

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4120

REPEALING THE MICHIGAN CITY COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 2114 IN ITS ENTIRETY, INCLUDING ALL AMENDMENTS THERETO AND CURRENT ZONING MAPS, AND ADOPTING REPLACEMENT COMPREHENSIVE ZONING REGULATIONS AND ZONE MAP FOR MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION THEREOF; PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF; AND REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission of the City of Michigan City, Indiana has the responsibility, in accordance with Indiana Code 36-7-4-602 to initiate a proposal to adopt an entirely new, replacement zoning ordinance and rezone map after repealing the entire current zoning ordinance, including all amendments and zone maps, in its entirety; and,

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission of the City of Michigan City, Indiana and the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana have previously adopted a comprehensive plan for the City of Michigan City, Indiana under Indiana Code 36-7-4-500 et seq.; and,

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission of the City of Michigan City, Indiana has prepared new zone maps, indicating the various zoning districts into which the entire incorporated area of Michigan City, Indiana, is divided, and these zone maps have been made a part of and are included in, the proposal to adopt an entirely new, replacement zoning ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, in considering the proposal to adopt an entirely new, replacement zoning ordinance and zone map, the Plan Commission of the City of Michigan City, Indiana and the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana have each considered and paid reasonable regard to:

- (1) the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Michigan City, Indiana;
- (2) the current conditions and the character of current structures and uses in the entire City of Michigan City;
- (3) the most desirable uses for which all property in the City of Michigan City is adapted;
- (4) the need to conserve property values throughout the City of Michigan City; and
- (5) whether the proposed new zoning ordinance and zone maps are consistent with responsible development and growth in the City of Michigan City, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, upon notice having been duly published and public hearings held on October 26, 2010 and on November 23, 2010, pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7-4-604, the Plan Commission of the City of Michigan City, Indiana approved the proposal to adopt an entirely new, replacement zoning ordinance after repealing the entire current zoning ordinance, including all amendments and zone maps, in its entirety, and the Plan Commission of the City of Michigan City, Indiana certified a favorable recommendation of said proposal and this Ordinance, as evidence by Resolution No. 2-10 of the Plan Commission, to the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana; and,

WHEREAS, upon notice having been duly published, a public hearing was held before the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana on December 21, 2010 regarding the adoption of this Ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, the Common Council has reviewed Resolution No. 2-10 of the Plan Commission of the City of Michigan City, Indiana; the Findings of Fact submitted by the Plan Commission of the City of Michigan City, Indiana; the proposed new Zoning Ordinance and Maps and the related information and documentation; and the comments from the public it has received regarding the proposal to adopt the entirely new, replacement zoning ordinance and maps after repealing the entire current zoning ordinance, including all amendments and zone maps, in its entirety; and,

WHEREAS, the Michigan City Common Council has determined that repealing the Michigan City Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance No. 2114, and all of its amendments and zone maps, in its entirety, and adopting a new, replacement comprehensive zoning ordinance in the form of Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof and new zone maps in the form of Exhibit B, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, is in the best interests of the City of Michigan City, Indiana and shall promote the appropriate future development of the City of Michigan City, Indiana; and,

WHEREAS, the Michigan City Common Council has agreed that the Michigan City Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance No. 2114, and all of its amendments and zone maps, should be repealed in its entirety; and,

WHEREAS, the Michigan City Common Council agrees that the proposed new, replacement zoning ordinance, in the form of Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof, and the proposed new zone maps related thereto, in the form of Exhibit B, attached hereto and made a part hereof, should be adopted in their entirety as described herein.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA:

Section 1. That the foregoing recitals are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. That, after reviewing the Plan Commission Resolution No. 2-10 and the related Findings of Fact and reviewing other information provided to the Common Council during the public hearing held on this Ordinance, and the Common Council, as required by IC 36-7-4-603, having given reasonable regard to how the proposed zoning change will affect or conform to: 1) the City's Comprehensive Plan; 2) the current conditions and the character of current structures and uses in the entire City of Michigan City; 3) the most desirable uses for which all property in the City of Michigan City is adopted; 4) the need to conserve property values throughout the City of Michigan City; and 5) whether the proposed change is consistent with responsible development and growth in the City of Michigan City; that, in view of all of the evidence in the record before it and using the appropriate standards to guide its determination, the Common Council finds that it has been demonstrated to be in the best interest of the City of Michigan City that the change in zoning as recommended by the Plan Commission in its Resolution No. 2-10 be approved by the Common Council.

Section 3. That the Michigan City Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance No. 2114, and all of its amendments and zone maps, are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Section 4. That this entirely new, replacement zoning ordinance, together with the related zone maps, to be known as the Michigan City Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance 4120, incorporating, in their exact form, all of the provisions set out the attached Exhibit A and the zone map set out in the attached Exhibit B, are hereby adopted in their entirety.

Section 5. That the Michigan City Plan Commission, the Michigan City Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Michigan City Planning Department are hereby created, in conformance to State Statute, as further set forth in the Michigan City Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance No. 4120 established by this Ordinance and that all current members of such bodies shall continue to serve until the expiration of their terms under the repealed zoning ordinance.

Section 6. That any provision of any existing Michigan City Ordinance in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed.

Section 7. That this Ordinance, after its passage and approval by the Mayor of Michigan City, Indiana, shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in the Michigan City News-Dispatch, a daily newspaper of general circulation.

/s/ INTRODUCED BY: /s/ Richard
Murphy

Adopted this 4th day of January, 2011 by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana.

/s/ /s/ Marc Espar, President Michigan
City Common Council

This Ordinance is approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2010.

/s/ _
Charles E. Oberlie, Mayor
City of Michigan City, Indiana

ATTEST:

Footnotes:

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Editor's note— Ord. No. 4120, adopted Jan. 4, 2011, repealed the former App. C, §§ 160.001—160.021, 160.030—160.034, 160.040—160.054, 160.060—160.065, 160.070—160.080, 160.085—160.100, 160.100—160.165, 160.110, 160.111, 160.115, 160.116, 160.120—160.126, 160.999 and enacted a new App. C as set out herein. For complete derivation see the Code Comparative Table at the end of this volume. Amendments are indicated by parenthetical history notes following amended provisions. The absence of a history note indicates that the provision remains unchanged from the original ordinance. Obvious misspellings and punctuation errors have been corrected without notation. In addition, to facilitate indexing, article numbers have been added. Any other additions made for clarity are indicated by brackets.

Cross reference— Any ordinance providing for zoning regulations saved from repeal, § 1-11(a)(16); any ordinance amending the zoning map or zoning atlas, or rezoning specific property saved from repeal, § 1-11(a)(17); buildings and building regulations, ch. 22; community development, ch. 38; environment, ch. 46; health and sanitation, ch. 58; historical preservation, ch. 62; manufactured homes and trailers, ch. 74; streets, sidewalks and other public places, ch. 86; stopping, standing and parking generally, § 94-191 et seq.; vegetation, ch. 102; waterways, ch. 110; subdivision ordinance, app. B.

State Law reference— Zoning ordinances, IC 36-7-4-100 et seq.

ARTICLE 01. - TITLE, PURPOSE AND ENACTING CLAUSE

Section 01.01 - Preamble and Enacting Clause

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPREHENSIVE ZONING REGULATIONS FOR La PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA, INCLUDING THE INCORPORATED CITIES OF La PORTE AND MICHIGAN CITY, PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, AND FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of La Porte County, Indiana, the City Council of La Porte, Indiana, and the City Council of Michigan City, Indiana, under the authority of IC 36-7-4-100, et seq., as amended, General Assembly of the State of Indiana, and all acts amendatory thereto, that the County and Municipal codes be amended as follows:

The La Porte County Code, La Porte Municipal Code and the Michigan City Municipal Code are hereby amended by adding a new chapter to be known and cited as the Zoning Ordinance.

Section 01.02 - Purpose

THIS ORDINANCE is in accordance with a comprehensive plan, hereafter referred to as the county land development plan and is adopted so that adequate light, air, convenience and access, and safety from fire, flood and other danger may be secured; that congestion in the public streets may be lessened or avoided; that the local environmental heritage be enhanced and protected; and that the public health, safety, comfort, morals, convenience and general public welfare may be promoted. This Ordinance is made with reasonable regard to existing conditions, the character of buildings erected in each district, the most desirable use for which the land in each district may be adapted and the conservation of property values and the overall quality of life throughout the territory under the jurisdiction of the plan commissions of La Porte County, the City of La Porte and the City of Michigan City, Indiana.

Section 01.03 - Scope of Application

- (a) No building or structure, or part thereof, shall hereafter be erected, constructed, renovated, altered or maintained and no new use shall be made of any building or land except in conformity with the provisions of this Ordinance.
- (b) Any building or structure which is erected, repaired, altered, or converted, or any use of premises or land which is begun or changed subsequent to the time of passage of this Ordinance and in violation of any of the provisions thereof is hereby declared to be a public nuisance per se and may be abated by order of any court of competent jurisdiction.
- (c) Nothing in this Ordinance shall be deemed to require a change in the plans, construction, or use of any building on which actual

construction was lawfully begun prior to the effective date of this Ordinance. The construction shall be completed within two years from the effective date of this Ordinance.

- (d) The provisions of this Article shall apply to all buildings, structures and uses in any zoning district, unless otherwise noted.
- (e) The regulations established by this Ordinance shall be the minimum necessary and shall apply uniformly to each class or kind of structure, land, or use.
- (f) This Ordinance shall apply to all areas of La Porte County and the incorporated municipalities of the City of La Porte and the City of Michigan City. Land uses and buildings shall also be subject to all other ordinances of the applicable jurisdiction where the lot is located.

Section 01.04 - County Land Development Plan

- (a) The objective of future land use planning and development in La Porte County and the incorporated municipalities of the City of La Porte and the City of Michigan City considers:
 - (1) Establishment of land use patterns that are logical, orderly, attractive, and convenient;
 - (2) Protection of private investment;
 - (3) Protection of the environment;
 - (4) Efficient use of public resources; and
 - (5) Improvement of the quality of life.
- (b) The policy for land use planning and development considers:
 - (1) Land use patterns involving topographical features and existing land uses;
 - (2) Land use intensity based on current uses and projected demographic trends;
 - (3) Growth patterns and projected land uses and housing needs;
 - (4) Environmental protection, open space, recreational facilities, and agricultural uses; and
 - (5) Existing capital facilities and sound fiscal economic development.
- (c) The policy for the development of public ways, public places and lands, public structures, and public utilities considers:
 - (1) Land available by donation or dedication for public use;
 - (2) Development of public ways within large residential development;
 - (3) Location of public structures and utilities for greatest convenience of use and facility; and
 - (4) Current land use of public land
- (d) In planning for development of future growth and use of this plan, the following additional criteria and documents are considered:
 - (1) Histories of the county and communities, population, and growth trends, as well as physical site conditions;
 - (2) Population densities and land use;
 - (3) Land utilization, including agriculture, forests, and suburban development trends;
 - (4) Conservation of energy, water, soil, ecological and agricultural and mineral resources; and
 - (5) Survey studies, maps, charts, plats, and other descriptive material of development histories and trends within the county.

Section 01.05 - Michigan City North End Plan

Michigan City has forged a collective vision for the redevelopment of the downtown and waterfront and the Michigan City North End Plan. This ordinance is intended to facilitate a transformative change to Michigan City's downtown and waterfront area by doing the following:

- (a) Direct urban growth in the city's North End.
- (b) Develop a fully integrated, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented and transit-oriented environment.
- (c) Create a synergy of uses to support economic development and redevelopment.

- (d) Minimize traffic congestion, inefficient surface parking lots, infrastructure costs and environmental impacts by promoting compact use, pedestrian-friendly and transit-oriented development.
- (e) Regulate building height and placement to achieve appropriate scale along streets and critical mass of development to support transit.
- (f) Establish clear controls on building form and placement to frame a well-defined public realm comprised of human-scale streets, neighborhoods and public spaces, all of which contribute to creating a safe, comfortable and livable environment.
- (g) Advocate the building of civil communities through economically and environmentally sustainable development practices.
- (h) Build and preserve places that are useful, beautiful and meaningful.
- (i) Guide future deliberations and decisions which affect the way people build and live.

Section 01.06 - City of La Porte

This ordinance is intended to encourage redevelopment in the City of La Porte to maintain a traditional, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented community by doing the following:

- (a) Ensure that new development maintains the "traditional" scale and atmosphere that currently exists within the city.
- (b) Ensure that the orientation and placement of buildings on their sites promotes visibility from the street, pedestrian-oriented environment and the connectivity between different land uses.
- (c) Minimize traffic congestion infrastructure costs and environmental impacts by promoting compact, mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly development.
- (d) Capitalize on the opportunity to reconnect the fabric of La Porte by extending the roadway grid system with well-designed streets and sidewalks that promote a walkable community and encourage pedestrian, and bicycle activity, while still accommodating automobiles, and parking.
- (e) Capitalize on the waterfront and bring new meaning and identity to La Porte.
- (f) Create a synergy of uses to support economic development and redevelopment.

Section 01.07 - Michigan City Lakeshore

Through its Comprehensive Plan, Michigan City has articulated its vision for the Lakeshore area, which is bound by the shoreline of Lake Michigan and the City limits on the north, North Karwick Road on the east, U.S. Highway 12 along the south, and Washington Park to the west. This area consists largely of existing low-density residential neighborhoods, limited townhome development along Dunes Cape and South Lake Avenue, and general industrial development fronting on the Amtrak Line Railroad running parallel to U.S. Highway 12. The area also includes Lake Hills Elementary School, Lake Kai wrapped by the Beach Walk development, the Esplanade and Sheridan and Long Beaches, and an area valued for its naturalscape known as Moon Valley. The objectives of the regulations pertaining to this area are to:

- (a) Provide for the build-out of the Lakeshore area;
- (b) Ensure land use patterns are compatible and of quality character to add value to the Lakeshore area;
- (c) Improve area-wide circulation to manage traffic and provide for bicycle and pedestrian amenities;
- (d) Facilitate sustainable development that preserves open space and conserves highly-sensitive resources, including the shoreline as well as the National Dunes, wetlands, and their ecologies; and
- (e) Build a workable plan and regulations that reflect the interests of those who hold a stake in the outcomes.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.1., 2-5-2019)

ARTICLE 02. - ZONING DISTRICTS AND MAP

Section 02.01 - Zoning Districts

The county of La Porte, including the City of La Porte and the City of Michigan City, is divided into the following Districts. Certain districts are only applicable to the county or cities.

Symbol	District Name	Regulated in			
A1	Agriculture	Article 03	County	City of La Porte	City of Michigan City
A2	Agriculture	Article 03			
R1A	Single Family Residential	Article 04			
R1B	Single Family Residential	Article 04			
R1C	Single Family Residential	Article 04			
R1D	Single Family Residential	Article 04			
R1E	Waterfront Residential	Article 04			
R2A	Townhouse	Article 05			
R2B	Townhouse	Article 05			
R3A	Low-Rise Multiple Family Residential	Article 05			
R3B	Mid-Rise Multiple Family Residential	Article 05			
R4	Manufactured Housing Park	Article 06			
B1	Neighborhood Commercial	Article 07			
B2	General Commercial	Article 07			
B3	Highway Commercial	Article 07			
MU	Mixed Use	Article 07			
OS	Office Service	Article 07			
CBD1	Downtown Core	Article 08			
CBD2	Transition or Hamlet Center	Article 08			
M1	Light Industrial	Article 09			
M2	Heavy Industrial	Article 09			
MD	Marina District	Article 10			
AP	Airport	Article 11			

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.2., 2-5-2019)

Section 02.02 - Official Zoning Map

- (a) An official Zoning Map is adopted as a part of this Ordinance, is hereby incorporated in this article by reference. The Zoning Map shows the boundaries of the zoning districts and the applicable zoning district that regulates each parcel of land. Pursuant to IC 36-7-4-610(c) the official zone map is on file and available for inspection and copying during regular business hours at:
 - (1) **La Porte County.** The office of the building commissioner of the county.
 - (2) **City of La Porte.** The office of the City of La Porte clerk-treasurer and the office of the city plan commission in the office of the engineering department of the City of La Porte.
 - (3) **City of Michigan City.** The office of the Michigan City clerk.
- (b) The County Board of Commissioners may amend the Zoning Map for land located outside of the boundary of cities following the procedures outlined in Article 30. The city council may amend the Zoning Map for land located within the boundaries of cities following the procedures outlined in Article 30.

Section 02.03 - District Boundaries Interpreted

Where uncertainty exists with respect to the boundaries of the various districts as shown on the Zoning Map, the following rules shall apply:

- (a) When the exact boundaries of a district are uncertain, they shall be determined by use of the scale on the Zoning Maps.
- (b) Boundaries indicated as approximately following the centerlines of streets, highways, or alleys, shall be construed to follow the centerlines.
- (c) Boundaries indicated as approximately following platted lot lines shall be construed as following the lot lines.
- (d) Boundaries indicated as following railroad lines shall be construed to be the midway between the main tracks.
- (e) Boundaries indicated as following shorelines shall be construed to follow the shoreline, and in the event of change in the shoreline shall be construed as moving with the actual shoreline; boundaries indicated as approximately following the

centerline of streams, rivers, canals, lakes or other bodies of water shall be construed to follow the centerline. Any use or structures extending into or over a lake or other water body shall be subject to the same zoning restrictions as the adjoining land.

- (f) When a right-of-way is vacated, the districts adjoining each side are respectively extended to the center of the area so vacated.

Section 02.04 - Zoning of Vacated Lands

Zoning of vacated areas means whenever any road, alley or other public way shall be vacated, the road, alley or other public way or portion thereof shall automatically be classified in the same zone district as the property to which it attaches.

Section 02.05 - Annexed Land

Where land within the county is annexed to one of the cities it shall retain its existing zoning until such time as the city takes action to rezone the land to another district.

Section 02.06 - District Use Regulations

Each zoning district article includes a schedule of permitted uses indicating uses that are permitted by right, and allowed by special exception. A use that is not listed as permitted or special exception in a district shall not be permitted in that district. Appendix A provides a combined schedule of permitted uses for all districts. A use that is not listed in any zoning district may be permitted upon determination by the enforcement official that the use is clearly similar in nature and compatible with a use that is listed in a particular district. In making this determination, the enforcement official shall consider the following:

- (a) The enforcement official shall consider specific characteristics of the proposed use and compare them to the characteristics of the uses that are listed in the zoning ordinance. Characteristics considered shall include, but are not limited to, traffic generation, types of services offered, types of goods produced, methods of operation, noise, hours of operation and building characteristics.
- (b) If the enforcement official determines that the proposed use is consistent and compatible with a permitted use, the use shall be permitted under that use category. If the enforcement official determines that the proposed use is consistent and compatible with a special exception use, the use shall be allowed with special exception approval. The use shall be subject to all requirements of the similar use.
- (c) A proposed use shall not be permitted in a district where the use is specifically listed in any other district, as shown in Appendix A, or where the enforcement official determines that the use is more similar in nature and compatible with uses listed in another district.
- (d) The use determination of the enforcement official may be appealed to the board of zoning appeals for an interpretation of the use provisions of the zoning ordinance.

ARTICLE 03. - AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

Section 03.01 - Intent

- (a) **A1 Restricted Agricultural District.** The A1 Restricted Agricultural District is established to provide areas of the county for major agricultural operations. The intent of this district is to protect prime agricultural areas from encroachment of residential and commercial sprawl and limit the conflict that can occur between agriculture and residential and commercial development. In order to meet this intent, the district excludes subdivisions and residential developments, other than farmsteads. This district applies to areas of the county designated for traditional agricultural in the County Land Development Plan.
- (b) **A2 Agricultural District.** The A2 Agricultural District is established primarily for agricultural uses, but also allows for limited non-farm rural residential development. The intent of this district is to protect agricultural areas from encroachment of residential

and commercial sprawl by limiting the amount of residential development. This district applies to areas of the county designated for rural estate in the County Land Development Plan. This may also apply to planned growth or urban expansion areas where the current use of the land is agricultural and there is not a short term need for residential development.

Section 03.02 - Uses

Use and development of land and buildings shall only be for the following specified uses, unless otherwise provided for in this Ordinance. Uses are grouped into major categories and only those uses listed under each category are permitted. Land and/or buildings in the districts indicated at the top of the Table may be used for the purposes denoted by the following abbreviations:

P: **Permitted Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for the purposes listed by right.

S: **Special Exception Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for this purpose by obtaining Special Exception approval when all applicable standards cited in [Article 24](#) Special Exception Review Requirements and Procedures.

-: **Not Permitted.** The use is not permitted in the district. Uses not listed in the table are also not permitted. Uses that are not listed in any district of the zoning ordinance, as shown in Appendix A, may be allowed based upon a similar use determination in accordance with [Section 02.06](#).

Table 03.02
Schedule of Permitted Uses

Use	A1	A2	Use Requirements
Residential limited to the following:			
Single-family detached dwellings	P ^[2]	P	14.01(a)
Home occupations	P	P	14.01(b)
Accessory Dwelling Units	S	S	14.01(c)
Agriculture and animal-related uses limited to the following:			
Agricultural uses	P	P	
Confined feeding operations	S	S	14.02(a)
Boarding stables	P	P	14.02(b)
Farm implement dealers	S	S	
Farm seasonal worker housing	P	P	
Grain elevator and storage	P	P	
Hatcheries	P	P	
Keeping of horses and livestock	P	P	14.02(c)

Kennels	P	P	
Livestock yards	S	S	
Locker plants	S	-	
Plant nursery and commercial greenhouses	P	P	
Produce terminals	P	P	
Roadside stands	P	P	<u>14.02(d)</u>
Veterinary hospital for large animals	S	S	
Veterinary hospital for small animals	S	S	
Retail trade limited to the following:			
Feed stores	P	P	
Lawn & garden supply, greenhouse, and retail nurseries without outdoor sales	S	S	
Lawn & garden supply, greenhouse, and retail nurseries with outdoor sales	S	S	
Gift, souvenir handicraft stores	S	S	
Produce markets	S	S	
Services limited to the following:			
Taxidermists	S	S	
Accommodation and food services limited to the following:			
Bed & breakfasts	S	S	<u>14.06(a)</u>
Entertainment and recreation limited to the following:			
Archery ranges	S	S	
Campgrounds	S	S	
Forestry/wildlife preserve	P	P	
Golf course and country clubs	-	S	

Parks/playgrounds	P	P	
Shooting ranges, indoors/outdoors	S	S	
Civic, religious, social assistance organizations limited to the following:			
Cemeteries	S	S	<u>14.10(b)</u>
Public administration limited to the following:			
Government buildings excluding correctional facilities	-	P	
Museums, civic buildings and landmarks preserved for public inspection	-	P	
Transportation and warehousing limited to the following:			
Airstrips	S	S	<u>14.13(a)</u>
Utilities limited to the following:			
Public utility buildings	P	P	
Transmission lines for gas, oil and electricity	P	P	
Utility substations	S	S	
Single accessory wind energy conversion systems	S	S	<u>14.15(b)</u>
Commercial wind energy conversion systems	S	-	<u>14.15(b)</u>
Wireless communication facility - collocation	P	P	<u>14.15(c)</u>
Wireless communication facility tower	S	S	<u>14.15(c)</u>
Wireless communication facility on institutional site	S	S	<u>14.15(c)</u>
Construction			
Concrete and gravel crushing	S	S	<u>14.16(a)</u>
Landscaping services	P	P	<u>14.16(a)</u>
Waste processing and disposal			
Sanitary landfills	S	S	<u>14.17(d)</u>
Mining			

Footnotes:

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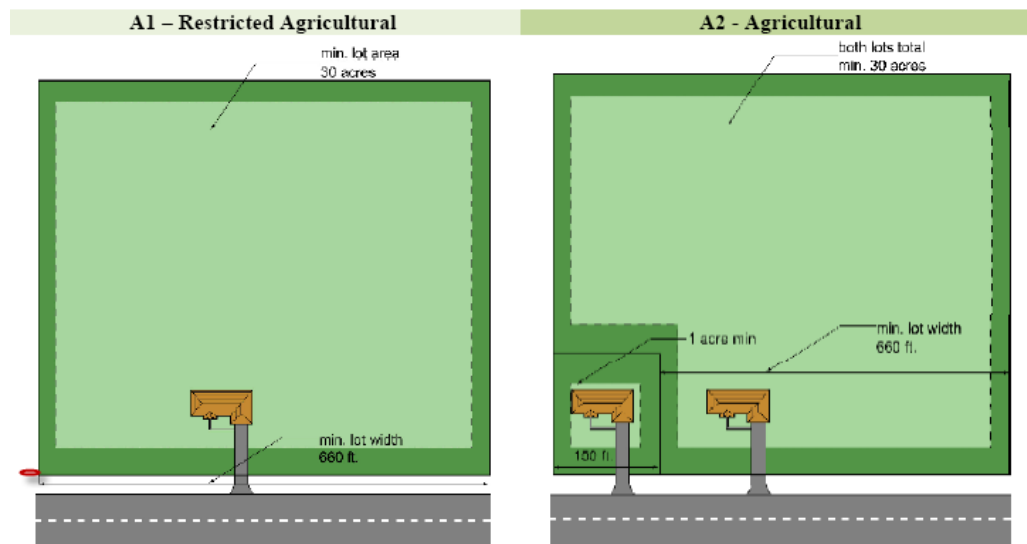
Residential uses in the A1 District shall be limited to agricultural farmsteads. Development of residential uses that are not under ownership by the owner, operator or employee of an agricultural use shall not be permitted.

Section 03.03 - Lot Area and Width Requirements

All lots shall meet the following minimum area and width requirements. No new lots shall be created or altered in a manner that does not comply with the following requirements.

Table 03.03
Lot Area And Width Requirements

District (a)	Min. lot size (g)		
	Lot area (acres) (b)	Lot width (ft.)(c)(d)(e)	Max. res. density (du/ac.)
A1 — Restricted Agricultural	30	660	0.033
A2 — Agricultural	30	660	0.067 (f)
	1 (f)	200 (f)	



- (a) **Subdivision of Land.** All divisions to land shall be subject to the requirements set forth in the Subdivision Regulations of La Porte County, City of La Porte or City of Michigan City, as applicable.
- (b) **Lot Area Calculation.** Lot area is calculated based upon the net area of the lot, measured in the horizontal plane, exclusive of any area that is part of a public road right-of-way, private road easement or submerged land beneath the ordinary high water

mark of a lake, river or stream.

- (c) **Lot Width and Frontage.** Lot width shall be measured as a straight line between the side lot lines at the minimum front yard setback of the district. All lots shall have frontage along a public road. The width along the road shall be sufficient to meet the lot width requirement at the minimum front yard setback.
- (d) **Dominant Parcel.** The dominant tract or parcel from which any newly created lot has been divided from must also maintain the required lot width.
- (e) **Depth to Width Ratio.** All newly created lots shall have a lot depth of no more than four times the width (i.e. maximum 4:1 depth to width ratio).
- (f) **A2 Residential Lots.** In the A2 District, lots less than 30 acres may be created as follows:
 - (1) One lot may be subdivided from a dominant parcel for each whole 30 acres of the dominant parcel, as illustrated in the following schedule:

Parcel size	Number of new lots permitted
30 acres	1 new lot
60 acres	2 new lots
90 acres	3 new lots
1 new lot for each additional 30 acres	

- (2) The new lot that is subdivided shall be at least one acre in area and have at least 200 feet of road frontage.
- (3) The dominant parcel may be less than 30 acres, provided the combined area of the dominant parcel and the new lot totals at least 30 acres.
- (4) The remaining dominant parcel must have at least 660 feet of road frontage.
- (5) Dividing of parcels where all resulting parcels are at least 30 acres shall not count towards the above number of allow new lots.
- (g) **Nonconforming Lots.** Lots of record that were in existence prior to the effective date of this ordinance may be used subject to the provisions of the nonconforming lot regulations of [Section 29.03](#).

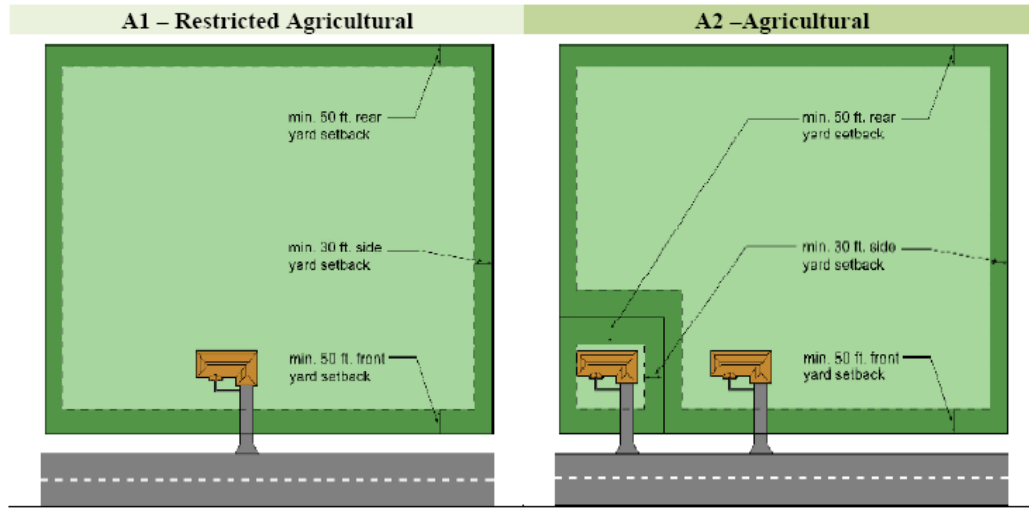
Section 03.04 - Building Dimensional Requirements

All structures shall be subject to the dimensional regulations of the following table.

Table 03.04
Building Dimensional Requirements (a)

District	Max. building height (b)		Front yard	Min. setbacks (ft.) (c, d, e, f)		Waterway (g, h)	Min. floor area	
	Height (ft.)	Height (st.)		Side yard	Rear yard		Total (sq. ft.)	First floor (sq. ft.)
A1 — Restricted	—	—	50	30	50	75	1000	800

Agricultural								
A2 — Agricultural	45	2.5	50	30	50	75	1000	800



- (a) **Accessory Structures.** Residential accessory structures shall be regulated under the requirements of [Article 16](#). Buildings used for agricultural purposes shall not be considered accessory structures regulated by [Article 13](#).
- (b) **Height Exceptions.** No structure shall exceed the maximum height of the district except for the allowable exceptions to height limits contained in [Section 15.02](#).
- (c) **Projections into Yards.** All required yard spaces shall remain as landscaped open space, except for pavement, accessory structures and architectural features that are allowed to extend or project into required setbacks under [Section 15.01](#).
- (d) **Setback from Road.** The front yard setback shall be measured from the road right-of-way or private road easement.
- (e) **Corner Lots.** Corner lots shall provide the minimum front yard setback from both road frontages.
- (f) **Double Frontage Lots.** In all districts, where a double frontage lot backs-up to a roadway, the minimum required front or roadside setback shall be required from both road rights-of-way.
- (g) **Wetlands.** A minimum setback of 50 feet shall be maintained from all wetlands. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of natural resource preservation guidelines contained [in] [Article 22](#).
- (h) **Waterway Setback.** The waterway setback shall be measured from the shoreline of the lake, river or stream. In no instance shall any structures other than docks, seawalls, retaining walls, sidewalks, boardwalks, and patios be permitted within the minimum waterway setback. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of Natural Resource Preservation Guidelines.

ARTICLE 04. - SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

Section 04.01 - Intent

- (a) **R1A Residence District.** The R1A Single Family Residential District is established to include areas of low density single-family residences and limited agricultural uses. Certain other institutional, social and recreational uses are also included in this district, such as schools, child care and recreational uses. The intent is to create a transitional residential area in the planned urban expansion areas of the county designated in the County Land Development Plan.
- (b) **R1B Residence District.** The R1B Single Family Residential District is established to include areas of moderate density single-family residences. Certain other institutional, social and recreational uses are also included in this district, such as schools, child

care and recreational uses. This district may apply to outlying areas of incorporated cities with larger lot development. This district may also apply to unincorporated areas of the county that are identified in the County Land Development Plan for planned urban expansion adjacent to established cities where sufficient public services are available to support the density. This district is intended for areas where community sewer is available or scheduled in the near future.

- (c) **R1C Residence District.** The R1C Single Family Residential District is established to include urban neighborhoods with moderate sized lots and larger single family dwellings. Certain other institutional, social and recreational uses are also included in this district, such as schools, child care and recreational uses. The intent is to maintain and enhance traditional, walkable, pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods and to provide for infill development that is consistent with the established character of the neighborhood. The R1C is only intended for incorporated areas of cities where all necessary utilities and community services are available to serve a higher density population.
- (d) **R1D Residence District.** The R1D Single Family Residential District is established to include urban neighborhoods with small lots. This district will include single family and two family dwellings. Certain other institutional, social and recreational uses are also included in this district, such as schools, child care and recreational uses. The intent is to maintain and enhance traditional, walkable, pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods and to provide for urban infill development that is of a form and character consistent with established historic neighborhoods. The R1D is only intended for incorporated areas of cities where all necessary utilities and community services are available to serve a higher density population.
- (e) **R1E Waterfront Residence District.** The R1E Waterfront Residential District is established to apply to existing, small-lot residential areas and to protect lake views and the sensitive natural environs of the waterfront. The principal use of this district is single-family detached dwellings and ancillary uses, along with commercial use of dwellings by special exception. Certain other community and recreational uses are also included in this district. The intent of this district is to conserve the character and value of these well-established waterfront neighborhoods, by preventing overbuilding of small lots and protecting against construction of new residences that are out of scale with the surrounding homes. Furthermore, the intent is to preserve the highly-valued amenity of the lakefront by maintaining views of Lake Michigan, preserving forest cover, and protecting the sensitive environment and ecology of the sand dunes, coastal wetlands, and streams and drainageways. The R1E district is intended only for the existing, historic waterfront neighborhoods and appropriately scaled infill development. Given the existing built environment and its character, this district is not intended for new, larger-scale development.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.3., 2-5-2019)

Section 04.02 - Uses

Use and development of land and buildings shall only be for the following specified uses, unless otherwise provided for in this Ordinance. Uses are grouped into major categories and only those uses listed under each category are permitted. Land and/or buildings in the districts indicated at the top of the Table may be used for the purposes denoted by the following abbreviations:

- P: **Permitted Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for the purposes listed by right.
- S: **Special Exception Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for this purpose by obtaining Special Exception approval when all applicable standards cited in Article 24 Special Exception Review Requirements and Procedures.
- : **Not Permitted.** The use is not permitted in the district. Uses not listed in the table are also not permitted. Uses that are not listed in any district of the zoning ordinance, as shown in Appendix A, may be allowed based upon a similar use determination in accordance with Section 02.06.

Table 04.02
Schedule of Permitted Uses

Use	R1A	R1B	R1C	R1D	R1E	Use Requirements
Residential limited to the following:						

Single-family detached dwellings	P	P	P	P	P	<u>14.01(a)</u>
Single-family attached/townhouses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multiple-family dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multiplex	-	-	-	-	-	-
Live-work unit	-	-	-	-	-	-
Two-family dwellings including duplexes and twin homes	-	-	-	P	-	<u>14.01(a)</u>
Home occupations	P	P	P	P	P	<u>14.01(b)</u>
Accessory Dwelling Units	S	S	S	S	S	<u>14.01(c)</u>
Agriculture and animal-related uses limited to the following:						
Agriculture	P	P	-	-	-	
Keeping of horses and livestock	P	P	-	-	-	<u>14.02(c)</u>
Retail trade and Services limited to the following:						
Planned neighborhood shopping centers	-	-	S	S	-	<u>14.03(c)</u>
Accommodation and food services limited to the following:						
Bed & breakfasts	S	S	S	S	S	<u>14.06(a)</u>
Health care and social assistance limited to the following:						
Day care centers, commercial	S	S	S	S	S	<u>14.08(a)</u>
Day care homes, residential licensed for 12 or fewer children	P	P	P	P	P	
Foster care homes	P	P	P	P	P	
Funeral homes/mortuaries	-	-	S	S	-	<u>14.08(b)</u>
Group homes licensed for 8 or fewer residents	P	P	P	P	P	

Nursing homes and senior assisted living	-	-	-	S	-	<u>14.08(c)</u>
Entertainment and recreation limited to the following:						
Boat clubs	S	S	S	S	S	
Forestry/wildlife preserve	P	P	P	P	P	
Golf course and county clubs	S	S	S	S	S	
Parks/playgrounds	P	P	P	P	P	
Civic, Religious and Social Organizations limited to the following:						
Cemeteries	-	-	S	S	-	<u>14.10(a)</u>
Places of public assembly	S	S	S	S	-	<u>14.10(b)</u>
Community centers	S	S	S	S	S	
Educational services limited to the following:						
Libraries	P	P	P	P	P	
Schools, elementary, middle and high	P	P	P	P	P	
Public administration limited to the following:						
Government buildings excluding correctional facilities	P	P	P	P	P	
Museums, civic buildings and landmarks preserved for public inspection	P	P	P	P	P	
Utilities limited to the following:						
Public utility buildings	S	S	S	S	S	
Transmission lines for gas, oil and electricity	P	P	P	P	P	
Utility substations	S	S	S	S	S	
Single accessory wind energy conversion systems	S	S	S	S	S	<u>14.15(b)</u>

Wireless communication facility - collocation	P	P	P	P	P	<u>14.15(c)</u>
Wireless communication facility on institutional site	S	S	S	S	S	<u>14.15(c)</u>

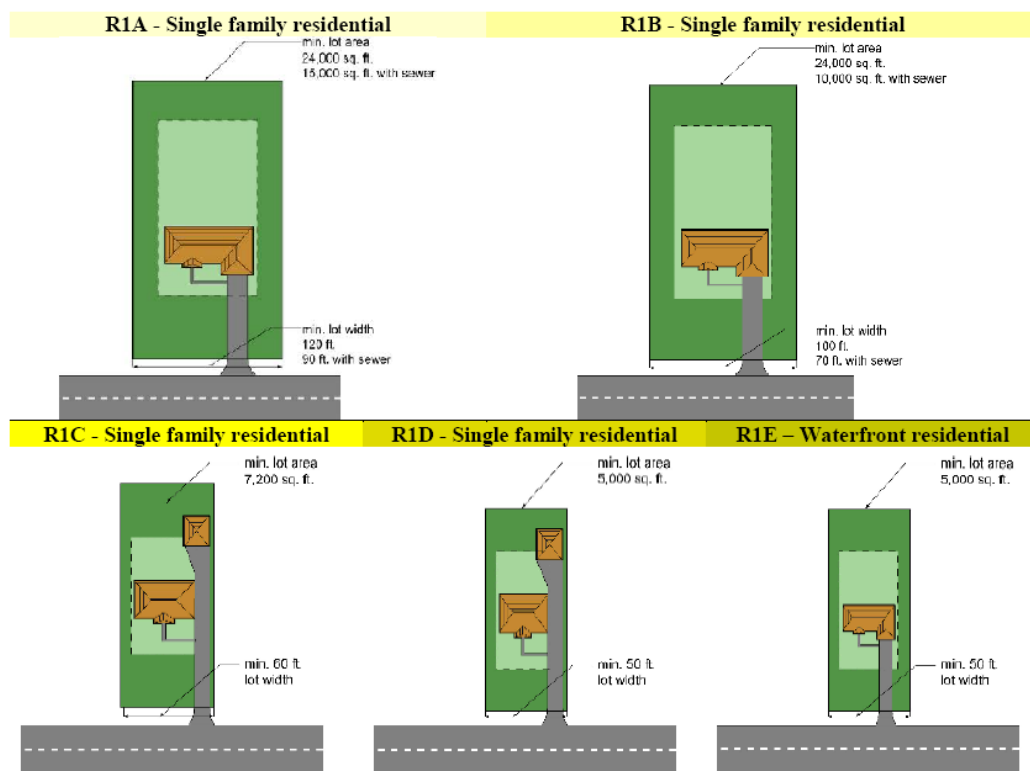
(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.4., 2-5-2019)

Section 04.03 - Lot Area and Width Requirements

All lots shall meet the following minimum area and width requirements. No new lots shall be created or altered in a manner that does not comply with the following requirements.

Table 04.03
Lot Area And Width Requirements

District (a)	(b)	Min. lot size (h)		Max. res. density (dwellings/ac.)
		Lot area (sq. ft.) (c)(d)	Lot width (ft.) (d)(e)(f)(g)	
R1A - Single family residential (h)	Individual septic	24,000	120	1.8
	Community sewer or cluster system	15,000	90	2.9
R1B - Single family residential (h)	Individual septic	24,000	100	1.8
	Community sewer or cluster system	10,000	70	4.4
R1C - Single family residential	Community sewer or cluster system required	7,200	60	6.1
R1D - Single family residential	Community sewer required	5,000	50	8.7
R1E - Waterfront residential	Community sewer required	5,000	50	8.7



- (a) **Subdivision of Land.** All divisions to land shall be subject to the requirements set forth in the Subdivision Regulations of La Porte County, City of La Porte or City of Michigan City, as applicable.
- (b) **Community Sewer.** Community sewer refers to a community or municipal wastewater system. All lots not served by community sewer shall be subject to State and County Health Department regulations regarding accommodation of septic or other onsite wastewater treatment systems, which may require larger lot sizes than those indicated in Table 04.03. Any new lots created in the R1C, R1D or R1E must be served by community sewer. Community sewer may include onsite cluster systems.
- (c) **Lot Area Calculation.** Lot area is calculated based upon the net area of the lot, measured in the horizontal plane, exclusive of any area that is part of a public road right-of-way, private road easement or submerged land beneath the ordinary high water mark of a lake, river or stream.
- (d) **Lots not Part of a Major Subdivision.** In the unincorporated areas of the county, lots that are created through the recording of a minor subdivision plat shall be required to meet the following requirements:
 - (1) The minimum lot area shall be one acre.
 - (2) The minimum lot width shall be 200 feet.
- (e) **Lot Width and Frontage.** Lot width shall be measured as a straight line between the side lot lines at the minimum front yard setback of the district. All lots shall have frontage along a public road or street. The width along the road shall be sufficient to meet the lot width requirement at the minimum front yard setback.
- (f) **Dominant Parcel.** The dominant tract or parcel from which any newly created lot has been divided from must also maintain the required lot width.
- (g) **Depth to Width Ratio.** All newly created lots shall have a lot depth of no more than four times the width (i.e. maximum 4:1 depth to width ratio).
- (h) **Nonconforming Lots.** Lots of record that were in existence prior to the effective date of this ordinance may be used subject to the provisions of the nonconforming lot regulations of [Section 29.03](#).
- (i) **Recreation Area.** All residential subdivisions containing more than 40 lots shall provide an active recreational area as required by the Subdivision Regulations.

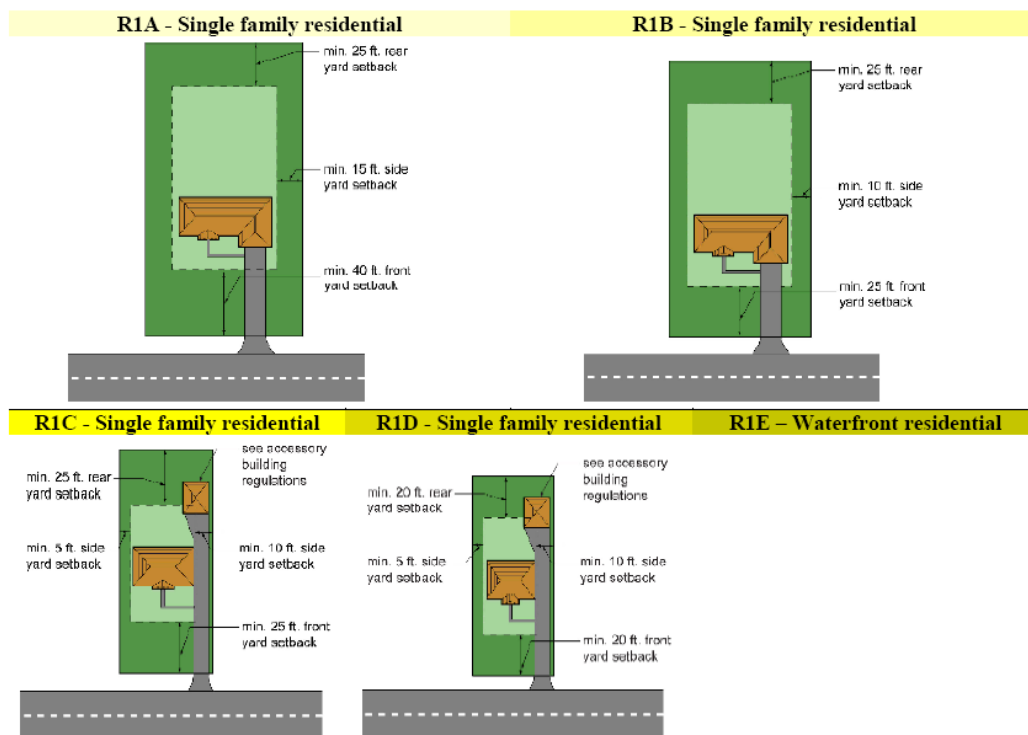
All structures shall be subject to the dimensional regulations of the following table.

Table 04.04
Building Dimensional Requirements (a)

District	Max. building height (b)		Min. setbacks (ft.) (c, d, e, f, g)						% Lot coverage (j)		Min. floor area	
	Height (ft.)	Height (st.)	Front yard	Interior Side yard ¹	Side Street Yard	Total both sides	Rear yard	Water-way (h, i)	Building	Imper. surface	Total (sq. ft.)	First floor (sq. ft.)
R1A - Single family residential	35	2.5	40	15	40	30	25	75	35%	45%	1000	800
R1B - Single family residential	35	2.5	25	10	25	20	25	75	35%	45%	1000	800
R1C - Single family residential	35	2.5	25	5	25	15	25	75	45%	55%	1000	800
R1D - Single family residential	35	2.5	20	5	20	15	20	75	45%	55%	1000	800
R1E - Waterfront residential	35	2.5	20	7	20	14	20	75	50%	55%	1000	800

Table Notes:

1. See Subsection (k) below.



- (a) **Accessory Structures.** Accessory structures shall be regulated under the requirements of [Article 16](#).
- (b) **Height Exceptions.** No structure shall exceed the maximum height of the district except for the allowable exceptions to the height limits contained in [Section 15.02](#).
- (c) **Projections into Yards.** All required yard spaces shall remain as landscaped open space, except for pavement, accessory structures and architectural features that are allowed to extend or project into required setbacks under [Section 15.01](#). Driveways and other paved or gravel areas for vehicles shall not cover more than 40 percent of the front yard area. At least 60 percent of the front yard shall remain as landscaped green space.
- (d) **Setback from Road.** The front yard setback shall be measured from the road right-of-way or private road easement.
- (e) **Corner Lots.** Corner lots shall provide the minimum side street yard shown in Table 04.04, Building Dimensional Requirements. The longer road frontage shall be considered the side-street. The enforcement official may adjust the front lot line designation based upon the orientation of the building on the lot and adjacent lots.
- (f) **Double Frontage Lots.** In all districts, where a double frontage lot backs-up to a roadway, the minimum required front or roadside setback shall be required from both road rights-of-way.
- (g) **Driveway Access.** Corner and double frontage residential lots shall only have driveway access from one road, which shall be the lesser traveled road as determined by the enforcement official.
- (h) **Wetlands.** A minimum setback of 50 feet shall be maintained from all wetlands. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of natural resource preservation guidelines contained [in] [Article 22](#).
- (i) **Waterway Setback.** The waterway setback shall be measured from the shoreline of the lake, river or stream. In no instance shall any structures other than docks, seawalls, retaining walls, sidewalks, boardwalks, and patios be permitted within the minimum waterway setback. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of Natural Resource Preservation Guidelines.
- (j) **Maximum Lot Coverage.** The percentage of the net lot area covered by buildings and impermeable surfaces shall be shown on all building permit plans, including those of accessory building(s) that individually or cumulatively exceed 144 square feet. The maximum lot coverage for buildings and impermeable surface shall be measured as follows:
 - (1) The building coverage shall be calculated as the ratio of the footprint of all buildings, including the principal building, garages and detached accessory buildings, to the net area of the lot.
 - (2) The total impermeable surface coverage shall be calculated as the ratio of the ground area covered by all principal and

accessory buildings and structures, decks, pools, pavement, parking, loading, storage areas and normal pool of wet detention basins to the net lot area.

(k) **Waterfront View Protection.**

(1) **Scope of Application.** The Waterfront View Protection standards shall apply:

- (a) To all properties located from the highest point of the dune immediately south of the Lake Shore Drive, extended, northward to Lake Michigan, from the eastern limits of Washington Park on the west to the end of the City limits on the east.
- (b) To all new buildings or any additions to existing buildings that would increase the width of the building measured parallel to the shoreline or nearest park lot line.

(2) **Building Side Yards.** The total of both side yards shall be at least 30 percent of the lot width where the structure is located.

(3) **Building Height Limits.** The maximum height of any principal building shall be 35 feet.

- (a) The height of a building shall be measured from the highest point of the roof to the highest level of the existing grade of the lot where it adjoins the building wall or structure. For this purpose, existing grade shall mean the natural, undisturbed grade, before it is altered by land clearing, berming, or preparation and before construction begins.
- (b) The only exception to building height shall be chimneys, which shall be no more than five feet taller than the highest point of the roof.
- (c) All roofs shall have a minimum roof pitch of 4:12. The longest ridge line of the roof shall be roughly perpendicular to the shoreline; or for buildings at an angle, the ridge line most perpendicular to the shoreline (within 45 degrees of perpendicular).

(4) **Waterfront Setback.** The waterfront setback shall be measured from the shoreline at established normal water level.

(5) **Uses Permitted.** The uses permitted shall be regulated by the underlying zoning district. The review and approval process applicable in the underlying zoning district shall be followed.

(l) **Standards Applicable to the R1E District.**

(1) **Subdivision of Land.** Any subdivision or re-subdivision of land shall require a concept plan followed by a development plan followed by a primary plat for review and approval by the Plan Commission at a public hearing in compliance with the requirements of the 1400 Series of Indiana Code 36-7-4 prior to submission of an application for Primary Plat review.

(a) **Concept Plan.** All information required for a concept plan as per Subdivision Ordinance Article 05, Section 01 shall be submitted;

(b) **Development Plan.** The information required to be submitted includes:

- 1. A map detailing the proposed vehicle and pedestrian systems including:
 - a. Street layout and cross-sections;
 - b. Points of ingress and egress and traffic control devices;
 - c. Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements;
 - d. Common parking areas, as applicable;
 - e. Location, arrangement, and number of lots;
 - f. Minimum area, width, and depth of lots;
 - g. Areas of common open space or recreation within the proposed development;
 - h. Topography, with one-foot contours indicated and areas where slopes exceed 12 percent clearly delineated; and
 - i. All protected trees as set out in Section 17.02, Landscaping Requirements, including Latin name (Genus and species).
- 2. An indication of each proposed phase within the development and land to remain undeveloped;
- 3. Proposed building architecture (bulk, scale, and form) and materials for all applicable uses, including at least two

building elevations; roof plan indicating orientation of roof pitches and direction of gables; and site design standards;

4. A proposed drainage plan, including the location and capacity of proposed storm sewer and other stormwater management facilities and proposed alternative methods for handling storm water (e.g. structural and nonstructural best management practices (BMPs)) all in compliance with stormwater performance standards and the provisions of Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances; and
5. A dune protection plan to protect both foredunes and backdunes from breach, blowout, and general erosion due to development.

(2) **Traffic Management.** Any subdivision of land into 10 or more lots (including lots in all phases of larger subdivisions) shall require a traffic impact analysis conducted by a traffic engineer licensed by the State of Indiana. At a minimum, the analysis shall include:

- (a) A statement of how the development plan is designed to provide for safe vehicular access to/from and circulation within the development without reducing level of service;
- (b) Evidence that the design and location of proposed street and highway access points minimize safety hazards and congestion;
- (c) Evidence that the points of access to collector and local streets, and internal traffic circulation is compatible with the existing and any planned streets in adjacent developments; and
- (d) Proof that the traffic carrying capacities of adjacent streets and highways is sufficient to safely and efficiently accept traffic generated by the new development as evidenced by:
 1. Trip generation data and model outputs based on the travel characteristics and land uses, densities, or floor areas, as applicable, of the parcel proposed for development; and
 2. Capacity analysis for the adjacent streets from which the land proposed for development takes access, including existing and proposed Levels of Service (LOS), traffic counts for existing peak hour and average daily traffic (ADT) methods taking seasonal impacts of the proposed development into consideration for both pre- and post-development conditions.
- (e) Evidence that entrances, streets, and internal traffic circulation facilities in the development plan are compatible with existing and planned streets and adjacent developments.

(3) **Neighborhood Conservation.**

- (a) **Purpose.** The City includes areas that have been developed for many years. Therefore, applying regulations to existing development has created situations in which existing lot dimensions and building footprints do not strictly comply with the requirements, even though they complied at the time they were permitted and constructed. The fact that these nonconformities were at one time conforming means that they are now deemed "legally nonconforming" and therefore, are permitted to continue without substantive changes until site, building or structure, or land use changes are proposed.

The purpose of this Subsection is to enable reinvestment on developed, nonconforming lots and new investment on vacant lots provided property improvements preserve and are compatible with the character and bulk and scale of development. A demonstration of conformance may warrant compliance with the standards of this Section or may allow adaptation to alternate development standards by the enforcement official without requiring hardship or a variance process. Further, lawfully constructed buildings, structures, and platted lots may be deemed conforming rather than nonconforming.

A number of properties are nonconforming by reason of the lot area, width, or width-to-depth ratio, building setbacks, and due to the percent of building or impermeable surface coverage. These nonconformities effect both developed and vacant lots, as applicable. A nonconforming designation imposes limitations on the ability to alter, expand, improve, or replace buildings as provided in Section 29.02, Nonconforming Structures and Buildings, and

Section 29.03, Nonconforming Lots. Furthermore, such designation may also affect loan approval or require variances prior to property improvement. These limitations deter investment and reinvestment and the ability to sustain a quality character and economic integrity of the neighborhood over time.

(b) **Applicability.** The standards of this Section are applicable to the R1E District.

(c) **Declaration of Conformity.** Subject to the exceptions set out in Subsection (4)(c)(4) below:

1. Lots that lawfully existed as of January 1, 2019 are deemed "conforming" with respect to lot area, lot width, and the width-to-depth ratio provided the lot is subject to an approved and recorded subdivision plat for which no metes-and-bounds adjustments have been made to the lot boundaries;
2. Principal and accessory buildings or structures that lawfully existed as of January 1, 2019, or that were the subject of an active building permit, are conforming with respect to the current building footprint and its lot coverage;
3. Any addition to or alteration of a principal or accessory building or structure and the cumulative lot coverage, including building and impervious surface coverage, after January 1, 2019, must comply with the following:
 - a. Developed Lots:
 1. The standards of Table 04.04, Building Dimensional Requirements;
 2. Minor modifications approved by the Enforcement Official, or a designee, that do not exceed five percent of any required dimensional standard of this Ordinance, including those of existing building foundations or footprints, and which may be demonstrated not to impose material impacts on public rights-of-way, easements, or adjacent properties;
 3. If a proposed building or structure modification or expansion does not and may not comply with the standards of Table 04.04, Building Dimensional Requirements, then the application shall be evaluated according to the alternate standards outlined below; and then
 4. As allowed by a variance authorized by the Board of Zoning Appeals.
 - b. Undeveloped Lots:
 1. The standards of Table 04.04, Building Dimensional Requirements, or if the subject lot is nonconforming as of January 1, 2019:
 2. The alternate standards outlined below.

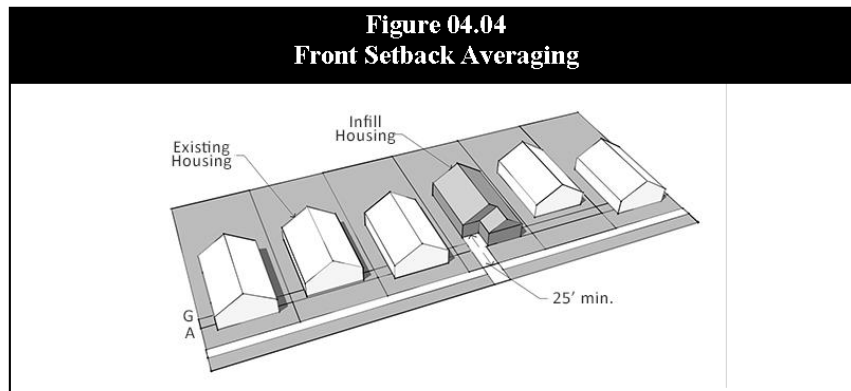
(d) **Exceptions.** A declaration of conformity however, does not make the following conforming:

1. A primary plat that was approved by the City but for which secondary plat approval was not granted within 120 days;
2. Construction of a principal structure on more than one lot of record without approval of a replat;
3. Principal or accessory buildings or structures that were constructed or modified without or in violation of required permits;
4. Principal or accessory buildings or structures that encroach into public rights-of-way or easements (including The Esplanade);
5. Buildings that were permitted and constructed as a single-family detached dwelling and later converted to a two-family unit or multiplex (three to five units) without required permits, or were not in conformance with the applicable zoning designation; and
6. Accessory buildings or structures that were located within a setback without approval of a variance.

