot line and the edge of the building's footprint. (2) The horizontal distance between the exterior wall of one floor and the next story exterior wall.

Sidelight: an area of framed glass along the sides of a door.

Site-built: constructed at the site of the building without use of prefabricated sections.

Streetwall: the line or "wall" formed by the front facades of buildings on a block or street.

Transom: an area of framed glass at the top of a door or window.