(e) **Alternative Standards.**

1. **Generally.** Alternative setbacks may be applied only if demonstrated that the standards of this Subsection are met, and:
 - a. The proposed construction does not interfere with a planned expansion of right-of-way, and if right-of-way expansion is planned, the encroachment is evaluated as if the right-of-way has been expanded;
 - b. The proposed construction does not result in interference with any easement;

- c. Drainage onto abutting properties or rights-of-way does not significantly alter or substantially change the conditions before the proposed development;
 - d. The proposed construction does not result in a nonconformity with respect to the building code on either the lot proposed for development or abutting lots;
 - e. If the parcel that abuts the improvement is used for residential purposes, the proposed construction is built to building code standards that would allow construction of the abutting lot to be built to the same standard along the same setback line; and
 - f. The proposed construction does not reduce the area provided for parking to fewer spaces than required.
2. **Front Setback Averaging.** Front setbacks may be reduced to the average front setback along the same side of the same street segment in the same zoning district, provided that:
- a. The lot proposed for development and any lot that encroaches a public right-of-way or easement is not counted in the calculation; and
 - b. If the lot takes vehicular access from the front, the driveway must be at least:
 - 1. 25 feet long, measured from the property line to a building wall or garage door; and
 - 2. The width of the garage door(s) is/are not less than nine feet or more than 18 feet in width.



- 3. **Interior Side and Rear Yard Setbacks.** The interior side and rear yard setbacks shall be the lesser of the standards of Table 04.04, Building Dimensional Requirements, or the average prevailing setbacks on the lots on either side or if on a corner lot, within two lots of the same street frontage, provided no interior side setback may be less than five feet and no rear setback may be less than 15 feet.
- 4. **Side Street Yard Setback.** In the instance of a corner lot, the side street setback shall be the greater of that set out in Table 04.04, Building Dimensional Requirements, or the front yard setback of the adjacent lot.
- 5. **Building Coverage Ratio.** The Enforcement Official may approve additional building coverage up to five percent greater than that required Table 04.04, Building Dimensional Requirements, if it is demonstrated that:
 - a. The increased building coverage does not increase the extent of any other nonconformity present on the property;
 - b. The impact will be no greater than it was before the construction of the additional building coverage; and
 - c. The bulk (volume) of the building is not greater than that of a building that could be constructed at the maximum building coverage as set out in Table 04.04, Building Dimensional Requirements.

(Ord. No. 4500, §§ 5.5.—5.8., 2-5-2019; Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.3), 8-4-2025)

Section 05.01 - Intent

- (a) **R2A Townhouse Residential District.** The R2A Townhouse Residential District is established to allow development of attached single family dwellings with common side walls. This district may be utilized for infill development in cities and may also apply to unincorporated areas that are identified in the County Land Development Plan for planned urban expansion adjacent to cities, if community sewer and community services are available. Onsite cluster systems may also be a permitted option for community wastewater treatment in unincorporated areas. Certain other institutional, social and recreational uses are also permitted in this district, such as schools, child care and recreational uses. The intent is to maintain or create walkable, pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods. In cities, development within this district should be of a form and character consistent with the established historic character of the community.
- (b) **R2B Townhouse Residential District.** The R2B Townhouse Residential District is established to allow development of higher density attached single family dwellings with common side walls. This district is intended for infill development in cities only and is not intended for unincorporated areas of the county. Certain other institutional, social and recreational uses are also permitted in this district, such as schools, child care and recreational uses. The intent is to maintain and enhance traditional, walkable, pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods and to provide for urban infill development that is of a form and character consistent with established historic character of the community.
- (c) **R3A Low-Rise Multiple Family Residential District.** The R3A Low-Rise Multiple Family Residential District is established to allow development of moderate density apartment style multiple family development as well as townhouse development. This district may also apply to unincorporated areas that are identified in the County Land Development Plan for planned urban expansion adjacent to cities, if community sewer and community services are available. Onsite cluster systems may also be a permitted option for community wastewater treatment in unincorporated areas. Certain other institutional, social and recreational uses are also permitted in this district, such as schools, child care and recreational uses. The intent is to maintain or create walkable, pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods. In cities, development under this district should be of a form and character consistent with established historic character of the community.
- (d) **R3B High-Rise Multiple Family Residential District.** The R3A High-Rise Multiple Family Residential District is established to allow development of higher density apartment style multiple family development as well as townhouse development. This district is intended for infill development in cities only and is not intended for unincorporated areas of the county. Certain other institutional, social and recreational uses are also permitted in this district, such as schools, child care and recreational uses. The intent is to maintain and enhance traditional, walkable, pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods and to provide for urban infill development that is of a form and character consistent with established historic character of the community.

Section 05.02 - Uses

Use and development of land and buildings shall only be for the following specified uses, unless otherwise provided for in this Ordinance. Uses are grouped into major categories and only those uses listed under each category are permitted. Land and/or buildings in the districts indicated at the top of the Table may be used for the purposes denoted by the following abbreviations:

- P: **Permitted Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for the purposes listed by right.
- S: **Special Exception Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for this purpose by obtaining Special Exception approval when all applicable standards cited in [Article 24](#) Special Exception Review Requirements and Procedures.
- : **Not Permitted.** The use is not permitted in the district. Uses not listed in the table are also not permitted. Uses that are not listed in any district of the zoning ordinance, as shown in Appendix A, may be allowed based upon a similar use determination in accordance with [Section 02.06](#).

Table 05.02
Schedule of Permitted Uses

Use	R2A	R2B	R3A	R3B	Use

					Requirements
Residential limited to the following:					
Single-family detached dwellings	P	P	P	-	<u>14.01(a)</u>
Two-family dwellings	P	P	P	P	<u>14.01(a)</u>
Single-family attached/townhouses	P	P	P	P	
Multiple-family dwellings	-	-	P	P	
Fraternity, sorority or student cooperatives	S	S	S	S	
Home occupations	P	P	P	P	<u>14.01(b)</u>
Accessory Dwelling Units	P	P	P	P	<u>14.01(c)</u>
Retail trade limited to the following:					
Planned neighborhood shopping centers	-	S	S	S	<u>14.03(c)</u>
Accommodation and food services limited to the following:					
Bed & breakfasts	S	S	S	S	<u>14.06(a)</u>
Health care and social assistance limited to the following:					
Day care centers, commercial/preschools	S	S	S	S	<u>14.08(a)</u>
Day care homes, residential licensed for 12 or fewer children	P	P	P	P	<u>14.08(a)</u>
Foster care homes	P	P	P	P	
Funeral homes/mortuaries	S	S	S	S	
Group homes licensed for 8 or fewer residents	P	P	P	P	
Group homes licensed for more than 8 residents	-	-	P	P	
Halfway houses	-	-	S	S	
Nursing homes and senior assisted living	S	S	S	P	<u>14.08(c)</u>
Philanthropic and eleemosynary institutions	-	-	S	S	

Entertainment and recreation limited to the following:					
Boat clubs	S	S	S	S	
Forestry/wildlife preserve	P	P	P	P	
Golf course and country clubs	P	P	P	P	
Parks/playgrounds	P	P	P	P	
Civic, religious, social assistance organizations limited to the following:					
Cemeteries	S	S	S	S	<u>14.10(a)</u>
Churches, chapels, temples, synagogues and similar places of worship	S	S	S	S	<u>14.10(b)</u>
Community centers	S	S	S	S	
Convents, monasteries and seminaries	S	S	S	S	
Educational services limited to the following:					
Colleges, universities, and accessory uses, including housing for students	S	S	S	S	
Libraries	P	P	P	P	
Schools, elementary, middle and high	P	P	P	P	
Public administration limited to the following:					
Government buildings excluding correctional facilities	P	P	P	P	
Museums, civic buildings and landmarks preserved for public inspection	P	P	P	P	
Utilities limited to the following:					
Public utility buildings	S	S	S	S	
Transmission lines for gas, oil and electricity	P	P	P	P	
Utility substations	S	S	S	S	
Single accessory wind energy conversion systems	S	S	S	S	<u>14.15(b)</u>

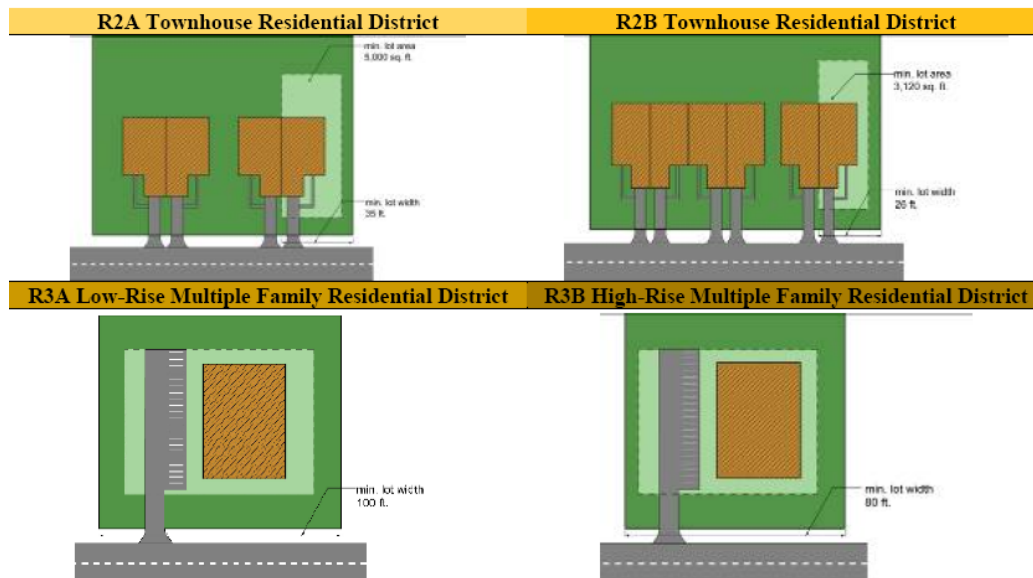
Wireless communication facility - collocation	P	P	P	P	<u>14.15(c)</u>
Wireless communication facility on institutional site	S	S	S	S	<u>14.15(c)</u>

Section 05.03 - Lot Area and Width Requirements

All lots shall meet the following minimum area and width requirements. No new lots shall be created or altered in a manner that does not comply with the following requirements.

Table 05.03
Lot Area And Width Requirements

District (a)(b)	Min. lot size (g)(h)(i)		Max. res. Density (units/ac.)
	Lot area (sq. ft.) (c)	Lot width (ft.)(d)(e)(f)	
R2A Townhouse residential district	5,000	35	8
R2B Townhouse residential district	3,120	26	14
R3A Low-rise multiple family residential district	—	100	18
R3B High-rise multiple family residential district	—	80	30



- (a) **Subdivision of Land.** All divisions to land shall be subject to the requirements set forth in the Subdivision Regulations of La Porte County, City of La Porte or City of Michigan City, as applicable.
- (b) **Community Sewer.** All new lots created in the R2A, R2B, R3A and R3B districts must be served by community sewer.

Community sewer refers to a community or municipal wastewater system. Community sewer in districts R2A and R3A may include onsite cluster wastewater treatment systems.

- (c) **Lot Area Calculation.** Lot area is calculated based upon the net area of the lot, measured in the horizontal plane, exclusive of any area that is part of a public road right-of-way, private road easement or submerged land beneath the ordinary high water mark of a lake, river or stream.
- (d) **Lot Width and Frontage.** Lot width shall be measured as a straight line between the side lot lines at the minimum front yard setback of the district. All lots shall have frontage along a public road or street. The width along the road shall be sufficient to meet the lot width requirement at the minimum front yard setback. This requirement shall not apply to individual units within a development that have access by a private road system that is internal to the development.
- (e) **Dominant Parcel.** The dominant tract or parcel from which any newly created lot has been divided must also maintain the required lot width.
- (f) **Depth to Width Ratio.** All newly created lots shall have a lot depth of no more than four times the width (i.e. maximum 4:1 depth to width ratio).
- (g) **Nonconforming Lots.** Lots of record that were in existence prior to the effective date of this ordinance may be used subject to the provisions of the nonconforming lot regulations of Section 29.03.
- (h) **Single Family Detached and Two Family Lots.** Lots created for the purpose of single family detached or two family dwellings shall be required to meet the lot area and width requirements of the R1D - Single Family Residential District.
- (i) **Recreation Area.** All multiple family residential developments containing more than 40 dwelling units shall provide an active recreational area, which shall contain a common park area equal in size to 1,500 square feet per dwelling unit. The required recreation area shall be exclusive of required setbacks, buffers, greenbelts, individual lots, public rights-of-way, private road easements and stormwater management areas. The recreational park area shall be well drained, graded, seeded or sodded, safe from hazard, accessible to all dwellings, and the location shall be approved by the enforcement official. Recreational facilities such as playscapes, athletic fields, trails, picnic tables or other suitable recreation facility shall be provided within the recreation area to meet the needs of the residents.

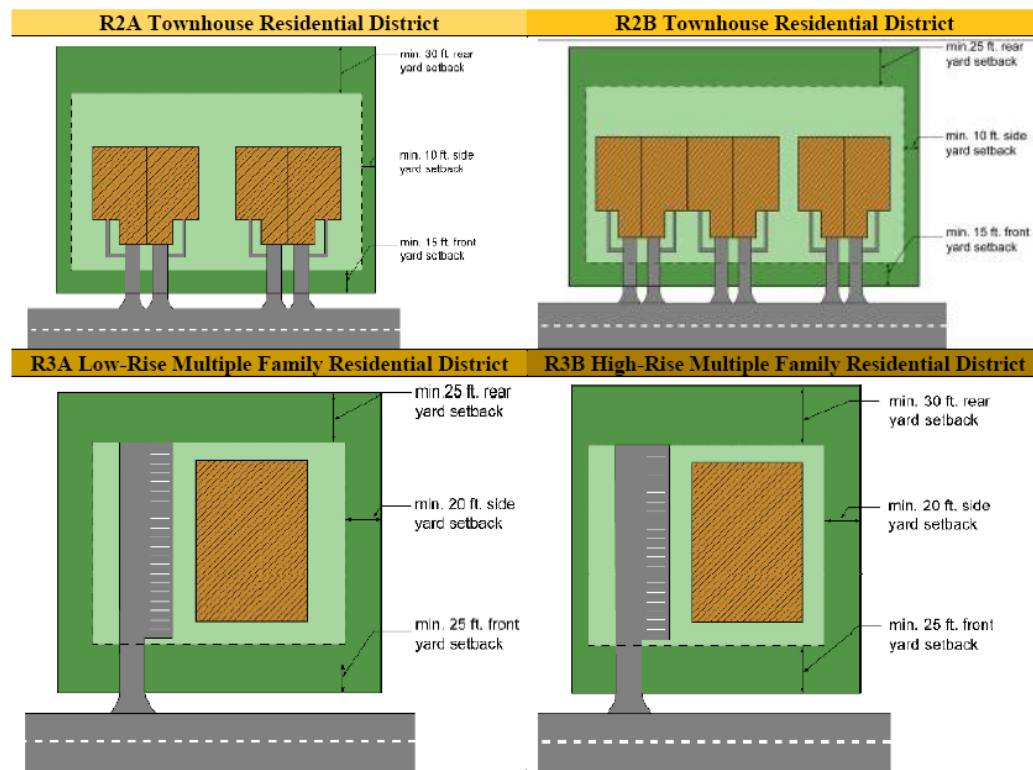
Section 05.04 - Building Dimensional Requirements

All structures shall be subject to the dimensional regulations of the following table.

Table 05.04
Building Dimensional Requirements (a)(k)

District	Max. building height (b)		Min. setbacks (ft.) (c, d, e, f, g)					% Lot coverage (j)		Min. floor area per unit (sq. ft.)
	Height (ft.)	Height (st.)	Front yard	Side yard	Total both sides	Rear yard	Waterway (h, i)	Building	Imper. surface	
R2A Townhouse residential district	40	2.5	15	10	20	30	75	55%	75%	1000
R2B Townhouse residential district	45	3.5	15	10	20	25	75	65%	85%	1000
R3A Low-rise multiple										

family residential district										
Townhouses	45	4	15	10	20	25	75	65%	75%	800
Multiple-family	45	4	25	20	40	25	75	55%	75%	500
R3B High-rise multiple family residential district										
Townhouses	45	4	15	10	20	25	75	65%	75%	800
Multiple-family	120	11	25	20	40	30	75	55%	75%	500



- (j) **Accessory Structures.** Accessory structures shall be regulated under the requirements of [Article 16](#).
- (k) **Height Exceptions.** No structure shall exceed the maximum height of the district except for the allowable exceptions to the height limits contained in [Section 15.02](#).
- (l) **Projections into Yards.** All required yard spaces shall remain as landscaped open space, except for pavement, accessory structures and architectural features that are allowed to extend or project into required setbacks under [Section 15.01](#).
- (m) **Setback from Road.** The front yard setback shall be measured from the road right-of-way or private road easement.
- (n) **Corner Lots.** Corner lots shall provide the minimum front yard setback from both road frontages.
- (o) **Double Frontage Lots.** In all districts, where a double frontage lot backs-up to a roadway, the minimum required front or roadside setback shall be required from both road rights-of-way.
- (p) **Driveway Access.** Corner and double frontage residential lots shall only have driveway access from one road, which shall be

the lesser traveled road as determined by the enforcement official.

- (q) **Wetlands.** A minimum setback of 50 feet shall be maintained from all wetlands. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of natural resource preservation guidelines contained [Article 22](#).
- (r) **Waterway Setback.** The waterway setback shall be measured from the shoreline of the lake, river or stream. In no instance shall any structures other than docks, seawalls, retaining walls, sidewalks, boardwalks, and patios be permitted within the minimum waterway setback. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of Natural Resource Preservation Guidelines.
- (s) **Maximum Lot Coverage.** The maximum lot coverage for buildings and impermeable surface shall be measured as follows:
 - (1) The building coverage shall be calculated as the ratio of the footprint of all buildings, including the principal building, garages and detached accessory buildings, to the net area of the lot.
 - (2) The total impermeable surface coverage shall be calculated as the ratio of the ground area covered by all buildings, accessory structures, decks, pools, pavement, parking, loading and storage areas, normal pool of wet detention basins to the net lot area.
- (t) **Single Family Detached and Two Family Lots.** Single family detached or two family dwellings shall be required to meet the dimensional requirements of the R1D - Single Family Residential District.

ARTICLE 06. - MANUFACTURED HOUSING PARK DISTRICT

Section 06.01 - Intent

- (a) **R4 Manufactured Housing Park District.** The R4 Manufactured Housing Park District is established to permit development of manufactured home parks. This district is intended to provide a transitional land use between higher intensity non-residential uses and residential districts. This district will apply in the cities and areas of the county that are identified in the County Land Development Plan as urban where community sewer is available and there is sufficient public infrastructure and services to support the increased density.
- (b) The regulations of this article do not apply to manufactured homes on individual lots that are located in other zoning districts. Manufactured homes that are not located in manufactured home parks, but are located on individual lots, shall be subject to the single family residential requirements of the district in which they are located and further subject [Section 14.01\(a\)](#).

Section 06.02 - Uses

Use and development of land and buildings shall only be for the following specified uses, unless otherwise provided for in this Ordinance. Uses are grouped into major categories and only those uses listed under each category are permitted. Land and/or buildings in the districts indicated at the top of the Table may be used for the purposes denoted by the following abbreviations:

P: **Permitted Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for the purposes listed by right.

S: **Special Exception Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for this purpose by obtaining Special Exception approval when all applicable standards cited in [Article 24](#) Special Exception Review Requirements and Procedures.

-: **Not Permitted.** The use is not permitted in the district. Uses not listed in the table are also not permitted. Uses that are not listed in any district of the zoning ordinance, as shown in Appendix A, may be allowed based upon a similar use determination in accordance with [Section 02.06](#).

Table 06.02
Schedule of Permitted Uses

Use	R4	Use Requirements

Residential limited to the following:		
Home occupations	P	<u>14.01(b)</u>
Mobile home parks	P	
Mobile home subdivisions	P	
Health care and social assistance limited to the following:		
Day care centers, commercial/preschools	S	<u>14.08(a)</u>
Day care homes, residential licensed for 12 or fewer children	P	<u>14.08(a)</u>
Foster care homes	P	
Group homes licensed for 8 or fewer residents	P	
Entertainment and recreation limited to the following:		
Forestry/wildlife preserve	P	
Golf course and country clubs	P	
Parks/playgrounds	P	
Civic, religious, social assistance organizations limited to the following:		
Community centers	S	
Educational services limited to the following:		
Libraries	P	
Schools, elementary, middle and high	P	
Public administration limited to the following:		
Government buildings excluding correctional facilities	P	
Museums, civic buildings and landmarks preserved for public inspection	P	
Utilities limited to the following:		
Public utility buildings	S	
Transmission lines for gas, oil and electricity	P	

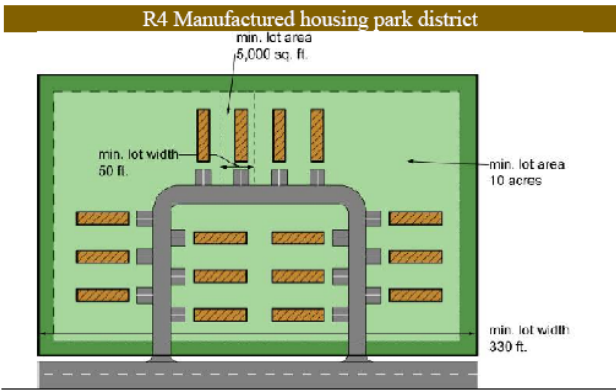
Utility substations	S	
Single accessory wind energy conversion systems	S	<u>14.15(b)</u>
Wireless communication facility - collection	P	<u>14.15(c)</u>
Wireless communication facility on institutional site	S	<u>14.15(c)</u>

Section 06.03 - Lot Area and Width Requirements

All lots shall meet the following minimum area and width requirements. No new lots shall be created or altered in a manner that does not comply with the following requirements.

Table 06.03
Lot Area And Width Requirements

District (a)(b)	Min. lot size (g)		Max. res. Density (dwellings/ac.)
	Lot area (c)	Lot width (ft.)(d)(e)(f)	
R4 Manufactured housing park district			
Overall development	10 acres	330	8
Home sites within a park	5,000	50	8



- (a) **Subdivision of Land.** All divisions to land shall be subject to the requirements set forth in the Subdivision Regulations of La Porte County, City of La Porte or City of Michigan City, as applicable.
- (b) **Community Sewer.** All manufactured home parks must be served by community sewer. Community sewer refers to a community or municipal wastewater system, including an onsite cluster wastewater treatment system.
- (c) **Lot Area Calculation.** Lot area is calculated based upon the net area of the lot, measured in the horizontal plane, exclusive of any area that is part of a public road right-of-way, private road easement or submerged land beneath the ordinary high water

mark of a lake, river or stream.

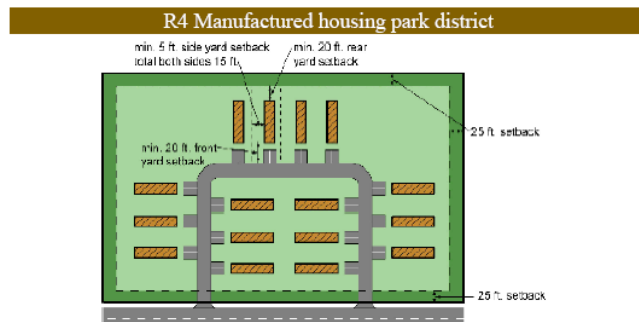
- (d) **Lot Width and Frontage.** Lot width shall be measured as a straight line between the side lot lines at the minimum front yard setback of the district. All lots shall have frontage along a public road or street. The width along the road shall be sufficient to meet the lot width requirement at the minimum front yard setback. This requirement shall not apply to individual home sites within a manufactured home park that have access by a private road system that is internal to the development.
- (e) **Dominant Parcel.** The dominant tract or parcel from which any newly created lot has been divided from must also maintain the required lot width.
- (f) **Depth to Width Ratio.** All newly created lots shall have a lot depth of no more than four times the width (i.e. maximum 4:1 depth to width ratio).
- (g) **Nonconforming Lots.** Lots of record that were in existence prior to the effective date of this ordinance may be used subject to the provisions of the nonconforming lot regulations of [Section 29.03](#).

Section 06.04 - Building Dimensional Requirements

All structures shall be subject to the dimensional regulations of the following table.

Table 06.04
Building Dimensional Requirements (a)

District	Max. building height (b)		Min. setbacks (ft.) (c, d, e, f, g)					% Lot coverage (l)		Min. floor area per unit (sq. ft.)
	Height (ft.)	Height (st.)	Front yard	Side yard	Total both sides	Rear yard	Waterway (h, i)	Building	Imper. surface	
R4 Manufactured housing park district										
Perimeter setbacks for overall development	—	—	25 (j)	25 (k)	50 (k)	25 (k)	75	—	—	—
Individual manufactured home sites	25	2	20	5	15	20	75	45%	55%	800



- (a) **Accessory Structures.** Accessory structures shall be regulated under the requirements of [Article 16](#).
- (b) **Height Exceptions.** No structure shall exceed the maximum height of the district except for the allowable exceptions to the height limits contained in [Section 15.02](#).
- (c) **Projections into Yards.** All required yard spaces shall remain as landscaped open space, except for accessory structures and architectural features that are allowed to extend or project into required setbacks under [Section 15.01](#).
- (d) **Setback from Road.** The front yard setback shall be measured from the road right-of-way or private road easement.
- (e) **Corner Lots.** Corner lots shall provide the minimum front yard setback from both road frontages.
- (f) **Double Frontage Lots.** In all districts, where a double frontage lot backs-up to a roadway, the minimum required front or roadside setback shall be required from both road rights-of-way.
- (g) **Driveway Access.** Individual manufactured home sites within a manufactured home park shall only have access from an internal road within the park. Individual units shall not have direct driveway access to a major thoroughfare.
- (h) **Wetlands.** A minimum setback of 50 feet shall be maintained from all wetlands. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of natural resource preservation guidelines contained [in] [Article 22](#).
- (i) **Waterway Setback.** The waterway setback shall be measured from the shoreline of the lake, river or stream. In no instance shall any structures other than docks, seawalls, retaining walls, sidewalks, boardwalks, and patios be permitted within the minimum waterway setback. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of Natural Resource Preservation Guidelines.
- (j) **Frontage Greenbelt.** Manufactured housing parks shall be required to provide a 25-foot wide greenbelt along all public road frontages in accordance with [Section 17.02\(b\)](#).
- (k) **Side and Rear Buffer Zones.** Manufactured housing parks shall be required to provide landscape buffer zones around the exterior of the manufactured home park in accordance with [Section 17.02\(c\)](#).
- (l) **Maximum Lot Coverage.** The maximum lot coverage for buildings and impermeable surface shall be measured as follows:
 - (1) The building coverage shall be calculated as the ratio of the footprint of all buildings, including the principal building, garages and detached accessory buildings, to the net area of the lot.
 - (2) The total impermeable surface coverage shall be calculated as the ratio of the ground area covered by all buildings, accessory structures, decks, pools, pavement, parking, loading and storage areas, normal pool of wet detention basins to the net lot area.

ARTICLE 07. - BUSINESS DISTRICTS

Section 07.01 - Intent

- (a) **B1 Neighborhood Commercial District.** The B1 Neighborhood Commercial District is established to provide for small-scale neighborhood commercial nodes. This district is intended to meet the day-to-day convenience shopping and service needs of persons residing in adjacent residential areas. B1 District designations are located within close proximity to residential neighborhoods and are intended to serve the immediate vicinity so as not to draw additional traffic from other areas of the county or cities. In order to promote business development compatible with nearby residential, the size and scale of uses is limited and uses that would create hazards, loud noises, odors, truck traffic or late hours of operation are not allowed. This district will apply to neighborhood shopping nodes along major corridors within the cities and convenience commercial nodes in unincorporated areas of the county.
- (b) **B2 General Commercial District.** The B2 General Commercial District is established to serve a larger population than is serviced by a B1 District. The district is generally characterized by an integrated cluster of establishments serviced by a common parking area and generating a large volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The intent of this district is also to encourage the concentration of regional business areas to the mutual advantage of both the consumers and merchants and thereby to

promote the best use of land at certain strategic locations and avoid encouraging marginal strip business development along major streets. Special attention must be given to site layout, building design, vehicular and pedestrian circulation and coordination of site features between adjoining sites.

- (c) **B3 Highway Commercial District.** The uses in the B3 Highway Commercial District will be more automotive oriented and serve a market that includes the traveling public. The permitted uses would be located near highway interchanges and are generally not appropriate immediately adjacent to residential zoning districts. Special attention must be given to site layout, vehicular circulation, building design and buffering from other nearby uses.
- (d) **O1 Office Service District.** O1 Office District is intended to accommodate uses such as offices for professional and business services, planned office developments, medical centers, as well as appropriately located ancillary services and uses. The O1 District is further intended to provide a buffer or zone of transition between residential and commercial districts and between residential districts and major streets.

Section 07.02 - Uses

Use and development of land and buildings shall only be for the following specified uses, unless otherwise provided for in this Ordinance. Uses are grouped into major categories and only those uses listed under each category are permitted. Land and/or buildings in the districts indicated at the top of the Table may be used for the purposes denoted by the following abbreviations:

P: **Permitted Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for the purposes listed by right.

S: **Special Exception Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for this purpose by obtaining Special Exception approval when all applicable standards cited in [Article 24](#) Special Exception Review Requirements and Procedures.

-: **Not Permitted.** The use is not permitted in the district. Uses not listed in the table are also not permitted. Uses that are not listed in any district of the zoning ordinance, as shown in Appendix A, may be allowed based upon a similar use determination in accordance with [Section 02.06](#).

Table 07.02
Schedule of Permitted Uses

Use	B1	B2	B3	O1	Use Requirements
Residential limited to the following:					
Multiple-family dwellings	P	-	-	-	
Dwellings in mixed-use buildings	P	-	-	-	
Dwelling units for watchmen and operating personnel and their families	P	P	P	-	
Fraternity, sorority or student cooperatives	S	S	-	S	
Agriculture and animal-related uses limited to the following:					
Farm implement dealers	-	P	-	-	
Kennels	-	S	-	-	

Plant nursery and commercial greenhouses	P	P	-	-	
Roadside stands	P	-	-	-	<u>14.02(d)</u>
Veterinary hospital for large animals	S	P	-	S	
Veterinary hospital for small animals	S	P	-	S	
Retail trade limited to the following:					
Retail uses up to 40,000 square feet gross floor area, except where otherwise listed	P	P	P	-	
Any retail use between 40,000 and 60,000 square feet gross floor area	S	P	-	-	<u>14.03(a)</u>
Any retail use over 60,000 square feet gross floor area	-	P	-	-	<u>14.03(a)</u>
Retail uses with accessory drive through service	S	P	P	-	<u>14.03(b)</u>
Art and school supply stores	P	P	-	P	
Bait shops	P	P	-	-	
Bakeries, retail sales only	P	P	-	-	
Business machine sales and service	P	P	-	P	
Computer sales	P	P	-	P	
Convenience stores	P	P	P	P	
Convenience stores with gasoline sales	-	S	S	-	
Feed stores	-	P	-	-	
Grocery stores/super markets	P	P	-	-	
Furnace/air conditioner sales/service	-	P	-	-	
Lawn & garden supply, greenhouse, and retail nurseries without outdoor sales	-	P	-	-	
Lawn & garden supply, greenhouse, and retail nurseries with outdoor sales	-	P	-	-	

Gift, souvenir handicraft stores	P	P	P	-	
Glass sales & service	-	P	-	-	
Hardware, electrical, plumbing, paint and floor covering sales without open storage	P	P	-	-	
Home improvement, building material sales and lumber with open storage	-	S	-	-	
Lawn mower sales/service	P	P	-	-	
Liquor stores	P	P	-	-	
Machinery and equipment sales	-	S	-	-	
Mail order business	-	P	-	-	
Marine accessory shops	-	P	-	-	
Media store, general	P	P	P	P	<u>14.03</u> (d)
Media store, with backroom	P	P	P	P	<u>14.03</u> (e)
Mobile homes and trailer sales/rental	-	S	-	-	
Monument establishments—including accessory open sales lots	-	P	-	-	
Newsstands	P	P	-	P	
Office supply stores	P	P	-	P	
Open air markets and outdoor sales	-	S	-	-	
Pet shops, dog grooming and day care (not including overnight boarding)	P	P	-	-	
Petroleum products sales	-	S	-	-	
Pharmacies	P	P	-	S	
Produce markets	P	P	-	-	
Secondhand stores and rummage shops	-	P	-	-	

Services limited to the following:					
Barber/beauty shops	P	P	-	P	
Cleaning services	-	P	-	-	
Dry cleaners, pick-up	P	P	-	P	
Dry cleaning plants/commercial laundries	-	S	-	-	
Interior decorating shops	P	P	-	P	
Laundries	P	P	-	-	
Locksmith shops	P	P	-	-	
Office service centers	P	P	-	P	
Pawnshops	-	S	-	-	<u>14.04(a)</u>
Pest control services	-	S	-	-	
Photographic studios	P	P	-	P	
Repair shops, nonautomotive	-	P	-	-	
Shoe repair shops	P	P	-	P	
Tailor shops	P	P	-	P	
Tattoo establishment	-	S	-	-	<u>14.02(b)</u>
Taxidermists	P	P	-	-	
Tool and equipment rental	-	P	-	-	
Motor vehicle dealers and service limited to the following:					
Automobile rental	S	P	P	S	
Automobile sales (new/used)	-	S	P	-	
Automobile washes	-	S	S	-	<u>14.05(b)</u>
Minor automobile service and repair	-	S	S	-	<u>14.05(a)</u>

Major automobile service, body repair and painting	-	S	-	-	<u>14.05(a)</u>
Motorcycle, snowmobile and ATV sales/service	-	P	P	-	<u>14.05(a)</u>
Parts stores	S	P	P	-	
Truck rental	-	S	S	-	
Truck sales (new/used)	-	S	S	-	
Truck stops	-	-	S	-	<u>14.05(c)</u>
Vehicle service stations	-	S	S	-	<u>14.05(c)</u>
Vehicle auctions	-	S	-	-	
Accommodation and food services limited to the following:					
Banquet halls	P	P	P	P	
Bed & breakfasts	P	P	P	-	
Cafeterias (as an accessory use)	P	P	P	P	
Candy and ice cream shops	P	P	P	-	
Catering services	P	P	P	-	
Delicatessens	P	P	P	P	
Exhibition halls	-	P	P	P	
Hotel-miniums	-	-	P	-	
Hotels/motels	-	P	P	P	
Restaurants, carryout	P	P	P	P	
Restaurants, standard not including drive-thru/in	P	P	P	P	
Restaurant, drive-thru/in	-	S	S	-	<u>14.06(b)</u>
Restaurant and taverns with outdoor seating	S	P	P	S	
Taverns and bars	P	P	P	P	

Finance, insurance, real estate, professional, scientific, and technical limited to the following:					
Banks & financial institutions	P	P	P	P	<u>14.07(a)</u>
Blueprinting and photostatting establishments	-	P	-	P	
Newspaper offices including printing	P	P	-	P	
Offices, general and professional with accessory research and testing	P	P	P	P	
Printing and publishing establishments	P	P	-	P	
Radio, television and recording studios	-	P	-	P	
Research & development laboratories	-	-	P	P	
Travel agencies	P	P	P	P	
Health care and social assistance limited to the following:					
Day care centers, commercial/preschools	P	P	P	P	<u>14.08(a)</u>
Day care homes, residential	P	P	-	-	<u>14.08(a)</u>
Foster care homes	-	-	-	-	
Funeral homes/mortuaries	P	P	-	P	<u>14.08(b)</u>
Hospital-related uses	-	P	-	P	
Hospitals	-	S	-	S	
Massage therapy services	P	P	P	P	<u>14.08(d)</u>
Medical and dental clinics	P	P	P	P	
Medical laboratories	-	P	-	P	
Nursing homes and senior assisted living	P		-	P	<u>14.08(c)</u>
Optical sales	P	P	-	P	
Orthopedic and medical appliance sales	P	P	-	P	

Philanthropic and eleemosynary institutions	-	S	-	S	
Entertainment and recreation limited to the following:					
Amusement/arcade establishments	-	S	-	-	
Amusement parks	-	S	S	-	
Boat clubs	S	S	-	-	
Boat harbors/public marinas, including service, storage, and fuel sales	-	S	-	-	
Boat sales, including service	-	S	S	-	
Bowling alleys	-	P	-	-	
Canoe rental	-	P	-	-	
Commercial outdoor recreation facilities such as batting cages, driving ranges and putt-putt golf	-	S	S	-	<u>14.09(d)</u>
Campgrounds	-	S	P	-	
Dance schools	P	P	-	P	
Forestry/wildlife preserve	P	P	P	-	
Golf course and country clubs	P	P	S	P	
Health and athletic clubs	P	P	P	P	
Ice skating rinks	-	P	P	-	
Parks/playgrounds	P	P	P	P	
Racetracks and go-cart tracks	-	-	S	-	<u>14.09(d)</u>
Shooting ranges, indoors	-	P	-	-	
Stadiums/arenas	-	S	-	-	
Theaters	-	S	-	-	
Civic, religious, social assistance organizations limited to the following:					

Cemeteries	-	P	-	-	<u>14.10(a)</u>
Churches, chapels, temples, synagogues and similar places of worship	P	P	-	P	<u>14.10(b)</u>
Clubs, lodges, union halls	P	P	-	P	
Community centers	P	P	-	P	
Conference and convention halls	-	P	P	P	
Convents, monasteries and seminaries	P	P	-	P	
Educational services limited to the following:					
Colleges, universities, and accessory uses, including housing for students	P	P	-	P	
Driving schools	-	P	-	-	
Libraries	P	P	-	P	
Schools, commercial and trade	P	P	-	P	
Schools, elementary, middle and high	P	P	-	P	
Training centers, engineering or sales	-	P	-	P	
Public administration limited to the following:					
Government buildings excluding correctional facilities	P	P	P	P	
Museums, civic buildings and landmarks preserved for public inspection	P	P	P	P	
Transportation and warehousing limited to the following:					
Bus and passenger rail terminals	P	P	P	-	
Parking structures as a principal use	P	P	P	P	
Self-storage facilities, indoor	-	S	-	-	<u>14.13(b)</u>
Taxicab dispatching	-	P	-	-	

Utilities limited to the following:					
Public utility buildings	P	P	P	P	
Telephone exchange buildings	P	P	P	P	
Transmission lines for gas, oil and electricity	P	P	P	P	
Utility substations	P	P	P	P	
Single accessory wind energy conversion systems	S	S	S	S	<u>14.15(b)</u>
Wireless communication facility - collection	P	P	P	P	<u>14.15(c)</u>
Wireless communication facility tower	S	S	S	S	<u>14.15(c)</u>
Wireless communication facility on institutional site	S	S	S	S	<u>14.15(c)</u>
Construction limited to the following:					
Contractors' offices and shops (excluding outdoor storage)	-	P	-	-	
Landscaping services	-	S	-	-	<u>14.16(a)</u>
Mining limited to the following:					
Mineral extraction & general mining operations	-	S	S	-	<u>14.18(a)</u>

(Ord. No. 4254, § 3(Exh. A), 10-30-2013)

Section 07.03 - Lot Area and Width Requirements

All lots shall meet the following minimum area and width requirements. No new lots shall be created or altered in a manner that does not comply with the following requirements.

Table 07.03
Lot Area And Width Requirements

District (a)	Min. lot size (b)(g)	
	Lot area (sq. ft.) (c)	Lot width (ft.) (d)(e)(f)
B1 - Neighborhood Commercial	15,000	100
B2 - General Commercial	15,000	100

where both public sewer and public water are available. The maximum density shall be 14 dwelling units per acre.

(i) **B1 Neighborhood Commercial Adjoining R1E, Waterfront Residential.**

- (1) **Applicable Properties.** The following provisions apply to properties located at the intersection of two public streets in the B1 district that adjoin properties in the R1E district. Unless explicitly modified in this Subsection, all other applicable provisions of this Ordinance apply.
- (2) **Notwithstanding.** Notwithstanding the permitted and special exception uses, the lot area and width requirements, or the other applicable standards of this Section, the following apply when adjoining the R1E, Waterfront Residential, district:
 - a. **Prohibited Uses.** The following uses are prohibited:
 1. Multiple-family dwellings;
 2. Fraternity, sorority or student cooperative;
 3. Agriculture and animal-related uses;
 3. Retail uses with accessory drive through service;
 4. Feed stores;
 5. Machine and equipment sales;
 6. Mobile home and trailer sales/rental;
 7. Petroleum product sales;
 8. Tool and equipment rental;
 9. Automobile sales (new/used) and rental;
 10. Major automobile service, body repair, and painting;
 11. Motorcycle, snowmobile, and ATV sales/service;
 12. Truck sales (new/used) and rental;
 13. Truck stops;
 14. Vehicle auctions;
 15. Amusement parks;
 16. Campgrounds;
 17. Golf course and country clubs; and
 18. Shooting range, indoors;
 19. Stadiums/arenas;
 20. Cemeteries;
 21. Parking structures as a principal use;
 22. Self-storage facilities, indoor;
 23. Utility substation.
 - b. **Minimum Lot Area and Width.** The minimum lot area shall be 7,500 square feet and the minimum lot width shall be 50 feet.
 - c. **Maximum Density.** The maximum density for dwellings in mixed-use buildings is 12 units per acre, or portion thereof.
 - d. **Building Height Exceptions.**
 1. **Minimum.** All buildings must be constructed at a height of 30 feet.
 2. **Exceptions.** The exceptions to building height may be parapet walls and roof structures housing necessary mechanical appurtenances, which may be no more than five feet taller than the highest point of the roof. In addition, the overall height of the entire structure, including parapet and screening structures, shall not exceed 35 feet.

e. **Outdoor Storage.** Prohibited.

f. **Maximum Front Yard Setback.**

1. Buildings shall be setback a maximum of five feet along street rights-of-way. If a public entrance is at the corner of a building, the angular façade containing the entrance may be recessed a maximum of 10 feet from the intersection of the two right-of-way lines. Buildings may exceed a five-foot setback up to a maximum of 10 feet to provide:
 - a. A sidewalk along the building frontage;
 - b. A public gathering area or plaza that offers seating or dining, landscape or hardscape enhancements, public displays, or other pedestrian amenities; or
 - c. Parallel parking.

g. **Parking and Loading Requirements.**

1. Parking may be located off-site in a common parking area provided the parking lot is within 300 feet of the subject parcel, measured from the nearest property lines, and provided compliance with all other requirements of this ordinance.
2. Off-street parking shall be located to the side or rear of the building (see B1 adjoining R1E below).
3. Loading and unloading is allowed over-the-curb along street rights-of-way, and other locations as approved by the enforcement officer. Loading and unloading shall be prohibited between the hours of 8 p.m. and 7 a.m.

h. **Maximum Building Coverage Ratio (BCR) and Floor Area Ratio (FAR).** Notwithstanding the maximum building coverage provisions of Table 07.04, Building Dimensional Requirements, the building coverage and floor area ratios of a two-story or, by special exception, a three-story building may be as follows:

1. Two-story building:
 - a. On-site parking = 0.50 FAR and 25 percent BCR.
 - b. Off-site or on-street parking = 1.85 FAR and 95 percent BCR
2. Three-story building:
 - a. On-site parking = 0.62 FAR and 21 percent BCR
 - b. Off-site or on-street parking = 2.68 FAR and 95 percent BCR

Note: Off-site parking requires Plan Commission approval of a parking plan.

i. **Buffer Zone.** See [Sec. 17.02](#), Landscaping Requirements.

(Ord. No. [4500](#), § 5.9., 2-5-2019)

Section 07.04 - Building Dimensional Requirements

All structures shall be subject to the dimensional regulations of the following table.

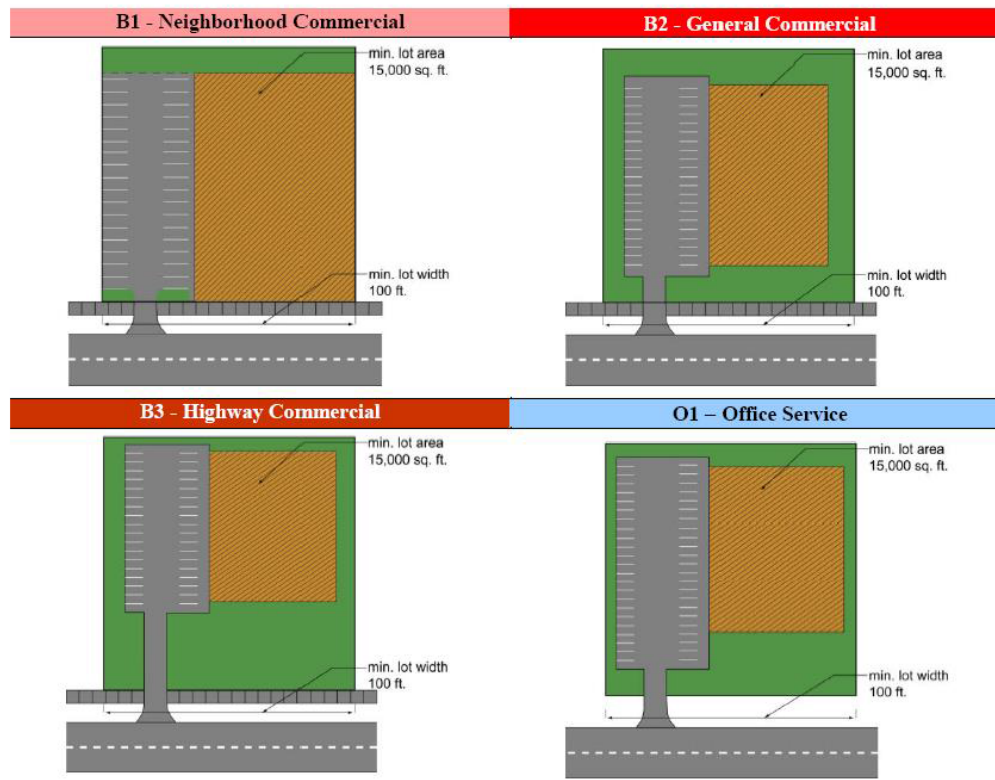
Table 07.04
Building Dimensional Requirements (a)

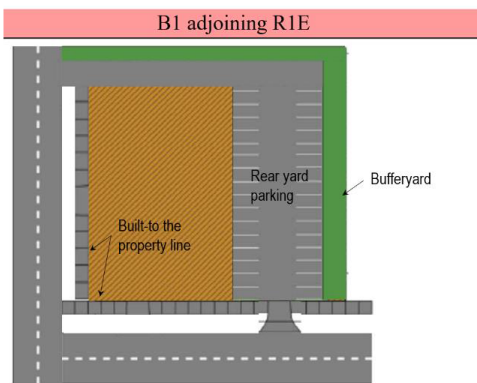
District	Max. building height (b)		Min. setbacks (ft.) (c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j)				% Lot coverage (m)	
	Height (ft.)	Height (st.)	Front yard	Side yard	Rear yard	Water-way (k, l)	Building	Imper. surface
B1 - Neighborhood	30/40 ³	2	0	0/7	15	75	75%	85%

Commercial ^{1, 2}								
B2 - General Commercial	40	3	25	0/7	25	75	65%	85%
B3 - Highway Commercial	60	5	40	15	10	75	65%	85%
O1 - Office Service	60	5	30	7	25	75	65%	85%

Table Notes:

- 1 See above standards for B1 Neighborhood Commercial, Adjoining R1E, Waterfront Residential.
- 2 B1 parcels adjoining the R1E district that are developed as of January 1, 2019 with a lot coverage greater than that allowed in this table are conforming provided there is adequate off-street or off-site parking.
- 3 A three-story building may be permitted by special exception when adjoining the R1E district.
- 4 The minimum required side yard setback is seven feet, which may be reduced to zero feet when the side lot line adjoins another lot that is zoned B1 or B2 and the side wall of the building is a fire-rated and without windows.





- (a) **Accessory Structures.** Accessory structures shall be regulated under the requirements of [Article 16](#).
- (b) **Height Exceptions.** No structure shall exceed the maximum height of the district except for the allowable exceptions to the height limits contained in [Section 15.02](#).
- (c) **Projections into Yards.** All required yard spaces shall remain as landscaped open space, except for pavement, accessory structures and architectural features that are allowed to extend or project into required setbacks under [Section 15.01](#).
- (d) **Yards Maintained as Landscaped Open Space.** Setback areas shall be provided with landscape greenbelts and buffer zones as required in [Section 17.02](#).
- (e) **Outdoor Storage.** Outdoor storage shall be screened in accordance with [Sections 17.02](#) and [17.03](#). Storage areas shall meet the applicable building setback requirements from each lot line.
- (f) **Setback from Road.** The front yard setback shall be measured from the road right-of-way or private road easement. Detention/retention ponds shall be prohibited in the required front yard setback, unless there is no reasonable alternative due to existing topography and natural drainage problems. This restriction shall not apply to rain gardens, bio-retention swales, irrigation trench planters and other similar stormwater management alternatives to retention or detention ponds.
- (g) **Corner Lots.** Corner lots shall provide the minimum front yard setback from both road frontages.
- (h) **Double Frontage Lots.** In all districts, where a double frontage lot backs-up to a roadway, the minimum required front or roadside setback shall be required from both road rights-of-way.
- (i) **Parking Setback.** All parking, loading, and vehicular circulation aisles shall provide sufficient setback to meet the frontage greenbelt and buffer zones required by [Section 17.02](#).
- (j) **Loading Areas.** All loading and unloading shall be provided off-street in the rear yard or interior side yard, and shall in no instance be permitted in a front yard. Where an alley exists or is provided at the rear of buildings, the rear building setback and loading requirements may be computed from the center of the alley. Loading and unloading areas located in a side yard shall be fully screened from view from a public street. No overhead doors shall be permitted in the front elevation of the building. All residential districts and uses must be screened from truck loading and unloading activities in accordance with [Section 17.03](#).
- (k) **Wetlands.** A minimum setback of 50 feet shall be maintained from all wetlands. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of natural resource preservation guidelines contained [in] [Article 22](#).
- (l) **Waterway Setback.** The waterway setback shall be measured from the shoreline of the lake, river or stream. In no instance shall any structures other than docks, seawalls, retaining walls, sidewalks, boardwalks, and patios be permitted within the minimum waterway setback. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of Natural Resource Preservation Guidelines.
- (m) **Maximum Lot Coverage.** The maximum lot coverage for buildings and impermeable surface shall be measured as follows:
 - (1) The building coverage shall be calculated as the ratio of the footprint of all buildings, including the principal building, garages and detached accessory buildings, to the net area of the lot.
 - (2) The total impermeable surface coverage shall be calculated as the ratio of the ground area covered by all buildings, accessory structures, decks, pools, pavement, parking, loading and storage areas, normal pool area of wet detention basins to the net lot area.

- (n) **Building Side Yard Setback.** The minimum side yard setback in B1 and B2 shall be zero where the side lot line adjoins another lot zoned as a business district and the side wall is a fire rated wall with no windows. Where a lot borders on a residential district, there shall be provided a minimum 20-foot setback on the side bordering the residential district.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.10., 2-5-2019)

ARTICLE 08. - CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS

Section 08.01 - Intent

- (a) **CBD1 Downtown District.** The CBD1 Downtown District is to be applied to the central business districts of the cities of La Porte and Michigan City. This district is intended to maintain and enhance the pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use downtown in which a variety of retail, commercial, office, civic and residential uses are permitted. The requirements of the district are designed to maintain a lively social environment and economically viable downtowns through the synergy of a wide variety of uses in a traditional downtown environment. This district is further intended to support healthier and more sustainable communities through community centers that are pedestrian, and transit-friendly, reduce sprawl and provide an alternative to the segregation of land uses that cause increased vehicle travel and traffic congestion. To achieve this intent, the regulations of this district control building height and placement to ensure appropriate scale along streetscapes and frame a well-defined public realm comprised of human-scale streets and public spaces, all of which contribute to creating a safe, comfortable and downtown environment.
- (1) Michigan City has forged a collective vision for the redevelopment of the downtown and waterfront and the CBD1 district is intended to facilitate a transformative change to Michigan City's downtown and waterfront area. This district is intended to direct urban growth in the city's North End; to guide future deliberations and decisions which affect the way people build and live; to advocate the building of civil communities through economically and environmentally sustainable development practices; and to build and preserve places that are useful, beautiful and meaningful.
- (2) The CBD1 district in the City of La Porte is intended to help preserve the architectural integrity and character of the downtown area; ensure the streetscape is organized and maintained that it is attractive to visitors and is a pedestrian-friendly area; and to sustain a downtown area that is a desirable place to live, shop, work and enjoy.
- (b) **CBD2 Hamlet District.** The CBD2 Hamlet District is to be applied to small hamlets or rural village centers in the unincorporated areas of the county. This district is intended to support a small-town character and enhance the traditional, pedestrian-oriented environment of unincorporated village centers. The district provides for a mixture of retail stores, offices, public spaces, residential uses and related activities that are mutually supporting and serve the needs of the surrounding area. This district is further intended to support healthier and more sustainable communities through community centers that are pedestrian, and transit-friendly, reduce sprawl and provide an alternative to the segregation of land uses that cause increased vehicle travel and traffic congestion. To achieve this intent, the regulations of this district control building height and placement to ensure appropriate scale along streetscapes, calm traffic and frame a well-defined, human-scale setting consistent with a small-town environment.

Section 08.02 - Uses

Use and development of land and buildings shall only be for the following specified uses, unless otherwise provided for in this Ordinance. Uses are grouped into major categories and only those uses listed under each category are permitted. Land and/or buildings in the districts indicated at the top of the Table may be used for the purposes denoted by the following abbreviations:

P: **Permitted Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for the purposes listed by right.

S: **Special Exception Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for this purpose by obtaining Special Exception approval when all applicable standards cited in Article 24 Special Exception Review Requirements and Procedures.

NP: **Not Permitted.** The use is not permitted in the district. Uses not listed in the table are also not permitted. Uses that are not listed in any district of the zoning ordinance, as shown in Appendix A, may be allowed based upon a similar use

Table 08.02
Schedule of Permitted Uses

Use	CBD1	CBD2	Use Requirements
Residential limited to the following:			
Single-family attached/townhouses	P	P	
Multiple-family dwellings	P	-	
Dwellings in mixed-use buildings	P	P	
Dwelling units for watchmen and operating personnel and their families	P	P	
Fraternity, sorority or student cooperatives	S	-	
Home occupations	P	P	<u>14.01(b)</u>
Retail trade limited to the following:			
Retail uses up to 40,000 square feet gross floor area, except where otherwise listed	P	P	
Any retail use between 40,000 and 60,000 square feet gross floor area	S	-	<u>14.03(a)</u>
Any retail use over 60,000 square feet gross floor area	S	-	<u>14.03(a)</u>
Art and school supply stores	P	P	
Auction houses	S	S	
Bait shops	P	P	
Bakeries, retail sales only	P	P	
Business machine sales and service	P	P	
Computer sales	P	P	
Convenience stores	P	P	
Gift, souvenir handicraft stores	P	P	
Grocery stores/super markets	P	P	

Lawn & garden supply, greenhouse, and retail nurseries without outdoor sales	P	P	
Lawn & garden supply, greenhouse, and retail nurseries with outdoor sales	S	S	
Liquor stores	P	P	
Marine accessory shops	P	P	
Media store, general	P	P	<u>14.03(d)</u>
Media store, with backroom	P	P	<u>14.03(e)</u>
Newsstands	P	P	
Office supply stores	P	P	
Pet shops, dog grooming and day care (not including overnight boarding)	P	P	
Pharmacies	P	P	
Produce markets	P	P	
Services limited to the following:			
Barber/beauty shops	P	P	
Dry cleaners, pick-up	P	P	
Interior decorating shops	P	P	
Laundries	S	S	
Locksmith shops	P	P	
Office service centers	P	P	
Photographic studios	P	P	
Shoe repair shops	P	P	
Tailor shops	P	P	
Taxidermists	P	P	

Motor vehicle dealers and service limited to the following:			
Automobile rental	S	-	
Parts stores	P	P	
Accommodation and food services limited to the following:			
Banquet halls	P	P	
Bed & breakfasts	P	P	
Cafeterias (as an accessory use)	P	P	
Candy and ice cream shops	P	P	
Catering services	P	P	
Delicatessens	P	P	
Exhibition halls	P	-	
Hotel-miniums	P	P	
Hotels/motels	P	P	
Restaurants, carryout	P	P	
Restaurants, standard not including drive-thru/in	P	P	
Restaurant and taverns with outdoor seating	P	P	
Taverns and bars	P	P	
Finance, insurance, real estate, professional, scientific, and technical limited to the following:			
Banks & financial institutions	P	P	
Blueprinting and photostatting establishments	P	P	
Newspaper offices including printing	P	P	
Offices, general and professional with accessory research and testing	P	P	
Printing and publishing establishments	P	P	

Radio, television and recording studios	P	P	
Travel agencies	P	P	
Health care and social assistance limited to the following:			
Day care centers, commercial/preschools	P	P	<u>14.08(a)</u>
Day care homes, residential	P	P	
Funeral homes/mortuaries	S	S	<u>14.08(b)</u>
Hospital-related uses	P	-	
Hospitals	S	-	
Massage therapy services	P	P	<u>14.08(d)</u>
Medical and dental clinics	P	P	
Medical laboratories	S	S	
Nursing homes and senior assisted living	P	P	<u>14.08(c)</u>
Optical sales	P	P	
Orthopedic and medical appliance sales	P	P	
Philanthropic and eleemosynary institutions	S	S	
Entertainment and recreation limited to the following:			
Amusement/arcade establishments	S	S	
Dance schools	P	P	
Health and athletic clubs	P	P	
Ice skating rinks	P	P	
Parks/playgrounds	P	P	
Stadiums/arenas	S	S	
Theaters	S	S	
Civic, religious, social assistance organizations limited to the following:			

Churches, chapels, temples, synagogues and similar places of worship	P	P	<u>14.10(a)</u>
Clubs, lodges, union halls	P	P	
Community centers	P	P	
Conference and convention halls	P	P	
Convents, monasteries and seminaries	P	P	
Educational services limited to the following:			
Colleges, universities, and accessory uses, including housing for students	P	P	
Libraries	P	P	
Schools, commercial and trade	S	S	
Public administration limited to the following:			
Government buildings excluding correctional facilities	P	P	
Museums, civic buildings and landmarks preserved for public inspection	P	P	
Transportation and warehousing limited to the following:			
Bus and passenger rail terminals	P	P	
Parking structures as a principal use	P	P	
Taxicab dispatching	P	P	
Utilities limited to the following:			
Public utility buildings	P	P	
Utility substations	P	P	
Single accessory wind energy conversion systems	S	S	<u>14.15(b)</u>
Wireless communication facility - collocation	P	P	<u>14.15(c)</u>
Wireless communication facility on institutional site	S	S	<u>14.15(c)</u>

Section 08.03 - Lot Area and Width Requirements

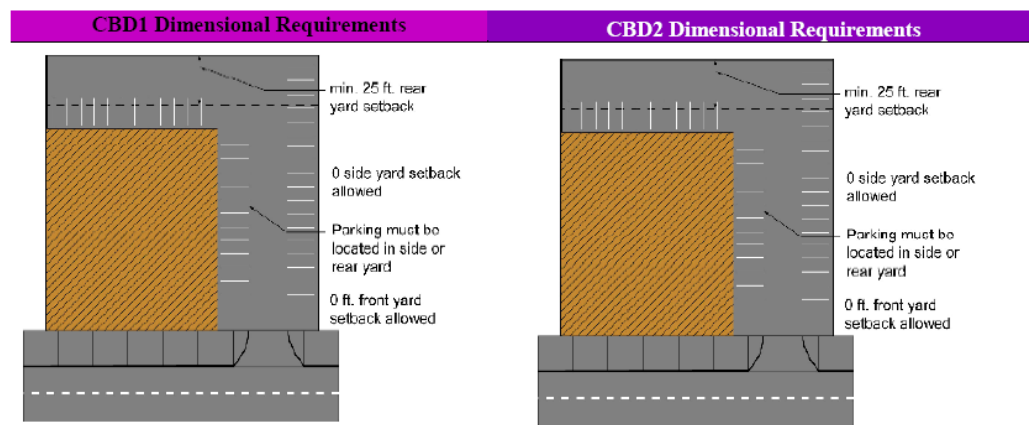
- (a) **Lot Sizes.** There are no minimum lot area or width requirements in the CBD1 and CBD2 districts.
- (b) **Community Sewer.** All lots created in the CBD1 district must be served by community sewer. Any lot in the CBD2 District not served by community sewer shall be subject to State and County Health Department regulations regarding accommodation of septic or other onsite wastewater treatment systems, which shall dictate minimum lot area requirements.
- (c) **Subdivision of Land.** All divisions to land shall be subject to the requirements set forth in the Subdivision Regulations of La Porte County, City of La Porte or City of Michigan City, as applicable.
- (d) **Depth to Width Ratio.** All newly created lots shall have a lot depth of no more than four times the width (i.e. maximum 4:1 depth to width ratio).
- (e) **Residential Density.**
 - (1) **CBD1.** The maximum residential density in the CBD1 district shall be 30 dwelling units per acre. In mixed-use buildings with upper floor apartments above ground floor commercial, there shall be no density limit, provided the minimum floor area per dwelling unit and parking requirements can be met.
 - (2) **CBD2.** The maximum residential density in the CBD2 district shall be two dwelling units per acre, subject to any limitations imposed by the State and County Health Department. The density may be increased to eight dwelling units per acre with community sewer. Community sewer may include municipal wastewater system or onsite cluster systems.

Section 08.04 - Building Dimensional Requirements

All structures shall be subject to the dimensional regulations of the following table.

Table 08.04
Building Dimensional Requirements (a)

District	Max. building height (b)		Min. setbacks (ft.) (c, d, e, f)			
	Height (ft.)	Height (st.)	Front yard	Side yard	Rear yard (g)	Waterway (h, i)
CBD1	none	none	0	0	25	75
CBD2	30	2	0	0	25	75



- (a) **Accessory Structures.** Accessory structures shall be regulated under the requirements of [Article 16](#).
- (b) **Height Exceptions.** In CBD2, no structure shall exceed the maximum height of the district except for the allowable exceptions to the height limits contained in [Section 15.02](#). There shall be no height limit in CBD1.
- (c) **Outdoor Storage.** Outdoor storage shall be screened in accordance with [Sections 17.02](#) and [17.03](#). Storage areas shall meet the applicable building setback requirements from each lot line.
- (d) **Parking Lots.** Parking lots shall be located in the side or rear yard. Off-street parking lots shall be prohibited in the front yard between the building and the front lot line. Where parking is located in the side yard, a hedge row or three foot tall brick wall shall be provided to screen the parking from the street in accordance with [Section 17.02\(d\)](#). On-street parking shall be permitted, subject to approval by the applicable road agency.
- (e) **Loading Areas.** All loading and unloading shall be provided off-street in the rear yard or interior side yard, and shall in no instance be permitted in a front yard. Where an alley exists or is provided at the rear of buildings, the rear building setback and loading requirements may be computed from the center of the alley. Loading and unloading areas located in a side yard shall be fully screened from view from a public street. No overhead doors shall be permitted in the front elevation of the building.
- (f) **Screening of Parking and Loading Area.** Where a parking lot or loading area borders on a residential district, a screening wall shall be provided from the residential district as required by [Section 17.03](#).
- (g) **Rear Yard.** A rear yard setback shall not be required where the rear lot line adjoins an alley.
- (h) **Wetlands.** A minimum setback of 50 feet shall be maintained from all wetlands. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of natural resource preservation guidelines contained [in] [Article 22](#).
- (i) **Waterway Setback.** The waterway setback shall be measured from the shoreline of the lake, river or stream. In no instance shall any structures other than docks, seawalls, retaining walls, sidewalks, boardwalks, and patios be permitted within the minimum waterway setback. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of Natural Resource Preservation Guidelines.

ARTICLE 09. - INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS

Section 09.01 - Intent

- (a) **M1 Light Industrial District.** The M1 Light Industrial District is established for light industries, such as light manufacturing or processing of previously refined materials and other industrial uses that have no adverse impact upon neighboring districts. This district also allows certain commercial uses that are industrial in character or are necessary to provide services to persons working within the district. Uses in this district must have less of an impact on surrounding uses and generate less truck traffic than the other industrial developments. Limitations regarding the degree of noise, smoke, glare, odor, and vibration are placed upon such uses to preclude any adverse effects upon nearby commercial or residential districts. It is intended that this district act as a transition between heavier industrial uses and residential or commercial areas.

- (b) **M2 Heavy Industrial District.** The M2 Heavy Industrial District is established to permit heavier industrial uses that are primarily of a manufacturing, assembling, and fabricating character, and are large-scale or specialized industrial operations more likely to produce external physical effects impacting to some degree surrounding districts. The M-2 District is further designed to be located in areas heavy industrial uses can most efficiently utilize major roadways, utilities and other infrastructure while minimizing any incompatible aspects with neighboring districts.

Section 09.02 - Uses

Use and development of land and buildings shall only be for the following specified uses, unless otherwise provided for in this Ordinance. Uses are grouped into major categories and only those uses listed under each category are permitted. Land and/or buildings in the districts indicated at the top of the Table may be used for the purposes denoted by the following abbreviations:

P: **Permitted Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for the purposes listed by right.

S: **Special Exception Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for this purpose by obtaining Special Exception approval when all applicable standards cited in [Article 24](#) Special Exception Review Requirements and Procedures.

-: **Not Permitted.** The use is not permitted in the district. Uses not listed in the table are also not permitted. Uses that are not listed in any district of the zoning ordinance, as shown in Appendix A, may be allowed based upon a similar use determination in accordance with [Section 02.06](#).

Table 09.02
Schedule of Permitted Uses

Use	M1	M2	Use Requirements
Residential limited to the following:			
Dwelling units for watchmen and operating personnel and their families	P	P	
Agriculture and animal-related uses limited to the following:			
Farm implement dealers	P	P	
Grain elevator and storage	P	P	
Kennels	P	P	
Livestock yards	S	S	
Locker plants	P	P	
Plant nursery and commercial greenhouses	P	P	
Produce terminals	P	P	
Slaughterhouse	-	S	14.02(d)
Retail trade limited to the following:			

Adult retail store	P	P	<u>14.09(a)</u>
Auction houses	P	-	
Business machine sales and service	P	-	
Furnace/air conditioner sales/service	P	P	
Glass sales & service	P	P	
Hardware, electrical, plumbing, paint and floor covering sales	P	-	
Machinery and equipment sales	P	P	
Mail order business	P	P	
Mobile homes and trailer sales/rental	P	P	
Petroleum products sales	P	P	
Services limited to the following:			
Cleaning services	P	P	
Dry cleaning plants/commercial laundries	P	P	
Locksmith shops	P	-	
Office service centers	P	P	
Pest control services	P	P	
Tool and equipment rental	P	P	
Repair shops, nonautomotive	P	P	
Motor vehicle dealers and service limited to the following:			
Automobile rental	P	P	
Minor automobile service and repair	P	P	<u>14.05(a)</u>
Major automobile service, body repair and painting	P	P	<u>14.05(a)</u>
Parts stores	P		
Truck rental	P	P	

Truck sales (new/used)	P	P	
Truck stops	S	S	<u>14.05(c)</u>
Vehicle auctions	P	P	
Vehicle salvage yards	-	S	<u>14.07(c)</u>
Vehicle service stations	S		<u>14.05(c)</u>
Accommodation and food services limited to the following:			
Cafeterias (as an accessory use)	P	P	
Restaurants, carryout	S	S	<u>14.06(c)</u>
Restaurants, standard not including drive-thru/in	S	S	<u>14.06(c)</u>
Restaurant and taverns with outdoor seating	S	S	<u>14.06(c)</u>
Taverns and bars	S	S	<u>14.06(c)</u>
Finance, insurance, real estate, professional, scientific, and technical limited to the following:			
Blueprinting and photostatting establishments	P	P	
Newspaper offices including printing	P	P	
Offices, general and professional with accessory research and testing	P	P	
Printing and publishing establishments	P	P	
Radio, television and recording studios	P		
Research & development laboratories	P	P	
Health care and social assistance limited to the following:			
Day care centers, commercial/preschools	P	P	<u>14.08(a)</u>
Massage therapy services	P	P	<u>14.08(d)</u>
Medical and dental clinics	P	-	
Medical laboratories	P	-	

Entertainment and recreation limited to the following:			
Adult cabaret	P	P	<u>14.09(a)</u>
Boat sales, including service	P	P	<u>14.09(b)</u>
Boat storage	P	P	<u>14.09(b)</u>
Forestry/wildlife preserve	P	P	
Ice skating rinks	P	-	
Racetracks and go-cart tracks	S	-	<u>14.09(d)</u>
Shooting ranges, indoors	P	P	
Shooting ranges, outdoors	S	S	
Stadiums/arenas	S	-	
Educational services limited to the following:			
Driving schools	P	-	
Schools, commercial and trade	P	P	
Training centers, engineering or sales	P	P	
Public administration limited to the following:			
Government buildings excluding correctional facilities	P	P	
Correctional facilities	S	S	
Museums, civic buildings and landmarks preserved for public inspection	P	P	
Transportation and warehousing limited to the following:			
Airports and heliports	S	S	
Bottled gas storage and distribution	S	S	
Bus and passenger rail terminals	P	P	
Cartage, express, and parcel delivery establishments	S	P	
Freight and intermodal terminals	S	P	<u>14.13(b)</u>

Moving companies	P	P	
Parking structures as a principal use	P	P	
Self-storage facilities, indoor	P	P	<u>14.13(c)</u>
Self-storage facilities, outside	P	P	<u>14.13(c)</u>
Taxicab dispatching	P	P	
Warehouses	P	P	
Wholesale business	P	P	
Manufacturing limited to the following:			
Manufacturing uses. Any establishment the principal use of which is manufacturing, fabricating, processing, assembling, disassembling, repairing, cleaning, servicing, testing, and storing of materials, products, and goods provided operations conform with the performance standards applicable to the district in which it is located.	P	P	
Beverage bottling plants	P	P	
Paper product manufacturing	-	S	
Building material manufacturing including milling, planing and joining	P	P	
Chemical manufacturing and storage	S	S	
Explosive manufacturing and storage	S	S	
Food processing	P	P	
Foundries	-	S	
Heavy industry	-	P	
Machine, sheet metal and welding shops	P	P	
Petroleum tank farms	S	P	<u>14.14(a)</u>
Sawmills	P	P	
Utilities limited to the following:			
Power generation plants	S	S	<u>14.15(a)</u>

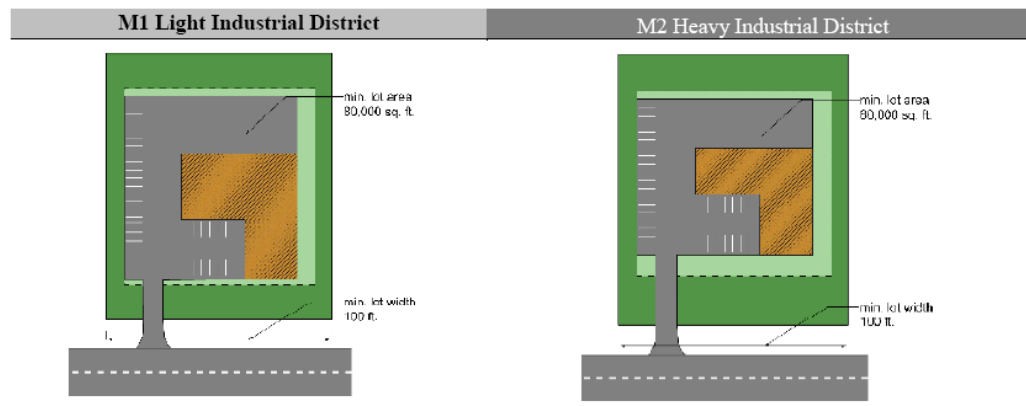
Public utility buildings	P	P	
Sewage treatment plants	S	S	
Telephone exchange buildings	P	P	
Transmission lines for gas, oil and electricity	P	P	
Utility substations	P	P	
Single accessory wind energy conversion systems	S	S	<u>14.15(b)</u>
Commercial wind energy conversion systems	S	S	<u>14.15(b)</u>
Wireless communication facility - collocation	P	P	<u>14.15(c)</u>
Wireless communication facility tower	S	S	<u>14.15(c)</u>
Wireless communication facility on institutional site	S	S	<u>14.15(c)</u>
Construction limited to the following:			
Building materials storage yard without retail sales	S	S	<u>14.16(a)</u>
Concrete and gravel crushing	-	S	<u>14.16(a)</u>
Contractors' offices and shops (excluding outdoor storage)	P	P	
Contractors' outdoor storage	S	P	<u>14.16(a)</u>
Landscaping services	P	P	<u>14.16(a)</u>
Waste processing and disposal limited to the following:			
Processing, storage, transfer stations, disposal or incineration of solid waste, hazardous waste or medical waste	S	S	<u>14.17(a)</u>
Recycling facility, non-hazardous	P	P	<u>14.17(b)</u>
Salvage yards	-	S	<u>14.17(c)</u>
Sanitary landfills	S	S	<u>14.17(d)</u>
Mining limited to the following:			
Mineral extraction & general mining operations	S	S	<u>14.18(a)</u>

Section 09.03 - Lot Area and Width Requirements

All lots shall meet the following minimum area and width requirements. No new lots shall be created or altered in a manner that does not comply with the following requirements.

Table 09.03
Lot Area And Width Requirements

District (a)	Min. lot size (b)(g)	
	Lot area (sq. ft.) (c)	Lot width (ft.) (d)(e)(f)
M1 Light Industrial District	80,000	100
M2 Heavy Industrial District	80,000	100



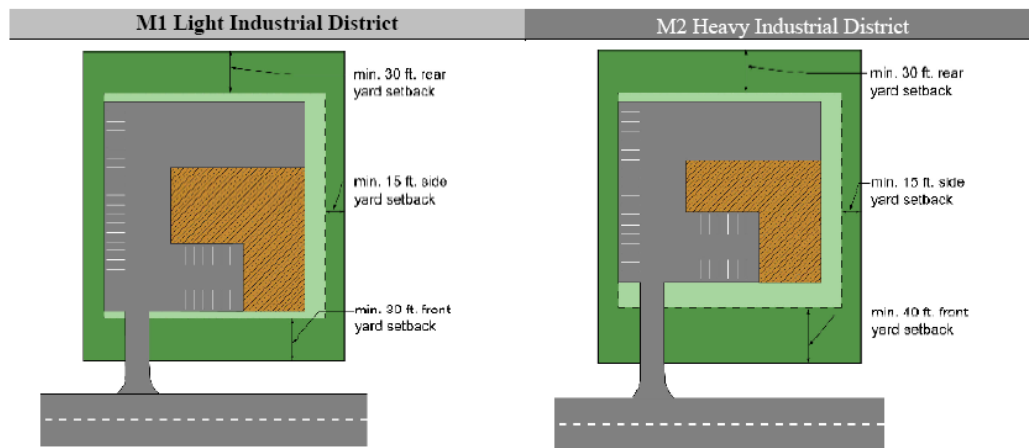
- (a) **Subdivision of Land.** All divisions to land shall be subject to the requirements set forth in the Subdivision Regulations of La Porte County, City of La Porte or City of Michigan City, as applicable.
- (b) **Lot Area Calculation.** Lot area is calculated based upon the net area of the lot, measured in the horizontal plane, exclusive of any area that is part of a public road right-of-way, private road easement or submerged land beneath the ordinary high water mark of a lake, river or stream.
- (c) **Lot Width and Frontage.** Lot width shall be measured as a straight line between the side lot lines at the minimum front yard setback of the district. All lots shall have frontage along a public road or street. The width along the road shall be sufficient to meet the lot width requirement at the minimum front yard setback.
- (d) **Dominant Parcel.** The dominant tract or parcel from which any newly created lot has been divided from must also maintain the required lot width.
- (e) **Depth to Width Ratio.** All newly created lots shall have a lot depth of no more than four times the width (i.e. maximum 4:1 depth to width ratio).
- (f) **Nonconforming Lots.** Lots of record that were in existence prior to the effective date of this ordinance may be used subject to the provisions of the nonconforming lot regulations of Section 29.03.

Section 09.04 - Building Dimensional Requirements

All structures shall be subject to the dimensional regulations of the following table.

Table 09.04
Building Dimensional Requirements (a)

District	Max. building height (b)		Min. setbacks (ft.) (c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j)				% Lot coverage (m)	
	Height (ft.)	Height (st.)	Front yard	Side yard	Rear yard	Waterway (k, l)	Building	Imper. surface
M1 Light Industrial District	45	—	30	15	30	75	65%	85%
M2 Heavy Industrial District	60	—	40	15	30	75	65%	85%



- Accessory Structures.** Accessory structures shall be regulated under the requirements of [Article 16](#).
- Height Exceptions.** No structure shall exceed the maximum height of the district except for the allowable exceptions to the height limits contained in [Section 15.02](#).
- Projections into Yards.** All required yard spaces shall remain as landscaped open space, except for pavement, accessory structures and architectural features that are allowed to extend or project into required setbacks under [Section 15.01](#).
- Yards Maintained as Landscaped Open Space.** All buildings shall meet the setback requirement. Setback areas shall be provided with landscape greenbelts and buffer zones as required in [Section 17.02](#).
- Outdoor Storage.** Outdoor storage shall be screened in accordance with [Sections 17.02](#) and [17.03](#). Storage areas shall meet the applicable building setback requirements from each lot line.
- Setback from Road.** The front yard setback shall be measured from the road right-of-way or private road easement. Detention/retention ponds shall be prohibited in the required front yard setback, unless there is no reasonable alternative due to existing topography and natural drainage problems. This restriction shall not apply to rain gardens, bio-retention swales, irrigation trench planters and other similar stormwater management alternatives to retention or detention ponds.

- (g) **Parking Setback.** Parking lots shall be required to meet the front yard setback. Parking shall be permitted in the side or rear yard provided it does not encroach into any required landscape greenbelts or buffer zones required by Section 17.02. Where a parking loading area borders on a residential district, there shall be provided a buffer and screening from the residential district, as required by Sections 17.02 and 17.03.
- (h) **Corner Lots.** Corner lots shall provide the minimum front yard setback from both road frontages.
- (i) **Double Frontage Lots.** In all districts, where a double frontage lot backs-up to a roadway, the minimum required front or roadside setback shall be required from both road rights-of-way.
- (j) **Loading Areas.** All loading and unloading shall be provided off-street in the rear yard or interior side yard, and shall in no instance be permitted in a front yard. Where an alley exists or is provided at the rear of buildings, the rear building setback and loading requirements may be computed from the center of the alley. Loading and unloading areas located in a side yard shall be fully screened from view from a public street. No overhead doors shall be permitted in the front elevation of the building. All residential districts and uses must be screened from truck loading and unloading activities in accordance with Section 17.03.
- (k) **Wetlands.** A minimum setback of 50 feet shall be maintained from all wetlands. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of natural resource preservation guidelines contained [in] Article 22.
- (l) **Waterway Setback.** The waterway setback shall be measured from the shoreline of the lake, river or stream. In no instance shall any structures other than docks, seawalls, retaining walls, sidewalks, boardwalks, and patios be permitted within the minimum waterway setback. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of Natural Resource Preservation Guidelines.
- (m) **Maximum Lot Coverage.** The maximum lot coverage for buildings and impermeable surface shall be measured as follows:
 - (1) The building coverage shall be calculated as the ratio of the footprint of all buildings, including the principal building, garages and detached accessory buildings, to the net area of the lot.
 - (2) The total impermeable surface coverage shall be calculated as the ratio of the ground area covered by all buildings, accessory structures, decks, pools, pavement, parking, loading and storage areas, normal pool area of wet detention basins to the net lot area.
- (n) **Reserved.**
- (o) **M2, Heavy Industrial adjoining R1E, Waterfront Residential.**
 - (1) **Applicable Properties.** This Subsection applies to properties in the M2 district that adjoin or are adjacent to properties in the R1E district.
 - (2) **Notwithstanding.** Notwithstanding the permitted and special exception uses, the lot area and width requirements, or the other applicable standards of this Section, the following apply when adjoining the R1E, Waterfront Residential district:
 - (a) **Existing Uses.** Land uses that exist as of January 1, 2019 may continue or the use may be expanded or changed subject to a special exception.
 - (b) **Prohibited Uses.** The following uses are prohibited:
 - 1. Agriculture (except indoor or rooftop gardening) and animal-related uses (all uses);
 - 2. Adult cabaret and retail store;
 - 3. Chemical manufacturing and storage;
 - 4. Concrete and gravel crushing;
 - 5. Contractors' outdoor storage;
 - 6. Explosive manufacturing and storage;
 - 7. Foundries;
 - 8. Machinery and equipment sales;
 - 9. Mining (all uses);
 - 10. Mobile homes and trailer sales/rental;

11. Petroleum tank farms;
12. Power generation plants;
13. Racetracks and go-cart tracks;
14. Self-storage facilities, outside;
15. Sewage treatment plants;
16. Shooting ranges, outdoors;
17. Stadiums/arenas;
18. Utility substations;
19. Waste processing and disposal (all uses); and

(c) **Prohibited Activities and Characteristics.** The following are prohibited on properties within 100 feet of the common lot line or district boundary between the M2 and R1E properties between the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.:

1. Collection of solid waste, including recycling;
2. Loading, unloading, or idling of vehicles, including tractor trailers, with two or more rear axles; and
3. Open overhead doors.

(d) **Shared Driveways, Frontage Roads and Service Drives.**

- a. All industrial uses shall install frontage or service roads to allow connection to adjacent lots, except when the connection would result in an industrial property having direct access to a local street serving residentially zoned properties. A frontage road shall be parallel to and service roads shall be parallel or perpendicular to the front lot line. All frontage roads and service drives shall be designed in accordance with the requirements of Section 18.04.
- b. A traffic impact study is required with site plan submission for any development on an applicable property meeting the warrants for a traffic impact study, as provided in the "Applicant's Guide to Traffic Impact Studies," published by the Indiana Department of Transportation. The preparation and review of the traffic impact study shall also follow this guide.

(e) **Buffer Standards.** See Table 17.02(c)(1), Buffer Zone Type.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.11., 2-5-2019)

ARTICLE 10. - MARINA DISTRICT

Section 10.01 - Intent

- (a) **MD Marina District.** The MD Marina District is to be applied to the waterfront areas of Michigan City, including Washington Park and Marina, as well as development along the Trail Creek. Michigan City has forged a collective vision for the redevelopment of the downtown and waterfront and this district is intended to facilitate a transformative change to Michigan City's downtown and waterfront area.
- (b) This district is intended to provide for a mixture of uses ranging from boating and recreation to tourism-related businesses. Moderate density residential uses are also permitted to provide a range of housing opportunities, stimulate mixed-use environments and support redevelopment of the Michigan City North End. It is also the intent of this district to maintain visual and physical access to waterfront, which provides recreational opportunities, enhances economic development of the downtown and helps define a strong sense of place for Michigan City.

Section 10.02 - Uses

Use and development of land and buildings shall only be for the following specified uses, unless otherwise provided for in this Ordinance. Uses are grouped into major categories and only those uses listed under each category are permitted. Land and/or buildings in the districts indicated at the top of the Table may be used for the purposes denoted by the following abbreviations:

P: **Permitted Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for the purposes listed by right.

S: **Special Exception Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for this purpose by obtaining Special Exception approval when all applicable standards cited in [Article 24](#) Special Exception Review Requirements and Procedures.

:- **Not Permitted.** The use is not permitted in the district. Uses not listed in the table are also not permitted. Uses that are not listed in any district of the zoning ordinance, as shown in Appendix A, may be allowed based upon a similar use determination in accordance with [Section 02.06](#).

Table 10.02
Schedule of Permitted Uses

Use P = Permitted by Right S = Requires special exception approval	MD	Use Requirements
Residential limited to the following:		
Single-family attached/townhouses	P	
Multiple-family dwellings	P	
Dwelling units for watchmen and operating personnel and their families	P	
Home occupations	P	14.01(b)
Retail trade limited to the following:		
Retail uses up to 40,000 square feet gross floor area, except where otherwise listed	P	
Bait shops	P	
Convenience stores	P	
Convenience stores with marine gasoline sales	S	
Gift, souvenir handicraft stores	P	
Grocery stores/super markets	P	
Liquor stores	P	
Marine accessory shops	P	
Newsstands	P	
Open air markets and outdoor sales	P	
Pharmacies	P	

Produce markets	P	
Services limited to the following:		
Dry cleaners, pick-up	P	
Laundries	P	
Motor vehicle dealers and service limited to the following:		
Marine gasoline service stations	S	
Accommodation and food services limited to the following:		
Banquet halls	P	
Bed/breakfasts	P	
Cafeterias (as an accessory use)	P	
Candy and ice cream shops	P	
Delicatessens	P	
Hotel-miniums	P	
Hotels/motels	P	
Restaurants, carryout	P	
Restaurants, standard not including drive-thru/in	P	
Restaurant and taverns with outdoor seating	P	
Taverns and bars	P	
Health care and social assistance limited to the following:		
Day care centers, commercial/preschools	P	
Day care homes, residential licensed for 12 or fewer children	P	
Entertainment and recreation limited to the following:		
Amusement parks	P	

Boat clubs	P	<u>14.09(b)</u>
Boat harbors/public marinas, including service, storage, and fuel sales	P	<u>14.09(b)</u>
Boat sales, including service	P	<u>14.09(b)</u>
Boat storage	P	<u>14.09(b)</u>
Canoe rental	P	
Casinos	S	<u>14.09(c)</u>
Commercial outdoor recreation facilities such as batting cages, driving ranges and putt-putt golf	S	
Campgrounds	S	
Forestry/wildlife preserve	P	
Golf course and country clubs	S	
Health and athletic clubs	P	
Ice skating rinks	P	
Parks/playgrounds	P	
Stadiums/arenas	S	
Theaters	S	
Public administration limited to the following:		
Government buildings excluding correctional facilities	P	
Museums, civic buildings and landmarks preserved for public inspection	P	
Transportation and warehousing limited to the following:		
Marinas	P	
Parking structures as a principal use	P	
Utilities limited to the following:		
Public utility buildings	P	
Telephone exchange buildings	P	

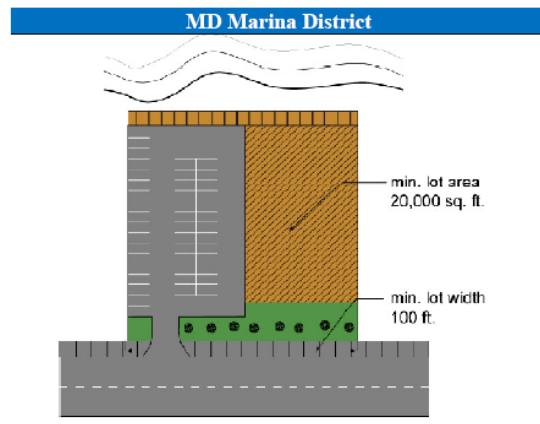
Transmission lines for gas, oil and electricity	P	
Utility substations	P	
Single accessory wind energy conversion systems	S	<u>14.15(b)</u>
Wireless communication facility - collocation	P	<u>14.15(c)</u>
Wireless communication facility on institutional site	S	<u>14.15(c)</u>

Section 10.03 - Lot Area and Width Requirements

All lots shall meet the following minimum area and width requirements. No new lots shall be created or altered in a manner that does not comply with the following requirements.

Table 10.03
Lot Area And Width Requirements

District (a)	Min. lot size (b)(f)(g)	
	Lot area (sq. ft.) (c)	Lot width(ft.)(d)(e)
MD Marina District	20,000	100



- (a) **Subdivision of Land.** All divisions to land shall be subject to the requirements set forth in the Subdivision Regulations of Michigan City.
- (b) **Lot Size Reduction.** The lot area and lot width may be reduced below the amounts indicated in Table 10.03 where driveway spacing requirements of Section 18.04 can be met and the lot has a recorded easement for a shared driveway, and cross circulation with parking lots on all adjacent lots zoned or planned for business use, meeting the requirements of Section 18.04.
- (c) **Lot Area Calculation.** Lot area is calculated based upon the net area of the lot, measured in the horizontal plane, exclusive of any area that is part of a public road right-of-way, private road easement or submerged land beneath the ordinary high water mark of a lake, river or stream.

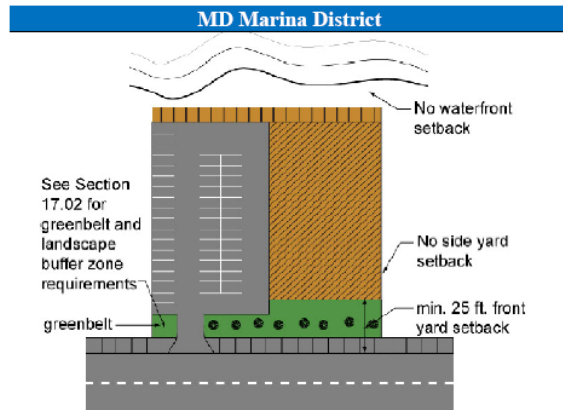
- (d) **Lot Width and Frontage.** Lot width shall be measured as a straight line between the side lot lines at the minimum front yard setback district. All lots shall have frontage along a public road or street. The width along the road shall be sufficient to meet the lot width requirement at the minimum front yard setback. This requirement shall not apply to individual lots that have access by a shared service drive system within a shopping center or shared access with adjacent uses.
- (e) **Dominant Parcel.** The dominant tract or parcel from which any newly created lot has been divided from must also maintain the required lot width.
- (f) **Residential Buildings.** Residential uses shall be subject to the density restrictions of the R3B - High-Rise Multiple Family Residential District.
- (g) **Nonconforming Lots.** Lots of record that were in existence prior to the effective date of this ordinance may be used subject to the provisions of the nonconforming lot regulations of [Section 29.03](#).

Section 10.04 - Building Dimensional Requirements

All structures shall be subject to the dimensional regulations of the following table.

Table 10.04
Building Dimensional Requirements (a)

District	Max. building height		Min. setbacks (ft.) (c, d, e, f, g, h, i)		% Lot coverage (l)	
	Height (ft.)	Height (st.)	Front yard (street)	Side and rear yard	Building	Imper. surface
MD Marina District	none	none	25 (j)	0 (k)	65%	90%



- (a) **Accessory Structures.** Accessory structures shall be regulated under the requirements of [Article 16](#).
- (b) **Projections into Yards.** Accessory structures and architectural features that are allowed to extend or project into required setbacks under [Section 15.01](#).
- (c) **Yards Maintained as Open Space.** Setback areas may include parking lots, walkways or other pavement, but shall be provided landscape greenbelts and buffer zones where required in [Section 17.02](#).
- (d) **Outdoor Storage.** Outdoor storage shall be screened in accordance with [Sections 17.02](#) and [17.03](#). Storage areas shall meet the applicable building setback requirements from each lot line.
- (e) **Setback from Road.** The front yard setback shall be measured from the road right-of-way or private road easement. Detention/retention ponds shall be prohibited in the required front yard setback, unless there is no reasonable alternative

due to existing topography and natural drainage problems. This restriction shall not apply to rain gardens, bio-retention swales, irrigation trench planters and other similar stormwater management alternatives to retention or detention ponds.

- (f) **Corner Lots.** Corner lots shall provide the minimum front yard setback from both road frontages.
- (g) **Double Frontage Lots.** In all districts, where a double frontage lot backs-up to a roadway, the minimum required front or roadside setback shall be required from both road rights-of-way.
- (h) **Parking Side and Rear Yard Setback.** The parking setback shall not be required from a side or rear lot line that is adjoining another non-residential lot. Where a parking lot or loading area borders on a residential district, there shall be provided a buffer and screening from the residential district as required by Sections 17.02 and 17.03. Parking lots may be located in the front yard setback with the provision of landscaping between the parking lot and right-of-way as required by Section 17.02(d) (2)b.
- (i) **Front Yard Setback.** The front yard setback requirement may be waived where the building is designed with a pedestrian-oriented front facade towards the sidewalk meeting the requirements of Section 13.05.
- (j) **Loading Areas.** All loading and unloading shall be provided off-street in the rear yard or interior side yard, and shall in no instance be permitted in a front yard. Where an alley exists or is provided at the rear of buildings, the rear building setback and loading requirements may be computed from the center of the alley. Loading and unloading areas located in a side yard shall be fully screened from view from a public street. No overhead doors shall be permitted in the front elevation of the building. All residential districts and uses must be screened from truck loading and unloading activities in accordance with Section 17.03.
- (k) **Building Side and Rear Yard Setback.** There shall be no side yard setback required where the side wall is a fire rated wall with no windows. There shall be no setback requirement from the waterfront.
- (l) **Maximum Lot Coverage.** The maximum lot coverage for buildings and impermeable surface shall be measured as follows:
 - (1) The building coverage shall be calculated as the ratio of the footprint of all buildings, including the principal building, garages and detached accessory buildings, to the net area of the lot.
 - (2) The total impermeable surface coverage shall be calculated as the ratio of the ground area covered by all buildings, accessory structures, decks, pools, pavement, parking, loading and storage areas, normal pool area of wet detention basins to the net lot area.

ARTICLE 11. - AIRPORT DISTRICT

Section 11.01 - Intent

- (a) **AP Airport District.** The AP Airport District is established to provide for uses, activities, facilities, and structures necessary for the safe and efficient operation of aircraft and for providing the services and facilities required to accommodate passengers, employees, pilots, tenants and guests of the La Porte and Michigan City airports. The AP Airport District also accommodates complementary commercial, industrial and transportation facilities that are compatible and customarily associated with airports.
- (b) **Airport Overlay District.** The Airport Overlay District is established to provide for safer operating conditions for aircraft in the area surrounding the La Porte and Michigan City airports by limiting the height of structures and vegetation. An airport hazard endangers the lives and property of users of the airport, and property or occupants of land in its vicinity. This district is therefore intended to promote the development of compatible land uses in the vicinity of the airports and along runway approaches that are exposed to higher aircraft noise levels. If an obstruction reduces the size of the area available for the landing, takeoff, and maneuvering of aircraft it impairs the utility of the municipal airport and the public investment therein. This district is therefore intended to ensure all structures are in accordance with the airport approach plan. All developments shall be required to be reviewed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Indiana Department of Transportation and the controlling airport entity prior to final approval by the applicable city or county.

Section 11.02 - Uses

- (a) **AP Airport District.** The La Porte Airport Authority Board and the Michigan City Board of Aviation Commissioners shall have the authority to fix and determine exclusively the uses to which the airport lands may be put in accordance with IC 8-22-3-11. These uses include, but are not limited to the uses set forth in Table 11.02.

Table 11.02
Schedule of Permitted Uses

Use P = Permitted by Right S = Requires special exception approval	AP	Use Requirements
Retail trade		
Convenience stores	P	
Convenience stores with gasoline sales	P	<u>14.05(c)</u>
Gift, souvenir handicraft stores	P	
Newsstands	P	
Motor vehicle dealers and service		
Automobile rental	P	
Automobile washes	P	<u>14.05(b)</u>
Vehicle service stations	P	<u>14.05(c)</u>
Accommodation and food services		
Cafeterias (as an accessory use)	P	
Delicatessens	P	
Hotels/motels	P	
Restaurants, carryout	P	
Restaurants, standard not including drive-thru/in	P	
Taverns and bars	P	
Finance, insurance, real estate, professional, scientific, and technical		
Offices, general and professional	P	
Travel agencies	P	

Health care and social assistance		
Day care centers, commercial/preschools (as an accessory use)	P	<u>14.08(a)</u>
Educational services		
Schools, commercial and trade	P	
Public administration		
Government buildings excluding correctional facilities	P	
Museums, civic buildings and landmarks preserved for public inspection	P	
Transportation and warehousing		
Airports and heliports	P	
Bus and passenger rail terminals	P	
Cartage, express, and parcel delivery establishments	P	
Freight terminals	P	<u>14.13(a)</u>
Parking structures as a principal use	P	
Taxicab dispatching	P	
Warehouses	P	
Manufacturing		
Petroleum tank farms (accessory to airport only)	P	<u>14.14(a)</u>
Utilities		
Public utility buildings	P	
Transmission lines for gas, oil and electricity	P	
Utility substations	P	
Single accessory wind energy conversion systems	P	<u>14.15(b)</u>
Wireless communication facility — collocation only	P	<u>14.15(c)</u>

Other Uses		
Other uses as determined by the La Porte Authority Board and the Michigan City	P	
Board of Aviation Commissioners		

- (b) **Airport District Site Plan Approval.** All uses on the La Porte and Michigan City airport properties shall be subject to approval by the La Porte Airport Authority Board or the Michigan City Board of Aviation Commissioners, which shall have the authority to fix and determine exclusively the uses to which the airport lands may be put in accordance with IC 8-22-3-11. Uses on the La Porte and Michigan City airport properties shall not be subject to improvement location permit approval under Article 23. Construction activity shall still be subject to the building permit and inspection requirements of the Building Code and other applicable codes.
- (c) **Airport Overlay District Uses.** The Airport Overlay District shall apply to all of the land lying with the approach zones, transitional zones, horizontal zones and conical zones for the La Porte and Michigan City municipal airports set forth in Section 11.05. The uses permitted in the Airport Overlay District shall be regulated by the underlying zoning district. Where a use is allowed in the underlying zoning district, it may be allowed in the overlay district, except as provided for below.
- (1) Uses that the controlling airport entity or the FAA determines will increase the possibility of aircraft bird strikes such as ponds, waste disposal operations, wastewater treatment plants, certain agricultural uses and other uses that that are considered wildlife attractants shall be prohibited near the airport and within the runway approaches as determined by the FAA AC 150/5200-33B Hazardous Wildlife Attractants Near Airports.
 - (2) Any use that creates electrical interference with navigational signals or radio communication between the airport and aircraft, makes it difficult for pilots to distinguish between airport lights and other lights, results in glare in the eyes of pilots using the airport, impairs visibility in the vicinity of the airport or otherwise in any way creates a hazard or endangers the landing, takeoff or maneuvering of aircraft intending to use the airport shall be prohibited.
 - (3) Structures that constitute tall structures within the meaning of IC 8-21-10-3 may not be erected, altered or increased in height, except where the height of the structure is below the height limits of Section 11.05 and a permit is obtained from the Indiana Department of Transportation under IC 8-21-10-3.
 - (4) A person may not erect a building used for a noise sensitive purpose, including a residence, school, church, child care facility, medical facility, retirement home, or nursing home, within an area lying 1,500 feet on either side of the centerline and the extended centerline of a runway for a distance of one nautical mile from the boundaries of any public use airport unless:
 - a. A permit for construction in a noise sensitive area has been approved by the Indiana Department of Transportation;
 - b. The holder of a permit for construction in a noise sensitive area has filed a copy of the permit for construction in a noise sensitive area with the county recorder of La Porte County with notice provided to the airport at the time of the filing of the application for a permit; and
 - c. A certified copy of the recorded permit for construction in a noise sensitive area, with the recording data from the county recorder on the copy of the permit, has been received by the department.
 - (5) For the La Porte Municipal Airport, the noise sensitive use area has been defined and recorded for public review in the Office of the Recorder of La Porte County as Document No. 99-20807.

Section 11.03 - Lot Area and Width Requirements

- (a) **Lot Sizes.** There are no minimum lot area or width requirements in the AP district. Lot area and width requirements in the Airport Overlay District shall be regulated by the underlying zoning district.
- (b) **Community Sewer.** Any lot not served by community sewer shall be subject to State and County Health Department regulations regarding accommodation of septic or other onsite systems, which shall dictate minimum lot area requirements.
- (c) **Subdivision of Land.** All divisions to land shall be subject to the requirements set forth in the Subdivision Regulations of La Porte

Section 11.04 - AP Airport District Building Dimensional Requirements

All structures in the AP Airport District shall be subject to the dimensional regulations of the following table.

Table 11.04
Building Dimensional Requirements

District	Max. building height	Min. setbacks from perimeter of AP Airport District (ft.) (a, b, c, d)	
		Public Road	Adjacent Non-AP Property Line
AP Airport District	As determined by FAA	40	10

- (a) **Setbacks.** The setback requirements shall apply to the perimeter of AP Airport District and be provided from any abutting public roads or adjacent lots not zoned AP Airport District. Setbacks internal to any municipal airport property shall be as determined by the La Porte Airport Authority Board and the Michigan City Board of Aviation Commissioners in accordance with IC 8-22-3-11.
- (b) **Projections into Yards.** All required yard spaces shall remain as landscaped open space, except for accessory structures and architectural features that are allowed to extend or project into required setbacks under Section 15.01.
- (c) **Yards Maintained as Landscaped Open Space.** All buildings shall meet the setback requirement. Setback areas shall be provided with landscape greenbelts and buffer zones as required in Sections 17.02 and 17.03.
- (d) **Wetlands.** A minimum setback of 25 feet shall be maintained from all wetlands. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of Natural Resource Preservation Guidelines.

Section 11.05 - Airport Overlay District Requirements

- (a) **Airport Overlay District.** In order to carry out the provisions of this article, there are created and established certain zones which include all of the land lying with the approach zones, transitional zones, horizontal zones and conical zones as they apply to a particular airport. Such zones are shown on the municipal airport hazard zoning maps for the La Porte and Michigan City municipal airports, which are attached to the ordinance codified in this article and made a part of this article. An area located in more than one of the zones set forth in this division is considered to be only in the zone with the more restrictive height limitation. The various zones are established and defined as follows. La Porte and Michigan City municipal airports both have non-precession instrument runways,
 - (1) **Horizontal Surface.** A horizontal plane 150 feet above the established airport elevation, the perimeter of which is constructed by swinging arcs of specified radii from the center of each end of the primary surface of each runway of each airport and connecting the adjacent arcs by lines tangent to those arcs. The radius of each arc is:
 - a. Five thousand feet for all runways designated as utility or visual;
 - b. Ten thousand feet for all other runways, including the La Porte and Michigan City municipal airports. The radius of the arc specified for each end of a runway will have the same arithmetical value. That value will be the highest determined for either end of the runway. When a 5,000-foot arc is encompassed by tangents connecting two adjacent 10,000-foot arcs, the 5,000-foot arc shall be disregarded on the construction of the perimeter of the horizontal surface.
 - (2) **Conical Surface.** A surface extending outward and upward from the periphery of the horizontal surface at a slope of 20 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 4,000 feet.

- (3) **Primary Surface.** A surface longitudinally centered on a runway. When the runway has a specially prepared hard surface, the primary surface extends 200 feet beyond each end of that runway; but when the runway has no specially prepared hard surface, or planned hard surface, the primary surface ends at each end of that runway.
- a. The elevation of any point on the primary surface is the same as the elevation of the nearest point on the runway centerline. The airport elevations are:
 - 1. The La Porte airport elevation is 812 feet above mean sea level.
 - 2. The Michigan City airport elevation is 655 feet above mean sea level.
 - b. The width of a primary surface is:
 - 1. Two hundred fifty feet for utility runways having only visual approaches.
 - 2. Five hundred feet for utility runways having nonprecision instrument approaches.
 - 3. For other than utility runways the width is:
 - i. Five hundred feet for visual runways having only visual approaches.
 - ii. Five hundred feet for nonprecision instrument runways having visibility minimums greater than three-fourths statute mile.
 - iii. One thousand feet for a nonprecision instrument runway having a nonprecision instrument approach with visibility minimums as low as three-fourths of a statute mile, and for precision instrument runways.
 - c. The width of the primary surface of a runway will be that width prescribed in this section for the most precise approach existing or planned for either end of that runway.
- (4) **Approach Surface.** A surface longitudinally centered on the extended runway centerline and extending outward and upward from each end of the primary surface. An approach surface is applied to each end of each runway based upon the type of approach available or planned for that runway end.
- a. The inner edge of the approach surface is the same width as the primary surface and it expands uniformly to a width of:
 - 1. One thousand two hundred fifty feet for that end of a utility runway with only visual approaches;
 - 2. One thousand five hundred feet for that end of a runway other than a utility runway with only visual approaches;
 - 3. Two thousand feet for that end of a utility runway with a nonprecision instrument approach;
 - 4. Three thousand five hundred feet for that end of a nonprecision instrument runway other than utility, having visibility minimums greater than three-fourths of a statute mile;
 - 5. Four thousand feet for that end of a nonprecision instrument runway, other than utility, having a nonprecision instrument approach with visibility minimums as low as three-fourths statute mile; and
 - 6. Sixteen thousand feet for precision instrument runways.
 - b. The approach surface extends for a horizontal distance of:
 - 1. Five thousand feet at a slope of 20 to 1 for all utility and visual runways;
 - 2. Ten thousand feet at a slope of 34 to 1 for all nonprecision instrument runways other than utility; and,
 - 3. Ten thousand feet at a slope of 50 to 1 with an additional 40,000 feet at a slope of 40 to 1 for all precision instrument runways.
 - c. The outer width of an approach surface to an end of a runway will be that width prescribed in this subsection for the most precise approach existing or planned for that runway end.
- (5) **Transitional Surface.** These surfaces extend outward and upward at right angles to the runway centerline and the runway centerline extended at a slope of 7 to 1 from the sides of the primary surface and from the sides of the approach surfaces. Transitional surfaces for those portions of the precision approach surface which project through and beyond the limits of the conical surface, extend a distance of 5,000 feet measured horizontally from the edge of the approach surface and at right angles to the runway centerline.
- (6) **Heliport Primary Surface.** The area of the primary surface coincides in size and shape with the designated take-off and landing area of a heliport. This surface is a horizontal plane at the elevation of the established heliport elevation.

- (7) **Heliport Approach Surface.** The approach surface begins at each end of the heliport primary surface with the same width as the primary surface, and extends outward and upward for a horizontal distance of 4,000 feet where its width is 500 feet. The slope of the approach surface is 8 to 1 for civil heliports and 10 to 1 for military heliports.
- (8) **Heliport Transitional Surfaces.** These surfaces extend outward and upward from the lateral boundaries of the heliport primary surface and from the approach surfaces at a slope of 2 to 1 for a distance of 250 feet measured horizontally from the centerline of the primary and approach surfaces.
- (b) **Permits.** All applications under this ordinance for land located within the Airport Overlay District shall be subject to the requirements of this article and all structures and trees shall comply with the limitations of this article.
- (1) All applications to the city or county for site plan review, subdivision plat review and location improvement permits within the Airport Overlay District must submit a Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration, FAA Form 7460-1 to the FAA.
- (2) Permits shall be obtained from the Indiana Department of Transportation as required by IC 8-21-10-3.
- (3) No permit shall be granted that would allow the establishment or creation of an airport hazard or permit a nonconforming structure or tree to become a greater hazard to air navigation than it was on the effective date of the ordinance.
- (4) A permit for a tree or structure of less than 50 feet of vertical height above the ground shall not be required in the horizontal and conical zones or in any approach and transitional zones beyond a horizontal distance of 4,200 feet from each end of the runway except when such tree or structure because of terrain, land contour, or topographical features would extend above the height limit prescribed for the respective zone.
- (c) **Dimensional Requirements for Underlying Zoning District.** The dimensional requirements for lots location in the Airport Overlay District shall be regulated by the underlying zoning district, except for the height regulations and other requirements of this section.
- (d) **Height Limits.** Height of structures in areas surrounding the boundaries of airports having an established approach plan that has been approved by the FAA shall be in accordance with requirements set forth in the approach plan. All structures and vegetation within the Airport Overlay District shall not exceed the height limits set by the FAA and contained in the approach plan. Where an area is covered by more than one height limitation, the more restrictive limitation shall prevail. When the underlying zoning district height limit is more restrictive than the FAA height limit, then the underlying zoning district controls.
- (1) An existing object, including a mobile object, is, and a future object would be, an obstruction to air navigation if it is of greater height than any of the following heights or surfaces:
- a. A height of 500 feet above ground level at the site of the object.
- b. A height that is 200 feet above ground level or above the established airport elevation, whichever is higher, within three nautical miles of the established reference point of an airport, excluding heliports, with its longest runway more than 3,200 feet in actual length, and that height increases in the proportion of 100 feet for each additional nautical mile of distance from the airport up to a maximum of 500 feet.
- c. A height within a terminal obstacle clearance area, including an initial approach segment, a departure area, and a circling approach area, which would result in the vertical distance between any point on the object and an established minimum instrument flight altitude within that area or segment to be less than the required obstacle clearance.
- d. A height within an en route obstacle clearance area, including turn and termination areas, of a Federal airway or approved off-airway route, that would increase the minimum obstacle clearance altitude.
- e. The surface of a takeoff and landing area of an airport or any imaginary surface established under Section 11.05(a). However, no part of the take-off or landing area itself will be considered an obstruction.
- (2) Except for traverse ways on or near an airport with an operative ground traffic control service, furnished by an air traffic control tower or by the airport management and coordinated with the air traffic control service, the standards of subsection 11.05(d)(1) apply to traverse ways used or to be used for the passage of mobile objects only after the heights of these traverse ways are increased by:
- a. Seventeen feet for an Interstate Highway that is part of the National System of Military and Interstate Highways where overcrossings are designed for a minimum of 17 feet vertical distance.

- b. Fifteen feet for any other public roadway.
 - c. Ten feet or the height of the highest mobile object that would normally traverse the road, whichever is greater, for a private road.
 - d. Twenty-three feet for a railroad, and,
 - e. For a waterway or any other traverse way not previously mentioned, an amount equal to the height of the highest mobile object that would normally traverse it.
- (e) **Variances.** Any request for a variance to the height limits shall require a determination of no hazard by the FAA, which demonstrates that no lighting is required. The La Porte Municipal Airport Authority or the Michigan City Board of Aviation Commissioners, as the case may be, shall approve the variance to the height limits prior to being considered by the Board of Zoning Appeals under Article 28. To be effective, any variance granted under this article requires approval by the Airport Board pursuant to IC 8-22-3-14(b). Any variance granted shall be so conditioned as to require the owner of the structure or tree to install, operate and maintain markers or lights to indicate to pilots the presence of an airport hazard, if required by the La Porte Airport Authority Board or the Michigan City Board of Aviation Commissioners.
- (f) **Nonconforming Structures.** The regulations prescribed by this article shall not be construed to require the removal, lowering or other changes or alterations of any structure or trees not conforming to the regulations as of the effective date of the ordinance codified in this article, or otherwise interfere with the continuance of a nonconforming structure subject to the provisions of Article 29.
- (1) **Markers and Lights.** The owner of any existing nonconforming structure or tree is required to permit the installation, operation and maintenance of such markers and lights as shall be deemed necessary by the La Porte Airport Authority Board or the Michigan City Board of Aviation Commissioners to indicate to the operators of aircraft in the vicinity of the airport, the presence of such airport hazards. Such markers and lights shall be installed, operated and maintained at the expense of the La Porte Airport Authority Board or the Michigan City Board of Aviation Commissioners.
 - (2) **Abandonment or Destruction.** Whenever the La Porte Airport Authority Board or the Michigan City Board of Aviation Commissioners determines that a nonconforming tree or structure has been abandoned or more than 80 percent torn down, physically deteriorated, or decayed, no permit shall be granted that would allow such structure or tree to exceed the applicable height limit or otherwise deviate from the zoning regulations.

ARTICLE 12. - OVERLAY DISTRICTS

Section 12.01 - US-6, US-20, US-30, US-35, US-421, SR-2 and SR-39 Corridor Overlay District

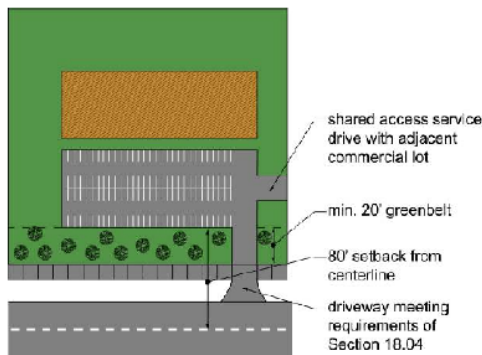
- (a) **Intent.** The US-6, US-20, US-30, US-35, US-421, SR-2 and SR-39 corridors have all been identified as important transportation corridors in the County Comprehensive Plan. The intent of the Corridor Overlay Zoning District is to provide specific standards for the corridor to preserve roadway capacity and safety; ensure that development does not limit the future ability to improve the roadway; protect property values along the corridor; promote economic development; and establish a high-quality image for the entrance to the communities. Among the specific purposes of the Corridor Overlay Zoning District are:
- (1) Maximize the capacity of the road by controlling the number, and location of driveways; requiring alternate means of access through shared driveways, service drives, and access from side streets and requiring traffic impact studies for developments that will generate large volumes of traffic.
 - (2) Preserve future right-of-way and minimize disruption of existing businesses and homes through preservation of additional right-of-way that may be necessary to widen the road. To achieve this, the overlay district provides for specific setbacks along the corridors.
 - (3) Enhance the visual quality of this corridor by limiting signage and requiring landscape greenbelts to maintain the rural character of the county, and establish a desired entry image for the communities to create an attractive setting for new investment.
- (b) **Scope of Application.** A corridor overlay zoning district is hereby established over all lots having frontage along US-6, US-20, US-

30, US-35, US-421, SR-2 and SR-39. The development or redevelopment of lots having frontage along US-6, US-20, US-30, US-35, US-421, SR-2 and SR-39 shall comply with the provisions of this overlay zoning district in addition to the applicable regulations of the underlying zoning district. Where a conflict exists between the requirements of this overlay zoning district and the underlying zoning district the more restrictive requirement shall apply.

(c) **Uses Permitted.** The uses permitted shall be regulated by the underlying zoning district. The review and approval process applicable in the underlying zoning district shall be followed.

(d) **Dimensional Requirements.**

- (1) The development or redevelopment of lots and parcels within the Corridor Overlay Zoning District shall comply with the lot dimensional and bulk requirements of the underlying zoning district.
- (2) In the unincorporated areas of the county outside of the cities, a minimum setback of 80 feet from the centerline of the road shall be required for all buildings and parking areas. Where the road right-of-way is greater than 60 feet from the centerline of the road, then all buildings and parking areas shall be setback a minimum of 20 feet from the right-of-way.
- (3) Within the cities of La Porte and Michigan City, the front yard setbacks shall be based upon the underlying zoning.



(e) **Landscaping.**

- (1) All lots in the unincorporated areas of the county outside of the cities shall be required to provide a landscape greenbelt along the designated corridors within the setback noted in subsection (d)(2) above. The greenbelts shall be landscaped with a minimum of two deciduous trees and six shrubs for every 40 linear feet of frontage.
- (2) All other site landscaping shall be in accordance with the requirements of [Section 17.02](#).

(f) **Signs.** All signs shall be in accordance with the requirements of [Article 19](#), except that pole signs and other freestanding signs shall be limited to a height of 20 feet.

(g) **Transportation Related Requirements.**

- (1) **Driveway Access.** All driveways shall comply with the spacing requirements of [Section 18.04](#) for major thoroughfares.
- (2) **Shared Driveways, Frontage Roads and Service Drives.** All uses, except residential and agricultural, shall be required to install service roads to allow connection to adjacent lots that are zoned or planned for non-residential use. Service roads shall generally be parallel or perpendicular to the front lot line. Service roads that are parallel to the roadway corridors may be in the rear or front yard, depending on the location of parking, building setback and appropriate locations for connections to adjacent lots. All service drives shall be designed in accordance with the requirements of [Section 18.04](#).
- (3) **Traffic Impact Study.** A traffic impact study shall be required as part of the site plan submission for any development within the overlay zoning district meeting the warrants for a traffic impact study, as provided in the "Applicant's Guide to Traffic Impact Studies," published by the Indiana Department of Transportation. The preparation and review of the traffic impact study shall also follow this guide.

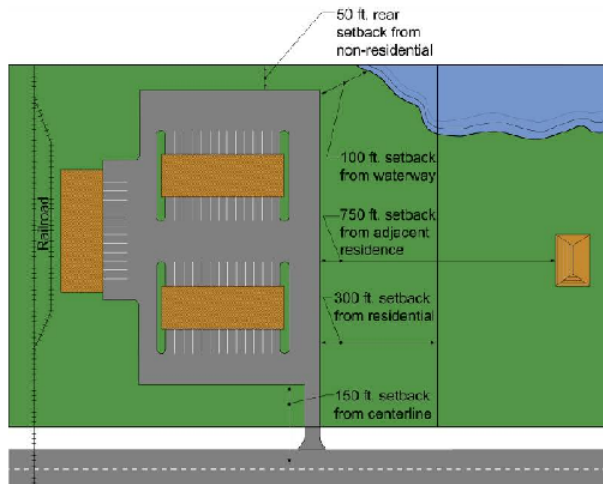
Section 12.02 - Economic Opportunity Overlay District

(a) **Intent.** The intent of the Economic Opportunity Overlay Zoning District is to provide a mechanism to allow for development of major transportation-related facilities in limited exurban and rural areas of the county where specific conditions exist that are conducive to large-scale distribution and logistics centers. Because of the land area requirements, need for access to rail and

other transportation facilities and the potential impacts upon surrounding land use, it is preferable to locate large-scale warehousing, transportation and logistics industries away from the population concentrations of the cities. While it is desirable to permit this type of development due to the economic benefits of employment and tax revenues, there is a need to control the location and intensity of this land use to prevent undesirable sprawl of industry into rural areas, impact to residential areas and loss of valuable farmland. Among the specific purposes of the Economic Opportunity Overlay Zoning District are:

- (1) Ensure that transportation logistics industries are located in areas with sufficient existing or potential roadway and rail transportation infrastructure to support freight traffic and to meet the demands of traffic generated by the use.
 - (2) Ensure that adequate utilities are available or can be readily provided to serve a new transportation logistics industry.
 - (3) Ensure that transportation logistics industries are located in areas that will have minimal impact upon the county's population.
 - (4) Limit the loss of valuable farmland.
 - (5) Minimize the impact to natural features, including open space, woodlands, wetlands, groundwater and waterways.
 - (6) Minimize the impact of transportation logistics industries on the rural character of the county by requiring adequate landscape screening, buffering and setbacks.
- (b) **Scope of Application.** The Economic Opportunity Overlay Zoning District may only be applied as an overlay zone in unincorporated locations in La Porte County where the underlying zoning is A1 Restricted Agricultural District, A2 Agricultural District, M1 Light Industrial District or M2 Heavy Industrial District.
- (c) **Application.** The Economic Opportunity Overlay Zoning District may be applied for following the rezoning procedures of [Article 30](#) and this section.
- (1) In addition to the requirements of [Article 30](#), all applications shall include a site plan complying with the requirements of [Article 23](#) and this section.
 - (2) A traffic impact study shall be required as part of the rezoning application for the overlay zoning district. The standards used in preparing and approving the traffic impact study shall comply with the "Applicant's Guide to Traffic Impact Studies," published by the Indiana Department of Transportation.
- (d) **Uses Permitted.** The uses permitted in the Economic Opportunity Overlay Zoning District shall be limited to the following uses, regardless of the provisions of the underlying zoning district:
- (1) Cartage, express and parcel delivery establishments.
 - (2) Containerized freight yards.
 - (3) Distribution centers.
 - (4) Intermodal freight terminals.
 - (5) Grain elevators.
 - (6) Hotels.
 - (7) Outdoor operations of all warehouse and freight movement land uses.
 - (8) Railroad transfer or storage yards.
 - (9) Trucking terminals, transfer buildings, truck garages and areas for parking of operable trucks.
 - (10) Value-added agricultural uses such as canning, processing and packaging of agricultural products.
 - (11) Warehouses.
 - (12) Restaurants that are accessory to an above permitted use.
 - (13) Vehicle fueling and maintenance that is accessory to an above permitted use.
- (e) **Dimensional Requirements.** The minimum project size for the Economic Opportunity Overlay Zoning District shall be 500 contiguous acres. All buildings, parking, loading and storage areas shall be setback in compliance with the following dimensional requirements. The setbacks shall apply around the perimeter of the site. The required setback areas shall be maintained as green space and landscaped, in accordance with the requirements of subsection (f) below.

Setback Area	Minimum Setback
Front yard setback from the centerline of any public roadway	150 feet
Side yard setback	50 feet
Rear yard setback	50 feet
Setback from a limited access highway	50 feet
Setback from rail road right-of-way	0 feet
Setback from residential zoned or used property	300 feet
Setback from all buildings containing residential dwelling units	750 feet
Setback from stream, lake or river	100 feet
Setback from adjacent non-residential site that is part of the overlay district	20 feet
Setback from roads internal to the district and provide access to uses within overlay district	20 feet



(f) **Landscaping.** The following landscaping shall be required:

Yard setback landscaping requirements	Minimum berm requirement	Minimum plant material requirement for every 40 linear feet along property line
Along any public road frontage (1)	6 foot high berm	1 canopy tree, 3 evergreen trees and 12 shrubs
Adjacent residentially zoned or used property	6 foot high berm	2 canopy trees, 6 evergreen trees and 8 shrubs

Side or rear setback that is not adjacent to residentially zoned or used property	4 foot high berm	1 canopy tree, 3 evergreen trees and 4 shrubs

- (1) The road frontage greenbelt shall apply to all public road frontages, including limited access highways. The frontage greenbelt requirement shall not apply to private roads that are internal to the site or public roads internal to the overlay district that are developed to provide access to uses within the overlay district and not act as a through roadway.
- (2) In addition to the above landscape greenbelts, there shall be a minimum of one tree on the site for each 1,000 square feet of land area that is covered by buildings and pavement.
- (3) All other site landscaping shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section 17.02.

(g) Transportation Related Requirements.

- (1) **Driveway Access.** All driveways shall have direct access to a paved state or federal highway that is suitable for the anticipated truck traffic, as determined by the Indiana Department of Transportation and the county highway engineer. All driveways shall comply with the requirements of Section 18.04.
- (2) **Truck Access.** All applications for rezoning to the Economic Opportunity Overlay Zoning District must indicate the type and volume of truck traffic anticipated at the site, including dimensions of all truck access and circulation lanes, and dimensions of all truck loading/unloading areas. Driveways and roads of commercial and industrial facilities anticipated to receive truck traffic must be designed to adequately accommodate the anticipated truck traffic.
- (3) **Truck Circulation Plan.** The site plan accompanying the application for rezoning to the Economic Opportunity Overlay Zoning District shall include a diagram with the dimensions of trucks anticipated at the site and shall show all existing and proposed truck circulation patterns including the direction and flow of truck traffic on the site and dimensions of all truck service drives, berths, and dock approaches. Truck maneuvering shall not be permitted within any public or private road off the property.
- (4) **Turning Radius.** Design features for trucking facilities shall include larger turning radii and added maneuvering space and pavement design to accommodate trucks. At a minimum these standards shall be those recommended by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials or another standard specified by the county highway engineer.
- (5) **Curbing.** All parking, loading and truck storage areas shall be curbed with concrete curbing meeting the county engineering standards. Driveways shall be curbed for their full length.
- (6) **Traffic Impact Study.** A traffic impact study shall be required as part of the site plan submission for any development within the overlay zoning district meeting the warrants for a traffic impact study, as provided in the "Applicant's Guide to Traffic Impact Studies," published by the Indiana Department of Transportation. The preparation and review of the traffic impact study shall also follow this guide.

(h) Non-transportation Infrastructure Related Requirements.

- (1) **Wastewater Treatment.** A fiscally viable plan for wastewater treatment shall be presented with the application to rezone to the Economic Opportunity Overlay District. This may be a signed agreement with an existing wastewater treatment facility that has adequate capacity. Phased developments shall provide for wastewater treatment for each phase.
- (2) **Stormwater Management.** Stormwater management shall meet the requirements of Chapter 46, Article IX and all other provisions of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances related to stormwater management. Phased developments shall provide for adequate stormwater management for each phase of development.
- (3) **Fire Protection.** A fire protection plan shall be submitted with the application for rezoning to the Economic Opportunity Overlay District. The plan shall include the name and location of the fire department (and any stations) that will serve the site, the equipment and response time to the site for the identified department and/or station, plans for pumping from ponds or hydrants or use of tanker trucks, and interlocal agreements with other departments.

(i) Phasing.

- (1) **Site Plan Approval Required.** Site plans shall be submitted and approved or denied by the plan commission. Site plans shall include items in Article 23 and the following:
 - a. Transportation plan;
 - b. Stormwater management plan as approved by the Sanitary District under Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances;
 - c. Fire protection plan; and
 - d. Phasing plan, including public improvements.
- (2) **Final Phase Plans Subject to Technical Review Only.** Following approval of a site plan, each phase, consistent with the phasing plan and in substantial compliance with the approved site plan, shall be subject only to technical review by the staff and checkpoint agencies. Substantial departures from the approved site plan shall be subject to site plan approval by the plan commission.

(Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.4, 5), 8-4-2025)

Section 12.03 - Waterfront View Protection Overlay Zoning District

This section has been deleted in its entirety.

(Ord. No. 4433, § 4, 5-16-2017; Ord. No. 4500, § 5.12., 2-5-2019)

Section 12.04 - Intentionally Omitted

Editor's note— Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.6), adopted Aug. 4, 2025, repealed § 12.04, which pertained to Newporte Landing, South Overlay Zoning District (City of La Porte) and carried no amendatory history.

Section 12.05 - Intentionally Omitted

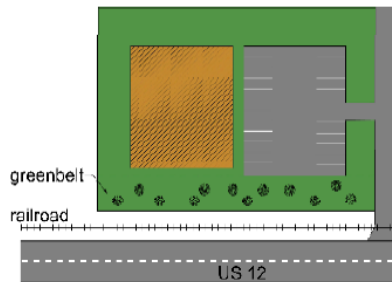
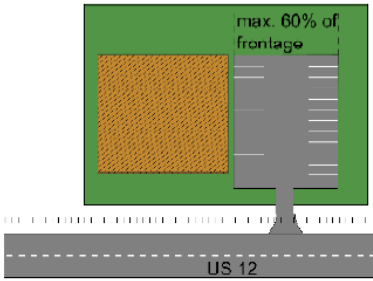
Editor's note— Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.6), adopted Aug. 4, 2025, repealed § 12.05, which pertained to Economic Development Corridor Overlay Zoning District (City of La Porte) and carried no amendatory history.

Section 12.06 - US-12 Corridor Overlay District

- (a) **Intent.** The US-12 corridor has been identified as important transportation corridor through Michigan City. The intent of the US-12 Corridor Overlay District is to provide specific standards for the corridor to achieve the following:
 - (1) Preserve the scenic character of the outlying areas of the city and promote development around the central core of the city that creates a strong sense of place.
 - (2) Promote US-12 as a cultural heritage corridor to encourage economic development and tourism for Michigan City.
 - (3) Encourage multi-modal transportation through pedestrian-oriented and transit-oriented development.
 - (4) Maximize the capacity of the road by controlling the number and location of driveways; requiring alternate means of access through shared driveways, service drives and access from side streets, and requiring traffic impact studies for developments that will generate large volumes of traffic.
 - (5) Enhance the visual quality of this corridor by limiting signage and preserving natural and scenic landscape features.
- (b) **Scope of Application.** A US-12 corridor overlay zoning district is hereby established over all lots having frontage along US-12. The development or redevelopment of lots having frontage along US-12 shall comply with the provisions of this overlay zoning district in addition to the applicable regulations of the underlying zoning district. This overlay district shall also apply to lots adjoining the railroad right-of-way that runs parallel to US-12, including the opposite side of the railroad furthest from US-12. Where a conflict exists between the requirements of this overlay zoning district and the underlying zoning district the more restrictive requirement shall apply.
- (c) **Uses Permitted.** The uses permitted shall be regulated by the underlying zoning district. The review and approval process

applicable in the underlying zoning district shall be followed.

- (d) **Dimensional Requirements.** The development or redevelopment of lots and parcels within the US-12 Corridor Overlay Zoning District shall comply with the lot dimensional and bulk requirements of the underlying zoning district.



- (e) **Parking Lots along Frontage.** New off-street parking lots within 20 feet of the US-12 right-of-way may occupy no more than 60 percent of the lot's street frontage. The remaining frontage shall be occupied by building or landscaped area with no off-street parking located within 20 feet of the front lot line. Parking lots shall be landscaped in accordance with the requirements of [Section 17.02](#).
- (f) **Landscaping.** All site landscaping shall be in accordance with the requirements of [Section 17.02](#). Existing trees that are in good condition within 20 feet of the US-12 right-of-way shall be preserved. Existing trees that are located within 20 feet of the railroad right-of-way that runs parallel to US-12 shall be preserved, both between the US-12 right-of-way and the railroad right-of-way and on the opposite side of the railroad right-of-way furthest from US-12. Any site adjoining the railroad right-of-way that runs parallel to US-12 shall be required to provide the frontage greenbelt required by [Section 17.02](#) along the railroad right-of-way.
- (g) **Signs.** All signs shall be in accordance with the requirements of [Article 19](#), except that pole signs and other freestanding signs shall be limited to a height of 20 feet.
- (h) **Transportation Related Requirements.**
- (1) **Nonmotorized Facilities.** All sites shall have ten-foot wide nonmotorized pathways along US-12 and five-foot wide sidewalks along all intersecting side streets that meet the requirements of [Section 18.05](#).
 - (2) **Driveway Access.** All driveways shall comply with the spacing requirements of [Section 18.04](#) for major thoroughfares.
 - (3) **Shared Driveways, Frontage Roads and Service Drives.** All nonresidential uses with off-street parking lots shall be required to have vehicular connections to adjacent nonresidential sites that allows for circulation between parking lots. This may be achieved through shared driveways, shared parking lots or rear service roads connecting sites. Where service roads are used for vehicular connections to adjacent sites, they shall be provided in the rear yard. All service drives shall be designed in accordance with the requirements of [Section 18.04](#).
 - (4) **Traffic Impact Study.** A traffic impact study shall be required as part of the site plan submission for any development within the overlay zoning district meeting the warrants for a traffic impact study, as provided in the "Applicant's Guide to Traffic Impact Studies," published by the Indiana Department of Transportation. The preparation and review of the traffic impact study shall also follow this guide.

Section 12.07 - Mixed-Use (MU) District

- (a) **Intent.** The intent of the MU district is to enable a mixture of medium and high density residential, commercial retail,

professional office, technology, office, light industrial, and public or institutional uses and spaces in a compact, highly walkable district or in the case of a business park, provided it is abutting or immediately adjacent to other existing industrially used or zoned land, a multi-use campus setting. This district is intended to establish an urban form along internal streets through specific design and building form standards, as well as to integrate enhanced pedestrian and bicycle connections within the development and where appropriate, to adjacent streets, neighborhoods, and districts. A development may include vertically-integrated or horizontal mixed use in combination with a business park depending on the development plan. The district is applicable for undeveloped sites and adaptive reuse or redevelopment of developed sites.

- (b) **Scope of Application.** The legislative body may establish the MU district in locations consistent and compatible with the Future Land Use Plan, or as warranted as a map amendment for areas of redevelopment. Development, redevelopment, or substantial improvements within a MU District shall be processed in accordance with [Article 23](#), Improvement and Location Permits, Site Plans, Master Development Plans, Building Permits, and Certificated of Occupancy.
- (c) **Uses Permitted.** Use and development of land and buildings shall only be for the uses specified in Table 12.07(a), Schedule of Permitted Uses. Uses are grouped into major categories and only those uses listed under each category are permitted. Land and/or buildings indicated in Table 12.07(a) may be used for the following purposes.
- (1) **Permitted Use.** Land and/or buildings may be used for the purposes listed by-right. As set forth in the Use Requirements column, use standards may apply.
 - (2) **Special Exception Use.** Land and/or buildings may be used for this purpose by obtaining special exception approval when all applicable standards cited in [Article 24](#), Special Exception Review Requirements and Procedures, are met. As set forth in the Use Requirements column, use standards may apply.
 - (3) **Not Permitted.** Uses not listed in the table are not permitted by right or by special exception. Uses that are not listed in any district of the zoning ordinance, as shown in Appendix A, may be allowed based upon a similar use determination in accordance with [Section 02.06](#).

Table 12.07(a)
Schedule of Permitted Uses

Use P = Permitted by Right S = Requires special exception approval	MU	Use Requirements
Residential		
Bed & breakfasts	S	14.06(a)
Dwellings in mixed-use buildings	P	
Home occupations	P	14.01(b)
Live-work units	P	
Multiple-family dwellings	P	
Single-family attached/townhouses	P	14.01(a)
Single-family detached	P	14.01(a)
Retail trade		

Art and school supply stores	P	<u>14.03(a)</u>
Bakery	P	
Business machine sales and service	P	
Computer sales	P	
Convenience store, without gasoline sales	P	
Gift, souvenir handicraft stores	P	
Furnace/air conditioner sales and service, without open storage	S	
Glass sales and service	P	
Grocery stores/super markets	P	<u>14.03(a)</u>
Hardware, electrical, plumbing, paint and flooring sales without open storage	P	
Liquor stores	S	
Media store, general	P	<u>14.03(d)</u>
Open air markets and outdoor sales	S	
Office supply stores	P	
Parts stores	P	<u>14.05(d)</u>
Pet shops, dog grooming and day care (not including overnight boarding)	P	<u>14.04(f)</u>
Pharmacies	P	
Produce markets	P	
Secondhand stores and rummage shops	S	
Veterinary hospital for small animals	S	<u>14.02(f)</u>
Services		
Barber/beauty shops	P	
Cleaning services	S	
Dry cleaners, pick-up	P	

Dry cleaning plants/commercial laundries	S	
Interior decorating shops	P	
Laundries	P	
Locksmith shops	P	
Office service centers	P	
Pawnshops	S	<u>14.04(a)</u>
Pest control services	P	
Photographic studios	P	
Repair shops, nonautomotive	S	
Shoe repair shops	P	
Tailor shops	P	
Accommodation and food services		
Banquet hall	P	
Cafeterias (as an accessory use)	P	
Candy and ice cream shop	P	
Catering services	P	
Delicatessen	P	
Exhibition hall	S	
Hotel or motel	P	
Hotel-miniums	P	
Microbrewery, micro-winery, or micro-distillery	P	<u>14.06(d)</u>
Restaurants, carryout	S	
Restaurants, standard not including drive-through/in	P	
Restaurant and taverns with outdoor seating	P	<u>14.06(e)</u>

Finance, insurance, real estate, professional, scientific, and technical		
Bank or financial institution	P	<u>14.07(a)</u>
Blueprinting and photostatting establishments	P	
Offices, general and professional with accessory research and testing	P	
Printing and publishing establishments	P	
Radio, television and recording studios	P	
Research and development laboratories	P	
Travel agencies	P	
Health care and social assistance		
Day care centers, commercial/preschools	P	<u>14.08(a)</u>
Hospital-related uses	S	
Hospitals	S	
Massage therapy services	P	<u>14.08(d)</u>
Medical and dental clinics	P	
Medical laboratories	P	
Nursing homes and senior assisted living	P	<u>14.08(c)</u>
Optical sales	P	
Orthopedic and medical appliance sales	P	
Philanthropic and eleemosynary institutions	P	
Entertainment and recreation including all permitted uses in B1 and the following:		
Amusement/arcade establishment	S	
Bowling alley	P	<u>14.09(e)</u>
Dance school	P	
Ice skating rink	P	

Parks and playgrounds	P	
Theater	P	<u>14.09(f)</u>
Civic, religious, social assistance organizations		
Conference and convention halls	S	
Public administration		
Government building	P	
Museum or civic building	P	
Transportation and warehousing		
Parking structures as a principal use	S	
Self-storage facilities, indoor	S	<u>14.13(c)</u>
Warehouses ¹	P	
Wholesale business ¹	S	
Manufacturing¹		
Manufacturing including fabrication or assembly of goods or products ¹	P	
Table Note(s): 1. Applicable only for properties abutting the R-1E District.		

(d) **Lot Area, Lot Width, and Building Dimensional Requirements.**

- (1) **Development Standards.** No new structures shall be erected and no lots shall be created or altered in a manner that does not comply with the requirements of Table 12.07(b), Residential Standards, and Table 12.07(c), Commercial/Retail, Office/Industrial and Mixed-Use Standards.

Table 12.07(b)
Residential Standards

Development Standards/Use Type	Single-family detached	Single-family attached/townhouse	Multiple-family dwelling ¹
Minimum Lot Area (sq. ft. per unit)	5,000 sf.	2,500 sf.	1,250 sf.

Maximum Density (units/ac.)	8	12	30
Minimum Lot Width (ft.)	50'	25'	150'
Maximum Building Height (stories/ft.)	35'	See Table 12.07(d)	
Minimum Building Setbacks (ft.)			
- Front	20'		
- Interior Side	7'		
- Street Side	20'		
- Rear	20'		
Maximum Lot Coverage (%)			
Building	50%	50%	70%
Impermeable Surface	55%	65%	85%
Minimum Living Area (sq. ft.)	1,000 sf.	1,100 sf.	450/650/730 sf. ²
Table Notes: 1. Standalone multiple-family dwellings are subject to Subsection (e), Mixed-Use Requirements, below. These square footages are for an efficiency, one bedroom, and two-bedroom unit, plus 80 sf. for each additional bedroom.			

Table 12.07(c)
Commercial/Retail, Office/Industrial and Mixed Use Standards

Development Standards/Use Group	Commercial/Retail	Office/Industrial	Mixed Use
Minimum Acres	10	5	15
Maximum Building Height (ft.)	See Table 12.07(d)		
Maximum Gross Floor Area per Individual Building (Nonresidential)	20,000 ¹	NA	15,000 ¹
Building Setbacks (ft.)	See Table 12.07(d)		
Residential Density (units/acre)	NA	NA	20
- Surface Parking			58

- 2-Story Parking			75
- 3-Story Parking			
Maximum Floor Area Ratio	0.23	0.36	0.45
- Surface Parking	0.62	NA	1.35
- 2-Story Parking	0.92	NA	1.75
- 3-Story Parking			
Table Notes: 1. The maximum gross floor area for infill development shall be the average gross floor area of principal structures on the block face. For new development, in no case shall the gross floor area of an individual building be greater than the square feet established in this table.			

(e) **Mixed-Use Requirements.**

- (1) **Gross Floor Area Percentage.** Depending on whether a development includes horizontal or vertical mixed-use, the residential and nonresidential building areas vary.
 - a. In a horizontal mixed-use development, the maximum percentage of gross floor area allowed for residential uses is 60 percent and the minimum percentage of gross floor area allowed for commercial/retail/light industrial or mixed uses is 40 percent.
 - b. In vertical mixed-use development, the maximum percentage of gross floor area allowed for residential uses is 75 percent and the minimum percentage of gross floor area allowed for commercial/retail/light industrial or mixed uses is 25 percent.
 - c. Within a business park, the gross floor area of light industrial development may be 100 percent provided the business park is abutting or immediately adjacent to other existing industrially used or zoned land.
- (2) **Variations.** Variations in the above residential and nonresidential gross floor areas within horizontal or vertical mixed-use developments may be considered by the Plan Commission provided the following:
 - a. A warrant for a variation is clearly demonstrated, in writing, by way of a market study or project feasibility report;
 - b. The requested variation is on an interim or short-term basis and will be fulfilled upon project build out; or
 - c. The project proposal and its use mix will contribute substantially to the local tax base and generate higher revenues than would otherwise be captured by complying with the mixed-use requirements.
- (3) **Building Types.**
 - a. Up to 100 percent of the ground floor of vertically mixed-use buildings may be devoted to permitted uses within the following categories, as set out in Table 12.07(a), Schedule of Permitted Uses:
 1. Retail Sales;
 2. Services;
 3. Accommodation and food services; or
 4. Entertainment and recreation.
 - b. A maximum of 50 percent of the ground floor of vertically mixed-use buildings may be devoted to permitted uses within the following use categories:
 1. Civic, religious, social assistance organizations, and educational services;
 2. Finance, insurance, real estate, professional, scientific, and technical;
 3. Health care and social assistance; or

4. Public administration.

- c. Any combination of permitted uses may take place on the upper floors of a vertically mixed-use building.

(f) **Design Standards.**

(1) **Purposes.** These standards are intended to provide residential and nonresidential mixed-use sites with the following:

- a. Ensure building placement and frontage along the street reflects an urban character.
- b. Maintain a consistent street frontage or "street wall" throughout the mixed-use area.
- c. Utilize building architecture to announce gateways, key intersections and public spaces.
- d. Create architectural variation along a block face through diversity of massing, articulation and architectural detailing.
- e. Create a built environment that emphasizes pedestrian scale and variety by activating ground floor frontages, using ample fenestration, awnings and frequent building entries.
- f. Ensure that streets and spaces with high volumes of pedestrian traffic are comfortable, protected from the sun, and visually and physically engaging at the ground level.
- g. Design parking structures so they do not dominate the built environment.
- h. Encourage a variety of building and development types throughout the site.

(2) **Grading.**

- a. Site improvements shall minimize cut-and-fill to preserve natural terrain to the extent practicable and shall be designed to avoid or mitigate onsite and off-site or downstream drainage impacts.
- b. Grade changes within the drip-line of existing trees to be preserved shall be avoided.
- c. Topsoil shall be stockpiled and protected during construction, with disturbed soils and slopes replanted with a grass mixture or ground cover.

(3) **Block Types.**

a. **Use Group Intent Statements.**

1. **Residential.** The Residential Block provides for a mix of single family attached and multi-family buildings. Buildings are primarily 1-4 stories and can include duplexes, row and townhomes, condominiums and traditional apartment buildings. The buildings utilize traditional architecture characteristics and materials. Residential Block buildings are oriented towards local streets, and vehicular access is by way of rear alleys. Parking is accommodated in garages (single family attached), in shared surface lots (multi-family buildings), and on-street parking.
2. **Mixed Use.** The Mixed-Use Block provides a diverse mix of high activity uses. Mixed-Use Blocks provide opportunities for locally oriented retail, service commercial, professional office as well as multi-family housing options. Mixed-Use Blocks have an urban character with minimal to no building setbacks from the property line. Buildings have 360-degree architecture with active ground floor uses and storefronts. Buildings are primarily three to four stories with traditional architecture characteristics and materials.

Mixed-Use Blocks are composed of a combination of service roads, residential and commercial streets; all feature a pedestrian-friendly environment with continuous sidewalks, and other amenities such as street lights, benches, waste receptacles, or bollards. Mixed-Use Blocks utilize primarily parking structures and on-street parking to accommodate vehicular access. Mixed-Use Blocks also incorporate a central concentration of buildings that open onto a common open space.
3. **Commercial/Retail.** The Commercial/Retail Block provides for a concentration of retail, service commercial, and professional office uses. Commercial/Retail Blocks are traditionally located adjacent to primary roadway corridors with a high level of vehicular access and visibility with buildings prominently located directly adjacent to rights-of-way. Commercial/Retail Blocks can be used to transition between existing development and more intense development blocks. Parking within the Commercial/Retail Block is predominately well-landscaped surface lots. When possible, surface parking lots are located to the side and rear of the building, and larger surface parking lots are placed within

the interior and arranged to maximize sharing between multiple uses. Buildings are predominately one to two stories with traditional, modern architecture characteristics and materials. Buildings incorporate a high level of transparency and incorporate a 360-degree architecture façade treatment.

4. **Office/Industrial.** Office/Industrial Blocks serve as activity and employment centers accommodating larger footprint buildings, arranged in a campus-style setting. These blocks have a high level of vehicular access and visibility. Office/Industrial Blocks provide large surface parking lots to the side and rear of the building. Parking lots are well-landscaped and contain pedestrian walkways.

Buildings are typically 20 to 60 feet in height and use high-quality building materials on the front and side facades. Architecture uses cues from traditional regional architecture character, but incorporates modern shapes, forms and materials. Buildings are set back from the street and include moderate levels of transparency on the ground floor.

b. Block Standards.

1. **Building Placement and Frontages.** Building placement standards describe where on the lot or property buildings must be located, which include build-to lines, setbacks, minimum frontage occupancy, and service and access points. The building placement standards are displayed in Table 12.07(d), Building Placement and Frontage Standards by Street Type, which specify the standards by the adjacent street type. Buildings must conform to the build-to and setback lines depicted in the table and illustrated in Figure 12.07(b), Residential Block Development Diagrams.
2. **Permitted Frontage Types.** Building frontage refers to the type of relationship between the building and the street. The permitted frontages by street type are displayed in Table 12.07(e), Permitted Frontage Types by Street Type. Development must comply with the permitted frontage types of the selected building type (see Table 12.07(f) for the building types).
3. **Permitted Building Types and Heights.** The building types vary by use group, which include Attached Residential, Courtyard, Mid-Rise, Linear Building with Garage, Multi-Family Residential, and Urban Block. The building types must conform to those listed in Table 12.07(f), Maximum Building Heights per Building Type. The table also specifies the building height limits.
4. **Open Space Types.** The open space table outlines which spaces are intended to ensure that a variety of functional, well-designed open spaces are distributed throughout the development. More than one open space type may be used in combination to meet the open space requirement. Where three or more individual open spaces are available to meet the requirements, at least two types must be provided. Public open space must conform to the types listed in Table 12.07(g), Open Space Types.

Table 12.07(d)
Building Placement and Frontage Standards by Street Type

Building Placement Standards	Use Groups																	
	Residential						Mixed Use				Commercial/Retail					Office/Industrial		
	Street Types																	
	A	B	C	D	E	F	A	C	D	E	A	C	D	E	F	A	C	F
Build to Line (from ROW)	-	-	5'	10'	10'	-	-	0'	-	-	-	0'	-	-	-	-	-	-
Min.	10'	10'	-	-	-	10'	0'	0'	0'	0'	0'	0'	0'	0'	20'	20'	20'	30'

Setback																		
Max. Setback	15'	15'	5'	10'	10'	15'	5'	0'	5'	5'	5'	0'	5'	5'	25'	60'	60'	60'
Min. Percent of Frontage Occupancy	75	75	75	-	-	-	75	95	95	95	75	95	95	95	60	60	60	60
Service and Access Points	X	X	X ²	X ²	X ²	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	-

¹ A portion of the primary building frontage can be setback an additional 10 feet from the Build to Line as long as the affected area of the building does not exceed 33 percent of the total building façade. This setback area should receive treatment per the open space guidelines.

² Access to residential garages and parking areas should be limited along Commercial and Single Lane Boulevard street types.

Street Types (see Figure 12.07(b), Street Types):

A = Access Road

B = Residential Street

C = Commercial Street

D = Single Lane Boulevard

E = Single Lane Boulevard with Bike Lanes and On-Street Parking

F = Existing Thoroughfares

Table 12.07(e)
Permitted Frontage Types by Street Type

Frontage Types ¹	Use Groups																	
	Residential						Mixed Use				Commercial/Retail				Office/Industrial			
	Street Types																	
	A	B	C	D	E	F	A	C	D	E	A	C	D	E	F	A	C	F
Streetfront	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
Dooryard ²	X	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	X	X	-	-	-

Forecourt	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stoop ²	X	X	X ¹	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Storefront	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-
Storefront Cafe	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-
Urban Frontage	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-

1. See Figure 12.07(b).

2. Only applicable when residential or multi-family buildings are being developed.

Street Types (see Figure 12.07(b), Street Types):

A = Access Road

B = Residential Street

C = Commercial Street

D = Single Lane Boulevard

E = Single Lane Boulevard with Bike Lanes and On-Street Parking

F = Existing Thoroughfares

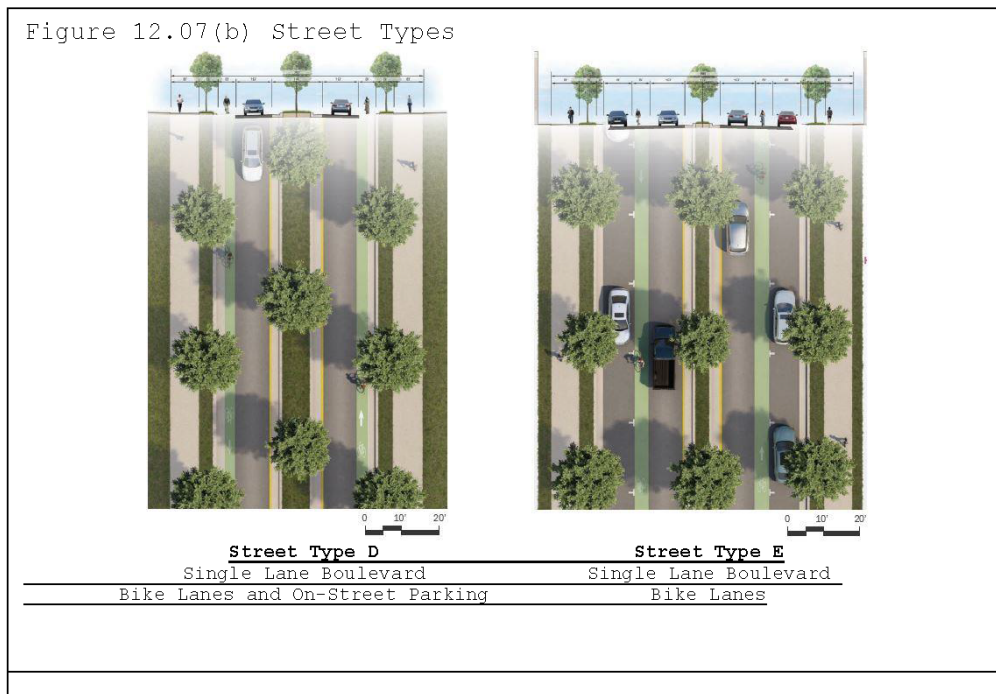


Table 12.07(f)
Maximum Building Heights per Building Type

Building Types	Ceiling Height Range	Use Groups							
		Residential		Mixed Use		Commercial/Retail		Office/Industrial	
		Building Heights ^{2, 3, 4}							
		Stories	Feet (ft.)	Stories	Feet (ft.)	Stories	Feet (ft.)	Stories	Feet (ft.)
Attached Residential	10 - 12'	2.5	35	-	-	-	-	-	-
Courtyard	10 - 14'	3	42	3	42	-	-	-	-
Mid-Rise	10 - 14'	-	-	5	60	-	-	-	-
Linear Building with Garage	12 - 16'	-	-	4	50	-	-	5	60
Multi-Family Residential	10 - 14'	3	42	-	-	-	-	-	-
Urban Block	12 - 16'	-	-	5	60	2	32	-	-
Flex-Space	10 - 60'	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60

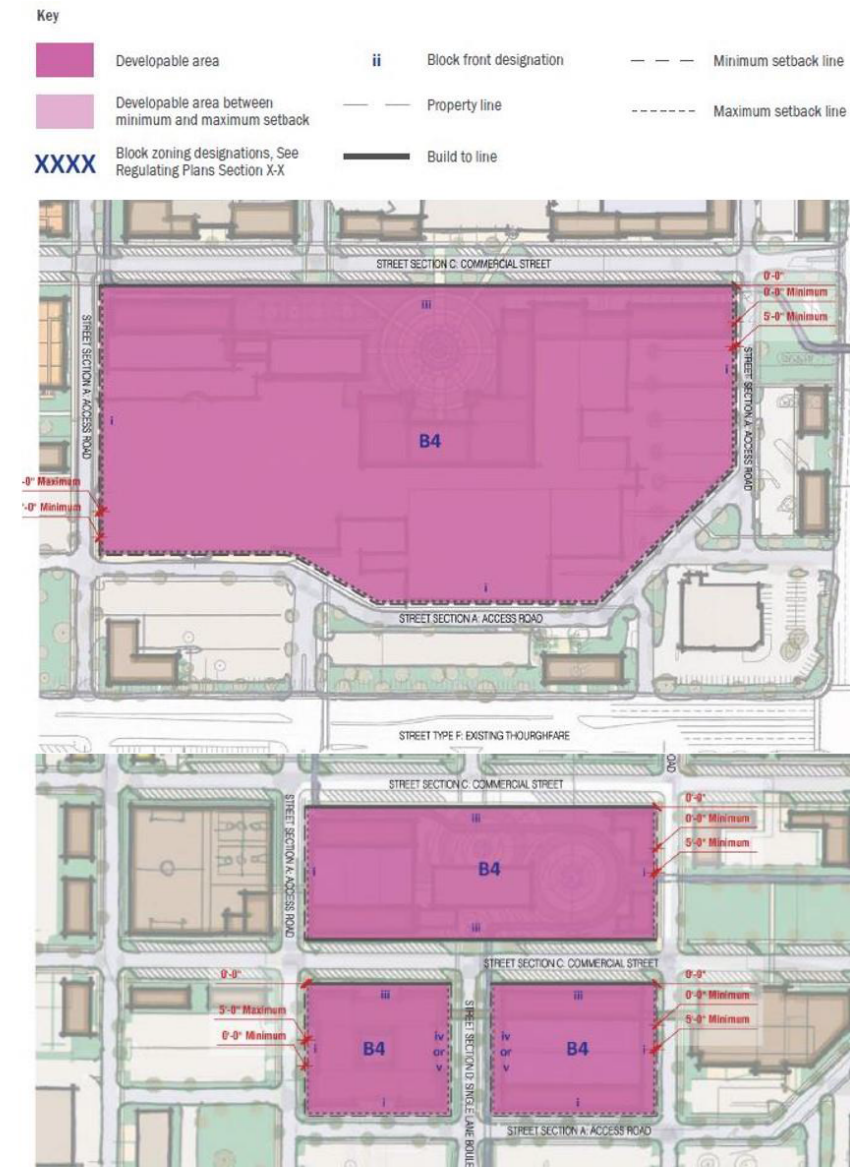
1. The ceiling height ranges do not vary by block type and are only applicability whenever a building type is permissible.
2. The maximum building height for infill development must be between 80 and 120 percent of the average height of principal structures on either side or along the block face. For new development, in no case shall the height of a building be greater than that established in this table, or the height allowed by the setback plane(s) set out in this Section.
3. See Figure 12.07(g) Setback Planes, below.
4. A building over three stories in height requires approval of a special exception.

Table 12.07(g)
Open Space Types

Open Space Type	Use Groups			
	Residential	Mixed Use	Commercial/Retail	Office/Industrial
Park	X		X	
Plaza		X		X
Pocket Park	X	X	X	X
Pocket Plaza		X		X
Public Green	X	X		X
Recreational Trails	X	X		X

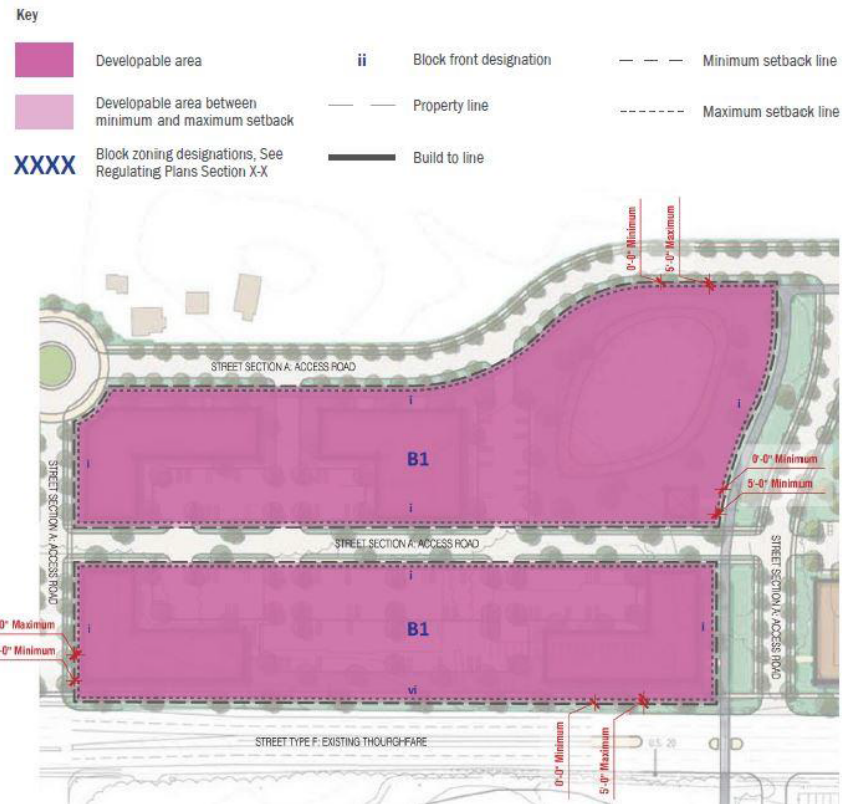
Source: US Highway 421 "South Gateway" Corridor Revitalization Plan

Figure 12.07(d) Mixed Use Block Diagram



Source: US Highway 421 "South Gateway" Corridor Revitalization Plan

Figure 12.07(e) Commercial Retail Block Diagram

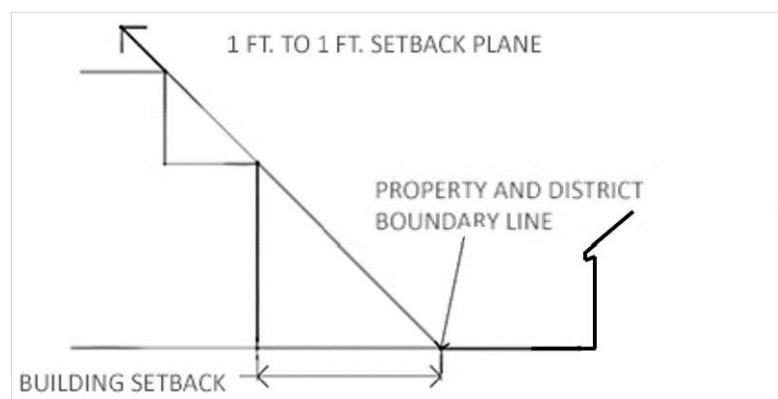


Source: US Highway 421 "South Gateway" Corridor Revitalization Plan

Key				
	Developable area		Block front designation	Minimum setback line
	Developable area between minimum and maximum setback		Property line	Maximum setback line
	Block zoning designations. See Regulating Plans Section XX		Build to line	



- Figure 12.07(g) Setback Planes

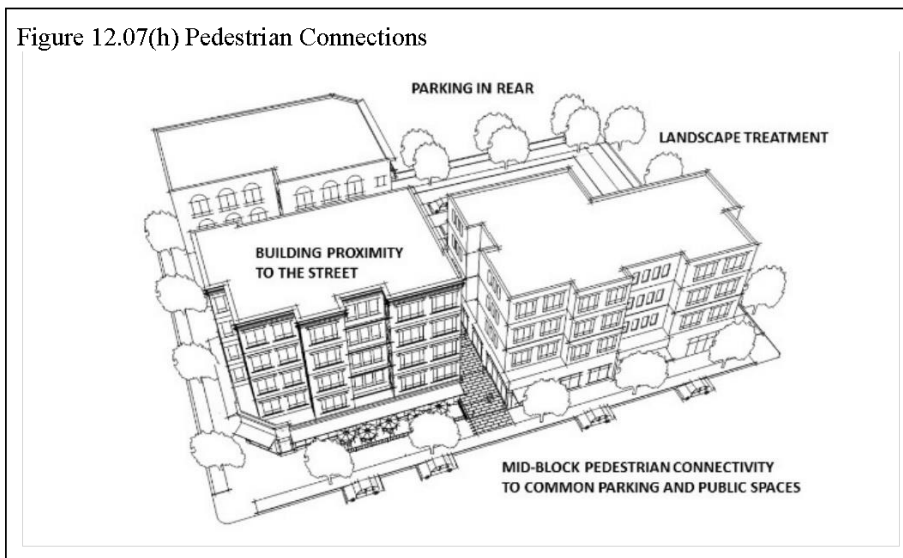


(5) **Site Layout.**

a. **Commercial/Retail and Mixed-Use Buildings.**

1. Buildings shall be:
 - a. Located near the center of the development, adjacent to major street corridors, or close to a central open space;
 - b. Grouped together along streets to create short walking distances between buildings; and
 - c. Located and oriented to minimize the walking distances to residential areas and public open spaces.
2. **Views.** Buildings shall be situated and massed to avoid blocking views to significant natural features (e.g., sand dunes, topographic relief, creeks and streams, etc.).
3. **Streets.** All streets and drives must be interconnected in a grid pattern. Cul-de-sacs are prohibited.
4. **Blocks.** Blocks shall be not less than 300 feet or more than 600 feet in length, with public access easements to provide mid-block pedestrian connections to common parking and public spaces, as displayed in Figure 12.07(h), Pedestrian Connections.
5. Service and utility areas shall be oriented on a side of the building(s) that does not front public street right-of-way or shall be screened by an opaque wall or another approved visual treatment.

Figure 12.07(h) Pedestrian Connections



b. **Office/Industrial.**

1. Flex-space buildings shall be:
 - a. Located on individual lots per the standards depicted in the tables in this Section;
 - b. Oriented to face the street of the highest functional class; and
 - c. Arranged such that the office space is placed adjacent to all abutting streets.
2. **Streets.** All streets must be interconnected and shall be of a width and with turning radii to accommodate truck traffic. Cul-de-sacs are permitted provided the diameter of the bulb is sufficient to accommodate the turning radii of semi-tractor trailers.
3. **Blocks.** Blocks may range in size based on the use types but shall not exceed 1,200 feet in length.
4. Service and utility areas, facilities, and operations shall be oriented on a side of the building(s) that does not front public street right-of-way or that are internal to a multi-tenant building.

(6) **Building Form.**

a. **Single-Use Multi-Family Buildings.**

1. A primary entrance for the building shall be located on the front façade.
2. Front porches, stoops, bay windows, or dormers are required on portions of buildings that are within 10 feet of the

building line.

3. Uncovered stairs may extend to the front property line.
4. The front yard may contain ornamental metal fencing and retaining walls not more than three feet in height above the sidewalk.

b. Commercial/Retail and Mixed-Use Buildings.

1. Buildings shall provide and enhance the pedestrian scale and orientation of the MU district, as follows:
 - a. Buildings shall be constructed at the build-to line of the maximum setback to enclose a pedestrian-oriented streetscape in accordance with Table 12.07(e), Building Placement and Frontage Standards by Street Type.
 - b. Buildings required to be constructed at a build-to line may be set back 10 feet to:
 1. Provide a walkway on private property along the frontage of the building; or
 2. Provide a public gathering area or plaza that offers seating or dining, landscape or hardscape enhancements, public information and displays, or other pedestrian amenities.
 - c. Buildings shall utilize elements such as massing, materials, windows, canopies, and articulated roof forms to create a visually distinct building base, middle, and cap.
 - d. One fully functional and visibly identifiable public entrance shall be provided along the frontage of each building, which incorporates changes in mass, surface, or finish to give emphasis.
 - e. Corner and public buildings must include the design of special building or landmark features, such as towers, cupolas, and pediments, as displayed in Figure 12.07(i), Landmark Features.

Figure 12.07(i) Landmark Features



c. Office/Industrial Buildings.

1. Buildings shall be designed to avoid a box-like appearance, including adherence to the articulation standards set out below.
2. For every 60 feet of horizontal wall plane of building elevation(s) fronting public street right-of-way, there shall be a variation in the wall plane of at least two feet in depth and six feet in width.
3. No less than 20 percent of the street-facing façade shall be constructed of windows.
4. One fully functional and visibly identifiable public entrance shall be provided along the frontage of each building, which incorporates changes in mass, surface, or finish to give emphasis.
5. Truck loading bays and overhead doors may not be located on the building elevation facing the street of the highest classification. Where required by way of lot shape, a minimum 20-foot buffer/setback shall be provided between the building and street and landscaped in accordance with [Section 17.02\(c\)](#).

(7) **Massing and Scale of Unified Street Frontages.** Building facades must be architecturally differentiated in an obvious manner

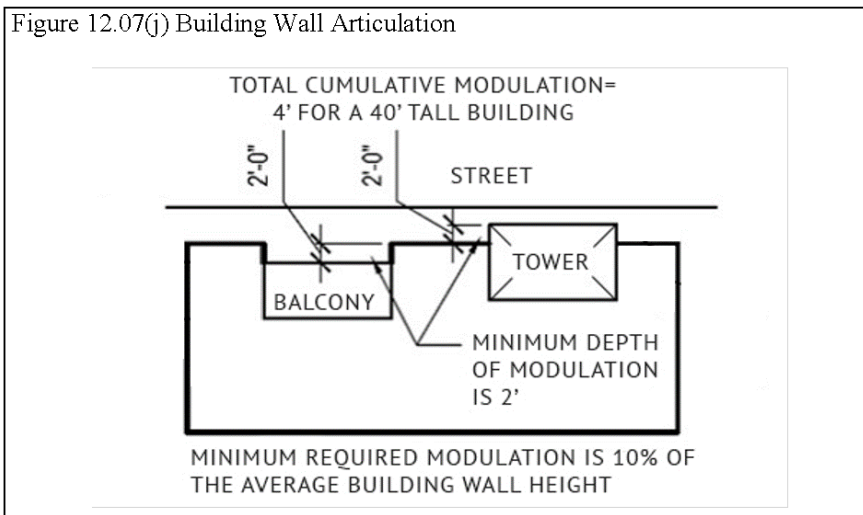
and must include at least three (for commercial/retail and mixed-use) or two (for office/industrial) of the following:

- a. Different colors;
- b. Cladding materials;
- c. Varying heights, provided that the change is at least 10 percent of the building height of the tallest module;
- d. Varying roof forms;
- e. Window arrangement; or
- f. Other facade articulation details (e.g., arcade, balcony, gallery, bay windows, pavilion, pergola, porches, porticos, terrace, tower, or vestibules, etc.).

(8) **Commercial/Retail and Mixed-Use Building Design.** The standards in Section 17.01, Building Design Requirements, including Subsection 17.01(g), CBD1 Design Standards, apply in the MU district, along with the following additional or enhanced requirements.

- a. **Street Visibility.** Upper and lower-story windows must overlook streets and open spaces to make these spaces more comfortable and safe.
- b. **Articulation.** Building facades along public or private streets, pedestrian areas, or common open spaces shall be articulated with projections or recesses that cumulatively equal 10 percent of the average building wall height, with a minimum depth of two feet. Such variations will contribute to the building architecture, which may be expressed in any manner provided the cumulative relief is achieved, as shown in Figure 12.07(j), Building Wall Articulation. Individual storefront designs and materials, as applicable, may be unique while maintaining the character of the building facade of which they are a part. The base of buildings must be articulated through use of plinths, pilasters, or other elements.

Figure 12.07(j) Building Wall Articulation



c. **Transparency:**

1. A minimum of 60 percent of the street-facing building facade between two feet and eight feet in height must be comprised of clear windows that allow views of indoor space or product display areas.
2. Opaque, dark-tinted, or reflective glass is prohibited.

d. **Building Materials.**

1. **Primary.** The primary building materials used for building exterior finishes shall be proven high-quality, durable materials. These materials include:
 - a. Brick, including thin brick;
 - b. Glass and glass block; and
 - c. Natural stone, including granite, limestone, marble, terra cotta or cast stone that simulates natural stone.
2. **Standard.**
 - a. Portland cement stucco;

- b. Architectural (textured) concrete masonry units, including split face, weathered face, sandblasted face, and ground f maximum of 50 percent of facades fronting on or most directly facing street right-of-way or a private access easeme
 - c. Concrete finishes or precast concrete panels (tilt wall) incorporating exposed aggregate, hammered, or sandblasted surfaces or covered with a decorative cement-based acrylic coating;
 - d. Pre-finished architectural aluminum composite metal wall panels (e.g., Alucobond or equal) up to a maximum of 50 percent of a wall facade
 - e. Embossed or pre-finished architectural metal panel (26+ gauge), which has an appearance of masonry or stucco.
3. **Limited.** Materials that may be used for exterior wall, siding, or cladding with the approval of the Plan Commission include:
- a. Prefabricated metal wall panels;
 - b. Corrugated or ribbed metal panel;
 - c. Exterior Insulation and Finish System (EIFS), provided:
 - 1. Use of a wall drainage system (barrier wall systems are prohibited); and
 - 2. Use of a 20 oz. high-impact mesh below eight feet above ground level.
 - d. Smooth-faced, unfinished concrete block; and
 - e. Metal siding.
4. **Prohibited.** The use of the following for exterior walls, siding, or cladding is prohibited:
- a. Plastic.
 - b. Plywood;
 - c. Wood fiber;
 - d. Under-fired or unfired clay, sand, or shale rock; and
 - e. Painted brick, manufactured stone, concrete masonry units, and cementitious stucco.
5. **Others.** Other building materials may be used by approval of the Enforcement Officer if it is demonstrated that they have comparable durability, impact resistance, and aesthetic quality as the materials permitted.
- e. **Material Standards.** Following are the minimum building material requirements:

Table 12.07(h)
Material Requirements by Use Group

Building Types	Use Groups			
	Residential ¹	Mixed Use ²	Commercial/Retail ³	Office/Industrial ⁴
Primary (%)	60	75	70	20
Standard (%)	25	15	20	60
Limited (%)	15	10	10	20
Prohibited (%)	X	X	X	X

- 1. These material requirements apply to single-family attached, townhouse, and multi-family development. Single, two-family and multiplex dwellings are exempt.
- 2. These material requirements are for both horizontal and vertical mixed-use development.
- 3. These material requirements apply to out parcels as well.

4. The primary and secondary materials are to be applied to street-facing facades.

- f. **Colors.** Exterior colors must be used in the context of the surrounding buildings and environment.
- g. **Design of Parking Structures.** Parking must be enclosed within, below, or behind buildings in a manner that conceals it from predominant public view and that does not interrupt the continuity of the pedestrian environment. All parking structures must be designed consistent with and complimentary to the architectural style of the principal building(s) to which they are attached. Freestanding parking structures are permitted provided they are not situated along arterial or collector streets or they incorporate active ground-level, street-facing uses within the structure, spanning a minimum of 50 percent of the cumulative street frontage. Parking structures must be positioned within the development to accommodate maximum shared use.

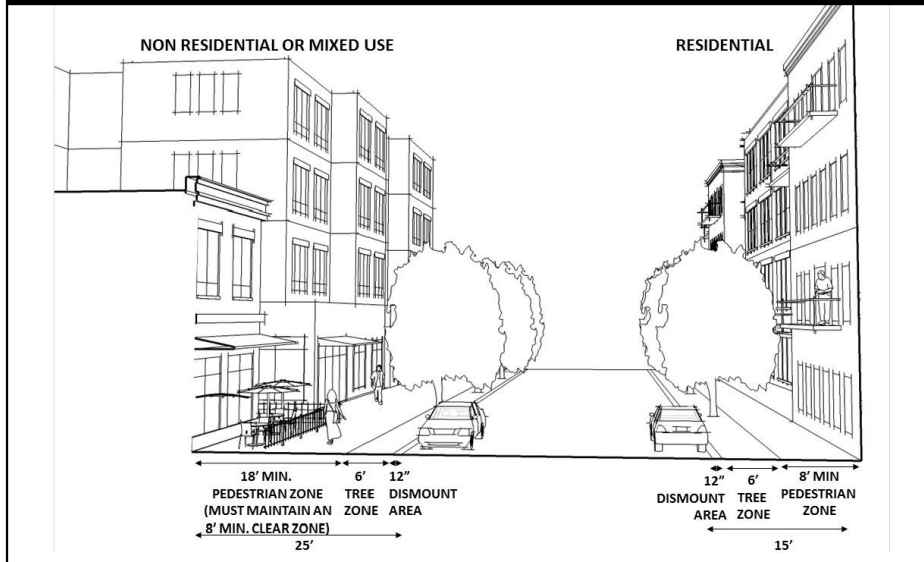
(9) **Commercial/Retail and Mixed-Use Amenities.**

- a. **Street Furniture.** Public seating, trash receptacles, and directional kiosks must be of uniform design and provided throughout district. Sidewalk widths, street trees, landscaping, weather protection, public art, street furniture, and other pedestrian amenities in public rights-of-way and public plazas shall result in a total sidewalk width of no less than eight feet.
- b. **Exterior Lighting.** The standards in Section 17.04, Lighting Regulations, shall apply in the MU district. In addition, exterior lighting shall be an integral part of the architecture and landscape design, which shall be well-marked and well-lit. Street lighting shall relate in scale to the pedestrian character of the area; therefore, pedestrian lighting shall be limited to a height of three to 12 feet.

(g) **Pedestrian Improvements.** The standards in Section 18.05, Non-motorized Pathways, apply in the MU district, along with the following requirements.

- (1) Sidewalks shall connect to existing sidewalks on adjoining lots or tracts.
- (2) Sidewalk widths adjacent to public streets (see Figure 12.07(k), Commercial/Retail and Mixed-Use Sidewalk Widths) shall comply with the following standards.
 - a. Sidewalks abutting residential buildings shall include a minimum 12-inch dismount area from back of curb, a minimum eight-foot pedestrian zone, and a minimum six-foot tree zone.
 - b. Sidewalks abutting Commercial/Retail or Mixed-Use buildings shall include a minimum 12-inch dismount area from back of curb, a minimum 18-foot pedestrian zone with a minimum eight-foot clear zone and a minimum six-foot tree zone. The tree zone shall include minimum three-inch caliper shade tree every 30 linear feet of frontage.
 - c. Sidewalks within Office/Industrial areas shall be a minimum width of four feet and shall be located on each side of all perimeter streets and one side of each interior street.

Figure 12.07(k)
Commercial / Retail and Mixed-Use Sidewalk Widths



(3) **Nonmotorized Pathways.** Extensions to existing public trails shall be provided as part of the sidewalk system or within common open space.

(h) **Open Space.** As set out in Table 12.07(g), Open Space Types, open space shall be integrated into the overall design of development. Both public and private open space shall be distributed throughout development and should provide not only aesthetic quality but serve recreational and civic functions as well. A variety of open spaces must be conveniently accessible to all residents, employees, and patrons and provide pedestrian linkages throughout the development. Open space must be either include:

- (1) **Public Space:** Public spaces include open air or unenclosed to semi-unenclosed areas intended for public access and use. These areas range in size and development and serve to complement and connect surrounding land uses. Public space may be publicly- or privately-owned and maintained. (see Figure 12.07(l), Public Space Illustrative)
- (2) **Private Common Space:** Common spaces include privately-owned and maintained outdoor, unenclosed, or semi-unenclosed areas located on the ground or on a terrace, deck, porch, or roof. This space is designed and accessible for outdoor gathering, recreation, and landscaping, and is intended for use by the residents, employees, and/or visitors to the development.

(3) **Distribution:**

- a. **Location.** The required open space may be provided on-site within a Commercial/Retail or Mixed-Use development as set out in this Section, or alternatively and as approved by the Plan Commission, up to 80 percent of the minimum required open space may be off-site provided such open space is abutting or immediately adjacent to the development.
- b. **Bonus Floor Area/Density.** An off-site location of the required common open space provides a substantial increase in the maximum allowable floor area or the number of residential dwelling units.

(4) **Amount Required.**

a. **Commercial/Retail or Mixed-Use Development.**

1. **Total Required Open Space.** All development must provide four square feet of public space for every 100 square feet of nonresidential space, excluding service areas and parking.
2. **Types of Space.** The allowable types of public spaces are displayed in Figure 12.07(m), Open Space Palette.
3. **Central Open Space.** At least 50 percent of the required public space shall be within a common, centralized space.
 - a. On- or off-site detention basins and other storm water impounding areas, except for permanent wet ponds, may not be counted toward the central open space area requirement.
 - b. The space must be improved with a focal point such as a gazebo, public art or sculpture, pavilion, or paved patio

area with a fountain or other iconic feature to help identify the park as a primary gathering place for the development. The area of this focal point shall be a minimum of 300 square feet, as shown in Figure 12.07(l), Public Space Illustrative.

- c. The central open space shall be accessible by pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles. Sidewalks shall be provided adjacent to all roadways and shall be a minimum of six feet wide and not be adjacent to a street curb.

b. Office/Industrial Development.

1. **Total Required Open Space.** A minimum of 15 percent of the land area within a development shall be set aside as common open space, which may be in a central open space or distributed throughout the development.
2. **Types of Space.** The allowable types of public spaces are displayed in Figure 12.07(g), Open Space Types, and illustrated in Figure 12.07(m), Open Space Palette.

Figure 12.07(l) Public Space Illustrative



Figure 12.07(m) Open Space Palette

Park	General Character • Focused toward family-friendly needs • Fencing depends on surroundings • Open shelter • Shade and seating provided • Play structure, interactive art or fountains Standards • Min. Size – 300 sf.

Figure 12.07(m) Open Space Palette



- Max. Size – N/A
 - Protected from traffic
 - No service or mechanical equipment
- Typical Uses**
- Active and passive recreation
 - Casual seating

Pocket Park



General Character

- Small urban open space responding to specific user groups and space available.
- Range of character can be for intense use or aesthetic enjoyment.
- Low maintenance is essential.

Location and Size

- 0.25 – 1.99 acres
- Within walking distance of either a few blocks or up to a ¼ mile of residences

Typical Uses

- Varies per user group

Plaza



General Character

- Formal open space
- Defined seating areas
- Balance of hardscape and plantings
- Spatially defined by building frontages

Location and Size

- 0.1 – 1 acre
- Minimum width – 30'
- Minimum perimeter frontage on public right of way – 25%

Figure 12.07(m) Open Space Palette

	• Located at important intersections, at vista termini, or at entrances to public/civic buildings Typical Uses • Commercial and civic uses • Formal and casual seating • Retail and food kiosks

Figure 12.07(m) Open Space Palette

Pocket Plaza 	General Character • Formal open space for gathering • Defined seating areas • Refuge from the public sidewalk • Spatially defined by building design Location and Size • Min. 300 sf. • Min. width – 15' / Max. width 20' • Minimum perimeter frontage on public right of way – 25% • Located at important intersections, at vista termini, or at entrances to public/civic buildings Typical Uses • Civic and commercial uses • Formal and casual seating
Public Green 	General Character • Formal open space • Spatially defined by buildings/streets. • Open shelters, paths, lawns, and trees • Walkways and plantings at all edges • Abundant seating opportunities Location and Size • 0.25 – 4 acres • Minimum width – 25' • Minimum pervious cover – 60 % • Located at important intersections

Figure 12.07(m) Open Space Palette

	Typical Uses • Unstructured and passive recreation • Community gathering • Occasional commercial and civic uses
Recreational Trail 	General Character • Improved pathway surface • Commonly along a linear feature or the edge of development • Access points at street and sidewalk crossings • Pedestrian improvements required • Naturally vegetated Standards • Minimum easement width – 15’ • Minimum trail width – 8’ Typical Uses • Pedestrian connections and access • Recreation and exercise

c. Residential Development.

1. Required Open Spaces.

- Eight units or less - no requirement.
 - Nine to 20 units - at least one private common space of any type.
 - Twenty-one to 40 units - at least two private common spaces of any type.
 - Forty-one units and greater - at least three private common spaces of any type.
2. Types of residential open spaces include any permitted public space or balconies on no less than two-thirds of all multi-family units, forecourts, courtyards, roof terrace, or a pool or other amenity.

(i) Parking.

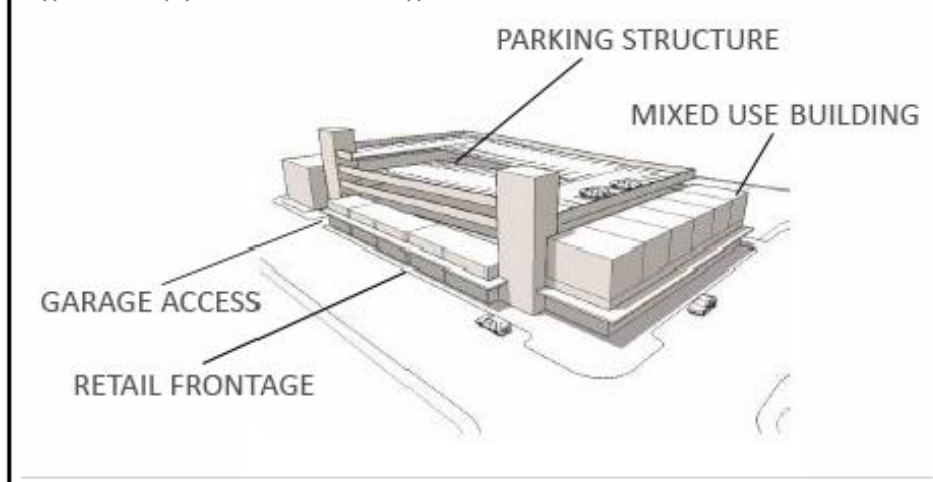
- On-street.** In a mixed-use development, street cross-sections shall be designed to include parallel or angled parking on both sides of all streets that are internal to the development.
- Off-Street Surface.**
 - Commercial/Retail.** The Enforcement Official may approve a maximum of two rows of parking between buildings and the adjacent street, as displayed in Figure 12.07(n), Streetscape Parking. Otherwise, off-street surface parking shall be located to the side or rear of main buildings. All off-street surface parking lots shall be landscaped to conform to the standards of Section 13.06, Site Design Requirements. Landscape screening shall be planted along 100 percent of all street frontages and other public places. Off-street surface parking shall only be angled or parallel spaces. Each off-street surface parking lot shall not exceed a total of 100 parking spaces, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Figure 12.07(n) Streetscape Parking



- b. **Office/Industrial.** The Enforcement Official may approve a maximum of two rows of parking between buildings and the adjacent street, as displayed in Figure 12.07(n), Streetscape Parking. Otherwise, off-street surface parking for employees shall be located to the side of main buildings. All off-street surface parking lots shall be landscaped to conform to the standards of Section 13.06, Site Design Requirements.
3. **Parking Transitions.** In mixed-use developments, off-street parking areas shall be designed for their transition to structured parking as the development matures toward build out. The site plan shall demonstrate viable traffic operations for ingress and egress for both surface parking and for a parking structure.
4. **Structured.** Parking structures shall be provided to achieve the intended urban form, scale and intensity, density, and mixture of uses of a mixed-use development. To fulfill these requirements, upon initial construction or within an agreed upon time period, structured parking is required for a minimum of 65 percent of the total required parking for a vertical mixed-use building or 50 percent of a horizontal mixed-use development. Parking shall be encapsulated within or below buildings in a manner that conceals it from predominant public view and that does not interrupt the continuity of the pedestrian environment, as displayed by Figure 12.07(o), Structured Parking. All parking structures shall be designed to be consistent with and complimentary to the architectural style of the main building(s). Freestanding parking structures are permitted provided they are either not situated along public streets or they incorporate active ground-level, street-facing uses within the structure. Parking structures shall be positioned within the development to accommodate maximum shared use.
4. **Shared.** The Enforcement Official may allow a reduction in the required number of spaces for shared parking in accordance with Section 18.01.05(d), Enforcement Official Reduction of Parking Requirements.

Figure 12.07(o) Structured Parking



- (j) **Phasing.** For horizontal mixed-use developments, a certificate of completion for a minimum of one nonresidential building must

be issued prior to issuance of any certificates of occupancy for residential buildings.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.13., 2-5-2019)

ARTICLE 13. - MICHIGAN CITY NORTH END FORM-BASED DISTRICTS

Section 13.01 - Intent

Michigan City has forged a collective vision for the redevelopment of the downtown and waterfront, and the Michigan City North End Form-Based Overlay District is intended to facilitate a transformative change to Michigan City's downtown and waterfront area. This overlay district is to implement the North End Plan by doing the following:

- (a) Direct urban growth in the city's North End.
- (b) Develop a fully integrated, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented and transit-oriented environment.
- (c) Create a synergy of uses to support economic development and redevelopment.
- (d) Minimize traffic congestion, inefficient surface parking lots, infrastructure costs and environmental impacts by promoting compact, mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly and transit-oriented development.
- (e) Regulate building height and placement to achieve appropriate scale along streets and critical mass of development to support transit.
- (f) Establish clear controls on building form and placement to frame a well-defined public realm comprised of human-scale streets, neighborhoods and public spaces, all of which contribute to creating a safe, comfortable and livable environment.
- (g) Advocate the building of civil communities through economically and environmentally sustainable development practices.
- (h) Build and preserve places that are useful, beautiful and meaningful.
- (i) Guide future deliberations and decisions which affect the way people build and live.

Section 13.02 - Scope of Application

- (a) The Michigan City North End Form-Based Overlay District is a district subject to development requirements, and any development within this district shall require a development plan as provided for in IC 36-7-4-1400 et seq.
- (b) Plan commission approval shall be required for any development plan for a multiple family building or a non-residential building. The information required for a site plan under Article 23 shall be submitted for plan commission approval.
- (c) Additions, renovations or re-occupancy of existing buildings shall be approved by the enforcement official following the procedures of Article 23.
- (d) The development or redevelopment of all lots in the overlay district shall comply with the provisions of this overlay zoning district. Where a conflict exists between the requirements of this overlay zoning district and the other regulations of this ordinance, the requirement of this overlay zoning district shall apply.

Section 13.03 - Uses Permitted

The uses permitted shall be regulated by the underlying zoning district. The review and approval process applicable in the underlying zoning district shall be followed.

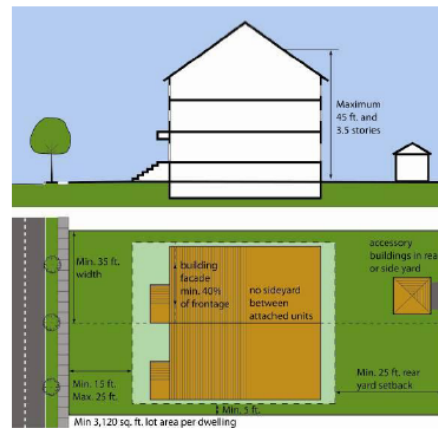
Section 13.04 - Dimensional Requirements

The development or redevelopment of lots within the overlay district shall comply with the following requirements for each subdistrict.

(a) **Urban Neighborhood.**

Building height	Maximum 45 feet and 3.5 stories	

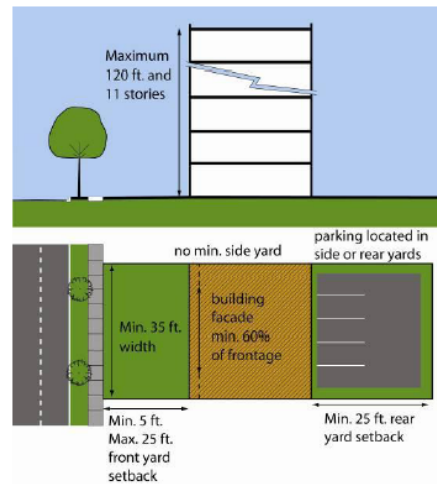
Lot area	Minimum 3,120-square foot lot area per dwelling unit
Lot width	Minimum 35 feet
Lot coverage	Maximum 65% building coverage and 85% impermeable surface coverage
Building Frontage Requirement	Building facade shall occupy a minimum of 40% of the frontage length between the minimum and maximum front yard setback
Front yard	Minimum 15 feet and maximum 25 feet
Side yard	Minimum 5 feet, except rows of attached townhouses
Rear yard	Minimum 25 feet
Residential floor area	Minimum 800 square feet of floor area for each dwelling unit
Residential Density	Minimum 3,120 square feet of lot area for each residential dwelling unit
Accessory buildings	Accessory building shall be located in side or rear yard. See Article 16
Parking	Parking shall be located in the side or rear yard



(b) **General Urban.**

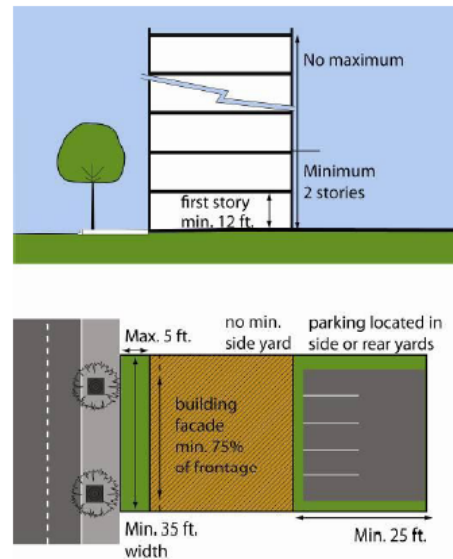
Building height	Maximum 120 feet and 11 stories
Lot area	No minimum
Lot width	Minimum 35 feet
Lot coverage	Maximum 65% building coverage and 90% impermeable surface coverage
Building	Building facade shall occupy a minimum of

Frontage Requirement	60% of the frontage length between the minimum and maximum front yard setback
Front yard	Minimum 5 feet and maximum 25 feet
Side yard	No minimum
Rear yard	Minimum 25 feet No minimum where adjoining an alley
Residential floor area	Minimum 500 square feet of floor area for each dwelling unit
Residential Density	No maximum
Accessory buildings	Accessory building shall be located in side or rear yard. See Article 16
Parking	Parking shall be located in the side or rear yard
Loading	All loading areas shall be located in the rear yard or alley



(c) **Urban Center.**

Building height	Minimum 2 stories No maximum The first story shall be a minimum of 12 feet in height measured from floor to ceiling.
Lot area	No minimum
Lot width	No minimum
Lot coverage	No maximum
Building Frontage Requirement	Building facade shall occupy a minimum of 75% of the frontage length within the maximum front yard setback
Front yard	Maximum 5 feet



Side yard	No minimum
Rear yard	Minimum 25 feet No minimum where adjoining an alley
Residential floor area	Minimum 500 square feet of floor area for each dwelling unit
Residential Density	No maximum
Accessory buildings	Accessory building shall be located in side or rear yard. See Article 16
Parking	Parking shall be located in the side or rear yard
Loading	All loading shall be located in the rear yard or alley

- (d) **Building Frontage and Maximum Front Yard Setback.** Exceptions may be allowed to the building frontage and maximum front yard setback requirement of (a) through (c) above when the front yard area is used for one of the following purposes:
- (1) Widening the sidewalk along the frontage of the building;
 - (2) Providing a public gathering area or plaza that offers seating, landscape enhancements, public information and displays, fountains, or other pedestrian amenities;
 - (3) Accommodating an inset entranceway to the building;
 - (4) Providing outdoor seating for the proposed use;
 - (5) Where necessary to avoid underground utilities; or
 - (6) The building is used for public or quasi-public/institutional purposes with a plaza or open space area provided in the front yard.
- (e) **Waterfront.** There shall be no minimum waterfront setback requirement. A minimum 10-foot wide walkway shall be maintained along the Trail Creek.
- (f) **Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).** The following TOD requirements shall apply to all lots that are within a quarter (¼) mile (1,320 feet) of a Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation South Shore Line station and any lots that front on a street with a Michigan City Transit route. Where a conflict exists between the TOD requirements of this section and the other regulations of this ordinance, the requirement of this section shall apply.
- (1) **Minimum Building Height.** The minimum building height shall be two stories. Maximum building height shall be regulated by the underlying district.
 - (2) **Residential Density.** There shall be no limit on residential density, except through meeting minimum floor area, parking and maximum building height restrictions. There shall be a minimum 500 square feet of floor area for each dwelling unit.
 - (3) **Maximum Front Yard Setback.** All buildings shall have a minimum front yard setback of zero feet and a maximum setback of five feet from the front lot line. A setback may be increased to 25 feet from the front property line if a courtyard, plaza or seating area is incorporated into the development adjacent to the street.

- (4) **Building Facades.** In addition to the requirements of Section 13.05, the following TOD requirements shall apply to all buildings:
- The main entrance of any building located on a street with a transit line must provide the main entrance on the facade facing the street with the transit line.
 - Facades over 50 feet in length shall be divided into shorter segments by means of facade modulation, repeating window patterns, changes in materials, canopies or awnings, varying roof lines or other architectural treatments.
- (5) **Minimum Lot Coverage.** Minimum lot coverage is 60 percent of the net lot area. This minimum may be reduced if a minimum of 40 percent of the lot is developed as improved public open space. There shall be no maximum lot coverage requirement.
- (6) **Parking.**
- All uses located in the TOD zone shall be exempt from the parking requirements of [Article 18](#), except residential uses, which shall be required to provide parking at a minimum of one parking space per dwelling unit.
 - Off-street parking lots shall be prohibited from occupying the frontage along a public street sidewalk. There shall be a minimum depth of 20 feet of usable building space between the parking lot and the street right-of-way. On street parking shall be permitted where designated by the city.
 - Parking structures shall have well-designed and marked pedestrian walkways and connections to the sidewalk system. Parking structures must include ground level retail along all streets.
 - Driveways for parking lots and parking structures shall not be permitted directly on a street with a transit line and must access side streets.
- (7) **Prohibited Uses.** The following uses shall be prohibited in the TOD area:
- Retail uses with accessory drive through service;
 - Lawn and garden supply, greenhouse and retail nurseries;
 - Home improvement, building material sales and lumber with open storage;
 - Tool and equipment rental;
 - Automobile rental;
 - Automobile sales (new/used);
 - Automobile washes;
 - Minor automobile service and repair;
 - Major automobile service, body repair and painting;
 - Motorcycle, snowmobile and ATV sales/service;
 - Vehicle service stations;
 - Restaurants with drive-thru/in service;
 - Banks with drive through service; and
 - Manufacturing and warehousing.

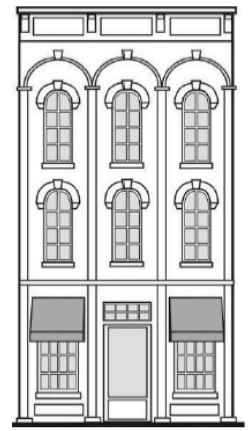
Section 13.05 - Building Design Requirements

This section outlines the building type specifications for the overlay district.

- (a) **General and Mixed-Use Buildings.** All commercial buildings and mixed-use buildings that contain non-residential and residential uses, such as retail on the ground floor, and residential on upper floors and live-work units, shall meet the following requirements.

General and Mixed-Use Buildings		
Front Facade	The front facade that faces a street or plaza shall include windows, cornice work, edge detailing and decorative finish materials.	

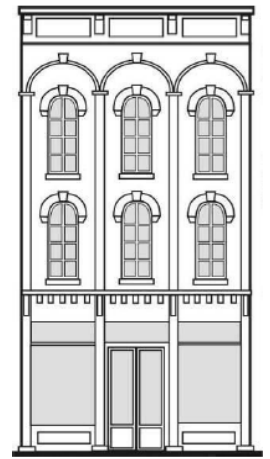
Ground Floor Windows and Doors	Between 2 and 10 feet above the sidewalk, at least 50% of the ground floor facade area facing a street shall be clear windows and doorways. Required window areas shall allow views into retail space, working areas or lobbies, pedestrian entrances or display windows set into the wall. Windows may not be covered or blocked with the back of shelving units.
Upper Floor Windows	Openings above the first story shall be vertical in proportion.
Entrance	There shall be a minimum of one (1) usable pedestrian entrance along the front public sidewalk. Main pedestrian entrances shall have design details that enhance the appearance and prominence of the entrance so that it is recognizable from the street and parking areas.
Blank Walls	Blank walls (without windows) longer than 20 feet shall not face a street.
Garage Doors	Garage doors shall not be permitted on a front facade; except opening/doors for access to structured parking or rear yard parking are permitted.
Flat Roof Buildings	Buildings with a flat roof appearance from the street shall have a decorative cornice. Flat roofs shall be enclosed by parapets.
Pitched Roof Buildings	Buildings with a pitched roof shall be permitted where the eaves are at least 20 feet from the ground and the roof pitch is a minimum of 4:12.
Mechanical Equipment Screening	All rooftop HVAC mechanical mounted equipment shall be screened from view on all sides of the building. Parapets and other screening treatment shall use high quality building materials and shall blend with the design of the building in terms of color and materials.



- (b) **Franklin Boulevard Storefront Building.** All buildings fronting on Franklin Boulevard, except civic buildings, shall meet the following requirements for the facade facing Franklin Boulevard. This building type shall be occupied by commercial uses or mixed-uses (which contain non-residential and residential uses, such as retail on the ground floor and residential on upper floors).

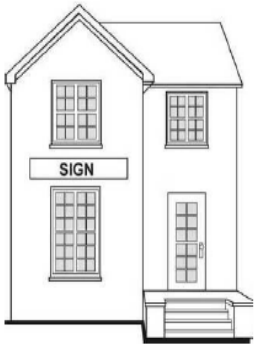
Franklin Storefront Buildings		
Ground Floor Storefront	Ground floors shall be designed with storefronts that have windows, doorways and signage, which are integrally designed and painted.	

	Storefront buildings shall be designed to create a distinct and separated ground floor area through the use of accent such as a string course, change in material or textures, or an awning or canopy between the first and second stories.
Ground Floor Windows and Doors	Between 2 and 10 feet above the sidewalk, at least 70% of the storefront/ground floor facade facing the street shall be clear windows and doorways. Glass areas on storefronts shall be clear or lightly tinted. Mirrored glass is prohibited. Required window areas shall allow views into retail space, working areas, lobbies, pedestrian entrances or display windows. Windows shall not be blocked with opaque materials or the back of shelving units.
Upper Floor Windows	Openings above the first story shall be a maximum of 50% of the total facade area. Windows above the first story shall be vertical in proportion.
Entrance	There shall be a minimum of one (1) usable pedestrian entrance every full 50 feet of frontage along the front public sidewalk. Main pedestrian entrances shall have design details that enhance the appearance and prominence of the entrance so that it is recognizable from the street and parking areas.
Blank Walls	Blank walls (without windows) longer than 20 feet shall not face a street and building walls shall be articulated with wall projections/recessions, variable materials, colors or details to visually break-up the wall.
Garage Doors	Garage doors shall not be permitted on a front facade; however, openings for parking structure entrances and drives leading to loading areas are permitted.
Secondary Facade	For a building located on a corner lot, the second front facade facing the lesser traveled street may have the above door and window requirement of the first floor reduced to 1/2 the required amount of fenestration, provided the secondary facade is not facing Franklin Boulevard.
Flat Roof Buildings	Buildings with a flat roof appearance from the street shall have a decorative cornice. Flat roofs shall be enclosed by parapets.
Pitched Roof Buildings	Buildings with a pitched roof shall be permitted where the eaves are at least 20 feet from the ground and the roof pitch is a minimum of 4:12.



Mechanical Equipment Screening	All rooftop HVAC mechanical mounted equipment shall be screened from view on all sides of the building. Parapets and other screening treatment shall use high quality building materials and shall blend with the design of the building in terms of color and materials.	

- (c) **Cottage Shop Building.** Buildings that were originally constructed as residences and converted to a non-residential use or constructed to appear as residential conversions shall meet the following requirements.

Cottage Shop Building		
Front Facade	There shall be a minimum of one (1) usable pedestrian entrance along the front public sidewalk.	
Garage Doors	Garage doors shall not be permitted on a front facade.	
Ground Floor Windows and Doors	At least 25% of the ground floor facade facing a street shall be clear windows and doorways.	
Upper Floor Windows	Windows above the first story shall be vertical in proportion.	
Roof Design	Buildings with a pitched roof shall be permitted where the eaves are at least 20 feet from the ground and the roof pitch is a minimum of 4:12.	

- (d) **Apartment Buildings.** Apartment buildings that contain only multiple-family dwellings shall meet the following design requirements. Multiple-family dwellings located in mixed-use buildings shall be subject to the general commercial/mixed-use building design requirements in [Section 13.05\(a\)](#). Apartment buildings are considered buildings with common entrances - where multiple family dwellings have individual entrances, they shall be subject to the townhouse design standards of [Section 13.05\(e\)](#) below.

Apartment Buildings		
Entrance	There shall be a minimum of one pedestrian entryway facing the street or opening onto a courtyard facing the street.	
Front Stoop	A front stoop shall be allowed to project into the front yard. ADA-compliant access ramps that connect to the stoop may also project into the front yard.	
Windows and Doors	The front facade of all residential units shall be a minimum of 25% and a maximum of 75% windows and doors.	
Roof Design	Buildings with a flat roof appearance from the street shall have a	

	decorative cornice. Buildings with a pitched roof shall be permitted where the eaves are at least 20 feet from the ground and the roof pitch is a minimum of 4:12.	
Parking	Off-street parking lots and carports or garages shall be located in the side or rear yard.	

- (e) **Townhouses.** Attached/townhouse dwellings shall meet the following design requirements. Townhouse dwellings are dwellings where each unit has an individual front entrance - multiple family dwellings with common entrances shall be subject to the apartment building design standards of [Section 13.05\(d\)](#) above.

Townhouses		
Entrance	Each dwelling shall provide a separate pedestrian entryway facing the front lot line with direct access to the sidewalk by way of a front porch or stoop with steps.	
Front Porch or Stoop	All dwellings shall include a front stoop or porch. The stoop or porch shall have a minimum depth of 4 feet and a minimum area of 24 square feet. Steps and ADA-compliant access ramps that connect to the stoop or porch may project into the front yard.	
First Floor Elevation	The stoop or porch shall be elevated a minimum of 21 inches above the sidewalk grade. This may be waived for units designed to be accessible by persons with disabilities.	
Windows and Doors	The front facade of all residential units shall be a minimum of 25% and a maximum of 50% windows and doors.	
Roof Design	Buildings shall be designed with a pitched roof with eaves at least 20 feet from the ground and a minimum roof pitch of 4:12.	
Garages	Attached or detached garages shall be located in the rear yard or on the rear side of the building and shall be accessed by a rear alley or drive.	

- (f) **Detached Single and Two Family Dwellings.** Single family detached dwellings and duplex dwellings shall meet the following design requirements.

Single-Family Detached and Duplex Dwellings		
Entrance	All buildings shall provide at least one (1) pedestrian door facing the front lot line. Two family dwellings may have one (1) unit with a door on	

	the side.
Front Porch or Stoop	All dwellings shall include a front porch or stoop with steps. A minimum depth of 6 feet and a minimum area of 48 square feet shall be provided on single-family detached dwellings and duplex dwellings. Duplex units may share a single front porch.
First Floor Elevation	The first floor elevation shall be a minimum of 21 inches above the average exterior sidewalk elevation in front of the building.
Windows and Doors	The front facade of all residential units shall be a minimum of 25% and a maximum of 50% windows and doorways.
Roof Design	Buildings shall be designed with a pitched roof with eaves at least 20 feet from the ground and the roof pitch is between a minimum of 4:12 and a maximum of 12:12.
Garages	Detached garages shall be located in the rear yard. Garages may be accessed by a rear alley or by driveways that pass through the side yard of the lot. Front facing attached garages shall be permitted, provided they don't project past the front building line and do not encompass more than 50% of the total building width.



- (g) **Civic/Institutional Buildings.** The design of an institutional or community service building, such as a school, government office, library, post office or place of worship is subject to review and approval by the plan commission. The intent is to allow flexibility in the design and siting of these unique buildings that serve a public use while ensuring their positive contribution to a desired community character as stated in the North End Plan.

Civic/Institutional Buildings	
Front Setback	Civic/institutional buildings may exceed the maximum front yard setback of the district where a pedestrian plaza or landscaped front yard is provided.
Front Facade	Walls that face a public street, plaza, green or park shall include windows and architectural features customarily found on the front of a building, such as awnings, cornice work, edge detailing or decorative finish materials.
Entrance	There shall be a minimum of one (1) usable pedestrian entrance along the front public sidewalk. Main pedestrian entrances shall have design details that enhance the appearance and prominence of the entrance so that it is recognizable from the street and parking areas.



Prominent Design	The standards for General and Mixed-Use Buildings contained in <u>Section 13.04(a)</u> shall be used as a basis for the design of civic/institutional buildings; however, the plan commission may permit modifications from these standards based upon the unique needs for the building and the desire to create unique landmark features with civic/institutional buildings.	

- (h) **Building Materials.** All buildings shall contain quality building materials that are in keeping with the character of traditional buildings in Michigan City. Permitted materials for exterior walls (exclusive of windows and doors) that are clearly visible from the street or parking lot, shall be limited to the following:

Building material	Primary building material	Trim material
Brick or tile masonry (panel brick, tilt-up brick or textured paneling not permitted)	Permitted	Permitted
Native stone (or synthetic equivalent)	Permitted	Permitted
Stucco (cementitious finish)	Permitted	Permitted
Wood lap siding, fiber cement siding or vinyl siding	Permitted	Permitted
Pre-cast masonry (for trim and cornice elements only)	—	Permitted
Gypsum Reinforced Fiber Concrete (GFRC)—for trim elements only	—	Permitted
Exterior Insulation and Finish System (EIFS)—for trim elements only	—	Permitted
Metal (for beams, lintels, trim elements and ornamentation only)	—	Permitted
Split-faced block (only for piers, foundation walls and chimneys)	—	Permitted

- (1) Primary building material shall comprise at least 75 percent of the visible wall materials. Trim material shall comprise no more than 25 percent of the visible wall materials. Wall area calculations are exclusive of windows and doors.
- (2) Provided the appearance is in keeping with the traditional architectural character of Michigan City, other materials not listed above that are of the same or higher quality in terms of durability and appearance/texture similar to brick, stone, or wood may be approved by the plan commission.
- (3) Wall materials including panel brick, tilt-up brick textured paneling, plain, smooth-face, or scored concrete masonry units, corrugated metal paneling and fiberglass sheeting are prohibited for walls that are clearly visible from streets, parks, civic

squares, and civic greens.

- (i) **Awnings and Marquees.** Storefronts and building entrances may be enhanced by awnings or marquees, which give shade and shelter or add color and visual interest to the entry or display window of the storefront, provided that the following conditions are met:
 - (1) Awnings and marquees may project over a sidewalk; however, they must be a minimum of eight-foot clearance provided from the sidewalk.
 - (2) Awnings and marquees shall be functional and provide shade or shelter for pedestrians over a substantial portion of the sidewalk.
 - (3) Awnings shall be positioned immediately above ground floor windows and have a straight shed that projects from the building.
 - (4) Awnings shall be constructed of durable materials such as canvas or steel that will not fade or tear easily. Plasticized, rigid, cubed or curved awnings or mansard style canopies are prohibited. Marquees shall be constructed of materials compatible with the building and meeting the trim material specifications of [Section 13.05\(h\)](#).
 - (5) Awnings shall not be internally illuminated and any signs shall be illuminated by fixtures located above the awning and directed downward.

Section 13.06 - Site Design Requirements

- (a) **Parking.** Each use shall be required to provide off-street parking in accordance with the requirements of [Article 18](#).
- (b) **Bicycle Facilities.** All developments with parking lots shall be designed to accommodate bicycle travel by providing bike racks.
- (c) **Loading.** Off-street loading spaces shall be provided as required by [Article 18](#). Waivers to loading space requirements may be granted by the plan commission for uses such as offices or banks where deliveries by truck will not be necessary. Loading and outdoor storage areas shall be located in the rear yard, an alley or within loading bays that are that are surrounded or enclosed by buildings, and not visible from the street. Loading areas not within loading bays shall be screened from any adjacent use by a six-foot tall brick wall or other masonry material matching the primary building material.
- (d) **Landscaping and Screening.** Landscaping and screening shall be provided for as follows:
 - (1) **Street Trees.** One street canopy tree shall be provided for each 40 feet of street frontage. Street trees shall be minimum two and one-half inch caliper canopy trees.
 - (2) **Parking Lot Landscaping.** Parking lots shall be landscaped with one canopy tree for every 15 parking spaces. Parking lots that are located in a rear yard and are not visible from the street shall be exempt from this requirement.
 - (3) **Parking Lot Screening.** Where parking is visible from a street, it shall be screened by a three-foot tall brick wall that is an extension of the building facade along the sidewalk. Where a parking lot for a non-residential use is adjacent to a residential use or district, a six-foot tall brick screen wall shall be provided between the parking lot, including drives, and the residential use in accordance with [Section 17.03](#).
- (e) **Waste Receptacles.** Waste receptacles shall not be visible from the street and shall be located in the rear yard. Waste receptacles shall be enclosed in accordance with [Section 17.05](#). Multiple businesses may share a waste receptacle, provided there is a recorded agreement for shared use and maintenance.

ARTICLE 14. - USE REGULATIONS

Section 14.01 - Residential

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

- (a) **Residential Dwellings.**
 - (1) **All Types of Residential Dwellings.** All site-built dwellings and manufactured dwellings not located in a manufactured home park shall meet the following requirements:

- a. **Minimum Floor Area.** The dwelling shall meet the minimum square footage requirements for the zoning district in which and must be 23 feet in width by 41 feet in length. The width or length of the dwelling may be reduced where the building in height and meet the minimum floor area requirement of the zoning district.
 - b. **Exterior Materials.** The home shall be covered with an exterior material customarily used on site-built residential dwellings. The primary materials shall be one or more of the following:
 - 1. Residential horizontal aluminum, vinyl, or fiber cement lap siding;
 - 2. Cedar or other wood siding;
 - 3. Stucco;
 - 4. Brick;
 - 5. Stone (including native stone, cultured stone cast stone or other masonry material with the appearance of stone); or
 - 6. Other similar quality material to the above, as determined by the enforcement official.
 - c. **Roof.** The home shall have a roof with a minimum rise of 3:12, composed of a material customarily used on site-built residential dwellings, such as fiberglass, shake, asphalt, slate, metal or tile, which shall be installed onto a surface appropriately pitched for the materials used.
- (2) **Manufactured Homes Located Outside of an Approved Manufactured Home Park.** Manufactured homes shall be permitted as a permanent residences in any zoning district that permits single family dwelling units, subject to requirements and limitations applying generally to residential use in the district, the requirements of subsection (1) above, and the following requirements.
- a. **Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards.** Manufactured homes shall be installed as a permanent residence, bear a seal certifying that it was built in compliance with the federal Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Law (1974 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.) and have been constructed after January 1, 1981.
 - b. **Foundation.** The dwelling shall be attached and anchored to a permanent foundation of concrete or masonry construction in conformance with the regulations in the state One- and Two-Family Dwelling Code and with manufacturer's installation specifications. Any wheels, axles and towing chassis shall be removed.
 - c. **Number.** There may be one manufactured home per lot.
 - d. **Additional Restrictions.** Additional manufactured home restrictions:
 - 1. Manufactured homes shall be used for residential purposes only.
 - 2. Manufactured homes may not be used as storage units on residential parcels as well as any vans, truck boxes, semi trailers or railroad cars.
 - e. **Permanent Perimeter Enclosure.** Those manufactured homes designated as requiring a permanent perimeter enclosure must be set onto an excavated area, with foundations, footings, and crawl space or basement walls constructed in accordance with the terms of the One- and Two-Family Dwelling Code. The space between the floor joists of the home and the excavated under floor grade shall be completely enclosed with the permanent perimeter enclosure, except for required openings.
 - f. **Foundation Siding and Skirting (for Temporary Structures).**
 - 1. All manufactured or manufactured homes without a permanent perimeter enclosure shall have an approved foundation siding or skirting enclosing the entire perimeter of the home.
 - i. Foundation siding or skirting and back-up framing shall be weather-resistant, non-combustible, or self-extinguishing materials, which blend with the exterior siding of the home. Below grade level for a minimum distance of six inches above finish grade, the materials shall be unaffected by decay or oxidation.
 - ii. The siding shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations or approved equal standards.
 - 2. The siding shall be ventilated by openings, which shall have a net area of not less than one and one-half square

feet for each 25 linear feet of exterior perimeter. The openings shall be covered with corrosion resistant wire mesh not larger than one-half inch in any dimension.

3. The under floor area shall be provided with an 18 inch by 24 inch minimum size access crawl hole, which shall not be blocked by pipes, ducts, or other construction interfering with the accessibility of the under floor space or other approved access mechanism.

g. **Structural Alteration.** No alteration may be made to, or to enclose, the manufactured home for purposes of increasing the usable living area or providing additional storage area, with the exception of manufacturer approved and constructed add-a-room or expanded unit.

(3) **Temporary Use; Permits.**

- a. **Circumstances for Permit Issuance.** Subject to conditions, fees, and standards otherwise required by this title, a temporary use permit may be issued:
 1. To an applicant to use a manufactured or manufactured home as a construction office at a job site;
 2. To an applicant whose own health or health of another necessitates care, and emergency situations where the facts show that an unnecessary hardship would occur if not permitted to locate a manufactured or manufactured home adjacent to the residence of one who is able to provide care or in need of care; or
 3. If a home is burned, a manufactured home could be placed on the property by order of the Building Commissioner prior to the granting of the variance. No more than one manufactured home should be allowed on a parcel of land.
- b. **Length of Permit.** A temporary use permit may be issued, at the discretion of the plan commission's designated administrator, for a period not to exceed six months.
- c. **Permit Expiration.** At the time the temporary permit expires, the manufactured or manufactured home and all appurtenances shall be removed from the property unless a variance has been granted by the BZA.
- d. **Utility Requirements.** Manufactured or manufactured homes used for temporary uses shall have an approved water supply, sewage disposal system, and utility connections, where appropriate, and at the discretion of the enforcement official.

(b) **Home occupations.**

- (1) The regulations of this section apply to home occupations that are accessory to a residential use. These regulations do not apply to farms.
- (2) The home occupation shall be incidental and secondary to the use of the dwelling for dwelling purposes and does not occupy more than one-fourth of the floor area of a story, cellar, or accessory structure.
- (3) There shall be no signs, display, or activity that will indicate from the exterior that the building is being used, in part, for any purpose other than that of a dwelling, except one sign, not more than one square foot in area, as regulated in Article 19.
- (4) There shall be no services rendered that require receipt and delivery of merchandise, goods, or equipment by other than a passenger motor vehicle or by U.S. letter carrier mail service.
- (5) There may be a maximum of one person from outside the household engaged in the home occupation, in addition to members of the immediate family residing on the premises. In the R1E district, only members of the immediate family residing on the premises may engage in the home occupation.
- (6) All activity, including storage, shall be conducted completely within the dwelling unit, attached garage, or detached garage.
- (7) There shall be no perceptible noise, odor, smoke, electrical interference, or vibration emanating from the structure.
- (8) There shall normally be no more than one customer or client on the premises at the same time. In the R1E district, the home occupation shall not generate customers or clients on the premises at any time.
- (9) There shall be no activity between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

(c) **Accessory Dwelling Units.**

- (1) One accessory dwelling unit may be created on a lot containing an existing single-family dwelling through the following methods:
 - a. Converting existing living area, attic, basement or garage;
 - b. Adding floor area to the principal building providing compliance with lot coverage standards set out in Table 04.04, Building Dimensional Requirements (a); or
 - c. Constructing a detached accessory dwelling unit on a site with an existing dwelling, except in the R1E district, where such method is prohibited.
- (2) The size of the accessory dwelling unit may be no more than 33 percent of the living area of the principal dwelling or 800 square feet, whichever is more.
- (3) The exterior finish material must be the same or visually match in type, size and placement, the exterior finish material of the principal dwelling.
- (4) The roof pitch must be the same as the predominant roof pitch of the principal dwelling. The eaves must project from the building walls the same distance as the eaves on the principal dwelling.
- (5) Trim must be the same in type, size, and location as the trim used on the principal dwelling.
- (6) Windows must match those in the principal dwelling in proportion (relationship of width to height) and orientation (horizontal or vertical).
- (7) All health department requirements for water and sanitary sewage disposal shall be met.
- (8) When an accessory dwelling is located within the principal dwelling, only one entrance may be located on the facade of the building facing the street, unless the building contained additional entrances before the accessory dwelling unit was created. An exception to this regulation is entrances that do not have access from the ground such as entrances from balconies or decks.
- (9) Detached accessory dwelling units must be setback at least 50 feet from the front lot line or ten feet behind the main house and must meet the side and rear yard setbacks of the district.
- (10) In addition to the parking required for the principal dwelling set out in Table 18.01(b), Required Off-Street Parking Spaces, one off-street parking space shall be provided for the accessory dwelling unit.

(Ord. No. 4500, §§ 5.14.—5.17, 2-5-2019)

Section 14.02 - Agriculture and Animal-Related Uses

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

(a) **Confined Animal Feeding Operations.**

- (1) Confined animal feeding operations (CAFO) shall be required to comply with all requirements of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Ordinance contained in Chapter 97 of the La Porte County Code of Ordinances.
- (2) CAFOs shall be required to obtain a permit from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

(b) **Boarding Stables.**

- (1) The minimum parcel size shall be ten acres.
- (2) All areas for stockpiling manure shall be screened from view and shall not be located closer than 250 feet to any property line, creek, or stream and shall not be allowed to become a nuisance.

(c) **Keeping of Horses and Livestock.**

- (1) The keeping of animals, other than domesticated pets, is only permitted as follows:

Zoning District	Lot area	Animals allowed
A1 and A2 agricultural zoning districts	Less than 3 acres	Special exception approval subject to

		subsection (2)
	3 acres or more	Permitted — no limit on number of animals
R1A, R1B, R1C, R1D single family residential districts	Less than 3 acres	Not permitted
	3 acres or more	Permitted subject to subsection (2)

- (2) On lot less than three acres in the A1 and A2 agricultural zoning districts and lots three acres or more in the R1A, R1B, R1C, R1D single family residential districts, there shall be the following acreage for each animal or combinations of animals:

Animal	Minimum Acres for each Animal
Chickens, turkeys or rabbits	0.02
Sheep, goats llamas or alpaca	0.1
Swine	0.2
Horses, ponies, mules or burros	1
Cattle, bison, ostrich or elk	1

- (3) All grazing areas shall be fenced. Grazing areas shall not be located over sanitary drain fields.

- (4) An accessory structure shall be provided to house such animals. Any barn, or stable structure and any outdoor feed (non-grazing) area training or exercising corrals shall be setback at least 100 feet from any lot line of an adjacent residentially zoned lot. All stables shall be enclosed by a suitable fence and shall be maintained so that odor, dust, noise or water drainage shall not constitute a nuisance or hazard to adjoining premises.

(d) **Roadside Stands.**

- (1) The stand shall be not more than one story and shall have a floor area of not more than 200 square feet.
- (2) The stand shall be located at least 50 feet from a street or highway right-of-way line to provide area for off-street parking.

(e) **Slaughterhouses.**

- (1) The minimum lot area shall be five acres.
- (2) All front, side and rear yard setbacks shall be a minimum of 300 feet.
- (3) A minimum buffer/setback of 300 feet shall be provided between any building or animal enclosures and an adjacent residential district. The buffer/setback shall be landscaped with a buffer zone A in accordance with [Section 17.02\(c\)](#).

(f) **Veterinary Hospital for Small Animals.**

- (1) The use shall not be located in a mixed-use building that contains dwelling units.
- (2) Noise from the use shall not be audible outside of the building in which the use is located.

- (3) No operations, including dog runs or recreation areas, shall be conducted outdoors.
- (4) If the use is located in a multi-tenant building, the building shall have ventilation systems to prevent odors and allergens from circulating to other parts of the building.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.18., 2-5-2019)

Section 14.03 - Retail Trade

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

(a) Retail Uses With More Than 40,000 Square Feet of Floor Area.

- (1) The design of the center shall ensure that vehicular circulation patterns will minimize conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians on-site.
- (2) Internal drives defined by the ends of aisles shall have raised curbed landscape islands at appropriate locations to define circulation paths and control movements through the parking lot.
- (3) Any outlots shall have shared access and circulation with the main shopping center.
- (4) A minimum buffer/setback of 25 feet shall be provided between the parking lot or loading area and any adjacent residential district landscaped in accordance with Section 17.02(c).
- (5) Loading facilities which serve the commercial establishment in the principal building shall be screened from public view.
- (6) Any outlots shall have access, circulation and parking designed to complement the entire site.

(b) Drive-Through Accessory to a Retail Use.

- (1) The drive-through facility must be attached to the structure.
- (2) The drive-through facility shall be located on the side or rear elevation of the building to minimize visibility from the roadway. The site shall be oriented so that drive-through lanes and pickup windows are not a prominent feature of the building.
- (3) The drive-through service shall be screened from adjacent residential land uses by a solid screening wall in accordance with Section 17.03, such that it will not impact the use and enjoyment of the residential land use.
- (4) Clear identification and delineation between the drive-through facility and the parking lot shall be provided.
- (5) There shall be a minimum of three stacking spaces.
- (6) Each drive-through facility shall provide an escape lane to allow other vehicles to pass those waiting to be served. The enforcement official may waive the requirement for an escape lane where it can be demonstrated that such a waiver will not result in an adverse effect on public safety or the convenience of patrons of the facility.

(c) Planned Neighborhood Shopping Center in R1C, R1D, R2B, R3A and R3B Residential Zoning Districts.

- (1) A special exception shall be required for a planned neighborhood shopping center in the R1C, R1D, R2B, R3A and R3B residential zoning districts to provide day-to-day convenience shopping to adjoining residential neighborhoods.
- (2) The site shall have frontage and access to major thoroughfare.
- (3) The total commercial floor area shall be no more than 20,000 square feet.
- (4) Uses shall be limited to those permitted in the B1 district.
- (5) Architectural and sign treatment shall be compatible with the character of the surrounding residential area in terms of building materials and scale.

(d) Media Store, General.

- (1) A "Media Store General" is a store that sells or rents books, videos and other media in which ten percent or less of the retail floor area or numbers of items in inventory are adult media.
- (2) There shall be no electronic viewing of adult media within the store.
- (3) The store shall be treat as an "Adult Retail Store" If it meets any of the criteria contained in the definition of an "Adult Retail Store."

(e) **Media Store, with Backroom.**

- (1) A "Media Store, with Backroom: is a store that sells or rents books, videos and other media in which more than ten percent but less than 35 percent of the retail floor area or numbers of items in inventory are adult media.
- (2) The store shall continuously meet the following conditions:
 - (a) All adult media shall be maintained in a separate room from other media;
 - (b) Access to the room shall be through an opaque, solid door controlled through the use of an electronic access release located at least 66 inches above the floor located at the checkout counter and controlled by a store employee;
 - (c) The room shall be posted with a notice indicating that only persons 18 years of age or older are allowed in the room; and,
 - (d) There shall be no electronic viewing of adult media within the store.
- (3) The store shall be treated as an "Adult Retail Store" if it meets any of the criteria contained in the definition of an "Adult Retail Store."

(Ord. No. 4254, § 3(Exh. A), 10-30-2013)

Section 14.04 - Services

(a) **Pawnshops.**

- (1) The site shall not be within 1,000 feet of an adult regulated use or another pawnshop.

(b) **Tattoo Establishment.**

- (1) The site shall not be within 100 feet of a residential district.
- (2) The site shall not be within 1,000 feet of an adult regulated use
- (3) The use shall not operate after 10:00 p.m.

(c) **Small Animal Grooming.**

- (1) Noise from the use shall not be audible outside of the building in which the use is located.
- (2) No animal shall be kept overnight in the building in which the use is located.
- (3) No operations, including dog runs or recreation areas, shall be conducted outdoors.
- (4) If the use is located in a multi-tenant building, the building shall have ventilation systems to prevent odors and allergens from circulating to other parts of the building.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.19., 2-5-2019)

Section 14.05 - Motor Vehicle Dealers and Service

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

(a) **Vehicle Service and Repair, Major and Minor.**

- (1) All repair work shall be conducted completely within an enclosed building.
- (2) Storage of wrecked, partially dismantled, or other derelict vehicles is prohibited, unless such storage is required under police or court order. Vehicles awaiting repair shall not be stored outdoors for more than seven days and shall be screened with an eight foot high screen wall in accordance with Section 17.03.
- (3) There shall be no outdoor storage or display of vehicle components and parts, supplies, or equipment or other merchandise, except within an area defined on the site plan which extends no more than ten feet beyond the building.

(b) **Automobile Wash.**

- (1) The site shall have sufficient road frontage to be able to meet all of the driveway access spacing requirements of Section 18.04.
- (2) All washing facilities shall be within a completely enclosed building.

- (3) Where adjoining a residential district, a solid screening wall shall be erected along any common lot line in accordance with Section 17.03.
- (4) Vacuuming and drying may be located outside the building, but shall not be in the required front yard and shall be set back at least 50 feet from any residential district.
- (5) All cars required to wait for access to the facilities shall be provided stacking spaces fully off the street right-of-way which does not conflict with vehicle maneuvering areas to access gasoline pumps or vacuums.

(c) Vehicle Service Stations and Truck Stops.

- (1) The site shall have sufficient road frontage to be able to meet all of the driveway access spacing requirements of Section 18.04.
- (2) Pump islands shall be a minimum of 20 feet from any public right of way or lot line, and at least 50 feet from any residential lot line.
- (3) Where adjoining residentially zoned or used property, a solid screening wall shall be erected along any common lot line in accordance with Section 17.03.
- (4) Access driveways shall meet the standards of Article 18; turning movements may be restricted in consideration of traffic conditions. Only one driveway shall be permitted from each street.
- (5) All vehicle service and repair shall comply with Section 14.05(a) above.
- (6) The design and materials of the canopy shall be compatible with the principal building. The proposed clearance of any canopy shall be noted on the site plan. Any signs, logo on the canopy shall be considered part of the maximum wall sign permitted. Canopy lighting shall be recessed such that the light source cannot be seen from off site.

(d) Parts Stores.

- (1) The use shall be conducted within a building and shall not include automobile repair on the premises.
- (2) There is no outdoor display of parts, products, or materials.
- (3) No overnight storage of material, merchandise, or equipment is permitted except within the principal building.
- (4) Delivery of products, materials, and merchandise may be accommodated without use of rights-of-way for truck maneuvering or parking.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.20., 2-5-2019)

Section 14.06 - Accommodation and Food Services

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

(a) Bed and Breakfast Inns.

- (1) The regulations of this section only apply to bed and breakfast inns located in agricultural and residential districts. When located in nonresidential districts, the requirements applicable to hotels shall apply.
- (2) The bed and breakfast inn shall be a private residence, owned by the innkeeper and the residence in which the innkeeper resides while renting the rooms to transient guests.
- (3) A bed and breakfast inn located in a residential zoning district shall not be permitted to operate a restaurant that is open to the general public and may only offer breakfast to the guests.
- (4) The bed and breakfast inn shall be operated in its entirety within the principal dwelling and not within any accessory building, except for incidental storage in use of a residential type garage.
- (5) There shall be no exterior evidence, other than a permitted sign, to indicate that the residence is being utilized for any purpose other than that of a dwelling.
- (6) There shall be no alteration or construction not customarily found in residential dwellings; except modifications as recommended by the fire department such as fire protection and fire suppression equipment.
- (7) The bed and breakfast inn shall be inspected by the fire department and the county board of health for compliance with fire code and health code requirements prior to operation.

- (8) Guests are not allowed to stay longer than 14 consecutive days or 30 days in any one calendar year at any tourist home/bed location.
 - (9) Sufficient off street parking shall be required as for commercial lodging establishments. Existing buildings and structures that contribute towards the residential character of the site shall be retained and incorporated into the site design to the maximum extent practical. All required parking for any bed and breakfast inn shall be screened from adjacent residential uses.
- (b) **Restaurants with Drive-Through Service.**
- (1) The drive-through facility shall be located on the side or rear elevation of the building to minimize visibility from the public or private roadway. The site shall be oriented so that drive-through lanes and pickup windows are not a prominent feature of the building.
 - (2) The drive-through service shall be screened from adjacent residential land uses by a solid screening wall in accordance with Section 17.03, such that it will not impact the use and enjoyment of the residential land use.
 - (3) Clear identification and delineation between the drive-through facility and the parking lot shall be provided.
 - (4) There shall be a minimum of ten stacking spaces.
 - (5) Each drive-through facility shall provide an escape lane to allow other vehicles to pass those waiting to be served.
 - (6) Only one access shall be provided onto any street.
 - (7) Where the restaurant is constructed adjacent to other commercial uses, a direct vehicular access connection shall be established with the adjoining property if possible.
- (c) **Restaurants in Industrial Districts.**
- (1) The restaurant shall be located within an office structure or industrial building or shall be located in a freestanding building as part of an overall industrial or office park.
 - (2) The restaurant shall be planned as a part of an overall plan for development and shall be part of a service establishment complex for such development.
 - (3) The restaurant shall comprise not more than 20 percent of the land area of an overall development.
 - (4) There shall be no more than one restaurant in a freestanding building per business park.
 - (5) Drive-in or drive-through restaurants shall be prohibited.
- (d) **Micro-brewery, Micro-winery, or Micro-distillery.**
- (1) The use shall not create offensive odors which are perceptible from other properties.
 - (2) The owner shall secure all necessary permits and licenses required for the use.
 - (3) The area devoted to on-site consumption shall:
 - a. Be located at the primary entrance within the building or, if outdoor seating is utilized, comply with the provisions of paragraph (e), Restaurant and Taverns with Outdoor Seating, below;
 - b. Provide street-level transparency, such that not less than 60 percent of the area of street-facing facades at a height between two feet and eight feet above the adjacent grade is composed of windows or glass doors; and
 - c. Utilize no more than 25 percent of the gross floor area.
- (e) **Restaurant and Taverns with Outdoor Seating.**
- (1) All outdoor seating areas shall have designated boundaries.
 - (2) Outdoor seating areas within the public right-of-way must receive approval from the enforcement official.
 - (3) Outdoor seating areas adjacent to or within the public right-of-way shall contain a physical barrier that is at least three feet in height. The barrier should be designed to permit existing legal access from building to the adjacent public right-of-way.
 - (4) Outdoor dining areas that include the sale and consumption of alcohol within 50 horizontal feet of a residential use shall provide a screening wall as part of the designated boundary. The screening wall shall be in conformance with Section 17.03, except that the screening shall not consist of a berm.

- (5) The use of outdoor dining areas for the sale and consumption of alcohol shall be prohibited between the hours of 1 a.m. and 7 a.m.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.21., 2-5-2019)

Section 14.07 - Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

(a) Banks with Drive-Through Tellers.

- (1) The drive-through facility shall be located on the side or rear elevation of the building to minimize visibility from the public or private roadway.
- (2) The drive-through service for teller stations and automated teller machines (ATM), including any associated lighting, shall be screened from adjacent residential land uses by a solid screening wall in accordance with Section 17.03, such that it will not impact the use and enjoyment of the residential land use.
- (3) Clear identification and delineation between the drive-through facility and the parking lot shall be provided.
- (4) There shall be a minimum of four stacking spaces for the first drive-through lane and three stacking spaces for each additional lane.
- (5) The drive-through facility shall provide an escape lane to allow other vehicles to pass those waiting to be served. The enforcement official may waive the requirement for an escape lane where it can be demonstrated that such a waiver will not result in an adverse effect on public safety or the convenience of patrons of the facility.

Section 14.08 - Health Care and Social Assistance

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

(a) Day Care Centers, Commercial/Preschools.

- (1) There shall be a minimum of 110 square feet of outdoor play area per child on site at any given time.
- (2) The minimum side and rear yard setback shall be 20 feet.
- (3) A minimum 20 foot buffer/setback shall be provided between the parking lot and any adjacent residential use landscaped in accordance with Section 17.02(c).
- (4) The day care center or preschool shall be inspected by the fire department and the county board of health for compliance with fire code and health code requirements prior to operation.
- (5) In addition to the standards in this Section, in any residential district, an off-street pick-up/drop-off area shall be provided, which may be a driveway provided it is kept free of parked vehicles and other obstructions.

(b) Funeral Homes/Mortuaries.

- (1) An off-street vehicle assembly area shall be provided to be used in support of funeral processions and activities. This area shall be in addition to the required off-street parking and its related maneuvering area.
- (2) If a crematory is included as part of a funeral home/mortuary, it shall meet the following requirements:
 - a. Crematories shall be setback 200 feet from any lot line adjoining a residentially zoned or used lot.
 - b. All required state permits, licenses and certifications shall be obtained.
 - c. Crematories shall not emit any noticeable odor or particulates.
 - d. Crematories shall have emission stacks covered or shrouded with materials safe for such uses and that are compatible in design and architecture with the existing funeral home and the building housing the crematory. The crematory facility and emission stack shall be compatible with surrounding properties.

(c) Nursing Homes and Senior Assisted Living.

- (1) Independent senior housing and senior apartments may be developed in a multiple-family or cluster housing form with full facilities for self-sufficiency in each individual unit. A community center for this overall development may be provided.

- (2) Senior assisted living housing shall be developed in a multiple-family housing form with central dining facilities provided as : to each unit. A community center for the overall development shall be provided to support recreational and social activities.
- (3) Personal service uses such as a dry cleaning pickup station, beauty shop, barber shop or similar use for the exclusive service to residents of a complex may be allowed within a housing development. In no instance shall such service use be provided with direct access to a street for the use of the public in general, it being the purpose of this provision to allow such use to only be provided as a convenience to occupants of the complex in which such service is located. No signs of any nature shall be visible from outside the building in which the use is located.
- (4) The nursing home or senior assisted living facility shall be inspected by the fire department and the county board of health for compliance with fire code and heath code requirements prior to occupancy.

(d) **Massage Therapy Services.**

- (1) "Massage Therapy Services" shall be a permitted use only when provided by massage therapist certified under Indiana Code Title 25, Art. 21.8 or by physicians, surgeons, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, or chiropractors who are licenses, certified or registered to practice their respective professions under the laws of the state.
- (2) All licenses or certified professionals providing massage therapy shall have their state license or certification posted in a conspicuous place clearly visible by all persons entering the place of business, with the exception of licensed or certified professional providing massage therapy within a hospital, nursing home, sanitarium, senior assisted living facility or other health care facility licenses under the state.
- (3) Excepted from these provisions are barbers and beauticians licensed under the laws of the state, providing massage limited to the head and scalp; and trainers working as employees of accredited high schools and college acting within the scope of their employment.

(Ord. No. 4254, § 3(Exh. A), 10-30-2013; Ord. No. 4500, § 5.22., 2-5-2019)

Section 14.09 - Entertainment and Recreation

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

(a) **Adult Regulated Uses.**

(1) **Prohibited Uses.**

- a. *Purpose.* The purpose of this subsection is to be very clear about the prohibition of uses specified here. Under basic principles of zoning, uses that are not listed as "permitted" are prohibited; however, litigation and studies from other communities suggest that there is sometimes confusion in the application of adult use regulations to similar and related uses.
- b. *Prohibited Uses.* The following uses are prohibited:
 1. Adult bath house;
 2. Adult encounter center;
 3. Adult massage establishment;
 4. Adult motel;
 5. Adult video arcade;
 6. Escort services, whether provided by an agency or individual;
 7. Nude modeling or nude photography studio; and,
 8. The showing of any electron or visual media to the public in a space of less than 600 square (see § 14.09(a)(4)a.). Nothing in this description is intended to apply to private activities of residents or their description is intended to apply to private residence. Nothing in this description is intended to apply to pay-per-view fees charged to the occupant of a hotel room.

(2) **Locational Standards Applicable to All Adult Regulated Uses.**

- a. *Separation Requirements.* Any adult regulated use shall be located at least 750 feet from any R-designated residential

zoning district and at least 750 feet from any other uses shown below. Distance limitations shall be measured in a straight line forming the shortest distance between any property line of the adult regulated use and the property line of any R-designated residential zoned property or property occupied by uses specified herein.

1. Adult regulated use;
 2. Churches, chapels, temples, synagogues, and similar places of worship;
 3. Day care centers, commercial/preschools;
 4. Libraries;
 5. Parks/playgrounds;
 6. Schools, elementary, middle and high; and,
 7. Single family home not located within an R-designated residential zoning district (measured from the adult regulated use to the nearest portion of the single family home).
- b. *Prohibition in Gateway Area.* No adult regulated use shall be located within 500 feet of U.S. Highway 12 between Liberty Trail and Trail Creek. This is an interim control that will be superceded by a gateway zoning or overlay district that is currently being developed for the U.S. 12 corridor.
- (3) Operating Standards for ALL Adult Regulated Uses. It shall be the responsibility of management to enforce the following operating standards, and any failure to achieve these standards shall be a violation of this ordinance:
- a. No one under the age of 18 shall be permitted on premises for any reason;
 - b. No prostitution or solicitation of prostitution shall take place on the premises;
 - c. No dealing in or consumption of drugs or other unlawful substances shall take on the premises;
 - d. No alcohol shall be permitted on the property outside the business;
 - e. No loitering shall be permitted on the property outside the business;
 - f. No adult media, adult novelties, or images of sexually explicit activities, or specified anatomical areas shall be viewable from the outside of the adult regulated use;
 - g. No live sexually explicit activities shall take place on the premises; and,
 - h. No live display of specified anatomical areas shall take place on the premises.
- (4) Design Standards applicable to Adult Motion Picture Theaters. Any building used for the operation of an adult motion picture theater shall meet the following design standards:
- a. Presentation Area. All areas open to customers shall contain a minimum floor area of 600 square feet. No doors, curtains, screens, furniture, or other materials shall be used to obscure any part of the room from view of the theater's management.
 - b. Lighting. Lighting levels shall be a minimum of two footcandles measured at the three feet above floor level.
 - c. Seating. Seating shall consist of individual, theater-style seats anchored in place, no more than 22 inches in width and seat backs no higher than 25 inches, with solid arms on each side of seat. No couches, benches, movable chairs, beds, loose cushions, mattresses or other materials shall be used within the theater. Separate spaces for wheelchairs shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of the application building code and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- (5) Design Standards applicable to Adult Cabarets. Any building used for the operation of an adult cabaret shall meet the following design standards:
- a. Stage Required. All entertainment shall take place on a stage elevated a minimum of 24 inches above the floor. A 30-inch high rail or other barrier erected 36 inches from the stage shall be provided to separate entertainers and customers.
 - b. Performance Areas. All entertainment and interaction between entertainers and customers shall take place in an area fully viewable by all and having a minimum of 600 square feet. No doors, curtains, screens, furniture, or other materials shall be used to obscure any interaction between customers and entertainers from view of the cabaret's

management.

- c. Lighting. All entertainment and interaction between entertainers and customers shall take place in an area having a minimum lighting level of five footcandles at a height of three feet above the floor. This lighting standard shall not apply to the stage area.

(b) **Boat Clubs, Marinas and Boat Storage.**

- (1) All areas used for dry-dock boat storage shall be screened from any adjacent residential district or public road with a landscape buffer zone A in accordance with Section 17.02(c).

(c) **Casinos.**

- (1) The casino must be licensed by the State in accordance with IC 4-33-2.
- (2) The casino must be developed in conjunction with a hotel that provides at least 250 hotel rooms, an indoor public space used for exhibit space, meeting rooms, banquet rooms, restaurants, show theaters and retail shops.
- (3) A minimum buffer/setback of 50 feet shall be provided between any adjacent residential district and the building, parking lot, and loading area landscaped in accordance with Section 17.02(c).

(d) **Commercial Outdoor Recreation Facilities Such as Batting Cages, Driving Ranges and Putt-Putt Golf.**

- (1) The minimum front, side and rear yard building setbacks shall be 40 feet, which shall apply to all buildings, recreation activity areas, spectator seating and any other structural appurtenances.
- (2) The use and parking area shall be screened from adjacent major thoroughfares with a landscape greenbelt in accordance with Section 17.02(b)(4).
- (3) Devices for the transmission of broadcasting of voices or music shall be so directed as to prevent sound from being audible beyond the lot lines of the site.
- (4) Whenever any such use abuts a residential district or use, a transitional buffer area shall be provided between all operations, buildings and structures, including fences, and the residential property. Landscaping, walls and/or fences shall be required as part of this buffer as determined by the enforcement official based upon the nature of the use and the noise impact that the use may have on surrounding uses.
- (5) Storage buildings; restroom facilities; facilities for the sale and consumption of food, beverages and refreshments; and other similar accessory uses shall comply with all standards of the county or city.

(e) **Bowling Alleys.** The use shall not be located in a mixed-use building that contains dwelling units.

(f) **Theaters.**

- (1) The use shall not be located in a mixed-use building that contains dwelling units.
- (2) The use shall not be an adult regulated use.

(Ord. No. 4254, § 3(Exh. A), 10-30-2013; Ord. No. 4500, § 5.23., 2-5-2019)

Section 14.10 - Civic, Religious, Social Assistance Organizations

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

(a) **Cemetery.**

- (1) Before granting or selling any burial right in any part of a cemetery developed and platted after March 6, 1953, the owner of the cemetery shall record an accurate survey and plat of that part of the property in which the owner proposes to grant or sell burial rights in the County Recorder's Office, in accordance with the Subdivision Ordinance.
- (2) The minimum lot area shall be ten acres.
- (3) Grave sites shall be setback a minimum of 25 feet from any lot line adjoining a residentially zoned or used lot. Existing vegetation shall be preserved within the required side and rear yard setback.
- (4) Off-street parking spaces and circulation aisles shall be setback 25 feet from all lot lines.
- (5) Mausoleum, columbarium, chapel or other similar structures shall be setback a minimum of 50 feet from all lot lines.

(6) If a crematory is included as part of a cemetery, it shall meet the following requirements:

- a. Crematories shall be setback 200 feet from any lot line adjoining a residentially zoned or used lot and 50 feet from any nonresidential lot line.
- b. All required state permits, licenses and certifications shall be obtained.
- c. Crematories shall not emit any noticeable odor or particulates.
- d. Crematories shall have emission stacks covered or shrouded with materials safe for such uses and that are compatible in design and architecture with the building housing the crematory. The crematory facility and emission stack shall be compatible with other buildings in the cemetery.

(7) Perpetual care and maintenance shall be provided for in accordance with IC 23-14-48.

(b) Places of Public Assembly.

- (1) The regulations of this section only apply to places of public assembly located in agricultural and residential districts. When located in nonresidential districts, the requirements applicable to other similar institutional uses shall apply.
- (2) The minimum front, side and rear yard building setbacks shall be 25 feet.
- (3) Off-street parking spaces and circulation aisles shall not be located within 25 feet of the front lot line.
- (4) Accessory child day care shall be permitted subject to the requirements of Section 14.08(a).

Section 14.11 - Educational Services

Reserved for future use.

Section 14.12 - Public Administration

Reserved for future use.

Section 14.13 - Transportation and Warehousing

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

(a) Airstrips.

- (1) The area of the "runway protection zone or clear zone" shall be within the land area under airstrip ownership. This requirement shall apply to privately owned airstrips and does not apply to public airports in the Airport District.

(b) Freight and Intermodal Terminals.

- (1) The site shall be designed so all vehicles are able to enter and leave the site without having to back-out onto the street. Driveways shall be curbed for their full length in the front yard.
- (2) The plan commission shall determine that traffic will be no more hazardous nor the volume of traffic any greater than is normal for the road involved, taking into consideration vehicular turning movements in relation to routes of traffic flow, proximity and adequacy of interchanges. All access to the site shall be from paved class A roads.
- (3) A traffic impact study shall be required. The standards used in preparing and approving the traffic impact study shall comply with the "Applicant's Guide to Traffic Impact Studies," published by the Indiana Department of Transportation.
- (4) There shall be a five foot tall landscape berm along the road frontage and any side of the site that adjoins a non-industrial district. A minimum of two evergreen trees and one canopy tree shall be planted on the berm for every 40 feet of berm length. The plan commission may modify the screening requirement to permit an eight foot tall wall along interior lot lines instead of a landscape berm.
- (5) All truck or trailer storage or staging areas shall be setback 40 feet from the front lot line.
- (6) A minimum buffer/setback of 100 feet for buildings, parking and storage areas shall be provided from any adjacent residential district. The buffer/setback shall be landscaped with a buffer zone A in accordance with Section 17.02(c).

(c) Self-Storage Facilities.

- (1) Minimum building and parking setback shall be 40 feet from any public street right-of-way line or any adjacent residential zone.
- (2) Where self storage warehouses are being developed through a condominium or subdivision for sale of individual storage buildings or units, building shall be spaced a minimum of ten feet from all other buildings and shall be setback a minimum of ten feet from the internal circulation road.
- (3) The front yard and any side yards adjacent to residential districts shall include wrought iron or similar decorative fencing and evergreen plantings spaced a maximum of ten feet on-center.
- (4) All storage shall be within completely enclosed buildings or structures, unless a separate special exception approval is granted for commercial outdoor storage on the premises.
- (5) The use shall be limited to storage only. The premises shall not be used for operating any other business or repairing of any vehicles, except truck rental may be approved as an accessory use.
- (6) No storage of combustible or flammable liquids, combustible fibers, or explosive materials as defined in the fire prevention code, or toxic materials, shall be permitted within the self-storage buildings or upon the premises.

Section 14.14 - Manufacturing

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

(a) **Petroleum Tank Farm.**

- (1) All front, side and rear yard setbacks for buildings and storage tanks shall be a minimum of 300 feet.

Section 14.15 - Utilities

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

(a) **Power Generation Plants.**

- (1) The development and operation of the power plant shall meet all state, and federal requirements. All required permits shall be kept up-to-date.
- (2) All surface or sub-surface water intake and discharge must meet county, state and federal agency requirements.
- (3) Air emissions must meet all state and federal agency requirements. Odor, smoke, fumes and dust shall be controlled so as not to cause a public nuisance or hazard. The effects of air pollution, noise, and vibrations shall be minimized on adjacent properties.
- (4) Chimneys, cooling towers or stacks may exceed the height limits of the district; provided they are setback from any non-industrially zoned property a distance at least equal to their height and meet all requirements of Federal Aviation Administration and meet requirements of the Airport Overlay District if within the district.
- (5) On-site storage of all materials shall be indicated on the site plan and shall meet all setback requirements of the district. Outdoor storage areas shall be screened by a minimum six foot tall solid screening wall in accordance with Section 17.03. Any stockpiles of materials shall be contained to prevent dust erosion or other type of off-site discharge.

(b) **Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS).**

- (1) **Single Accessory WECS.** A WECS to service the energy needs of the property where the structure is located may be allowed with special exception approval in all districts, subject to the following requirements:
 - a. Only one WECS shall be permitted per parcel or lot.
 - b. The tower shall not be higher than 45 feet. The height of the overall WECS with the blade in the vertical position shall not exceed 50 feet above ground level. The allowable height may be further limited in order to meet setbacks in paragraph c below.
 - c. All towers shall be set back a distance at least equal to one and one-half times the WECS height from all property lines. The height shall be measured to the top of the blade at its highest point.
 - d. The blade diameter (tip to tip) shall not exceed 15 feet.
 - e. The minimum blade or rotor clearance from the ground shall be 20 feet for a horizontal-axis WECS and ten feet for a

vertical-axis WECS. The minimum blade or rotor clearance from a building or utility line shall be 20 feet.

- f. All WECS shall be equipped with both a manual brake and automatic braking systems, or governing device capable of keeping the WECS operation in high winds within 80 percent of its survival wind speed. All WECS shall be adequately anchored to prevent their being knocked down by high winds.
 - g. A WECS shall be constructed with a tubular tower. Lattice towers and guy wires shall be prohibited.
 - h. Towers shall not have permanent attached tower climbing devices.
 - i. A WECS shall be painted a non-obtrusive (light color such as white, beige or light gray) color that is non-reflective. No striping or color shall be visible on the blades or tower.
 - j. All distribution lines from the WECS to the building and the electrical grid connection shall be underground. The generator and all other electrical equipment, and controls shall be enclosed within the nacelle, pole or within a building.
 - k. Excess power may be sold back to the local electric utility provider. In the case of WECS to be interconnected with the power grid of the local electric utility, the applicant shall provide proof of written notice to the utility of the proposed interconnection and the utility's response. The resident shall comply with all requirements of the servicing utility if the WECS is interfaced with the utility grid. The utility will install appropriate electric metering (for sellback and non-sellback) and the customer will be required to install a disconnecting device adjacent to the electric meter(s).
 - l. Noise emissions from the operation of a WECS shall not exceed 50 decibels on the DBA scale, as measured at the nearest property line or road. Manufacturer's specifications indicating the operating noise levels of the WECS at full RPM shall be provided with the application. The enforcement official may require the owner to pay for a sound evaluation by a qualified professional following installation to determine compliance with the requirements of this section.
- (2) **Commercial WECS.** WECS larger than those allowed in (1) above, wind farms and WECS Testing Facilities associated with the commercial application of a WECS may be allowed as a special exception within the A1, Agriculture and M1 and M2, Industrial Districts, subject to the following requirements:
- a. All applications for special exception approval shall be accompanied by the following information, in addition to the site plan required by Section 23.03:
 - 1. Location and height of all proposed buildings, structures, electrical lines, towers, security fencing, and other above ground structures associated with the WECS.
 - 2. Locations and height of all adjacent buildings, structures, and above ground utilities located within 300 feet of the exterior boundaries of the lot or parcel where the proposed WECS will be located. Specific distances to other on-site buildings, structures, and utilities shall also be provided.
 - 3. The location of all existing and proposed overhead and underground electrical transmission or distribution lines shall be shown.
 - 4. Existing and proposed setbacks for the WECS from all structures located on the property where the WECS will be located.
 - 5. The site plan submittal shall contain a written description of the procedures to be used to maintain the WECS. The description shall include maintenance schedules, types of maintenance to be performed, and removal procedures and schedules in the event the WECS becomes obsolete or is abandoned.
 - 6. A copy of the manufacturer's installation instructions and blueprints shall be provided to the county or city.
 - 7. Drawings and engineering calculations shall be certified by a registered engineer licensed in the State of Indiana.
 - 8. A noise modeling and analysis report showing noise levels at property lines at full RPM.
 - 9. A shadow flicker analysis shall be prepared if there is any residential buildings, livestock areas or public roadways within 1,000 feet of the proposed system.
 - b. The permitted maximum total height of a WECS shall be 200 feet (with the blade in the vertical position).
 - 1. A WECS shall be designed at a height that will not require aviation hazard lighting by the FAA. A determination of

no hazard letter issued by the FAA shall demonstrate that lighting is not required prior to approval of the special exception. If construction of the WECS requires FAA or Indiana Department of Aviation approval or review, then a final decision must be provided before the Board of Zoning Appeals may conduct any public hearing on a request for special exception.

2. The La Porte Airport Authority Board and the Michigan City Board of Aviation Commissioners shall be given written notice at least 60 days prior to the hearing that a permit has been filed requesting the approval of a special exception for a WECS.
 3. Any new WECS within the Airport Overlay District shall comply with the height limits of the overlay district, measured relative to the airport elevation.
- c. A WECS shall be constructed with a tubular tower, not a lattice tower.
 - d. The setback for placement of a WECS shall be equal to one and one-half times the height of the WECS from each property line and any public road right-of-way. This may be reduced from an adjacent property that also contains a WECS, provided the spacing requirement of paragraph f below is met.
 - e. A commercial WECS shall be setback a minimum of 1,000 feet from any residential subdivision or school.
 - f. The minimum distance between two WECS shall be equal to the combined height of both WECS.
 - g. Blade arcs created by a WECS shall have a minimum of 75 feet of clearance over and from any structure, adjoining property or tree. The minimum blade or rotor clearance above ground level shall be at least 20 feet.
 - h. Each WECS shall be equipped with both a manual and automatic braking device capable of stopping the WECS operation in high winds within 80 percent of design limits of the rotor.
 - i. To prevent unauthorized climbing, WECS must provide an anti-climb device.
 - j. Each WECS shall have one sign, not to exceed two square feet in area, posted at the base of the tower. The sign shall contain high voltage warning, emergency numbers and emergency shutdown procedures. If the facility is fenced, signs shall be placed on the fence.
 - k. A lighting plan for each WECS shall be approved by the county or city. The lighting plan must describe all lighting that will be utilized, including any lighting that may be required by the FAA. The plan shall include, but is not limited to, the number and location of lights, light color and whether any lights will be flashing. Strobe lights are discouraged and must be shielded from the ground if allowed. All efforts shall be made not to affect any resident with any strobe effect.
 - l. A WECS shall be painted a non-obtrusive color (light environmental color such as white, beige or gray) that is non-reflective. The wind turbine base and blades shall be of a color consistent with all other turbines in the area. No striping of color or advertisement shall be visible on the blades or tower.
 - m. All distribution lines from the WECS to the electrical grid connection shall be installed underground.
 - n. WECS shall be designed, constructed and operated so as not to cause radio and television interference. In the event that electromagnetic interference is experienced, the applicant must provide alternate service to each individual resident or property owner affected.
 - o. Noise emissions from the operation of a WECS shall not exceed 50 decibels on the dBA scale, as measured at the nearest property line or road. Equipment shall be placed so that the WECS will not exceed the maximum permitted sound pressure levels. After installation of the WECS, sound pressure level measurements shall be done by a third party, qualified professional according to the procedures in the most current version of ANSI S12.18. All sound pressure levels shall be measured with a sound meter that meets or exceeds the most current version of ANSI S1.4 specifications for a Type II sound meter. Documentation of the sound pressure level measurements shall be provided to enforcement official within 60 days of the commercial operation of the project.
 - p. A shadow flicker analysis shall be prepared if there is any residential building, livestock area or public roadway within 1,000 feet of the proposed system. Shadow flicker caused by wind turbines is defined as alternating changes in light intensity due to the moving blade shadows cast on the ground and objects. The analysis shall identify the locations of

shadow flicker that may be caused by the WECS blade rotation and the expected durations of the flicker at these locations from sun-rise to sun-set over the course of a year. The analysis shall identify problem areas where shadow flicker may affect residents livestock and traffic. The analysis shall also show measures that shall be taken to eliminate or mitigate the problems.

- q. WECS must be kept and maintained in good repair and condition at all times. If a WECS is not maintained in operational and reasonable condition or poses a potential safety hazard, the applicant shall take expeditious action to correct the situation. The applicant shall keep a maintenance log on each WECS, which the county or city can review on a monthly basis.
- r. Any WECS not used for six successive months or longer shall be deemed to be abandoned and shall be promptly dismantled and removed from the property. All above and below ground materials must be removed. The ground must be restored to its original condition within 60 days of removal.
- s. Any public roads that will be used for transporting WECS equipment shall be identified with the application. The county highway engineer and county sheriff shall approve the proposed routes on any county road and the city engineer and city police chief shall approve the proposed routes on any city street. Any road damage caused by the transportation of WECS equipment shall be repaired to the satisfaction of the county highway engineer or city engineer. A performance guarantee for road repair shall be required in accordance with the provisions of Section 26.03.
- t. If a special exception is approved pursuant to this section, a performance guarantee shall be required in accordance with the provisions of Section 26.03, which will be furnished by the applicant to the county or city in order to ensure full compliance with this subsection and any conditions of approval. At a minimum, the performance guarantee shall be in an amount determined by the county or city to be sufficient to have the WECS fully removed and the land returned to its original state should the structure or structures become abandoned, dangerous or obsolete, or not in compliance with this Ordinance or the special exception approval. The performance guarantee shall be kept in full force and effect during the entire time while a WECS exists.

(c) **Wireless Communication Facilities and Services.**

- (1) **Purpose and Intent.** The regulations of this Section are intended to conform to federal laws and administrative rules governing facilities needed to operate wireless communication systems and to set forth procedures and standards for review and approval for the location of such facilities within the county or city.
 - a. It is the intent to reasonably regulate the location and design of such facilities to retain the integrity of neighborhoods and the character, property values and aesthetic quality of the county or city.
 - b. Given the increase in the number of wireless communication facilities requested as a result of the new technology and the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, it is the policy that all users should collocate attached wireless communication facilities and wireless communication towers, where practicable. Collocation is proposed in order to assure the most economic use of land and to prevent the proliferation of duplicative structures.
 - c. In recognition of the concern that technological advances may render certain wireless communication facilities obsolete or unnecessary in the future, requirements are set forth for the removal of unused or unnecessary facilities in a timely manner and provide security for removal.
- (2) **Zoning Districts and Approval Process for Wireless Communication Facilities.** Wireless Communication Facilities may be located, as follows:

Table 9.15
Wireless Communication Facilities

Type/Location of Wireless Communication Facility	Districts Permitted	Approval Procedure
Attached Wireless Communication Facilities on Existing Structures		

Attached to an existing building or structure that will not be materially altered or changed in appearance	All districts, except on lots occupied by a single family residential use	Approval by the enforcement official
Attached to an existing utility structure that will not be modified or materially alter the pole or impair sight lines or compromise safety	All districts	Approval by the enforcement official
Collocation upon an existing wireless communication facility	All districts	Approval by the enforcement official
New Wireless Communication Tower		
Monopole up to 150 feet in height	A1 district or on civic, educational, public, and religious sites in all districts, except AP	Special exception and site plan by the board of zoning appeals
Monopole up to 199 feet in height	B1, B2, B3, O1, MD, M1 and M2	Special exception and site plan by the board of zoning appeals
Lattice tower up to 199 feet in height where it can be demonstrated that a monopole is not feasible	M1 and M2 districts	Special exception and site plan by the board of zoning appeals

(3) **Application Requirements - Collocation.** The following information shall be provided with the application, in addition to other site plan submittal requirements for an attached wireless communication facility collocated on an existing structure:

- a. The name, address and phone number of the person to contact for engineering, maintenance and other notice purposes. This information shall be continuously updated during all times the facility is on the premises.
- b. The owner and/or operator of the existing tower or structure.
- c. Legal description of the parent tract and leased parcel (if applicable).
- d. Elevation drawings and construction details of all existing and proposed wireless communication facilities, including accessory structures and equipment shelters.
- e. The reason or purpose for the wireless communication facility with specific reference to the provider's coverage, capacity and/or quality needs, goals and objectives.
- f. Identification of the entities providing the backhaul network for the tower described in the application and other cellular sites owned or operated by the applicant in the county or city.
- g. The structural capacity and whether it can accommodate the facility, as proposed or modified.
- h. Limits and type of fencing, the method of screening and location and type of illumination.
- i. A description of compliance with this section and all applicable federal, state or local laws.

- j. A description of performance guarantee to be posted upon issuance of a building permit to ensure removal of the facility or is no longer needed.

(4) **Application Requirements for New Wireless Communication Tower.** The following information shall be provided with the application to construct any new wireless communication tower, in addition to the submittal requirements in subsection (3) above:

- a. A description of performance guarantee to be posted at the time of receiving a permit for the facility to ensure removal of the facility when it is abandoned or is no longer needed. The applicant shall demonstrate that funds will be available to the county or city for removal of any structure used for wireless communication in an amount which reasonably reflects the cost of removal of the facility and restoration of the property or structure upon which the facility is located or placed. Adequate funds shall also be provided to cover the county or city's administrative costs in the event that the applicant or its successor does not remove the Wireless Communication Facility in a timely manner.
- b. Inventory all existing towers, antennas, or sites approved for towers that are within three miles of the proposed site, including specific information about the location, height, and design of each tower.
- c. In recognition of the policy to promote collocation, a written agreement, transferable to all successors and assigns, that the operator shall make space available on the facility for collocation.
- d. A description of the suitability of the use of existing towers, other structures or alternative technology not requiring the use of towers or structures to provide the services to be provided through the use of the proposed new tower.
- e. Prior to issuing an improvement location permit, a signed certification by a professional structural engineer licensed by the State of Indiana shall be provided to the county or city that describes the manner in which the proposed structure will fall in the event of damage, accident or injury (i.e. "fall zone"), and that the designated setback area shall accommodate the structure in the event it falls or breaks and will provide a reasonable buffer in the event the structure fails.
- f. The La Porte Airport Authority Board and the Michigan City Board of Aviation Commissioners shall be given written notice at least 60 days prior to the hearing that a permit has been filed requesting the approval of a new wireless communication tower.
- g. A determination of no hazard letter issued by the FAA shall demonstrate that lighting is not required prior to approval of the special exception. If construction, and or use of the telecommunications requires FAA or Indiana Department of Aviation approval or review, then a final decision must be provided before the Board of Zoning Appeals may conduct any public hearing on a request for special exception.

(5) **Design Standards Applicable to All Facilities.** All wireless communication facilities shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the following standards:

- a. Facilities shall be located and designed to be harmonious with the surrounding areas.
- b. Minimum six foot tall fencing shall be provided for protection of the tower and associated equipment and for security from children and other persons who may otherwise access the facilities. A brick wall may be substituted for the required fencing.
- c. Landscaping shall be provided to screen the structure base, accessory buildings and enclosure from adjacent uses and public rights-of-way.
- d. Accessory buildings shall be a maximum of 14 feet high and shall be set back in accordance with the requirements for principal buildings in the respective zoning district.
- e. All attached wireless communication facilities proposed on the roof of a building shall be designed, constructed and maintained to be architecturally compatible with the principal building. The height of the wireless communication facilities shall not exceed the maximum height of the district plus the allowable exceptions to the height limits contained in Section 15.02. The equipment enclosure may be located within the principal building or may be an accessory building. If proposed as an accessory building, it shall conform to all district requirements for principal buildings, including yard setbacks.

- f. The requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration, local airport and Federal Communication Commission shall be
 - g. If an antenna is installed on a structure other than a tower, the antenna and supporting electrical and mechanical equipment must be of a neutral color that is identical to, or closely compatible with, the color of the supporting structure so as to make the antenna and related equipment as visually unobtrusive as possible.
- (6) **Design Standards Applicable to New Towers.** In addition to the design standards in subsection (5) above, all wireless communication towers shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the following standards:
- a. **Feasible Collocation.** Siting or placement of new wireless communication facilities or towers shall be in accordance with the following hierarchy. The order of ranking shall be: (1) co-location first, (2) existing structure or building utilization, (3) new wireless communications facility tower location last. If a new tower is proposed, the applicant must have substantial evidence that a higher ranked alternative is not feasible or available. A permit for the construction and use of a new wireless communication facility shall not be granted until the applicant demonstrates a feasible collocation is not available for the coverage area and capacity needs.
 - b. **Tower in County.** Any tower located in the unincorporated areas of the county outside of cities shall be separated a minimum of two miles from any existing tower. This separation requirement shall not apply to a tower that is proposed to be located in an M-1 or M-2 industrial district.
 - c. **Collocation Agreement.** All new and modified wireless communication facilities shall be designed and constructed to accommodate collocation, with a written agreement in a format approved by the county or city attorney. Any tower that is 150 feet or taller shall be capable of co-location of at least four additional users. Any tower that is less than 150 feet shall be capable of co-location of at least two additional users. The tower owner shall make space available for collocation of emergency communication equipment if requested by the county or city.
 - d. **Height.**
 - 1. The maximum height for a new wireless communication tower shall be 199 feet.
 - 2. A new wireless communication tower shall be designed at a height that will not require aviation hazard lighting by the FAA.
 - 3. Any new tower within the Airport Overlay District shall comply with the height limits of the overlay district, measured relative to the airport elevation.
 - 4. The applicant shall demonstrate that the requested height of the new or modified tower and antenna shall be the minimum height necessary for reasonable communication, including additional height to accommodate future collocation where appropriate.
 - e. **Tower Setbacks.** The wireless communication tower shall be setback from all non-residential property lines a distance at least equal to one-half the height of the tower, from all residential property lines a distance at least equal to the height of the tower and from all street right-of-way lines a distance at least equal to the height of the tower.
 - f. **Guy Wires.** All towers shall be self-supporting and guy wires shall be prohibited.
 - g. **Accessory Structure Setback.** Accessory structures must satisfy the minimum zoning district building setback requirements.
 - h. **Access.** There shall be unobstructed access to the tower, for operation, maintenance, repair and inspection purposes, which may be provided through or over an easement. This access shall have a width and location determined by such factors as: the location of adjacent thoroughfares and traffic and circulation within the site; utilities needed to service the tower and any attendant facilities; the location of buildings and parking facilities; proximity to residential districts and minimizing disturbance to the natural landscape; and the type of equipment which will need to access the site.
 - i. **Soils Report.** The tower shall be constructed in accordance with all applicable building codes and shall include the submission of a soils report from a geotechnical engineer, licensed in the State of Indiana. This soils report shall include soil borings and statements confirming the suitability of soil conditions for the proposed use.
 - j. **Color.** Towers shall be painted a neutral color so as to reduce visual obtrusiveness or be constructed of galvanized steel.

- k. **Lighting.** Towers shall not be artificially lighted and shall not exceed a height that requires aviation hazard lighting.

(7) **Collocation.**

- a. **Statement of Policy.** It is the policy to minimize the overall number of newly established locations for wireless communication facilities and towers throughout the county by encouraging the use of existing structures. If a provider fails or refuses to permit collocation on a facility owned or controlled by it, where collocation is feasible, the result will be that a new and unnecessary additional structure will be required, in contradiction with policy. Collocation shall be required unless an applicant demonstrates that collocation is not feasible.
- b. **Antennas on Existing Towers.** An antenna which is attached to an existing tower may be approved by the enforcement official and, to minimize adverse visual impacts associated with the proliferation and clustering of towers, collocation of antennas by more than one carrier on existing towers shall take precedence over the construction of new towers, provided such collocation is accomplished in a manner consistent with the following:
 - 1. A tower which is modified or reconstructed to accommodate the collocation of an additional antenna shall be of the same tower type as the existing tower, unless the enforcement official allows reconstruction as a monopole.
 - 2. An existing tower may be modified or rebuilt to a taller height, not to exceed 15 feet over the tower's existing height, to accommodate the collocation of an additional antenna with approval by the enforcement official. A height increase of more than 15 feet shall require approval by the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- c. **Antennas Mounted on Structures or Rooftops.** Wireless communication antennas placed on the roofs of buildings may be approved by the enforcement official, if the principal use is a conforming use and the building is a conforming structure. The antenna shall not exceed the height of its supporting structure by more than 12 feet.
- d. **Antennas Mounted on Utility Structures.** Wireless communication antennas attached to utility structures such as water towers or electrical transmission line towers may be approved by the enforcement official. The equipment cabinet or structure used in association with antennas shall be located in accordance with the Ordinance requirements for accessory structures.

(8) **Variances.** The Board of Zoning Appeals may consider a variance from the standards of this Section, based upon a finding that one or more of the following factors exist, as appropriate for the type of variance requested:

- a. **Location.** The applicant must demonstrate that a location within a district or location in accordance with the standards of this Section cannot reasonably meet the coverage or capacity needs of the applicant.
- b. **Tower Setback.** The applicant has provided engineering information documenting that the tower is self-collapsing and that the setback designated area would accommodate the structure should it fall or break and would provide a reasonable buffer in the event the structure fails.
- c. **Height.** The height requested is due to signal interference due to topography, tall buildings, masses of trees, or other obstructions, or would reduce the number of towers to the benefit of the cities and county. The granting of the variance would not have a negative impact on any public use airport.
- d. **Mitigation.** The applicant has proposed means to mitigate any negative impacts through provision for future collocation, if found to be appropriate by the county or city and special design of the facility and site.
- e. **Design.** The wireless communication and accessory facilities shall be designed to be compatible with the existing character of the proposed site, neighborhood and general area such as a steeple, bell tower, or similar form.

(9) **Removal.** Wireless communication facilities shall be removed by the owner if the facility is no longer in use. The facilities must be removed within a year of the end of use. A performance guarantee shall be provided to the county or city at the time of receiving an improvement location permit for the facility to ensure removal of the facility when it is abandoned or is no longer needed. The applicant shall demonstrate that funds will be available to the county or city for removal of any structure used for wireless communication in an amount which reasonably reflects the cost of removal of the facility and restoration of the property or structure upon which the facility is located or placed. Adequate funds shall also be provided to cover the county or city's administrative costs in the event that the applicant or its successor does not remove the Wireless Communication Facility in a timely manner.

Section 14.16 - Construction

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

(a) Contractors' Outdoor Storage.

- (1) Outdoor storage shall be located in the side or rear yard of the lot and setback a minimum of 40 feet from any adjacent residential district. Outdoor storage areas shall be screened by a minimum six foot tall solid screening wall in accordance with [Section 17.03](#).
- (2) Any stockpiles of soil, fertilizer or similar loosely packaged materials shall be sufficiently covered or contained to prevent dust or blowing of materials.
- (3) The height of all material and equipment stored within 20 feet of the screening wall or fence shall not exceed the height of the screening wall or fence.
- (4) All loading and truck maneuvering shall be accommodated on-site.

Section 14.17 - Waste Processing and Disposal

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

(a) Processing, Storage, Transfer Stations or Incineration of Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste or Medical Waste.

- (1) All processing, storage or transfer of wastes shall be within an enclosed building. There shall not be any outdoor storage of wastes.
- (2) The location, size and layout of the site, and its relation to streets giving access to it, shall be such that traffic to and from the use will not conflict with the normal traffic of the area.
- (3) No portion of any structure, facility, access drive, parking area or storage area shall be located within 300 feet of a residential district.
- (4) All roads on the premises shall be paved with concrete or a bituminous hard surface.
- (5) Storing and disposing of materials shall not pollute a water supply or contaminate surrounding land to the extent that public health is endangered and shall follow all requirements of the LaPorte County Health Department, the Natural Resources Preservation Guidelines, the Sanitary District of Michigan City and Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances.
- (6) Emission of smoke, dirt, dust and fly ash shall be controlled through the use of electrostatic precipitator or other equipment of equal or better efficiency, which shall meet all applicable Federal, State and local air pollution control regulations.
- (7) All sides of the site shall be landscaped with a buffer zone A in accordance with [Section 17.02\(c\)](#).
- (8) The site shall not be located within five miles of any airport.
- (9) The county or city may impose such reasonable conditions as it deems necessary to protect the public health, safety and general welfare from excessive noises, excessive traffic patterns, obnoxious and unhealthy odors, and any detrimental effects from the general operation of the use.

(b) Recycling Facility, Non-Hazardous.

- (1) The location, size and layout of the site, and its relation to streets giving access to it, shall be such that traffic to and from the use will not conflict with the normal traffic of the area.
- (2) The location, size, intensity, site layout and periods of operation must be designated to eliminate any possible nuisance that might be noxious to the occupants of any other nearby permitted uses, whether by reason of odor, dust, noise, fumes, vibration, smoke or lights.
- (3) Stacking area for a minimum of five vehicles must be provided on site. Any area used for parking or unloading materials must be screened with a minimum six foot tall wall or solid fence to prevent materials from leaving the unloading area.
- (4) Storing and disposing of materials shall not pollute a water supply or contaminate surrounding land to the extent that

public health is endangered and shall follow all requirements of the LaPorte County Health Department, the Natural Resources Preservation Guidelines, the Sanitary District of Michigan City and Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances.

- (5) Depositing, storing or disposing of garbage or wastes shall not attract vermin, insects or other pests or allow the wastes to become a breeding place for mosquitoes, flies or other disease-carrying insects. Offensive odors shall not interfere with the enjoyment of adjacent properties.
- (6) All sides of the site shall be landscaped with a buffer zone A in accordance with Section 17.02(c).
- (7) The site shall not be located within five miles of any airport.
- (8) The county or city may impose such reasonable conditions as it deems necessary to protect the public health, safety and general welfare from excessive noises, excessive traffic patterns, obnoxious and unhealthy odors, and any detrimental effects from the general operation of the use.

(c) Salvage Yards.

- (1) The minimum lot area shall be ten acres.
- (2) A minimum setback of 1,320 feet shall be provided from any adjacent residential district.
- (3) The location, size and layout of the site, and its relation to streets giving access to it, shall be such that traffic to and from the use will not conflict with the normal traffic of the area.
- (4) The location, size, intensity, site layout and periods of operation must be designated to eliminate any possible nuisance that might be noxious to the occupants of any other nearby permitted uses, whether by reason of odor, dust, noise, fumes, vibration, smoke or lights.
- (5) The entire site must be screened with a minimum eight foot tall wall or solid fence, in addition to the greenbelt and buffer zones A required by Section 17.02. Material shall not be stacked higher than the screening enclosure. All material shall be screened so as to not be visible from any public road.
- (6) Any area used for parking or unloading materials must be located within the site. Parking of trucks and loading or unloading of materials in the public road right-of-way shall be prohibited.
- (7) Storage or disposal of any kind shall not pollute a water supply or contaminate surrounding land to the extent that public health is endangered. The surface water detained on the site shall be purified of contaminants before leaving the site or must be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the health department. All storage, processing and disposal areas shall be a minimum of 100 feet from any wetland, drain, stream, or body of water. Storing and disposing of materials shall not pollute a water supply or contaminate surrounding land to the extent that public health is endangered and shall follow all requirements of the LaPorte County Health Department, the Natural Resources Preservation Guidelines, the Sanitary District of Michigan City and Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances.
- (8) The site shall not be located within five miles of any airport.
- (9) The county or city may impose such reasonable conditions as it deems necessary to protect the public health, safety and general welfare from excessive noises, excessive traffic patterns, obnoxious and unhealthy odors, and any detrimental effects from the general operation of the use.

(d) Sanitary Landfills.

- (1) The minimum lot area shall be 300 acres.
- (2) A minimum setback of 300 feet shall be provided from any adjacent residential district.
- (3) The location, size and layout of the site, and its relation to streets giving access to it, shall be such that traffic to and from the use will not conflict with the normal traffic of the area. All truck access to and from the site shall be upon a major thoroughfare.
- (4) In order to fully assess all implications and effects of the project, an in-depth environmental impact assessment shall be prepared by the petitioner and submitted for review at the public hearing and approval by the county or city.
- (5) The facility shall be equipped with an approved waste water recycling system to avoid contaminated water or liquids from

being discharged to ground water, surface water, or storm sewers. This shall include a wash-out, wash-down and secondary containment system to recover and recycle impurities and other by-products processed from trucks, machinery products, supplies or waste. Storing and disposing of materials shall not pollute a water supply or contaminate surrounding land to the extent that public health is endangered and shall follow all requirements of the LaPorte County Health Department, the Natural Resources Preservation Guidelines, the Sanitary District of Michigan City and Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances.

- (6) All driveways, surface roads and storage areas on the premises shall be paved with concrete or deep strength asphalt.
- (7) The site shall not be located within five miles of any airport.

(Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.7—10), 8-4-2025)

Section 14.18 - Mining

The following requirements shall be complied with for the specified use:

(a) **Mineral and Non-Mineral Extraction and General Mining Operations.**

- (1) **Application.** The following additional information shall be included with the special exception and site plan applications:
 - a. Report by a qualified soil scientist, soils engineer or geologist regarding the effect the proposed operation will have upon the watershed of the area, with particular attention being devoted to the water table, and, if water bodies are to be created, the anticipated permanence of such.
 - b. A soil erosion control plan prepared in accordance with Article 22.
 - c. A detailed description of the method of operation including an operations and restoration plan for the extraction of the natural resources deposits. The operations and restoration plan shall include the following:
 - 1. A progressive cell unit mining plan that divides the mining area into sections and delineates the progressive mining proposal on the extractive resources available.
 - 2. Description of how wetlands, surface and ground waters will be protected during mining operations in accordance with La Porte, Indiana Code of Ordinances Article VI — Protection of Wetlands and Lakes. A transportation plan showing access to the site, proposed truck traffic and planned on-site roads. The applicant shall submit these proposed routings for review relative to the physical and design capabilities of these routes to accommodate the potential traffic.
 - 3. An overburden and stockpiling plan which shows how top soil will be stripped and stored on the site as well as the stockpiling of extracted sand or gravel.
 - 4. A re-vegetation plan which shows the staging of restoration through the grading process as well as replacing the top soil and the planting of appropriate native grasses, trees and shrubs.
 - 5. End use plan which shows the ultimate use of the property once restored to assure the county or city the site is being restored in accordance with the county land development plan.
 - 6. A detailed explanation of how the applicant intends to comply with the operating requirements of this section.
- (2) **Operations.** The removal of sand, gravel, limestone, peat or similar materials by excavation, stripping, mining or otherwise taking, and including on-site operations appurtenant to the taking, including washing, grading, sorting, (excluding grinding operations) shall be carried on within the limits of an area approved for such activities. All extractions from new pits begun subsequent to the effective date of this Ordinance shall be washed, graded, and further processed and/or stored within the limits of the area approved, and no natural resource extracted outside the limits of this area shall be brought in for washing, grading, or further processing. Resource related industries including, but not limited to: gravel grinding operations, concrete mixing plants and asphalt batching plants shall not be permitted as a part of the operation unless the activity is located in a Zoning District which would permit such a use.
- (3) **Setbacks.** Excavation, washing and stockpiling of extracted material shall not be conducted closer than 150 feet to the outer boundary of the area approved for extractive operation. The setback area shall not be used for any activity in

conjunction with the extractive operation, except access roads, public notice signs and signs identifying the operation. Greenbelt plantings and landscaping shall be provided in the setback area as required by the Board of Zoning Appeals. To reduce the effects of airborne dust, dirt, and noise, all equipment for loading, weighing, and other operations structures shall not be built closer than 300 feet from any public street right-of-way or from any adjoining residentially zoned district.

- (4) **Access.** All means of access to the property shall be from major thoroughfares. No access shall be allowed from residential streets. All private access roads shall be treated so as to create a dust-free surface for a distance of 300 feet from any public access road. Arrangements shall also be made to minimize dust on public access routes traveled in the county or city.
- (5) **Fencing.** Any excavation operation that results in standing water for a period of at least one month during the year or slopes as described below shall be subject to the following safety requirements:
 - a. Where slopes steeper than 30 degrees exist for a period of one month or more, access to such slopes shall be barred by a cyclone fence or similarly effective barrier at least six feet high, at least 50 feet outside the edge of the excavation, with suitable gates controlling access to the excavation area.
 - b. Where collections of water are one foot or more in depth for any period of at least one month, and occupying an area of 200 square feet or more, access to such collections shall be fenced, as required in subparagraph a above.
 - c. In those instances where the extractive area is situated in marginal land areas consisting of swamp land, or is bounded by natural bodies of water, the fence shall be required only on those sides accessible to public rights-of-way or as the Board of Zoning Appeals may determine as requiring fencing so as to secure safety. The Board of Zoning Appeals may require the posting of signs "KEEP OUT — DANGER," as needed.
- (6) **Slopes.** Finished slopes of the excavation site shall not exceed a minimum of five feet to one foot (five feet horizontal to one foot vertical) and where ponded water results from the operations, this slope must be maintained and extended into the water to a depth of five feet. These slopes shall be established as the work in any one section of the excavation is completed and proceeds to the next section. Sufficient top soil shall be stockpiled on the site so the entire area may be covered with a minimum of six inches of top soil when excavating operations are completed. The replacement of top soil shall be made immediately following termination of excavating operations. In order to prevent erosion of slopes, all replaced top soil shall immediately be planted with native grasses or other native plant material acceptable to the enforcement official.
- (7) **Hours of Operation.** Extraction and material processing activities permitted in the plant area shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., except in the following situations:
 - a. Where required by public authorities;
 - b. Where work requires a continuous flow of materials;
 - c. Where necessary due to public emergencies;
 - d. Where any necessary and reasonable repairs to equipment are required.

ARTICLE 15. - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 15.01 - Uses per Lot

- (a) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Ordinance, no lot may contain more than one principal building, structure, or use. This provision shall not apply to agricultural uses.
- (b) Shopping centers, groups of multiple-family buildings, condominiums, retail business buildings, multi-tenant offices, leased industrial space, or other groups of buildings contained within a single integrated complex are deemed to be a principal use collectively. To be considered as an integrated complex, the site shall share parking, signs, access, or other similar features, which together form a unified function and appearance.
- (c) Wireless communication facilities may be located on a lot that contains another use, except one-family and two-family dwellings.

- (d) There shall be no more than one dwelling per lot, except for two family dwellings, attached single family dwellings, multiple family dwellings, farm worker housing or accessory dwellings approved under the requirements of this ordinance.

Section 15.02 - Lot Area Allocation

- (a) No portion of a lot shall be used more than once for determining compliance with the provisions for lot area and yard dimensions for construction or alteration of buildings.
- (b) No lot, adjacent lots in common ownership, required yard, parking area, or other required open space shall be created, divided, or reduced in dimension or area below the minimum requirements of this Ordinance. Lots or yards created after the effective date of this Ordinance shall comply with the requirements of this Ordinance. If already less than the minimum requirements of this Ordinance, a lot, adjacent lots in common ownership, required yard, parking area, or other open space shall not be divided or reduced in dimension or area so as to increase its noncompliance with the minimum requirements of this Ordinance.

Section 15.03 - Voting Place

The provisions of this Ordinance shall not be so construed as to interfere with the temporary use of any property as a voting place in connection with a municipal, school, or other public election.

Section 15.04 - Height Limit

- (a) The following structures may exceed the building height restrictions of the zoning district in which they are located:
 - (1) Belfries,
 - (2) Chimneys,
 - (3) Church spires and steeples,
 - (4) Cooling towers,
 - (5) Cornices,
 - (6) Cupolas,
 - (7) Electric and telephone service poles,
 - (8) Elevator bulkheads,
 - (9) Fire towers,
 - (10) Flagpoles,
 - (11) Grain elevators,
 - (12) Parapet walls,
 - (13) Public monuments,
 - (14) Radio and television aerials,
 - (15) Roof structures housing necessary mechanical appurtenances,
 - (16) Silos,
 - (17) Stacks,
 - (18) Water tanks, or
 - (19) Similar non-habitable structures.
- (b) The structures listed in (a) above may exceed the height limits of the district in which they are located as follows:
 - (1) On single family detached, single family attached and two family dwellings, the structures may exceed the height limits of the district by no more than five feet. Section 12.03 contains additional height restrictions that apply to residential lots in the Waterfront View Protection overlay zoning district.
 - (2) On multiple family residential (apartment buildings), mixed-use and non-residential buildings, the structures may exceed the height limits of the district by no more than 25 feet.

- (c) The exceptions to height shall only apply to non-habitable architectural features, mechanical and utility structures. The exceptions shall not permit any habitable building space of a building to exceed the height limits of the district.

Section 15.05 - Projections into Required Yards

Certain structures and architectural features may project into the required yard setbacks as follows:

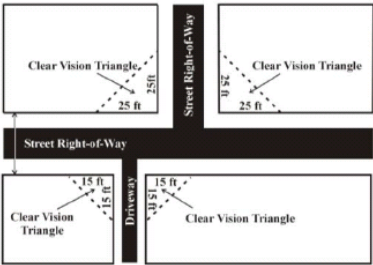
Table 15.05
Permitted Building Projections Into Required Yards

Projection	Front Yard	Waterfront Yard	Rear Yard	Interior Side Yard	Corner Side Yard
Awnings and canopies	3 ft.	5 ft.	5 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.
Chimneys	2 ft.	2 ft.	2 ft.	2 ft.	2 ft.
Cornices and similar architectural features	3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.
Balconies	5 ft.	5 ft.	5 ft.	3 ft.	5 ft.
Barrier-free ramps and other facilities	16 ft.	16 ft.	16 ft.	3 ft.	16 ft.
Bay windows	3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.
Eaves, overhanging	3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.
Fire escapes, open or enclosed	5 ft.	5 ft.	5 ft.	5 ft.	5 ft.
Gutters	3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.	3 ft.
Decks, unroofed porches and stoops	10 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.	—	10 ft.
Window air conditioning units	—	2 ft.	2 ft.	2 ft.	—
Window wells	4 ft.	4 ft.	4 ft.	4 ft.	4 ft.

Section 15.06 - Corner Clearance

- (a) No fence, wall, structure, or planting shall be erected, established, or maintained on any lot if the structure or planting will obstruct the view of drivers in vehicles approaching the intersection adjacent to a corner lot or a driveway on any lot.
- (b) Fences, walls, structures, or plantings located in the clear vision triangle, as depicted, shall not be permitted to exceed a height of three feet above the street curb, or pavement edge if no curb. The unobstructed triangular area is described as follows:

(1)	The area formed at the corner intersection of two (2) street rights-of-way or easement lines, the two (2) sides of the clear vision triangle being 25 feet in length measured along abutting	

	public right-of-way lines, and third side being a line connecting these two (2) sides, or	
(2)	The area formed at the corner intersection of a street right-of-way, easement, or alley and a driveway, the two (2) sides of the triangular area being 15 feet in length measured along the right-of-way line and edge of the driveway, and the third side being a line connecting these two (2) sides.	

Section 15.07 - Basement Construction

If excavation of a basement indicates an historical or existing seasonal high water table a site conditions acknowledgement form must be signed. The signed form will state that the prospective homeowner understands any basement construction would not be recommended below the seasonal high water level and if built has a higher probability of flooding.

ARTICLE 16. - ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND USES

Section 16.01 - Accessory Structures

- (a) The following accessory uses are permitted in any yard and any district:
- (1) Arbors or trellises,
 - (2) Air conditioning equipment shelters,
 - (3) Boardwalks,
 - (4) Driveways,
 - (5) Fences and hedges,
 - (6) Flagpoles,
 - (7) Growing of farm and garden crops in the open,
 - (8) Lampposts,
 - (9) Landscaping,
 - (10) Lawn furniture, such as benches, sundials, birdbaths, and similar architectural features,
 - (11) Mailboxes,
 - (12) Ornamental light standards,
 - (13) Play equipment playhouses and open-sided summer houses,
 - (14) Public utility installations for local service (such as poles, lines, hydrants, pump enclosures, and telephone booths),
 - (15) Retaining walls,
 - (16) Sidewalks,
 - (17) Signs and nameplates as herein regulated,
 - (18) Steps,
 - (19) Streets,
 - (20) Terraces, patios, and outdoor fireplaces,
 - (21) Tennis courts, private, and

(22) Trees, shrubs and flowers.

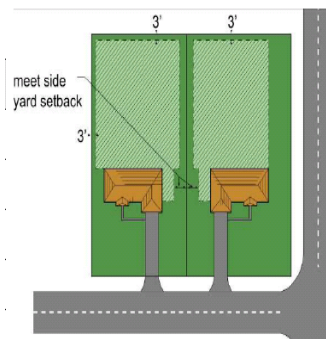
(b) Other accessory buildings, structures, and uses shall be permitted based upon the regulations of this article.

Section 16.02 - Residential Accessory Buildings

The following regulations shall apply to buildings accessory to residential use, such as garages, storage sheds, pole barns, gazebos, pavilions and other roofed buildings. These regulations do not apply to agricultural, commercial, office, institutional or industrial accessory buildings (See 16.11.i).

- (a) **Relation to Principal Building.** Detached garages, storage buildings, gazebos or other accessory structures shall not be constructed on a lot unless a residence already exists on the lot. An accessory building may be located on an adjacent lot that is under the same ownership and contiguous with the lot containing the residence. An accessory building may be located on a lot that is across the street within 100 feet of the lot containing the residence.
- (b) **Number of Buildings.** There shall be no more than one detached accessory building per lot, including adjacent lots or lots across the street. One gazebo and one shed less than 144 square feet may be permitted in addition to the accessory building.
- (c) **Locations for Detached Accessory Buildings.** Detached accessory buildings, storage sheds and gazebos shall only be located as follows:

Table 16.02
Accessory Building Locations and Setbacks (1, 2)

Locations Permitted	Minimum Setback from Lot Line	
Front Yard	Not permitted (3)	
Side Yard	District setback	
Rear Yard	3 feet from rear lot line 3 feet from side lot line (4)	
Waterfront Yard	Meeting average shoreline setback (3)	
Corner lot side-street yard	Front yard setback of zoning district	

- (1) Accessory buildings shall not be located within a dedicated easement or right-of-way.
 - (2) Detached accessory buildings shall be setback a minimum of ten feet from the principal residential building.
 - (3) On lakefront lots, an accessory building may be located in the street-front yard, provided it meets the front and side yard setbacks of the district applicable to principal buildings. Accessory buildings in the waterfront yard shall meet the shoreline setback applicable to principal buildings.
 - (4) In the A1, A2, R1A and R1B districts, accessory buildings in the rear yard shall be setback a minimum of ten feet from the side and rear lot lines.
- (d) **Height Limitations.** The maximum height of detached accessory buildings shall be one story and 18 feet. Attic storage shall be permitted, provided the space shall only be utilized for storage. For residential lots located in the A1 and A2 agriculture

districts, the maximum height of accessory buildings shall be the same as permitted for principal buildings.

- (e) **Use.** Accessory buildings shall not be occupied for dwelling purposes. Accessory buildings shall not have plumbing for sewer or water. This restriction shall not apply where a special exception has been granted for an accessory dwelling under Section 14.01(c).
- (f) **Attached Garages.** Garages that are structurally attached to a principal building by connection of walls or a roof shall be subject to, and must conform to, all regulations of this Ordinance applicable to the principal building, including setbacks and lot coverage. Attached garages shall not exceed the height of the living portion of the dwelling.

Section 16.03 - Porches, Decks and Patios

- (a) **Front Yard.** An open, unenclosed porch, patio or terrace may project into a required front yard setback for a distance not exceeding ten feet, including side streets on corner lots. The porch may have a roof and railing; however, a porch that is enclosed by walls or windows shall be subject to the front yard setback applicable to the principal building, as set out in the applicable zoning district.
- (b) **Side Yard.** Decks and porches must not be closer to an interior side lot line than the minimum required side yard setbacks that apply to the principal structure on the property, as set out in the applicable zoning district.
- (c) **Rear Yard.** Decks, open, unenclosed and uncovered porches, patios and terraces may project into a required rear yard setback for a distance not exceeding ten feet.
- (d) **Waterfront Yard.** Decks, open, unenclosed and uncovered porches, patios and terraces may project into a required waterfront yard setback for a distance not exceeding ten feet.
- (e) **Second-Story Decks.** Second story decks, including any walkway connecting the second story deck to a first story deck, a ground-level deck, or a deck located above a walk-out basement, may extend into the rear yard setback, provided it does not extend more than ten feet from the rear of the dwelling.
- (f) **Privacy Fences and Screens.** Any privacy fence or privacy screen attached to a deck or porch shall be permitted in the side or rear yard, not exceeding six feet in height, measured from the ground.

Section 16.04 - Pools and Hot Tubs

- (a) **Location.** Swimming pools, spas, hot tubs and similar devices shall not be located in any front yard. Swimming pools, spas, hot tubs and similar devices shall be setback at least ten feet from the rear lot line and meet the waterfront and side yard setback of the district.
- (b) **Security Fencing.** All outdoor swimming pools, as defined by the Indiana Swimming Pool Code (675 IAC 20), shall be enclosed by a fence as follows:
 - (1) Swimming pools below the surface of the surrounding land shall be completely enclosed by a fence that meets the Indiana Swimming Pool Code (675 IAC 20). The fence shall be equipped with a gate at all points of entry unless entry is directly from the main or accessory structure. All gates and doors shall be equipped with self-closing and self-latching devices.
 - (2) Swimming pools above the surface of the surrounding land, if not surrounded by a fence, as provided in subsection (1) above, shall be built where access to the pool may be had only by a ladder that can be removed or raised and locked in place or steps equipped with a gate at the top with a self-closing and self-latching device. The wall of the pool and any fence surrounding the platform around the pool must together be at least four feet in height.

Section 16.05 - Fences and Walls

- (a) **All Districts.**
 - (1) Fences located in the front yard shall not be erected or maintained in such a way as to obstruct the vision of motorists existing driveways or at intersections in accordance with Section 15.06.
 - (2) All exposed posts of a fence shall be located on the inside of the property they are intended to fence with the finished side of the fence facing out.

(3) Fences and walls shall not be erected within any public right-of-way.

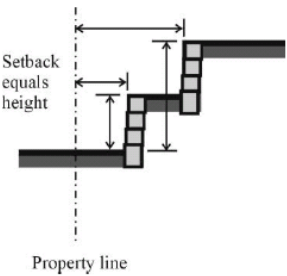
(b) Fences in Residential Districts.

- (1) Fences and walls located within the front yard shall not exceed three and one-half feet in height and shall not be in excess of 49 percent solid or opaque.
- (2) Fences and walls located within the side or rear yard shall not exceed a height of six and one-half feet.
- (3) Fences and walls shall be constructed of materials such as wood, metal (ornamental or chain link), brick, stone or vinyl having the appearance of wood. The finished side of the fence shall face outward towards the street or neighboring property.
- (4) Fences shall not contain barbed wire, electric current or charge of electricity.
- (5) This subsection (b) shall not apply to security fences surrounding utility, institutional or public uses.

(c) Non-Residential Districts.

- (1) Fences and walls shall be permitted in the front, side and rear yard in any agricultural and nonresidential district.
- (2) Fences and walls in the nonresidential district shall not exceed eight feet in height; provided in the M1, M2 and AP districts, fences may be up to ten feet in height.
- (3) Fences and walls up to eight feet in height shall be permitted along all property lines on farms in all districts.
- (4) Fences and walls shall be constructed of materials such as wood, metal, brick, stone or vinyl having the appearance of wood. Poured concrete, concrete block or other similar materials may only be used for walls not facing a street or residential district. The finished side of the fence shall face outward towards the street or neighboring property.

(d) Retaining Walls.

(1)	Retaining walls shall not be located closer than two (2) feet to any property line. Grades at the property line shall not be changed.	 A diagram illustrating the setback and height requirements for a retaining wall. A vertical dashed line represents the 'Property line'. A retaining wall is shown to the right of the property line. The 'Setback equals height' rule is indicated by two dimension lines: one horizontal line from the property line to the base of the wall, and one vertical line from the ground level to the top of the wall. The wall is shown as a stepped structure with multiple levels.
(2)	The maximum height of any retaining wall shall be four (4)	

	feet. Where taller walls are required, the retaining wall shall be stepped or tiered.	
(3)	Retaining walls shall be setback from all lot lines and shorelines a distance equal to their height. For stepped or tiered retaining walls, each tier shall be setback so that the cumulative total height of all tiers equals the setback of the top tier.	

- (4) The board of zoning appeals may approve taller retaining walls than allowed in paragraph (2) above and reduce the setbacks from that which is required in paragraph (1) or (3) above. The board of zoning appeals may grant approval for such retaining

wall, following a public hearing under Section 28.07, based upon the following criteria:

- a. Steep topography on the site prevents development of the lot within the limits set for the retaining wall height and setback. The decrease in setback or increase in height shall be the minimum possible to provide for a reasonable building site on the lot.
 - b. Views from adjacent property shall not be obstructed as a result of the increased retaining wall height or decreased setback, above and beyond the obstruction that would be caused by alternative construction methods.
 - c. The impact to topography and woodlands shall be no more than the impact from development of the site with a greater number of lower, tiered retaining walls or other alternative construction methods.
 - d. Stormwater drainage and soil erosion will be properly managed in accordance with Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana code of Ordinances.
 - e. Adequate emergency access is provided around the building site.
- (5) Retaining walls shall be constructed of stone, brick, interlocking decorative concrete block, wood or other similar quality material approved by the enforcement official. The use of broken concrete for retaining walls shall not be permitted.

(Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.11), 8-4-2025)

Section 16.06 - Restrictions along Lakes and Streams

No structures other than docks, seawalls, retaining walls, sidewalks, boardwalks, and patios will be permitted within the waterfront setback of the district or areas designated as buffer zones or setbacks in the Natural Resource Preservation Guidelines.

Section 16.07 - Reception Antennas

Television and radio antennas including satellite dish antennas and transmission or reception antennas, may be permitted as an accessory structure in any district. All antennas shall meet the setback requirements for principal buildings in the zoning district. The height shall be limit as set forth in Section 15.04.

Section 16.08 - Recreational Vehicles and Equipment

- (a) On a residential lot, a resident may store recreational vehicles and equipment, such as motor homes, trailers, snowmobiles and watercraft, in garages or other accessory structures. Recreational vehicles or equipment may be stored outdoors in the side or rear yard; provided the recreational vehicle or equipment is owned by the resident of the dwelling on that lot and the vehicle or equipment is located a minimum of five feet from the side or rear lot line.
- (b) Temporary parking and use of a recreational vehicle or equipment shall be permitted in the front driveway, provided it is not parked in the front driveway more than two days in any consecutive 30-day period.
- (c) In a residential district, recreational vehicles and equipment may only be stored outdoors on the same lot as the owner's principal dwelling. Recreational equipment may not be stored outdoors on an adjacent lot under the same ownership that contains an accessory building.
- (d) Recreational vehicles and equipment may not be stored in a waterfront yard, except for watercraft.
- (e) Recreational vehicles and equipment shall not be parked or stored on a public right-of-way.
- (f) Recreational vehicles and equipment shall not be permanently affixed to the ground as a principal or accessory structure on a lot in any district. All recreational equipment parked or stored shall not be connected to sanitary facilities. Mobile homes, travel trailers, or camping trailers shall not be occupied for dwelling purposes, except in a lawfully established mobile home park or tourist camp.
- (g) Tents shall not be erected, used, or maintained on any lot, except small tents that are customarily used for recreation purposes and are located on the same lot as a dwelling. Temporary use of tents for religious, amusement and recreation, business, or manufacturing purposes shall be permitted when a permit has been issued by the enforcement official in accordance with provisions set forth in Article 26.

- (h) Boats may be parked or stored in the open when customary in the operations of a lawfully established principal use, and one boat may be stored or parked on a lot containing a dwelling provided that it shall be located in side, rear or waterfront yard setback a minimum of five feet from all lot lines. There shall be no major repair, disassembly, or rebuilding operations conducted on the lot.

Section 16.09 - Parking of Semi-Trucks, Shipping Containers and Construction Equipment

- (a) The storage or parking of semi tractor trucks and/or semi trailers, bulldozers, earth carriers, cranes or any other similar equipment or machinery in an agricultural or residential district is prohibited with the exception of the following:
- (1) Parking and storage of larger vehicles for farming operations is permitted, provided such vehicles are used for an agricultural use.
 - (2) Parking of one semi-tractor without a trailer is permitted on a residential lot with an area of at least 24,000 square feet where the operator of the semi-truck resides within the principal dwelling on that lot. The semi-tractor may only be parked in the side or rear yard a minimum of five feet from the side or rear lot line and shall be parked in a location that will not have an adverse impact on the aesthetic character of the surrounding area. Semi-trucks shall not be running in idle for more than 15 minutes. Semi-trailers, shipping containers and other types of storage units may not be parked or stored in a residential zoning district, except when a resident is moving into or out of a dwelling.
 - (3) Construction vehicles may be parked while in use for approved construction on the property only while a current building permit is in effect or during other site landscaping or utility work not subject to a building permit. Such vehicles shall only be parked on the property while in use for a construction project that is being diligently carried on toward completion.
- (b) In all nonresidential districts, semi-trailers may not remain on any property longer than 30 days while being parked, stored, repaired, or sold. Only one such semi-trailer may be parked, stored, repaired, or sold in any 12 month period. Only properly approved semi-trailer dealers operating in properly zoned districts are exempt from this requirement. Storage of semi-trailers, shipping containers and other types of storage units shall only be permitted in the industrial districts as an accessory use to an approved industrial use.

Section 16.10 - Entranceways

In all zoning districts, entranceway structures, including but not limited to walls, columns and gates marking entrances to one-family subdivisions, multiple-family housing projects, business centers and industrial and office parks may be permitted and may be located in a required yard.

Section 16.11 - Non-Residential Accessory Buildings

Storage buildings and other buildings that are accessory to a non-residential use shall be permitted subject to the same restrictions as the principal use and building. Accessory buildings for commercial, office, institutional or industrial uses shall be subject to the same district dimensional requirements (setbacks and height) as the principal building.

Section 16.12 - Agricultural and Horticultural Fairs

Agricultural and horticultural fairs shall be permitted as an accessory use on an agricultural parcel located in the A1 and A2 Agricultural Districts.

ARTICLE 17. - SITE DEVELOPMENT PROVISIONS

Section 17.01 - Building Design Requirements

- (a) **Purpose.** The purpose of this section is to establish exterior building wall material standards to support the goals of the Land Development Plan, retain property values, protect the investment of adjacent landowners and enhance the visual environment of the community. Through the consistent administration and enforcement of exterior building wall design standards, the community's sense of place can be enhanced by encouraging consistent quality buildings.

(b) Applicability.

- (1) This section shall apply to all new multiple family residential, office, commercial, industrial and institutional buildings. Agricultural, single-family detached and two-family residential structures and their associated accessory buildings shall be exempt from this section.
- (2) Additions to existing buildings must complement the current building design with regard to height, proportions, scale, materials, and rhythm of openings.
- (3) Architecture shall be reviewed by the enforcement official as a part of site plan review under the requirements of this section.

(c) Exterior Building Design.

- (1) Buildings shall possess architectural variety, but enhance the overall cohesive community character. All buildings shall contain architectural features, details, and ornaments such as archways, colonnades, cornices, recesses, projections, wall insets, arcades, window display areas, peaked roof lines, or towers.
- (2) For commercial uses, windows and doors shall make up at least 30 percent or more of the front facade exterior wall area facing a street.
- (3) Building walls and roofs over 20 feet in length shall be broken up with divisions or breaks in materials, varying building lines, windows, multiple entrances, entry treatments, variations in roof lines, gables, porticoes and/or architectural accents such as pilasters, columns, dormers, and awnings.
- (4) In multi-story buildings, the ground floor shall be distinguished from the floors above through an intermediate cornice line, a difference in building materials or detailing, an awning, trellis or arcade, special window lintels, or brick corbels or quoins.
- (5) A portion of the on-site landscaping shall be located along all blank walls so that the vegetation, combined with the architectural features, significantly reduces the visual impact of the building mass as viewed from the street.
- (6) Overhead doors shall not face a public street. The enforcement official may modify this requirement upon a determination that there is no reasonable alternative and the visual impact will be moderated through use of building materials, architectural features and landscaping.

(d) Building Materials.

- (1) Durable building materials which provide an attractive, quality appearance must be utilized. The predominant building materials should be quality materials that are characteristic of Indiana.
- (2) The predominant building materials on any facade facing a street shall be as follows:
 - a. For multiple family residential buildings, a minimum of 50 percent of any facade facing a street shall be constructed of earth-toned brick, siding (wood, vinyl, or fiber cement), stone, stucco or glass as the predominant building material.
 - b. For commercial, office, institutional and industrial buildings a minimum of 50 percent of any facade facing a street shall be constructed of brick, brick tilt-up panels, siding (wood, vinyl or fiber cement), stone (natural, cultured or cast stone), textured concrete masonry units (such as split face block), stucco or glass as the predominant building material.
- (3) Other materials such as smooth-faced concrete block, undecorated tilt-up concrete or EIFS panels, or pre-fabricated steel panels shall only be used as accents or trim and cover less than 50 percent of the front facade. Other synthetic materials such as gypsum reinforced fiber concrete or molded polyurethane may also be used for trim.
- (4) All building materials shall be durable, weather-resistant, rustproof, and shall be maintained by the property owner or tenant at all times.
- (5) The Board of Zoning Appeals may allow other building materials when a particular building design and the materials or combinations of materials proposed to be used are found by the Board of Zoning Appeals to be in keeping with the intent and purpose of this Section and compatible with the character of surrounding uses.

(e) Roof Design.

- (1) Roofs should be designed to reduce the apparent exterior mass of a building, add visual interest, and be appropriate to the architectural style of the building.

(2) Architectural methods shall be used to conceal flat roof tops and mechanical equipment.

(f) **Customer Entrances.** Clearly defined, highly visible customer entrances shall be incorporated into the design. Features such as canopies, porticos, arcades, arches, wing walls or integral planters shall be used to identify entrances. New buildings shall have at least one principal building entrance oriented parallel to and facing the front lot line.

(g) **CBD1 Design Standards.** In addition to the requirements of this section above, non-residential buildings or mixed-use buildings (residential above commercial) in the CBD1 district shall be required to comply with the following:

(1) **Purpose.** The following building design standards ensure that new construction in the CBD1 district reflect a high level of building quality that will endure over time and will incorporate timeless design details. The requirements also ensure that all new construction is consistent because the character of the CBD is not reflected in just one structure, but in all the buildings combined. The regulations herein are intended to ensure proper building form, relationship to the street and compatibility with other buildings. The regulations are not intended to dictate a particular style of architecture. All new buildings or modifications to existing buildings in the CBD1 district shall comply with the requirements of this section. For structures located within an historic district, these requirements apply in addition to the requirements of the City of La Port or Michigan City historical preservation ordinances.

(2) **Building Placement.** Buildings should strengthen the continuity of the streetscape at a pedestrian scale and help reinforce the sense of enclosure along the street by following the established building line along the block. Off-street parking lots shall be located to the side or rear of the building.

(3) **Storefronts.**

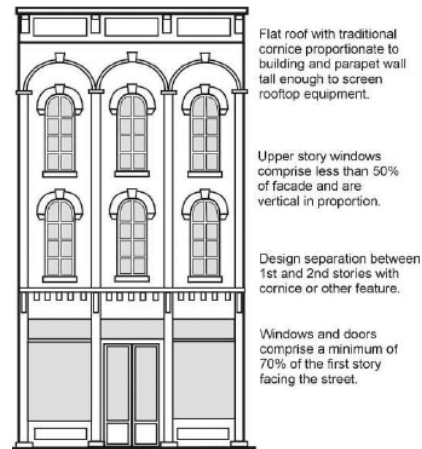
a. **Main Entrance.** All buildings shall have a main entrance that is located on at least one streetfront. Main entrances shall have design details that enhance the appearance and prominence of the entrance so that it is recognizable from the street. The front entranceway may be inserted from the front building wall; provided the entire storefront is not recessed.

b. **Secondary Entrance.** Secondary entrances are permitted to access areas to the rear of the building, such as parking. Awnings, signage, lighting, building materials and colors for entrances shall be coordinated with the overall design of the building.

(4) **Windows.**

a. **Storefront/Ground Floor.** No less than 70% of the storefront/ground floor facade shall be clear glass panels and doorway. Required window areas shall be windows that allow views into retail space, working areas or lobbies, pedestrian entrances, or display windows set into the wall. Windows may not be covered or blocked with the back of shelving units. The bottom of the window must be no more than four (4) feet above the adjacent exterior grade.

b. **Upper story.** Openings above the first story shall be vertical in proportion and a maximum of 50% of the total facade area. The number, shape, size, and spacing of the windows shall be compatible with the established rhythm of adjoining or nearby buildings in the downtown.



(5) **Awnings.** Awnings in CBD1 may project over the public sidewalk; provided they shall:

a. Provide a minimum eight foot clearance from the sidewalk.

- b. Be constructed of a durable, weather-proof material such as canvas or steel.
 - c. Are not internally lit.
 - d. Conform with Article 19, with respect to signage.
- (6) **Materials.** Exterior materials shall have characteristics of high quality and permanence such as brick or stone. The following exterior finish materials are required on the front facade and any facade facing a street or parking area. Calculation of the following wall material requirements shall not include the portion of the facade devoted to windows and doors.
- a. All walls exposed to public view from the street or parking area shall be constructed of not less than 75 percent brick or stone.
 - b. A maximum of 25 percent of the facade may include trim material such as wood or similar siding, metal and exterior finish insulation systems (EFIS). EFIS may only be used for architectural detailing above the first floor.
 - c. Buildings that have upper stories shall be designed to create a distinct and separated ground floor area through the use of accent such as a cornice above the storefront, change in material or textures, or an awning or canopy between the first and second stories.
- (7) **Roofs.** Roofs shall be required to meet the following:
- a. Buildings with a flat roof shall have a decorative cornice at the top of the front facade that is designed proportionate to the size of the building and length of the wall. Flat roofs shall be enclosed by parapets.
 - b. Buildings with a pitched or mansard roof shall be permitted.
 - c. All rooftop mounted equipment shall be screened from view on all sides of the building. Parapets and other screening treatment shall use high quality building materials and shall blend with the design of the building in terms of color, materials, scale and height.
- (8) **Service Areas.** Loading, unloading, waste receptacle and other service areas shall be located in the rear or side of the building that will receive the least visibility to the public street and shall be screened from public view in accordance with Sections 17.03 and 17.05.
- (9) **Parking Lots.** Where a parking lot is located within 20 feet of a front lot line, a brick wall or wrought iron fence shall be provided between the parking lot and the street right-of-way in accordance with Section 17.02(d)(2)b.
- (10) **Converted Dwellings.** Where buildings that were originally constructed for residential purposes have been converted to other uses, the building design requirements of this subsection may be modified where consistent with the historic character of the building. Such modifications may include allowing the use of siding in lieu of masonry materials and residential fenestration (windows) in lieu of the requirement for storefront windows on the first floor.
- (11) **Existing Buildings.** Renovations or expansions proposed to existing buildings that do not comply with the design standards of this section may be allowed; provided the exterior changes to the building bring the building closer to compliance or do not reduce compliance with the requirements of this section. Additions to existing buildings shall not change the original architectural character of the building or destroy important architectural features. Changes to buildings in historic districts shall be subject to subsection (12) below.
- (12) **Historic Preservation.** The erection, construction, enlargement, alteration, repair, demolition, color change, moving or maintenance of any building, structure or appurtenance within an historic district in either the City of La Porte or Michigan City shall be subject to the following:
- a. In the City of Michigan City CBD1 district, all of the requirements of the historical district ordinance must be met. A certificate of appropriateness must be issued by the historic review board before a permit is issued or work is begun on any structure within an historic district.
 - b. In the City of La Porte CBD1 district, all of the requirements of the historical preservation ordinance must be met. A certificate of appropriateness must be issued by the historic preservation commission before a permit is issued for or work is begun on any structure within an historic district.
 - c. Where a historic structure contains an original architectural feature that does not comply with the design standards of this section, restoration and preservation of the building's historic form shall take precedence over any conflicting

regulation of this section.

- (h) **City of La Porte Downtown Design Standards.** All new buildings or renovations to existing buildings located in the CBD1 district in the City of La Porte shall be subject to the review of the design review committee and recommendation to the enforcement official based upon the City of La Porte Downtown Design Standards.
- (1) The CBD1 district is hereby declared to be a district subject to "development requirements" meaning that any development within this zoning district will require a development plan as provided for in IC 36-7-4-1400 et seq.
 - (2) The design standards that all developer must comply within the CBD1 district in the City of La Porte are set forth in City of La Porte Downtown Design Standards, which is incorporated herein by reference.
 - (3) A Design Review Committee consisting of the following members is created to assist the director of the department of engineering in his or her review of any development proposal in the City of La Porte CBD1 district:
 - a. The city planner;
 - b. A member of the plan commission;
 - c. A member of the redevelopment commission;
 - d. A member of the historic preservation commission; and
 - e. A member of the common council.
- (i) **Michigan City Design Review.** All new buildings or renovations to existing buildings located in Michigan City shall be subject to the review of the design review committee and recommendation to the enforcement official based upon the requirements of this article.
- (1) The city planning director;
 - (2) A member of the plan commission;
 - (3) The enforcement official;
 - (4) The city engineer; and
 - (5) The city building official.
- (j) **Modifications.** The Board of Zoning Appeals may approve modifications to the building design standards of this section in order to achieve the objectives of this subsection through the use of creativity and flexibility in development and design. A front elevation drawing of the proposed building shall be provided to evaluate the proposed building design based upon all of the following criteria:
- (1) Innovations in architectural design may be permitted, provided the building design shall be in keeping with the desired character of the district and the proposed building fits within the context of adjacent buildings along the block.
 - (2) The building shall be oriented towards the front sidewalk and maintain or enhance the continuity of the pedestrian oriented environment.
 - (3) The roof design shall not be out of character with other buildings along the block and shall be within the minimum and maximum height requirements of the district.
 - (4) The exterior finish materials shall be of equal or better quality and durability as those permitted above, with the intent to allow for new technologies in building material while maintaining the desired character of the district.
 - (5) Ground floor windows shall be provided along the front sidewalk to maintain the pedestrian orientation of the streetscape.
 - (6) For a structure located within an historic district, the building will meet the applicable requirements of the historical preservation ordinance of the respective city.
- (k) **Development District Modifications.** For a structure located within the La Porte NewPorte Landing, South Overlay Zoning District or, the La Port CBD1 District or the Michigan City North End Form-Based Overlay District, modifications shall require approval by the Plan Commission instead of the Board of Zoning Appeals based upon the criteria in (j) above and consistency with the applicable Development Standards of the district.

- (a) **Purpose.** This section is intended to establish minimum standards for the design, installation and maintenance of landscaping, green and buffer zones. These features are necessary for the continued protection and enhancement of all land uses. Landscaping and greenbelts enhance the visual image of the community; preserve natural features; improve property values; and alleviate or reduce stormwater runoff, noise, traffic, and visual distraction. Buffer zones protect less intense uses from the noise, light, traffic, litter and impacts of more intense uses. Landscaped areas can also serve to capture runoff and promote infiltration of stormwater.
- (b) **Required Greenbelt along Street Frontage.**
- (1) New residential subdivisions shall provide a frontage greenbelt as required by the subdivision ordinance.
 - (2) All multiple family residential developments shall provide a 20-foot wide greenbelt along major thoroughfare frontages that form the exterior boundary of the development. The greenbelt shall be landscaped with a minimum of one deciduous tree, one evergreen tree, one ornamental tree, and six shrubs for every 40 linear feet of frontage. In cities where multiple family residential buildings face onto a major thoroughfare with pedestrian entrances that connect to the sidewalk on the street and all parking, and garages are on the rear side of the building, one deciduous tree shall be provided for every 40 linear feet of frontage, planted within the front yard area along the street.
 - (3) All industrial uses shall provide a greenbelt along the front yard with a minimum of two deciduous or evergreen trees and six shrubs for every 40 linear feet of frontage.
 - (4) Commercial, office, institutional or recreational sites shall be required to provide a minimum of one deciduous tree for every 40 feet of street frontage. The required trees shall be planted within the front yard area, or where there is no front yard, planted as street trees along the frontage.
 - (5) Manufactured home parks shall provide a 25-foot wide greenbelt along all public road frontages. The greenbelt shall be landscaped with a minimum of one deciduous tree, one evergreen tree, one ornamental tree, and six shrubs for every 40 linear feet of frontage.
- (c) **Required Buffer Zones.** The following buffer zones shall be required where a proposed use shares a common lot line with an adjacent use. The type of buffer zone required is indicated in Table 17.02(c)(1) and the required landscaping/screening is described in Table 17.02(c)(2).

Table 17.02.(c)(1)
Buffer Zone Type

Proposed Use:	District that Proposed Use is Adjacent to:		
	A1, A2, R1A, R1B, R1C, R1D, R1E	R2A, R2B, R3A, R3B or R4	B1, B2, B3, O1, CBD1, CBD2, MU, or MD
One/two-family residential	None	None	B
Multi-family residential	C	None	None
Manufactured home park	C	None	None
Institutional and recreation	B	B	None
Office	B	B	None
Commercial	B	B	None
Mixed Use Development	B	B	A

Office/Industrial	A	A	B
Industrial	A	A	B
Planned Unit Development determined during PUD plan approval using above as a guide			

Table 17.02.(c)(2)
Buffer Zone Landscaping/Screening Requirements

Requirements for Buffer Zones Located in the Unincorporated areas of the County Outside of the cities of La Porte and Michigan City			
Buffer Type	Min. Depth	Wall or Berm	Minimum Plant Materials per each 40 linear feet along the property line
A	50 feet	4 foot tall berm or 8 foot tall wall	1 canopy tree, 3 evergreen trees and 4 shrubs
B	20 feet	3 foot tall berm or 6 foot tall wall	1 canopy tree, 2 evergreen trees and 4 shrubs
C	10 feet	None	2 canopy or evergreen trees and 4 shrubs

Requirements for Buffer Zones Located in the cities of La Porte or Michigan City			
Buffer Type	Min. Depth	Wall or Berm	Minimum Plant Materials per each 40 linear feet along the property line
A	50 feet	8 foot tall wall or 4 foot tall berm	1 canopy tree and 3 evergreen trees
B	10 feet	6 foot tall wall	2 canopy or evergreen trees
C	10 feet	None	2 canopy or evergreen trees

- (1) The enforcement official may waive or modify buffer zone requirements between adjacent compatible uses where the district allows a lesser or zero side yard setback or a reduction in parking lot setbacks where shared access and circulation are provided between uses.
- (2) Uses in the CBD1 and CBD2 districts shall not be required to provide a buffer zone, but shall be required to meet screening wall requirements outlined in Section 17.03.

- (3) The above buffer zone landscaping requirements shall be in addition to any parking lot landscaping requirements outlined in (d) screening wall requirements outlined in Section 17.03.

(d) **Tree Protection.**

(1) **Applicability.** These standards apply to:

- (a) Any private property located within the city limits as of December 31, 2018;
- (b) All public property held by or for the benefit of the city or any agency, board, or commission;
- (c) Any land proposed for development or construction or for activities that result or may result in the removal of protected trees or areas of tree canopy, which include:
 - 1. Multiple family and nonresidential development including commercial office and retail, industrial, and public or institutional development for all new construction and any additions that increase the total gross floor area of a structure by more than 2,500 square feet;
 - 2. Construction of a new or expansion of an existing parking lot larger than 2,500 square feet;
 - 3. Any grading, filling or clearing of land exceeding 5,000 square feet in area;
 - 4. Any clear, selective or individual cutting or removal of any protected tree or areas of tree canopy; and
 - 5. Trenching or excavation that may damage or destroy any protected tree or areas of tree canopy.

- (d) **Trees on Public Property.** The City shall have the right to maintain protected trees within the lines of all public property as may be necessary to ensure the safety, protect facilities and improvements, and maintain the health and aesthetics of such public grounds. The City may remove or cause or order to be removed any tree which is located on public property and determined to be in conflict with a public purpose or to be a public hazard through coordination with the City Forester.

Unless specifically authorized by the City, no person shall knowingly cut, carve, transplant, or remove any tree; attach any rope, wire, nails, advertising posters, or other contrivances to any tree; or allow any substance, solid, liquid, gas, or fire to injure any tree or portion thereof on public property.

(2) **Protected Trees and Tree Canopies.**

(a) A protected tree includes:

- 1. Any hardwood tree with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 8 inches or more;
- 2. Any tree that is shown on an approved landscape plan that is necessary to:
 - a. Meet the planting requirements of this ordinance; or
 - b. Meet a condition of approval of the development to which the landscape plan applies.
- 3. Within a historic district or historic preservation district, any tree with a DBH of five inches or more on a property.

- (b) A tree canopy includes any property for which the canopied area (the cumulative area within the dripline of non-exempt trees) exceeds 50 percent. The canopied area may be measured by survey or estimated by aerial imagery provided it is verified by the City Forester.

(3) **Exemptions.** The following are exempt from these regulations:

- (a) The clearing of understory trees necessary to perform boundary surveying of real property. Clearing for surveying may not exceed a width of two feet for general survey (i.e. easement boundary, etc.) and eight feet for survey of property boundary lines. Except for surveys done in connection with residential development, no protected tree may be removed in any manner during such boundary or general surveying.
- (b) Any protected trees or areas of tree canopy located on property on which construction of single-family and two-family residential dwelling units has been completed or that portion of a lot within an approved subdivision plat necessary for construction with a permit not to exceed 10 feet from the furthest extent of a permitted single-family or two-family residential dwelling unit.
- (c) Trees or areas of tree canopy preventing the opening of reasonable and necessary vehicular traffic lanes for a street, alley, or approved access road or drive for property to/from rights-of-way.

(4) Protected Tree Survey or Inventory.

- (a) A survey or inventory is required to:
 - 1. Address the location, species, size, and condition of all protected trees;
 - 2. Be performed by a certified arborist, registered landscape architect, or a registered land surveyor; and
- (b) A survey with GPS coordinates for protected trees is required:
 - 1. For any property proposed for development that is less than one acre; or
 - 2. For designated parking areas that exceed 100 required parking spaces; or
 - 3. For property dedicated to the City or any agency, board, or commission.
- (c) An inventory of protected trees is required:
 - 1. For any property proposed for development that is greater than one acre; or
 - 2. For any property with a tree canopy.

The inventory shall indicate the cumulative canopy area of protected trees as a percentage of an area, regular or irregular in shape or orientation, that measures one-quarter acre (10,890 square feet). For the purpose of tree protection, this percentage of canopy area shall be applied to areas of tree canopy across the entire property.

(5) Limitation on Tree Removal.

- (a) **Clear-Cutting.** Notwithstanding the exemptions, parcels proposed for development shall not be clear cut. Development shall be designed to preserve protected trees and areas of tree canopy unless:
 - 1. No reasonable alternative site design at the same density and intensity could be approved that would, in descending order of priority, preserve:
 - a. All of the protected trees or areas of tree canopy;
 - b. The largest of the protected trees or areas of tree canopy; or
 - c. A greater number of protected trees than the landscape plan shows as protected; and
 - d. Relocation of the largest of the protected trees to another location on-site or within the City is not practical or economically feasible.
- (b) **Designated Areas for Tree Removal.** Tree removal is allowed in exempt areas and in the following areas of a parcel proposed for development:
 - 1. In and within 10 feet of an approved building footprint or approved manufactured home space;
 - 2. Within clear areas of visibility triangles or sight distances for public safety, or in adjacent areas if removal is necessary to maintain the clear areas;
 - 3. Within eight feet of an approved outdoor recreation area that by its nature requires the removal of the trees (e.g., ballfields);
 - 4. Within an approved stormwater retention/detention area, if the trees are not adapted to such conditions; and
 - 5. Within six feet of a utility easement if the trees would interfere with the use of the easement.
- (c) **Individual Tree Removal in Other Areas.** No individual protected tree may be removed unless it meets one of the criteria below and is approved by the City Forester:
 - 1. The tree is infected with an epidemic insect or disease where the recommended control is not applicable and removal is the recommended practice to prevent transmission.
 - 2. The tree poses an extreme public nuisance because of its species, size, location, or condition. The nuisance could be caused by fruit or seed drop, harboring of insects, or excessive twig or limb breakage.
 - 3. The tree poses a severe safety hazard that cannot be corrected by pruning, transplanting, or other treatments.
 - 4. The tree severely interferes with the growth and development of a more desirable tree.
 - 5. The aesthetic values of the tree are so low or negative that the site is visually enhanced by the tree's removal.

6. The tree is a prohibited species as verified by City staff inspection.

(6) **Tree Replacement Standards.**

(a) **Generally.**

1. Protected trees shall not be removed, damaged (e.g., through topping or other improper pruning), or destroyed unless a tree removal permit is issued by the City.
2. If a protected tree that is shown on an approved landscape plan is removed for any reason, it shall be replaced.
3. If a protected tree that is shown on an approved landscape plan is removed in violation of this Zoning Ordinance, the value of the tree removed (as determined by the City Forester) will be assessed, and it shall be replaced according to the schedule in Table 17.02(c)(3), Tree Credits and Replacement, unless the City Forester determines that there is insufficient room for healthy tree growth.
4. Trees that are not protected may be removed upon issuance of a building permit.

(b) **Relocation.** Protected trees that are relocated to another place on the parcel proposed for development, or another location within the City, do not have to be replaced if they are relocated according to industry standard transplanting methods, as approved by the City Forester.

(7) **Credit for Existing Trees.** Credit may be given for protecting and preserving existing trees.

(a) **Eligibility.** Protected trees and existing tree canopy is eligible for credit only if:

1. It is healthy and in good structural condition;
2. It is an approved plant as determined by the City Forester; and
3. It is located:
 - a. Within the area where the credit will be applied (e.g., trees preserved in a parking lot are counted as parking lot landscaping); or
 - b. Within 15 feet of such area and situated such that it will contribute to the purpose of the landscape area to which it is credited (e.g., a tree located within 15 feet of a buffer zone may be credited to the buffer zone if it is located between the property line and the building and/or use).
4. Credit is only available for plants that are located on the parcel proposed for development.
5. For the purposes of the planting requirements, credit may be given toward the required number of trees for preserved existing trees or shall be replaced for those not preserved, as set out in Table 17.02(c)(3), Tree Credits and Replacement.

Table 17.02(c)(3)
Tree Credits and Replacement

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) or Large Trees		Credit or Replacement per Large Tree
More than:	Up to and including:	
32"	Any	5
24"	32"	4
16"	24"	3
8"	16"	2
4"	8"	1.5

(8) **Incentives.**

(a) **Sidewalks.** Where the Enforcement Official determines that preservation of protected trees warrants the elimination, reduction in width, or modification to the sidewalk requirements in accordance with the tree preservation standards, a waiver may be granted.

(b) **Tree Cluster(s).** In order to emphasize the importance of preserving trees in a cluster during development, additional tree preservation credit will be given as follows:

1. Cluster(s) of three or more trees less than 10 feet apart without existing understory will be calculated at 105 percent for each tree within the cluster with a minimum DBH size of three inches.
2. Cluster(s) of three or more trees less than 10 feet apart with existing understory will be calculated at 115 percent for each tree within the cluster with a minimum DBH size of three inches.

(9) **Relationship to Other Landscaping Requirements.** Replacement trees shall count toward the landscaping requirements of the areas in which they are planted. However, if this Section requires more trees than the other provisions of this Zoning Ordinance, then this Section controls.

(10) **Timing of Replacement.** Replacement trees that are required by this Section shall be installed within 30 days of removal, or if such date is not within a growing season, within the first 30 days of the next growing season.

(11) **Penalty.** In determining the penalty to be levied, the Enforcement Official shall consider the willfulness of the violation, the extent of damage, the appraised value of the tree, the monetary gain of the violator and other relevant factors. Any person, firm or corporation that removes, injures or defaces a protected tree without the advanced written approval of the Enforcement Official is subject to the following:

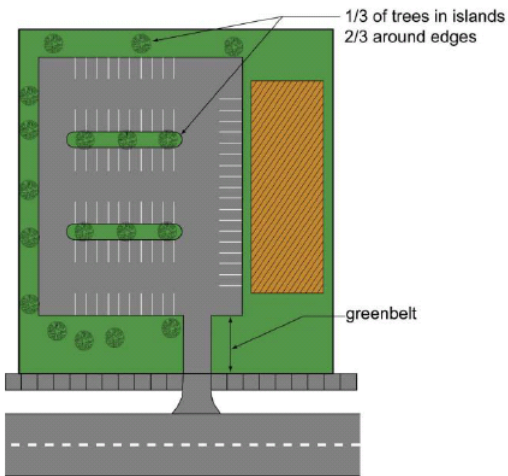
- (a) The person, firm or corporation may be ordered to restore the land to its prior condition, including the planting of trees in accordance with Table 17.02(c)(3), Tree Credits and Replacement, or
- (b) The Enforcement Official shall penalize the person, firm or corporation the costs of restoration, to be determined as set out below. If the size of the protected tree cannot be determined due to the unauthorized removal of a protected tree, the size shall be determined by measuring the stump that remains, may be determined by anecdotal evidence, or the number and size of protected trees may be interpolated from photographs or adjacent trees. A missing protected tree shall be assumed to have been in perfect health unless the property owner can prove otherwise by photo or other verifiable evidence. The penalty cost shall be as follows:

Number of Protected Trees	Value Per Tree
1. One to 10	\$500
2. 11 to 25	\$450
3. 26 to 60	\$400
4. 61 to 100	\$350
5. 101 +	\$250

In no case may the appraised value of a protected tree for all zoning districts other than the M1, Light Industrial, and M2, Heavy Industrial, districts be less than with a maximum penalty amount of \$25,000 per property. The maximum value per tree in the M1 and M2 districts is \$200.

(e) **Parking Lot Landscaping.**

- (1) Off-street parking areas containing 15 or more parking spaces shall provide landscaping at the rate of one canopy tree and 100 square feet of landscaped area per 15 parking spaces.



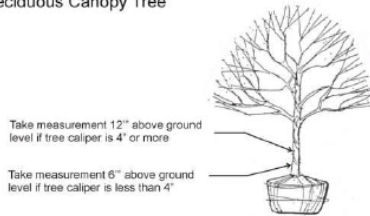
- a. A minimum of one-third of the trees shall be placed on the interior of the parking area and the remaining may be placed surrounding the parking lot.
 - b. The landscaped areas shall be located in a manner that breaks up the expanse of paving throughout the parking lot and are designed to capture stormwater runoff.
 - c. Parking lots that are located in the rear yard behind the building shall be exempt from these landscaping requirements, except for landscaping features required for capture of stormwater runoff.
- (2) Where there is an off-street parking lot located in a front yard or a side yard visible from the street, the following greenbelt shall be provided:
- a. For the unincorporated areas of the county outside of cities, a 20-foot wide greenbelt shall be provided between the parking lot and the road right-of-way. The greenbelt in front of the parking lot shall be landscaped with a hedge row planted with two foot tall evergreen shrubs spaced two and one-half feet apart, or a three foot tall berm, in addition to the trees required above.
 - b. For parking lots located within cities, a five-foot deep greenbelt shall be provided between the parking lot and the road right-of-way. The greenbelt in front of the parking lot shall be landscaped with a hedge row planted with two foot tall evergreen shrubs spaced two and one-half feet apart. As an alternative to the five-foot greenbelt and hedge row, a three foot tall brick wall may be provided between the parking lot and the road right-of-way. In the CBD1 district a three foot tall brick wall or wrought iron fence shall be provided between the parking lot and the street right-of-way and a five-foot deep greenbelt is not required.
- (3) Where an off-street parking lot is located adjacent a lower intensity use or district, it shall be setback a sufficient distance to provide the applicable buffer zone required in subsection (c) above.
- (f) **Residential Street Trees.** For all new detached single family dwellings, including all new residential subdivisions and new homes being constructed on existing lots, one deciduous canopy tree shall be provided for each dwelling unit. The tree shall be planted within the front yard setback outside of any corner clearance area required by [Section 15.06](#).
- (g) **Plant Material Size.**
- (1) Deciduous canopy trees shall not be less than two and one-half inches in caliper. Examples of deciduous canopy trees include Oak, Maple, Birch, Beech, Linden and Hickory trees.
 - (2) Deciduous ornamental trees shall not be less than one and one-half inches in caliper. Examples of deciduous ornamental

trees include Dogwood, Hawthorn, Flowering Crabapple, Flowering Plum, and Flowering Pear trees.

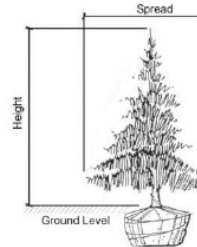
- (3) Evergreen trees shall not be less than six feet in height. Examples of deciduous evergreen trees include Fir, Hemlock, Spruce and Pine trees.
- (4) Narrow evergreen trees shall not be less than four feet in height. Examples of narrow evergreen trees include Arborvitae and Junipers.
- (5) Shrubs shall not be less than 30 inches in height. Examples of shrubs include Boxwood, Dogwood shrubs, Forsythia, Holly, Sumac, Lilac, Viburnum, Juniper and Yews.
- (6) Spreading shrubs shall not be less than 30 inches in spread. Examples of spreading shrubs include Cotoneaster, Cypress and Juniper.

Plant Material Measurements

Deciduous Canopy Tree



Tree or Shrub Height



(h) Installation and Maintenance Provisions.

- (1) All landscaping shall be maintained in a healthy, neat and orderly state free from refuse and debris. Any dead or diseased plants shall be removed and replaced within six months.
- (2) Landscaped areas shall be covered by grasses, such as Bluegrass, Fescue, Ryegrass or native tallgrass, Xeriscape plant material, living ground cover or mulch.
- (3) Trees required on the site plan must be maintained to remain in compliance with the site plan. Unhealthy vegetation must be replaced. Required landscaping shall not be removed unless approved as a site plan amendment.
- (4) Landscaping shall be installed such that, when mature, it does not obscure traffic signs, fire hydrants, lighting, drainage patterns on site or adjacent properties, or obstruct vision for safety of ingress or egress.

(i) **Waiver from Landscaping and Screening Requirements.** The enforcement official during site plan review may determine that existing landscaping or screening intended to be preserved would provide adequate landscaping and screening. The enforcement official may also determine dimensional conditions unique to the parcel would prevent development of off-street parking area landscaping, greenbelts or buffer zones. If such determination is made, the enforcement official may waive, in whole or in part, the landscaping provisions of this section. Criteria which shall be used when considering a waiver shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- (1) Existing natural vegetation
- (2) Topography
- (3) Existing and proposed building placement
- (4) Building heights
- (5) Adjacent land uses
- (6) Distance between land uses
- (7) Dimensional conditions unique to the parcel

(8) Traffic sight distances

(Ord. No. 4500, §§ 5.25.—5.27., 2-5-2019)

Section 17.03 - Screening Walls

- (a) **Requirement.** Screening walls shall be required where any parking lot, loading area or outside storage area is adjacent to a residential zoning district or existing residential use.
- (b) **Specifications.** Where required, screening walls shall meet the following requirements:
- (1) Wall height shall be a minimum of six feet tall and a maximum of eight feet tall, measured from the average grade along the property line. Within the front yard, walls shall be a maximum of three and one-half feet tall except where a taller wall is approved by the enforcement official for the purposes of screening outdoor storage. In the industrial districts, a greater height may be allowed by the enforcement official to screen large equipment, vehicles, outdoor storage or activities that could otherwise impact adjacent uses.
 - (2) Walls shall be constructed of brick or other ornamental masonry material compatible with the principal structure. Building materials must be reviewed and approved by the enforcement official during site plan review. The enforcement official may approve the use of a privacy fence where it is determined to be more compatible with adjacent residential uses.
 - (3) Walls must be constructed on the lot line; however, this location may be modified by the enforcement official due to special circumstances, such as conflicts with underground utilities and better screening provided at alternative locations.
 - (4) Walls shall be continuous except for openings for pedestrian connections.
 - (5) A berm of equal or greater height may be substituted for the screening wall requirement.

Section 17.04 - Lighting Regulations

- (a) **Applicability.** The regulations of this section shall apply to all uses, except residential and agricultural uses. Where any change is made to a site requiring an improvement location permit or existing light fixtures are replaced, site lighting shall be upgraded to comply with the regulations of subsection (c) below.
- (b) **Lighting Intensity.** Outdoor lighting for all non-residential uses shall be fully shielded to reduce glare and shall be arranged to reflect light away from all adjacent residential districts or uses. Light levels on a site that is subject to an improvement location permit under this ordinance shall comply with the limits specified in Table 17.05.

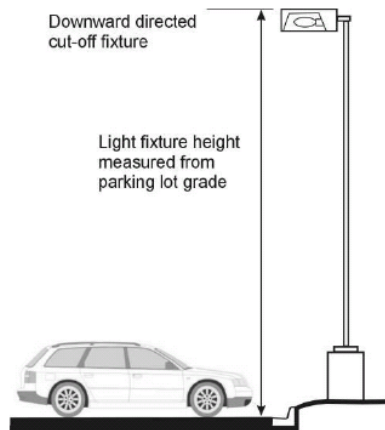
Table 17.05
Required Site Illumination

	Maximum illumination (footcandles)	Minimum illumination in Cities (footcandles) (4)(5)
Parking lots, loading areas, sidewalks, crosswalks, stairs and building entrances	10 fc (1)	3 fc (6)
Under canopies such as gas stations, drive-thru banks and porte-cocheres	20 fc	3 fc
Along front lot line adjacent to the street frontage	3 fc (2)	0.5 fc
Along a property line adjoining a non-residential use or district	3 fc (3)	0.5 fc
Along a property line adjoining a residential use or district	0.1 fc	0 fc

- (1) For automobile dealerships and other types of outdoor sales areas, the maximum illumination may be increased to 15 footcandles, provided the limits at the property line are not exceeded.
- (2) Shall not apply to ornamental street lighting, public street lights or driveway/intersection lighting necessary for pedestrian and traffic safety.
- (3) The light level along a non-residential property line may be increased to up to five footcandles where there is shared access/vehicular connections with the adjacent use or the adjacent use is a similar use (e.g. commercial adjacent to commercial).
- (4) Lighting levels may be reduced to half (0.5) footcandle with a uniformity ratio of not more than ten to one (10:1) after 12:00 p.m., or after established hours of operation.
- (5) The required minimum illumination shall only be required for sites located within the incorporated areas of the cities of La Porte and Michigan City and shall only apply to the developed portion of the site containing buildings, drives and parking lots.
- (6) The minimum illumination levels shall not apply to portions of the site that are fenced to restrict public access, such as storage yards.

(c) **Light Fixtures.**

- (1) All fixtures shall be metal halide, light-emitting diode (LED) or better quality light.
 - (2) Outdoor lighting in all zoning districts shall be directed toward and confined to the ground areas of lawns or parking lots except as noted elsewhere in this section.
 - (3) Lighting shall utilize cutoff fixtures that are recessed sufficiently such that the light source is not visible from off site.
 - (4) The requirement for cutoff fixtures shall not apply to historic or traditional style ornamental lights and street lighting.
 - (5) Floodlight type fixtures shall not be permitted except for building accent and sign lighting.
- (d) **Fixture Height.** Light fixtures shall have a maximum height of 40 feet where not adjacent to residential. Where located within 300 feet of a residential district, the maximum height of a light fixture shall not exceed 18 feet.
- (e) **Signs.** Illumination of signs shall be directed or shielded downward so as not to interfere with the vision of persons on the adjacent highways or adjacent property. Signage lighting shall be subject to the lighting intensity limits specified in Table 17.05.



- (f) **Constant Light.** Illumination shall not be of a flashing, moving or intermittent type. Artificial light shall be maintained stationary and constant in intensity and color at all times when in use. Sign illumination shall only be allowed as provided for in [Article 19](#).
- (g) **Luminous Tube (Neon) and Exposed Bulb Lighting.** Luminous tube (neon) and exposed bulb fluorescent lighting is prohibited as an architectural detail on all buildings (e.g. along the roofline and eaves, around windows, etc.). Internally illuminated architectural bands or features shall be allowed where the light source is not directly visible. Neon lighting is permitted as part of a sign meeting the requirements of [Article 19](#).
- (h) **Photometric Plan.** Any site plan application for new or revised lighting shall include a photometric plan overlaid on the site plan

illustrating the proposed layout and footcandles of site lighting. The following are required for review:

- (1) Lighting plan showing light pole and fixture locations and type designations;
- (2) Photometric plan showing horizontal luminance levels in a point by point format with contour lines. Canopy lighting will also be included in luminance levels;
- (3) Lighting manufacturers equipment specifications and data sheets; and
- (4) Any other presentations required to convey the intent of the design.

Section 17.05 - Waste Receptacles

- (a) **Applicability.** The regulations of this section shall apply to all uses except residential uses with curb-side trash collection service. The enforcement official may modify the requirements of this section for a use that has alternative means of waste disposal and will have no outdoor storage of waste receptacles.
- (b) **Location.**
 - (1) Waste receptacles including dumpsters with enclosures, shall be located in the rear yard or non-required side yard, unless otherwise approved by the enforcement official.
 - (2) For non-residential uses adjoining a residential district, the waste receptacle enclosure shall be as far as practical, and in no case less than 20 feet, from any adjacent residential district.
 - (3) Waste receptacles shall be easily accessed by refuse vehicles without potentially damaging automobiles parked in designated parking spaces or interfering with the normal movement of vehicles on or off the site.
 - (4) The waste receptacle must be oriented to not directly face a street or driveway, unless approved by the enforcement official.
- (c) **Enclosure Materials and Screening Required.**
 - (1) All waste receptacles, including dumpsters and compactors, must be enclosed on three sides with a six foot high masonry enclosure constructed of the primary building materials of the principal building on the site.
 - (2) The enclosure shall also include a gate, made of wood or other high quality material, as determined by the enforcement official, on the fourth side. If the waste receptacle is a dumpster, it must have an enclosing lid or cover.
 - (3) All waste receptacles, associated enclosures and receptacle contents must be screened from public view.
 - (4) Supplemental landscaping to screen the waste receptacle enclosure shall be provided.
- (d) **General.**
 - (1) The waste receptacle base shall be at least nine feet by six feet in area, constructed of six inches of reinforced concrete pavement.
 - (2) The base shall extend six feet beyond the waste receptacle pad or gate to support the front axle of a refuse vehicle.
 - (3) Posts, bollards or bumpers shall also be provided to protect the enclosure from damage.
 - (4) The shared use of receptacles shall be allowed by adjoining businesses where sharing will not create a health or safety concern and where it does not result in the accumulation of visibly excessive quantities of waste.

Section 17.06 - Mechanical Equipment

- (a) **Applicability.** Any mechanical equipment or utilities and similar equipment associated with a commercial use, including water and gas meters, elevator housings, stairways, tanks, heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment, and other similar equipment, shall comply with the requirements of this section.
- (b) **Roof-Mounted Equipment Screening.** All roof-mounted equipment shall be screened by a solid wall or architectural feature that is compatible in appearance with the principal building; or the equipment shall be setback away from the edge of the building a distance sufficient to ensure that it is not visible from the public road or adjacent property. This requirement shall not apply to industrial buildings in an industrial district.
- (c) **Ground-Mounted Equipment.** All ground-mounted equipment shall be screened by a solid wall, fence or landscaping. Landscaping must create a continuous screen with the starting size of the plant material equal to or greater than the height of

the equipment at the time of planting.

Section 17.07 - Overlay Districts

The overlay districts contained in [Article 12](#) contain design standards that apply in addition to the requirements of this article. The overlay districts may also include additional design guidelines that have been adopted for the specific areas.

ARTICLE 18. - PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION PROVISIONS

Section 18.01 - Off-Street Parking Requirements

- (a) **Applicability of Parking Requirements.** For all buildings and uses established after the effective date of this ordinance, off-street parking shall be provided as required by this Article.
- (1) Whenever use of a building or lot is changed to another classification of use, off-street parking facilities shall be provided as required by this Article.
 - (2) If the intensity of use of any building or lot is increased, through the addition of floor area, increase in seating capacity or other means, additional off-street parking shall be provided for such increase in intensity of use.
 - (3) Off-street parking facilities in existence on the effective date of this ordinance shall not be reduced below the requirements of this Article.
 - (4) An area required for off-street parking shall not be changed to another use, unless equal facilities are provided elsewhere in accordance with the provisions of this Article.
- (b) **Required Off-Street Parking Spaces.** The minimum number of required off-street parking spaces shall be provided on premise, in accordance with Table 18.01(b), or as otherwise allowed by this Article.
- (1) **Fractional Spaces.** When units or measurements determining the number of required parking spaces result in a fraction over one-half a full parking space shall be required.
 - (2) **Uses not Listed.** For uses not specifically listed in Table 18.01(b), the required parking shall be in accordance with that of a similar use as determined by the county or city, based on documentation provided by the applicant regarding the specific parking needs of the use.
 - (3) **Bench Seating.** In calculating bench seating for places of assembly, each 24 inches of bench, pew or similar seating facilities shall be counted as one seat; except, if specifications and plans filed with the county or city denote a certain seating capacity that may be used as the basis for required parking space.
 - (4) **Employees.** Where the number of spaces required is based on the number of employees, calculations shall be based upon the maximum number of employees likely to be on the premises during the peak shift.
 - (5) **Floor Area.** Unless otherwise indicated, floor area shall be gross floor area (GFA) as defined in [Article 31](#).
 - (6) **Occupancy.** Where parking requirements are based upon maximum seating or occupancy capacity, the capacity shall be as determined by the building code and the fire code.

Table 18.01(b)
Required Off-Street Parking Spaces

Residential	
Single-family detached dwellings, two-family dwellings, single-family attached/townhouses	2 spaces per dwelling
Multiple-family dwellings	2 spaces per dwelling in county 1.5 spaces per dwelling in cities

Dwelling units for watchmen and operating personnel and their families	1.5 spaces per dwelling
Fraternity, sorority or student cooperatives	1 space per room
Mobile home parks and subdivisions	2 spaces per dwelling
Agriculture and animal-related uses	
Agricultural uses	1 space per employee
Roadside farm produce stand	6 spaces
Veterinary hospital	1 space per 300 sq. ft. gross floor area
Retail trade	
Retail uses, except as provided below	1 space per 250 sq. ft. gross floor area
Multi-tenant shopping centers	1 space per 250 sq. ft. gross floor area for the first 60,000 sq. ft. and 1 space per 225 sq. ft. gross floor area above 60,000 sq. ft. Where restaurants occupy more than 20% of the total floor area, their parking requirements shall be calculated separately
Retail with drive-through service	3 stacking spaces at each drive-through lane in addition to parking required for retail building
Adult retail store	1 space per 250 sq. ft. gross floor area
Convenience stores, grocery stores/super markets, liquor stores	1 space per 200 sq. ft. gross floor area
Furniture store	1 space per 400 sq. ft. gross floor area
Home improvement, building material sales, and lumber yard with open storage	1 space per 225 sq. ft. gross floor area
Services	
Service uses, except as provided below	1 space per 250 sq. ft. gross floor area
Barber/beauty shops	2 spaces for each beauty or barber chair plus 1 space for each employee

Dry cleaners	1 space per 500 sq. ft. gross floor area
Interior decorating shops	1 space per 400 sq. ft. gross floor area
Laundries	1 space for each 2 washing machines
Media store, general or with backroom	1 space per 300 sq. ft. gross floor area
Motor vehicle dealers and service	
Automobile rental	1 space per employee plus 1 customer space for each 5 rental car spaces
Automobile sales (new/used)	1 space per 400 sq. ft. gross floor area of sales room and 1 space for each auto service stall in the service area
Automobile washes	1 space per employee. Stacking spaces equal in number to 3 times the maximum capacity of the auto wash entering the wash plus 2 drying spaces
Gasoline service stations	1 space for each employee plus 1 space for each 100 square feet of floor area used for cashier and retail sales in addition to space provided at each fuel pump dispenser
Minor automobile service and repair	2 spaces per service stall plus 1 space per employee
Motorcycle, snowmobile and ATV sales/service	1 space per 400 sq. ft. gross floor area of sales room and 1 space for each service stall in the service area
Parts stores	1 space per 250 sq. ft. gross floor area
Truck rental	1 space per employee plus one space for each rental truck
Truck sales (new/used)	1 space per 400 sq. ft. gross floor area of sales room and 1 space for each service stall in the service area
Truck stops	1 space for each employee plus 1 space for each 100 square feet of floor area used for cashier and retail sales in addition to space provided at each fuel pump dispenser
Vehicle salvage yards	1 space per employee
Vehicle auctions	1 space per 400 sq. ft. gross floor area
Accommodation and food services	

Banquet halls	1 space per 250 sq. ft. gross floor area
Bed/breakfasts	1 space per guest room plus 2 spaces for the primary dwelling unit
Candy, and ice cream shops and delicatessens	1 space per 200 sq. ft. gross floor area
Catering services	1 space per 250 sq. ft. gross floor area
Exhibition halls	1 space per 250 sq. ft. gross floor area
Hotel-miniums	1 space per 1 guest room
Hotels/motels	1 space per 2 guest rooms plus parking equal to 30% of the capacity of affiliated uses such as dining or meeting rooms
Restaurants, carryout	6 spaces per service or counter station, plus 1 space for each employee
Restaurants, not including drive-in	1 space per 70 sq. ft. gross floor area
Restaurant, drive-in	1 space for each employee in addition to customer stations
Restaurant, drive-thru	1 space for each employee plus 1 space for each 75 square feet of dining area and 8 stacking spaces for each drive-through window
Restaurant and taverns with outdoor seating	1 space per table outdoors in addition to interior parking requirements
Taverns and bars	1 space per 70 sq. ft. gross floor area
Finance, insurance, real estate, professional, scientific, and technical	
Banks & financial institutions	1 space per 200 sq. ft. gross floor area. Drive-up windows shall be provided 4 stacking spaces for the first window, plus 3 spaces for each additional window
Offices, general and professional with accessory research and testing, blueprinting and photostatting establishments, newspaper offices including printing, printing and publishing establishments, radio, television and recording studios, research & development laboratories, travel agencies	1 space per 300 sq. ft. gross floor area

Health care and social assistance	
Day care centers, commercial/preschools	1 space per employee plus 2 drop off spaces
Day care homes, residential	2 spaces
Foster care homes	2 spaces
Funeral homes/mortuaries	1 space per 50 sq. ft. gross floor area
Group homes	2 spaces
Hospitals	2 spaces per patient bed
Medical and dental clinics	1 space per 200 sq. ft. gross floor area
Medical laboratories	1 space per 250 sq. ft. gross floor area
Nursing homes and senior assisted living	1 for each employee plus 1 for each 6 persons in residence
Optical, orthopedic and medical appliance sales	1 space per 250 sq. ft. gross floor area
Philanthropic and eleemosynary institutions	1 space per 250 sq. ft. gross floor area
Entertainment and recreation	
Adult cabaret	1 space per 70 sq. ft. gross floor area
Adult theater	1 space per 2 seats
Amusement/arcade establishments	1 space for each amusement device
Amusement parks	20 spaces per ride
Boat clubs, boat harbors and marinas	1 space per boat well
Boat sales, including service	1 space per 800 sq. ft. sales floor area
Boat storage	1 space per 10 boats stores
Bowling alleys	5 spaces per lane plus spaces required for accessory uses such as a bar or restaurant
Commercial outdoor recreation facilities such as batting cages, driving ranges and put-put golf	2 spaces per batting cage, archery range or similar activity

Campgrounds	1 space per camp site
Casinos	1 space per 50 sq. ft. gaming floor area plus spaces required for restaurants, bars and hotel
Dance schools	1 space per 200 sq. ft. gross floor area
Golf course and country clubs	6 spaces per golf hole and 1 space for each one employee, plus spaces required for each accessory use such as a restaurant or bar
Health and athletic clubs	1 space per 200 sq. ft. gross floor area
Ice skating rinks	25 spaces per rink
Racetracks and go-cart tracks	2 spaces per go-cart or race vehicle
Shooting ranges, indoors	2 spaces per shooting range station
Stadiums/arenas	1 space per 4 seats or 8 feet of benches
Theaters	1 space per 2 seats
Civic, religious, social assistance organizations	
Cemeteries	10 spaces for each interment based on the maximum number per hour
Churches, chapels, temples, synagogues and similar places of worship	1 space for each 3 seats or 6 feet of pews in the main unit of worship
Clubs, lodges, union halls, community centers, conference and convention halls	1 space per 200 sq. ft. gross floor area
Convents, monasteries and seminaries	1 space per 3 beds
Educational services	
Colleges, universities	1 space per classroom plus 1 space per 3 students based on the maximum number of students attending classes at any one time
Driving schools	1 space per classroom plus 1 space per 3 students based on the maximum number of students attending classes at any one time

Libraries	1 space per 300 sq. ft. gross floor area
Schools, commercial and trade	1 space per classroom plus 1 space per 2 students based on the maximum number of students attending classes at any one time
Schools, elementary, middle	1 space for each one teacher, employee or administrator
Schools, high	1 space for each one teacher, employee, or administrator and 1 for each 10 students, in addition to the requirements of the auditorium or stadium, whichever seats more
Training centers, engineering or sales	1 space per classroom plus 1 space per 2 students based on the maximum number of students attending classes at any one time
Public administration	
Government buildings excluding correctional facilities	1 space per 250 sq. ft. gross floor area
Correctional facilities	1 space per employee
Museums, civic buildings and landmarks preserved for public inspection	1 space per 300 sq. ft. gross floor area
Transportation and warehousing	
Airports and heliports	As determined by airport
Bottled gas storage and distribution	1 space per employee
Bus and passenger rail terminals	10 spaces per bus or train departure per day
Warehouses, cartage, express, and parcel delivery establishments, freight terminals, moving companies	1 space per 1500 sq. ft. gross floor area
Self-storage facilities	1 space for each 20 storage units plus 2 spaces for manager's residence
Taxicab dispatching	1 space per employee, plus paces for taxicabs
Wholesale business	1 space per 500 sq. ft. gross floor area
Manufacturing	
Manufacturing uses	1 space per 500 sq. ft. gross floor area

Utilities	
Public utility buildings, sewage treatment plants, telephone exchange buildings, transmission lines for gas, oil and electricity	1 space per employee
Utility substations	1 space
Construction	
Construction and contractors establishments	1 space per 250 sq. ft. gross floor area or 1 space per employee
Waste processing and disposal	
Waste processing and disposal, recycling facility, salvage yards and landfills	1 space per employee
Mining	
Mineral extraction & general mining operations	1 space per employee

(7) **Maximum Allowed Parking.** While it is the intent of this ordinance to ensure that adequate off-street parking is available in conjunction with all uses, it is also recognized that excessive paved areas reduce aesthetics, create excess heat and glare and contribute to high rates of storm water runoff. Therefore, the maximum parking permitted for any nonresidential use shall not exceed the minimum parking space requirements by more than 20 percent, unless additional parking is granted by approval of the board of zoning appeals. In granting such additional space, the board of zoning appeals shall determine that added parking will be required, based on documented evidence, to accommodate the use on a typical day. The board of zoning appeals may require that additional spaces be constructed with alternative paving materials, such as permeable/grass pavers or pervious concrete.

(8) **Additional Parking.** The Enforcement Official may require a land owner to provide additional off-street parking, even if the number of off-street parking spaces provided meets the minimum requirement for the established use, if customers or employees are consistently required to park on a street where on-street parking is prohibited or on other properties due to a lack of available off-street parking.

(c) **CBD1 Downtown District Parking.**

- (1) Within the CBD1 Downtown District, re-use of existing buildings that were in existence prior to the effective date of this ordinance shall be exempt from the parking requirements of this section and such buildings may be renovated or reoccupied without the need to provide additional parking. Any expansion to an existing building shall be required to provide additional parking for the expanded floor area, subject to paragraph (2) below.
- (2) Any new non-residential building less than 5,000 square feet in gross floor area in the CBD1 Downtown District shall not be required to provide off-street parking. A new non-residential building larger than 5,000 square feet shall be required to provide parking calculated for the gross floor area in excess of the first 5,000 square feet. If the city has established a special assessment district or similar funding mechanism to provide public parking in the downtown, the parking requirements of this article may be satisfied through a payment in lieu of on-site parking to the special assessment district or fund.

(3) Any new residential building in the CBD1 Downtown District shall be required to provide off-street parking in accordance with this section.

(d) **Collective and Shared Parking.** Two or more buildings or uses may use a common parking facility. The total number of parking spaces provided shall be equal to the required number of spaces for all of the uses computed separately. Cumulative parking requirements for mixed-use developments or shared facilities may be reduced by the Enforcement Official subject to the standards of Table 18.01(e), Shared Parking Table. Where uses are on separately-owned lots, a legal agreement for shared parking shall be recorded and a copy provided to the county or city before a certificate of occupancy is issued.

(e) **Reduction of Parking Requirements.** The enforcement official may reduce the parking requirements based upon the following provisions.

- (1) A high proportion of multi-purpose visits are expected or uses have significantly different peak parking demands during the day or days of the week (such as offices and restaurants or churches and retailers). Pedestrian connections shall be maintained between the uses. For separate lots, they shall have pedestrian and vehicular connections between the lots. Shared parking agreements shall be filed with the county or city after approval and before a certificate of occupancy is issued.
- (2) Convenient municipal off-street parking or on-street spaces located along the site's frontage are available.
- (3) Expectation of walk-in business due to sidewalk connections to adjacent residential neighborhoods or employment centers.
- (4) Availability of other forms of travel, such as transit or non-motorized transportation, that can reasonably be expected to reduce parking demand. The enforcement official may require pedestrian connections be provided to nearby transit stops or similar facilities.
- (5) Where the applicant has provided a parking study that demonstrates that another standard would be more appropriate based on actual number of employees, expected level of customer traffic or actual counts at a similar establishment.

(6) **MU Mixed-Use District.**

a. **Shared Parking Without a Study.** In the Mixed-Use (MU) district, the minimum total number of required number of off-street parking spaces may be determined by the following procedures:

1. Multiply the minimum required parking for each individual use category as determined by the Enforcement Official, excluding spaces reserved for use by specified individuals or classes of individuals (for example, accessible spaces or spaces posted as "reserved"), by the appropriate percentage listed in Table 18.01(e), Shared Parking Table, for each of the designated time periods.
2. Calculate a sum for all uses for each of the five columns. The minimum parking requirement is the highest of these sums.
3. In general, the maximum reduction shall be 25 percent. However, a greater reduction is permitted, provided that the applicant banks sufficient land for each parking space in excess of the 25 percent reduction that is not constructed in accordance with Subsection (3) below.

Table 18.01(e)
Shared Parking Table

General Use Category	Weekday			Weekend	
	Night (12 AM to 6 AM)	Day (6 AM to 6 PM)	Evening (6 PM to 12 AM)	Day (6 AM to 6 PM)	Evening (6 PM to 12 AM)
Residential	100%	60%	90%	80%	90%
Finance, insurance, real	5%	100%	10%	10%	5%

estate, professional, scientific, and technical					
Retail/Commercial	5%	70%	90%	100%	70%
Accommodation	80%	80%	100%	50%	100%
Food Services	10%	50%	100%	50%	100%
Entertainment and Recreation	10%	40%	100%	80%	100%
All Others	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

b. **Shared Parking with a Parking Study.** As an alternative to following the provisions in Paragraph a., Shared Parking Without a Study, above, an applicant may submit a parking study in accordance with Subsection (c), above, except that the enforcement official, rather than the Board of Zoning Appeals, may approve or deny the reduced parking request.

(7) **Mixed Use District and B1 Neighborhood Business Adjoining R1E Waterfront Residential.** Legal on-street parking spaces may be used to satisfy or partially satisfy the minimum parking requirements of this Article. On-street parking spaces are in no way limited by use to customers, employees or visitors of the associated use. Such parking spaces shall be available to the general public. The accrual of on-street parking credit shall be in accordance with the following:

- a. Any on-street parking space shall be located on a public street directly adjoining and on the same side of the street as the associated use.
- b. Bus stops, clear zones adjacent to curb cuts, and other areas in which parking is prohibited shall not be included in the calculation of on-street parking credit.
- c. For the purposes of this Section, an on-street parking space shall be a minimum of 20 feet in length. The number of on-street parking credits that a use receives shall be calculated along the perimeter of the subject property.

(8) **Bicycle Parking.**

- a. Bicycle parking may substitute for up to five percent of required parking spaces as set forth in Table 18.01(b), Required Off-Street Parking Spaces, in accordance with the following calculation method:

For every five bicycle parking spaces provided in excess of those required by Table 18.02(j), the vehicle parking minimum requirement shall be reduced by one space. Existing parking may be converted to take advantage of this provision.

(f) **Banked Parking.**

- (1) Where a reduction in the number of parking spaces is not warranted, based on the criteria in subsection (f), but an applicant demonstrates that the required parking requirements for a proposed use is not immediately necessary, the enforcement official may defer some of the parking. The site plan shall designate portions of the site for future construction of the required parking spaces, indicating the location, layout, and number of deferred spaces. The designated area for future parking shall be maintained in a landscaped appearance and shall not be located within required greenbelts or parking lot setback areas or be used for any other purpose.
- (2) The banked parking shall meet ordinance requirements, if constructed. Construction of the deferred parking to add parking spaces may be initiated by the owner or required by the county or city, based on parking needs or observation, and shall

require administrative approval of an amended site plan. The county or city may request a performance guarantee to cover the cost of developing the deferred parking lot.

(g) Use Limitations.

- (1) Off-street parking areas are intended only for temporary vehicle parking for public safety by keeping parked cars off the streets. Except when land is authorized to be used as storage space in connection with the business of a repair or service garage, parking areas or open land shall not be used for storage or parking of wrecked or junked vehicles.
- (2) It shall be unlawful to use a parking lot or open area for the storage of merchandise, materials, trucks, trailers, construction trailers, recreational vehicles and equipment, except for uses approved for this purpose. This provision shall not apply to areas designated for fleet and company vehicles, provided they are located in the side and rear yards.
- (3) The parking of any vehicle for the purpose of displaying the vehicle for sale shall only be allowed at an approved vehicle sales dealership.
- (4) The parking or storage of inoperable or unlicensed vehicles shall be prohibited, except under the following circumstances:
 - a. Within an enclosed building; or
 - b. In a screened yard of an approved motor vehicle use that is properly zoned, and approved for the storage of vehicles under this ordinance.

(h) Location of Parked Vehicles.

- (1) Vehicles may only be parked in a driveway, garage or parking lot meeting the requirements of 18.02. Vehicles may not be parked in any lawn or yard area, except on a parking lot or driveway. Vehicles shall not be parked in landscape greenbelts or other landscaped areas required by this ordinance.
- (2) On-street parking and parking in the public right-of-way shall be subject to the applicable parking and traffic control regulations of the city or county.
- (3) Vehicles shall not be parked in locations that obstruct sidewalks or nonmotorized pathways.

(i) Barrier Free Parking.

- (1) Within each parking lot, signed and marked barrier free spaces shall be provided at a convenient location, in accordance with Table 18.01(i) or in accordance with the building code, whichever is more restrictive.

Table 18.01(i)
Barrier Free Parking Space Requirements

Number of Spaces in Parking Lot	Required Number of Barrier Free Spaces
1 to 25	1
26 to 50	2
51 to 75	3
76 to 100	4
101 to 150	5
151 to 200	6
201 to 300	7

301 to 400	8
401 to 500	9
501 to 1,000	2% of total
1,001 & Over	20 plus 1 for each 100 over 1,000

(2) Barrier free parking spaces shall meet the standards for parking facilities for persons with physical disabilities IC 5-16-9.

(3) Barrier free spaces shall be located as close as possible to building entrances and walkways.

(4) Where a curb exists between a parking lot surface and a sidewalk entrance, an inclined approach or curb ramp with a running slope not exceeding 1:12, a cross slope not exceeding 1:48, width of four feet minimum, with detectable warning devices, shall be provided to accommodate handicapped accessibility in accordance with current State of Indiana Code or ADA requirements.

(j) **Bicycle Parking.**

(1) **Generally.** All retail sales, food services, office, entertainment, recreation, civic, educational, mixed-use, and public uses shall provide bicycle parking in accordance with this Subsection.

(2) **Calculating Space Requirements.** Table 18.01(j), Bicycle Parking Space Requirements, sets out the required number of spaces for bicycle parking. One bicycle parking rack may have room for several parking spaces. Where an option is provided, whichever results in the greatest number of spaces is the minimum required. For land uses not specifically mentioned in the table, requirements will be determined based on the most similar use listed.

Table 18.01(j)
Bicycle Parking Space Requirements

Uses/Standards	Required Long-Term Bicycle Parking Spaces	Required Short-Term Bicycle Parking Spaces
Retail Trade Uses		
All specific uses ¹	2 or 1 per 50,000 sq. ft. gross floor area	2 or 1 per 25,000 sq. ft. gross floor area
Accommodation and food services		
All uses except as listed below	2, or 1 per 50 employees	4, or 1 per 50 seats
Hotels/motels, bed and breakfasts	2, or 1 per 50 rooms	
Finance, insurance, real estate, professional, scientific, and technical		
All specific uses ²	2 or 1 per 50,000 sq. ft. gross floor area	2 or 1 per 50,000 sq. ft. gross floor area
Health care and social assistance		

Hospitals, medical clinics and dental clinics	2, or 1 per 50 employees	2 or 1 per 25,000 sq. ft. gross floor area
All other specific uses are exempt	N/A	N/A
Entertainment and recreation		
Amusement/arcade establishments	2, or 1 per 50 employees	2, or 1 per 25,000 sq. ft. gross floor area
Health and athletic clubs		
Stadiums/arenas		4, or 1 per 500 seats
Theaters		4, or 1 per 100 seats
All other specific uses are exempt	N/A	N/A
Educational services		
Colleges, universities	1 per	
Driving schools		
Training centers, engineering or sales		
Libraries	2, or 1 per 50 employees	2, or 1 per 25,000 sq. ft. gross floor area
All other specific uses are exempt	N/A	N/A
Transportation and warehousing		
Bus and passenger rail terminals	N/A	1 per 50 daily boardings
Warehouses, cartage, express, and parcel delivery establishments, freight terminals, moving companies	2, or 1 per 50 employees	N/A
Manufacturing		
Manufacturing uses	2, or 1 per 50 employees	N/A
Utilities		
All specific uses are exempt		
Construction & Mining		

All specific uses	2, or 1 per 50 employees	N/A
Civic, religious, social assistance organizations; Public administration; Waste processing and disposal		
All specific uses are exempt	N/A	N/A
¹ Retail Trade uses below 3,000 sq. ft. gross floor area are exempt from bicycle parking requirements. ² Office buildings below 10,000 sq. ft. gross floor area are exempt from bicycle parking requirements.		

- (3) **Additions to Existing Structures or Uses.** The standards in Table 18.01(j) apply when any existing use or structure is proposed for an addition or expansion that increases the unit of measurement (including, but not limited to, gross floor area, seating capacity, or number of employees) used for computing the required parking facilities for that use. When a lawful building or use not meeting the requirements for bicycle parking is increased in gross floor area by 49 percent or less, then only the addition shall be required to meet these standards. When a lawful building or use not meeting the requirements for bicycle parking is increased in gross floor area by more than 50 percent, then both the existing building or use and the addition shall be required to meet these standards.
- (4) **Reduction or Waiver Requirements.** The Enforcement Official is authorized to reduce or waive the bicycle parking space requirements if there are extraordinary circumstances related to land use, adjacent road network and bicycle accessibility, availability of bicycle parking off the premises, or other mitigating circumstances.
- (5) **On-Site Parking.** Bicycle spaces shall be required on-site, except that public bicycle parking facilities within the same block face, or within 400 feet of the main entrance may satisfy short-term parking requirements. Secured indoor spaces on-site with ample room and accessibility for bicycles may satisfy long-term parking requirements.
- (6) **Bicycle Parking Design Standards.** Bicycle parking shall be designed so that:
- The bicycle frame and one wheel can be locked to the rack with a high security, U-shaped lock if both wheels are left on the bicycle;
 - A bicycle that is six feet long can be securely held with its frame supported so that the bicycle cannot be pushed or fall in a manner that will damage the wheel components;
 - Racks can be securely anchored;
 - Areas devoted to bicycle parking are hard surfaced; and
 - The rack allows an additional locking point other than at the wheel.

(Ord. No. 4254, § 3(Exh. A), 10-30-2013; Ord. No. 4500, §§ 5.28.—5.32., 2-5-2019)

Section 18.02 - Off-Street Parking Facility Design

Whenever the off-street parking requirements in this Article require the building of an off-street parking facility, the off-street parking lots shall be laid out, constructed and maintained in accordance with the following regulations.

- Setbacks.** Off street parking lots shall be setback from lot lines where necessary to meet the greenbelt and buffer zone requirements of Section 17.02.
- Location.** Off-street parking facilities shall be located on the lot or within 300 feet of the building(s) they are intended to serve, as measured along lines of public access from the nearest point of the parking facility to the building(s) served. In the CBD1 Downtown District, parking facilities shall be located within 600 feet of the building to be served.
- Access.**
 - Adequate ingress and egress, meeting the requirements of Section 18.04 Driveway Access Management, shall be provided to the parking lot for all vehicles by means of clearly limited and defined drives.

- (2) All spaces shall be provided adequate access by means of maneuvering lanes.
 - (3) Parking lots shall be designed to prevent vehicles from backing into the street or requiring use of the street for maneuvering between parking rows.
 - (4) Where a parking lot is located in any district that does not permit single family dwellings, ingress or egress shall not be permitted to cross land zoned for single family residential use. However, in instances where access is provided by means of an alley that forms the boundary between a residential and non-residential district such access shall be permitted.
 - (5) Emergency vehicle access shall be provided to all parking lots and storage areas.
- (d) **Parking Dimensional Requirements.** All parking lots shall be striped and maintained showing individual parking bays, in accordance with Table 18.02.

Table 18.02
Minimum Off-Street Parking Dimensional Requirements

Parking Pattern	Parking Space		Maneuvering Lane Width	
	Width	Length	One Way	Two Way
0 (Parallel)	8 ft.	24 ft.	12 ft.	24 ft.
30° to 53°	8.5 ft.	18 ft.	12 ft.	24 ft.
54° to 74°	9 ft.	18 ft.	15 ft.	24 ft.
75° to 90°	9 ft.	18 ft.	22 ft.	24 ft.

- (1) Angled parking between these ranges shall be to the nearest degree.
 - (2) Space length may be reduced by up to two feet if an unobstructed overhang of not less than two feet is provided, such as a landscaped area or sidewalk. A sidewalk shall have a minimum width of seven feet where abutting a parking space.
 - (3) Stacking spaces for drive through uses shall be at least 20 feet long and ten feet wide. Required stacking spaces shall not block required off-street parking spaces.
 - (4) Space-efficient parking lot designs are encouraged for a given parking area. Use of angled parking patterns with one-way drive aisles is encouraged when practical, to reducing the required area of impervious surface.
 - (5) In commercial parking lots and parking lots for employee parking, up to 20 percent of parking spaces may be designed for compact cars with a minimum width of eight feet and a minimum length of 14 feet. Signage shall be provided limiting the spaces to compact vehicles.
- (e) **Construction and Maintenance.** The construction of any parking lot shall require approval of a site plan, in accordance with Section 23.03.
- (1) All parking lots and vehicle and equipment storage areas shall be paved with asphalt or concrete meeting the county or city engineering standards, as applicable. Alternative paving materials, such as permeable/grass pavers may be approved by the enforcement official, and may be preferred for areas receiving lower traffic volume, such as overflow parking. For storage areas, the enforcement official may approve a substitute for hard-surfaced pavement upon a determination that there are no adverse effects on adjoining properties.
 - (2) Parking aisles may be graded towards sunken, vegetated buffer strips that are a minimum of eight feet wide and planted with trees and native herbaceous vegetation. An underdrain and soil amendment may be provided in the buffers if on-site soils are poorly drained. Surface water from parking areas shall be detained on site in accordance with Chapter 46,

Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances.

- (3) Off-street parking areas shall be landscaped in accordance with the requirements of Section 17.02.
- (4) Off-street parking areas shall be screened from adjacent residential uses and residential zoning districts in accordance with the requirements of Section 17.03.
- (5) Off-street parking areas shall be illuminated in accordance with the requirements of Section 17.04.
- (6) Fire lanes shall be designated on the site and posted with signage prior to occupancy. Vehicle circulation shall meet turning radius requirements set by the fire department.
- (7) All parking lots shall be maintained free of trash and debris. Surface, curbing, light fixtures and signage shall be maintained in good condition.

- (f) **Walkway from Sidewalk to Entrance.** The developer shall install walkways on private property to connect public sidewalks to building entrances, parking structures or areas, open spaces, and any other destinations warranting pedestrian access.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.33., 2-5-2019; Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.12), 8-4-2025)

Section 18.03 - Off-Street Loading Requirements

- (a) **Uses Requiring Loading Area.** On the same premises with every building erected and occupied for manufacturing, storage, warehouse, retail sales, consumer services or other uses similarly involving the receipt or distribution of vehicles, materials or merchandise, there shall be provided and maintained on the lot adequate space for standing, loading and unloading services. The enforcement official may permit central loading areas to be shared by multiple uses, such as in a retail shopping center or office park.
- (b) **Not Included with Parking.** Required loading areas shall not be included in calculations for off-street parking space requirements.
- (c) **Location.** Loading/unloading areas and docks shall not be provided in the front yard. Where possible, loading areas shall be integrated into the design of the building to minimize visibility.
- (d) **Orientation of Overhead Doors.** Overhead doors for truck loading areas shall not face a public street or an adjacent residential district. This provision shall not apply to industrial uses located in M2 Districts where the building is setback at least 200 feet from the front lot line and a landscape greenbelt is provided in accordance with the requirements of Section 17.02.
- (e) **Size.** The size of all required loading/unloading spaces shall be at least ten feet by 50 feet or 500 sq. ft. in area, with a clearance of at least 14 feet in height. The enforcement official may modify this requirement for uses that will involve smaller delivery trucks, such as office buildings.
- (f) **Traffic Flow.** The size of the loading area shall be sufficient to prevent undue interference with adjacent required parking spaces, maneuvering aisles, or traffic flow on public streets.
- (g) **Number.** The minimum number of loading spaces shall be provided in accordance with Table 18.03.

Table 18.03
Off-Street Loading Requirements

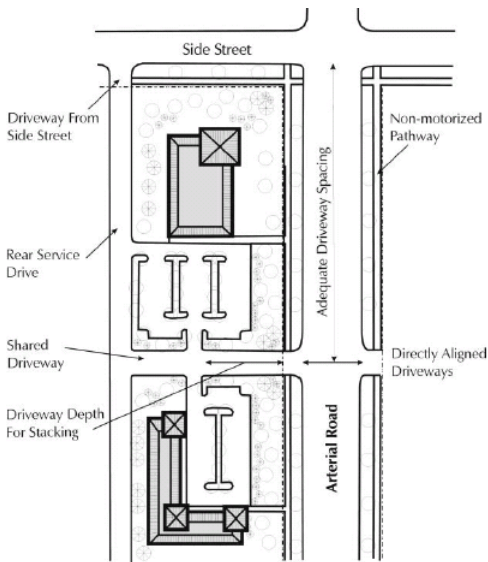
Gross Floor Area (in square feet)	Loading & Unloading Space Required
Commercial, Office & Institutional Uses	
Up to 20,000	1 space
20,001 - 60,000	1 space plus 1 space for each additional 20,000 sq. ft
60,001 & over	3 space plus 1 space for each additional 50,000 sq. ft

Industrial Uses	
Up to 20,000	1 space
20,001 - 100,000	1 space plus 1 space for each additional 20,000 sq. ft
100,001 - 500,000	5 spaces plus 1 space per additional 40,000 sq. ft in excess of 100,000
500,001 & over	15 spaces plus 1 space for each additional 80,000 sq. ft in excess of 500,000

- (h) **Exceptions.** For uses that will not require large truck deliveries, the enforcement official may determine that loading may take place in undesignated places in parking lots provided such loading is of a short-term nature.
- (i) **Pavement.** Loading dock approaches shall be constructed of asphalt or concrete with a base sufficient to accommodate expected vehicle weight.
- (j) **Screening.** Loading areas shall be screened from adjacent uses in accordance with the requirements of Section 17.03.
- (k) **Lighting.** Illumination of loading areas shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section 17.04.
- (l) **Maintenance.** Loading areas shall be maintained free of trash and debris. Surface, curbing, light fixtures and signage shall be maintained in good condition.

Section 18.04 - Driveway Access Management

- (a) **Purpose.** This section is intended to provide standards for the number and placement of access points (driveways and side street intersections) in order to preserve the capacity of major roadways and reduce the potential for crashes. The standards of this section are intended to promote safe and efficient travel within the county or city and minimize disruptive and potentially hazardous traffic conflicts. Preservation of roadway capacity through access management protects the substantial public investment in the roadway system and helps avoid the need for costly capacity upgrades. Proper driveway location and design will also help maintain a safe and efficient roadway system minimizing the loss of life and property from vehicle crashes.
- (b) **Driveway Location in General.**
 - (1) All driveways shall comply with the requirements of this section. Driveways shall also be subject to city engineering, county highway and INDOT access requirements. Where conflict occurs, the more restrictive standards shall apply.
 - (2) Driveways shall be located to minimize interference with the free movement of traffic and to provide the most favorable driveway grade.
 - (3) Driveways shall be located to meet safe sight distance requirements, as determined by the enforcement official. The driveway spacing requirements of this section may be modified by the enforcement official where necessary to provide safe sight distance.



(c) Driveway Spacing Standards.

- (1) Minimum spacing requirements between a proposed driveway and an intersection either adjacent or on the opposite side of the street may be set on a case-by-case basis but in no instance shall be less than the distances listed in Table 18.04(c)(1). The following measurements are from the centerline of the proposed driveway to the near lane edge of the intersecting street or pavement edge for uncurbed sections.

Table 18.04(c)(1)
Minimum Driveway Spacing from Street Intersections (a)

Location of Driveway	Minimum Spacing for a Full Movement Driveway	Minimum Spacing for a Channelized Driveway Restricting Left Turns
Along any street intersecting a limited access highway interchange	600 ft.	600 ft.
Along major thoroughfares, where intersecting street is a major thoroughfare	250 ft.	125 ft.
Along major thoroughfares, where intersecting street is not a major thoroughfare	200 ft.	125 ft.
All other streets	75 ft.	50 ft.

- a. For sites with insufficient street frontage to meet the above criterion, the enforcement official may require construction of the driveway on a side street, a shared driveway with an adjacent property, construction of the driveway along the lot line farthest from the intersection, or require a service street.
- (2) Minimum spacing between two driveways shall be determined based upon posted speed limits along the parcel frontage. The minimum spacing indicated in Table 18.04(c)(2) are measured from centerline to centerline on the same side of the

street.

Table 18.04(c)(2)
Minimum Driveway Spacing from Another Driveway (a)

Posted Speed Limit (MPH)	Minimum Driveway Spacing (b)
25	130 ft.
30	185 ft.
35	245 ft.
40	300 ft.
45	350 ft.
50	395 ft.
55 & Over	435 ft.

- a. For sites with insufficient street frontage to meet the above criterion, the enforcement official may allow a lesser spacing where the driveway is spaced from other driveways to the maximum extent possible.
- b. For residential lots located on minor residential streets, one driveway shall be permitted per lot. One additional driveway may be where there is sufficient frontage to meet the driveway spacing requirements of Table 18.04(c)(2) above.

- (3) To reduce left-turn conflicts, new driveways shall be aligned with those across the street where possible. If alignment is not possible along major thoroughfares, driveways shall be offset from those on the opposite side of the street as follows:
 - a. If the proposed drive is offset such that vehicles turning left into driveways do not pass prior to reaching the driveways, the minimum spacing shall be 150 feet.
 - b. If the proposed drive is offset such that vehicles turning left into driveways will pass prior to reaching the driveways, the minimum spacing shall be 250 feet.
- (4) In the case of expansion, alteration or redesign of an existing development where it can be demonstrated that pre-existing conditions prohibit adherence to the minimum driveway spacing standards, the enforcement official may modify the driveway spacing requirements. Such modifications shall be the minimum necessary, but in no case shall spacing of two full-access driveways be less than 60 feet, measured centerline to centerline.

(d) Number of Driveways.

- (1) The number of driveways serving a property shall be the minimum number necessary to provide reasonable access, including access for emergency vehicles, while preserving traffic operations and safety along the public street.
- (2) Access shall be provided per separately owned parcel. This access may be an individual driveway, shared driveway or via a service drive.
- (3) One driveway shall be permitted for each lot. A second driveway may be permitted for property that has sufficient frontage to meet the driveway spacing standards of subsection 18.04(c) above from the first driveway on the site and all driveways on adjacent and opposing property.

(e) Driveway Design.

- (1) All driveways shall be designed according to the standards of the county, city or INDOT, as applicable. Driveways shall have a

maximum width of 30 feet, excluding tapers or curb radii. Wider driveways shall be allowed for locations with large volumes of truck traffic.

- (2) For high traffic generators, or for driveways along streets experiencing or expected to experience congestion, the enforcement official may require two egress lanes.
- (3) For a boulevard entrance, a fully curbed island, at least 180 square feet in area, shall separate the ingress and egress lanes. The radii forming the edges on this island shall be designed to accommodate the largest vehicle that will normally use the driveway.

(f) Shared Driveways, Frontage Streets and Service Drives.

- (1) The number of access points may be reduced where the enforcement official determines that there may be a beneficial effect on traffic operations and safety, while preserving the property owner's right to reasonable access. In this case, a shared driveway, frontage street or rear service drive connecting two or more properties or uses may be required. Service streets may be required near existing traffic signals or near locations having potential for future signalization; along major thoroughfares with high traffic volumes; and where there are a relatively high number of crashes or there is limited sight distance. Shared access or cross access shall be required between all sites that are in the same or similar zoning district (e.g. between all adjacent commercially zoned properties).
- (2) Shared driveways and service streets shall be within an access easement recorded with La Porte County. A draft of the access easement shall be provided to the county or city, as applicable, for review and approval prior to filing.
- (3) Service Street and Shared Driveway Design Standards.
 - a. Location. Service streets shall generally be parallel or perpendicular to the front lot line and may be located either in front of, adjacent to, or behind, principal buildings. The enforcement official shall determine the most appropriate alignment, taking into account setbacks of existing buildings and anticipated traffic flow for the site and the corridor.
 - b. Access Easement. The service street shall be within an access easement permitting traffic circulation between properties. The required width shall remain free and clear of obstructions, unless otherwise approved by the enforcement official.
 - c. Construction and Materials. Service streets shall have a base, pavement and curb with gutter in accordance the applicable county or city standards for public streets, except the width of the service street shall have a minimum pavement width of 24 feet.
 - d. Access to Service Street. The enforcement official shall approve the location of all access points to the service street, based on the driveway spacing standards of this section.
 - e. Temporary Access. The enforcement official may approve temporary access where a continuous service street is not yet available and a performance guarantee is provided to assure elimination of temporary access when the service street is continued.
 - f. Elevation. The site plan shall indicate the proposed elevation of the service street at the lot line. The county or city, as applicable, shall maintain a record of all service street elevations so that their grades can be coordinated.
 - g. Landscaping. The area between a service street and the public street right-of-way shall be planted as a landscaped greenbelt, as specified in [Section 18.02](#).
 - h. Maintenance. Each property owner shall be responsible for maintenance of the easement and service drive.

Section 18.05 - Nonmotorized Pathways

- (a) **Purpose.** The purpose of this section is to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the public by the development of a comprehensive non-motorized system to improve access, promote health, conserve energy resources and provide recreation opportunities.
- (b) **Applicability.** Sidewalks shall be required in the following areas:
 - (1) The incorporated areas of all cities.
 - (2) The unincorporated areas of the county within two miles of the borders of the cities of La Porte or Michigan City.
- (c) **Sidewalk Requirement.** Within the applicable areas described in subsection (b) above, sidewalks shall be provided along all

streets as follows:

- (1) Sidewalks shall be required along both sides of all streets in all subdivision plats and mixed-use and multiple-family developments.
- (2) Sidewalks shall be required for all uses along all major thoroughfare frontages. The applicant, owner or developer of any use that is subject to site plan approval under Section 23.02 shall be required to install a sidewalk along the entire street frontage of the petitioner's lot, meeting the requirements of this section.
- (d) **Location.** Sidewalks shall be installed by the developer one foot within the dedicated street right-of-way. Sidewalks shall be located to align with existing or future sidewalks on adjacent lots. Where the applicable road agency determines that there is not sufficient right-of-way for sidewalks, the sidewalks shall be installed in pedestrian easements adjacent to the right-of-way.
- (e) **Construction Standards.** All sidewalks shall be four inch thick concrete, pervious pavement, rubber pavement systems or other suitable surface, as determined by the enforcement official, and constructed to the city engineering specifications. All sidewalks shall be at least five feet wide. Sidewalks shall be graded such that runoff sheet flows to an adjacent vegetated area. Multi-modal pathways may be constructed of asphalt or concrete meeting the above thickness specifications or as specified by the county highway engineer or city engineer.
- (f) **Crosswalks.** An inclined approach shall be required where sidewalks intersect curbs for barrier free access to the sidewalk. Crosswalk pavement markings and signs may be required at intersections.
- (g) **Installation of Residential Sidewalks.** Required sidewalks may be installed for a residential lot in a new residential subdivision after construction of the dwelling unit, if the developer has posted a performance guarantee to cover the cost of all sidewalk installation. A certificate of occupancy for the dwelling shall not be issued until the required sidewalk is installed.
- (h) **Low Density Developments.** For residential developments where the overall density is less than one dwelling unit per 24,000 square feet or 1.8 units per acre, the sidewalk requirement for streets internal to the development may be substituted for another form of pedestrian circulation system, such as sidewalks on one side of the street or pathways through open space areas.
- (i) **Trails.** Within Michigan City, trails shall be provided as set out in the Comprehensive Plan. Connections between land uses and trails shall be provided where the trail crosses or abuts the parcel proposed for development.

(Ord. No. 4500, §§ 5.34., 5.35, 2-5-2019)

ARTICLE 19. - SIGNS

Section 19.01 - Intent

This article is intended to regulate signs and to minimize outdoor advertising in order to protect public safety, health and welfare; minimize abundance and size of signs to reduce visual clutter, motorist distraction, and loss of visibility; promote public convenience; preserve property values; and enhance the aesthetic appearance and quality of life of the community. The requirements contained herein are intended to be content neutral. The following objectives are accomplished by establishing the minimum amount of regulations necessary concerning the size, placement, construction, illumination, and other aspects of signs in the county and cities in order to:

- (a) Protect the public right to receive messages, including religious, political, economic, social, philosophical and other types of information protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
- (b) Recognize that the proliferation of signs is unduly distracting to motorists and non-motorized travelers, reduces the effectiveness of signs directing and warning the public, causes confusion, reduces desired uniform traffic flow, and creates potential for crashes.
- (c) Maintain and improve the image of the community by encouraging signs of consistent size which are compatible with and complementary to related buildings and uses, and harmonious with their surroundings.
- (d) Recognize that the principal intent of commercial signs, to meet the purpose of these requirements and serve the public interest, should be for identification of an establishment on the premises, and not for advertising special events, brand

names or off-premise activities, as these can be advertised more appropriately by other methods.

- (e) Eliminate potential conflicts between business signs and traffic control signs, thereby minimizing the potential for confusion and hazardous consequences.
- (f) Enable the public to locate goods, services and facilities without undue difficulty and confusion by restricting the number and placement of signs.
- (g) Prevent placement of signs which will conceal or obscure signs of adjacent uses.
- (h) Prevent off-premise signs from conflicting with other land uses.
- (i) Prevent signs that are potentially dangerous to the public due to structural deficiencies or disrepair.
- (j) Prohibit portable commercial signs in recognition of their significant negative impact on traffic safety and aesthetics.

Section 19.02 - Scope of Requirements

A sign shall not hereafter be erected, re-erected, constructed, altered or maintained without receiving the proper sign permit, except as provided by this section.

Section 19.03 - Signs Not Requiring Permit

A sign of the following type shall be permitted without the issuance of a sign permit, subject to all other requirements of this Article:

- (a) **Device Signs.** Permanent signs on vending machines or other containers indicating only the contents of such devices, provided that the sign area of each device shall not exceed three square feet.
- (b) **Flags.** Flags provided there shall be no more than three flags per lot, the maximum size of each flag shall be 50 square feet, and the flag poles comply with height limitations of [Section 15.04](#).
- (c) **Employment Signs.** "Help wanted" signs soliciting employees for the place of business where posted, provided that the maximum total area for all such signs shall not exceed six square feet.
- (d) **Enclosed Signs.** Any sign that is located completely within a building and is not visible from the outside.
- (e) **Historical Signs.** Plaques or signs designating a building or premises as a historic structure or premises not to exceed six square feet.
- (f) **Incidental Signs.** Small signs, emblems, or decals informing the public of goods, facilities, or services available on the premises. Examples of incidental signs include credit card signs, signs indicating the hours of business, no smoking signs, signs used to designate bathrooms, and signs providing information on business affiliations. The total area of all such incidental signs shall not exceed two square feet.
- (g) **Murals.** Murals shall be allowed; provided no text, commercial logos or other identifiable commercial representation are included.
- (h) **Nameplate/Identification Signs.** Signs for the sole purpose of identifying an assigned house number, owner name, occupant, or building name. Identification signs of one square foot in surface display area shall not be counted in the total sign area allowed on the premises, however, such signs larger than one square foot shall be counted in the computation of total sign area otherwise allowed by this Ordinance.
- (i) **Public Signs.** Public signs, including the authorized signs of a government body or public utility, including traffic signs, legal notices, railroad crossing signs, warnings of a hazard, and similar signs.
- (j) **Temporary Signs.** Temporary signs shall be permitted provided they are setback a minimum of ten feet from the public right-of-way or any lot line and in accordance with Table 19.03.

Table 19.03
Temporary Sign Regulations

Type of Sign	Maximum Size	Maximum Height	Maximum Number	Permitted Duration

Community Special Event Signs	32 sq. ft.	10 ft.	1 per street frontage	Shall be installed up to 2 weeks prior to event and removed within 1 day after event
Construction Signs	64 sq. ft.	15 ft.	1 per lot, 2 on corner lot (1 facing each street)	Shall be removed from premises within 30 days after issuance of the occupancy permit or temporary occupancy permit
Garage Sale Signs	6 sq. ft.	6 ft.	1 per lot	Shall be erected no more than 7 business days before and removed within 1 business day after the sale
Grand Opening Sign, Special Sale & Promotional Signs and Banners	16 sq. ft.	Ground sign 6 ft. Wall sign not higher than building	1 per lot, 2 on corner lot (1 facing each street)	May be erected for a maximum of 20 consecutive days every 6 months
Political Signs	16 sq. ft.	—	—	The owner of the property or the person in charge thereof shall be responsible for the removal of the signs
Real Estate: Sale or Lease of Individual Business or Lot	12 sq. ft.	6 ft.	1 per lot, 2 on corner lot (1 facing each street)	Shall be removed within 15 days of sale closing, or the lease or rental of the premises

- (k) **Traffic Control Signs.** Signs directing and guiding traffic and parking on private property, but bearing no advertising, including logos. Driveway entry/exit signs shall only be allowed as an exempt sign under this section where there are one-way drives or restricted turning movements that require signage to direct motorists; directional signage at full-movement driveways shall be regulated as a freestanding sign under [Section 19.04](#).
- (l) **Warning Signs.** "No Trespassing" and other types of warning signs are allowed in all areas; not to exceed one and one-half square feet per sign.
- (m) **Window Signs.** Window signs shall be permitted in all non-residential districts, up to 25 percent of the glass surface provided:
 - (1) The area of permanent window signs shall be counted in determining compliance with requirements for total area of wall signs.
 - (2) Window signs that are faded, yellowed, ripped, or otherwise damaged shall be removed immediately.

Section 19.04 - Permitted Signs

- (a) Except for menu boards, A-frame signs, sandwich boards, and similar unattached signs, the following signs require a permit under [section 19.07](#). The number, display area, and height of signs within the non-residential zoning districts are provided in table 19.04 and its accompanying set of additional requirements.

Table 19.04
Specific Sign Requirements

Type of Sign	Max. Height	Max. Size (1)	Max. Number	Additional Requirements
Agricultural	12 ft.	32 sq. ft. per face	1 per farm	
Awning	Must not exceed height of building	25% of awning up to a maximum of 50 sq. ft.	1 per awning	(2)
Billboard	30 ft.			(3)
Blade	3 ft.	8.5 sq. ft.	1 per façade facing a street or public right-of-way	(13)
Business Center	12 ft.	72 sq. ft. per face	1 per street frontage	(4)
Development and Subdivision Entry	4 ft.	20 sq. ft. per face	1 per entrance	(5)
Gasoline Price	12 ft.	12 sq. ft. per face	1 per street frontage	(6)
Home Occupation	—	3 sq. ft.	—	—
Marquee (Canopy)	—	Counted as part of allowed wall signage	1 per street frontage	(7)
Menu Boards (incl. A-frame; Sandwich Boards)	5 ft.	7 sq. ft. per side	1 per tenant or business	(12)
Monument or Ground	6 ft.	72 sq. ft. per side	1 per street frontage	(8)
Multiple family development signs	4 ft. unless on wall	12 sq. ft.		
Parking lot	12 ft.	12 sq. ft. per side	1 per parking lot	—
Pole	30 ft.	72 sq. ft. per side	1 per street frontage	(9)
Real Estate: Development Signs	12 ft.	72 sq. ft.	1 per development	(10)
Wall	Must not exceed	10% of wall up to a	1 per facade facing a	(11)

	height of building	maximum of 100 sq. ft.	street or public right-of-way	

(b) Signs noted in Table 19.04 shall comply with the following requirements:

(1) The BZA may permit a 15 percent increase in the allowable sign area where the site has shared access with an adjoining site in accordance with Section 18.05.

(2) **Awnings.** Awnings may project over the public sidewalk, provided they are a minimum of eight feet above the sidewalk.

(3) **Billboard.** Billboards shall only be permitted where in compliance with all of the following requirements:

a. **Districts Allowed.** Billboards are allowed only in the following districts:

1. For sites located in the unincorporated areas of the county outside of the boundaries of the cities, billboards shall be allowed in the business or industrial zoning districts within 1,000 feet of the right-of-way for I-90/I-80 and I-94/U.S. 30 Freeways.
2. For sites located within the boundaries of the cities of La Porte and Michigan City, billboards shall be allowed in the B3, M1 and M2 zoning districts.

b. **Location.** Billboards shall be constructed so that its principal view is fully screened from an interchange area involving merging traffic. Any billboard shall comply with the following:

1. The billboard must be constructed in such a manner as to be viewed principally from the freeway(s) and not from auxiliary roadways, side road, traffic intersections, or residential areas.
2. The premises must have a roadway easement to a non-freeway primary or secondary road such that the persons maintaining and servicing the sign may reach the site without danger.

c. **Size and Configuration.** A billboard shall be constructed according to applicable building requirements, codes, and zoning regulations, including the following:

1. The maximum height shall be 30 feet above the median ground level within a 500 feet radius of the site.
2. The maximum sign surface area shall be 672 square feet, except within the City of La Porte the maximum sign surface area shall be 384 square feet.
3. Billboards shall be back to back or a "v" design; for a "v" design maximum separation between sign ends shall be 20 feet.
4. Side-by-side or deck/stacked structures shall not be permitted.
5. Billboards shall be prohibited from:
 - a. Extending above the tree line or horizon when viewed from any portion of the roadway that it faces.
 - b. Being located on or over the roofs of buildings.
 - c. Projecting over any public easement or right-of-way.

d. **Spacing and Separation.** A billboard shall maintain all of the following spacing and setback requirements:

1. Along the I-80/90 Toll Road and I-94, a minimum spacing of 1,000 feet, measured along the road in all directions, from any other billboard, including billboards in an adjacent municipality. Along all other highways a minimum spacing of 1,320 feet, measured along the road in all directions, from any other billboard, including billboards in an adjacent municipality.
2. At least 500 feet from any residential zoning district, historic district or outdoor park/recreational facility.
3. At least 300 feet from any park, school, church, hospital, cemetery, or government building.
4. The application shall include a certified site plan showing compliance with the spacing and separation distances required by this subsection.

e. **Setbacks.** Billboards shall comply with all setback requirements for a structure in the district in which they are located.

- f. **Limitations on Movement.** A billboard shall be prohibited from having moving, flashing, oscillating or other distracting parts visible to drivers or vehicles. Rotating signs shall not be permitted.
 - g. **Illumination.** A billboard may be illuminated subject to all of the following requirements:
 - 1. Illumination must be directed in such a manner that all incidental light generated falls on the sign face.
 - 2. All lights must be shielded such that the light is not visible to traffic or surrounding homes or businesses.
 - 3. The use of animated electrical signage shall be prohibited.
 - 4. Billboards within 500 feet of any residential district may not be illuminated between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
 - h. **Non-use.** Any billboard not in use shall have the unused surface display a scenic view, consistent with the area scenery or a public service display.
 - i. **Maintenance and Unsafe Conditions.** Any billboard that collapses, topples or disintegrates shall be made safe within 30 days or the site shall be cleared of the debris.
 - j. **State Compliance Required.** All billboards shall comply with applicable requirements and conditions the State of Indiana. A billboard permit shall be first obtained from the Indiana Department of Transportation prior to approval.
 - k. **Identification Plate.** The framework, foundations or superstructure of the billboard shall have a metal identification plate, as defined, firmly attached thereto.
- (4) **Business Centers.** Each business center with at least 300 feet of major road frontage may be allowed one on-premises freestanding business center sign, subject to the following:
- a. May be directly or indirectly illuminated.
 - b. May be double-faced.
 - c. Shall not reduce the number of signs or sign area otherwise allowed for the premises included within the business center, but shall prohibit any other freestanding signs from being located within the business center.
- (5) **Community, Neighborhood, Development or Subdivision Entry Signs.**
- a. Freestanding signs of low profile design.
 - b. May be directly or indirectly illuminated.
- (6) **Gasoline Service Stations.** Each gasoline service station may be allowed the following signs in addition to the signs otherwise allowed by this Article:
- a. Gasoline pump signs not exceeding three square feet per pump containing customary information regarding the brand, type of gasoline sold, and service provided.
 - b. Signage on the canopy, which shall be counted toward determining compliance with the requirements for total allowable area of wall signs allowed on the parcel.
 - c. May contain up to two pump island signs located on the structural supports identifying "self-serve" and "full-serve" operations, provided that there is no business identification or advertising copy on such signs and that such signs do not exceed four square feet in area.
- (7) **Marquee Signs.** Signs on marquees and canopies may be allowed, provided the display area of the sign on a marquee, or canopy shall be counted toward determining compliance with the requirements for total allowable area of wall signs allowed on the lot.
- (8) **Monument or Ground Signs.** Monument signs shall have a brick base and landscaping around the base of the sign.
- (9) **Pole Signs.** Pole signs shall be prohibited in the CBD1 and CBD2 districts.
- (10) **Real Estate Development Signs.** Permits for real estate development signs shall be issued for one year and may be renewed on annual basis.
- (11) **Wall Signs.**
- a. Sign shall not extend more than 18 inches perpendicular to the surface of the building wall area upon which it is painted, erected, or fastened. Wall signs may extend over a public sidewalk, provided they have a minimum ten-foot clearance

from the sidewalk to the bottom of the sign.

- b. For businesses that face directly onto adjacent public street right-of-way, the maximum allowable wall sign area may be increased as indicated in the table below or ten percent of the wall area, whichever is less.

Distance of Sign from ROW Line	Allowable Sign Area
0—200 ft.	100 sq. ft.
200—300 ft.	125 sq. ft.
301 + ft.	150 sq. ft.

c. Wall signs may be directly or indirectly illuminated.

- (12) **Menu Boards.** Menu boards, A-frame signs, sandwich boards, and similar unattached signs shall be permitted only if they meet the following:
1. All such signs are limited to one sign board per tenant or business with the total area of the sign not exceeding seven square feet per side.
 2. All such signs shall be stationary and stable in structure, made of a material commonly used for sign construction and to convey information, and all information on the sign shall be presented in an artistic or aesthetic arrangement, in chalk, erasable marker, removable and reusable letters or images, or similar method.
 3. All such signs shall be limited to the advertisement and sale of merchandise or services available on or adjacent to the sign location site and shall be directly associated with the type of business on or adjacent to the sign location site.
 4. All such signs shall be permitted to be displayed on pedestrian walkways located adjacent or nearly adjacent to the entrance of a business or commercial establishment. Such signage shall not be placed in any drive or access area nor placed within any landscape area. Such signage shall not be used as a replacement for directional traffic signage.
 5. All such signage shall be located within ten feet of the public entrance to the business establishment associated with the sign. Sign placement shall also meet all requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).
 6. All such signage shall be brought inside at dusk or (if later) at the close of business each day, and at all times when the wind is alone strong enough to move the sign.
 7. Such signage shall not block or impede pedestrian rights-of-way and walkways.
 8. Such signage shall not be internally or externally directly illuminated.
 9. All such signs, if they conform to all of the above provisions, shall not require a permit under section 19.07.
- (13) **Blade.** A blade sign shall not extend more than 42 inches perpendicular to the surface of the building wall area upon which it is painted, erected, or fastened. Such signs may extend over a public sidewalk, provided they have a minimum 10-foot clearance from the sidewalk to the bottom of the sign. Blade signs shall not be internally illuminated. Cabinet or box style Blade signs shall not be permitted. The blade sign structure, including any bracket, shall not exceed 8.5 sq. feet on one side and shall not exceed 6" in depth. The display may be on both sides.

(Ord. No. 4328, §§ 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 6-16-2015)

Section 19.05 - Prohibited Signs

The following devices and locations are specifically prohibited:

- (a) **Unspecified Signs.** Any signs not expressly permitted are prohibited.
- (b) **Banners and Similar Advertising Devices.** Banners, pennants, spinners, streamers, balloons, and similar advertising devices,

if bearing any commercial message, logo, product, or business name, or if used to attract customers to a particular commercial or business site, are prohibited except when used on a temporary basis under the requirements and regulations of both section 19.03(j) and table 19.03 "Grand Opening Sign, Special Sale and Promotional Signs and Banners" of the Zoning Code.

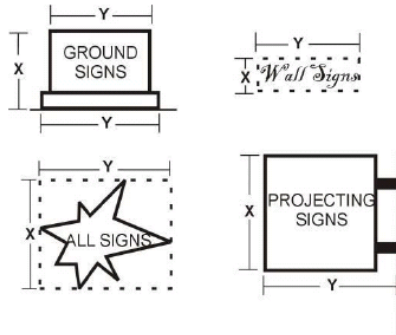
- (c) **Commercial Vehicles used as Signs.** Unlicensed or inoperable stationary or abandoned motor vehicles, trailers or water craft parked on public or private property used specifically for signage and not for the intended use of the vehicle are prohibited. No commercial vehicle may be parked on a business or industrial premise for a time period exceeding 48 hours for the intended purpose of advertising a product or serving as a business sign.
- (d) **Double Signs.** Double-wide sign structures, that is, a single sign structure on which two or more billboards, or other type of signs, are placed or located side-by-side and facing the same direction are prohibited. A double stack, or deck sign structure, that is, a structure on which two signs are placed on one pole or structure, such that one sign is above the other and facing the same direction.
- (e) **Emergency Vehicles Simulation Signs.** Signs that simulate or could in any way be confused with the lighting of emergency vehicles or traffic signals are prohibited.
- (f) **Exterior String Lights.** String lights used in connection with a commercial enterprise are prohibited, other than holiday decorations which are strung no more than 60 days before the holiday and removed within ten days following the holiday for which they were erected.
- (g) **High Intensity/Flashing Light Signs.** Signs that blink, flash, are animated by lighting in any fashion or have the appearance of traffic safety signs, or lights, or municipal vehicle warnings from a distance are prohibited.
- (h) **Illuminated Signs Adjacent to Residential.** Illuminated signs within 50 feet of a residential district are prohibited unless it is designed to not reflect or shine light onto the residential district.
- (i) **Moving Signs.** Rotating signs or signs having moving members or parts or appearance of movement are prohibited.
- (j) **Snipe Signs.** Signs attached to any utility pole, light standard, street tree or any other public facility located within the public right-of-way are prohibited.
- (k) **Obsolete Signs.** Signs that advertise a product that is no longer made, an event that has already occurred or a business that has closed are prohibited. The enforcement official shall provide a letter to the property owner giving a set time for removal of the obsolete sign.
- (l) **Off-Premise Signs.** Signs, except for billboards, which identify a use or advertises products and services not available on the premises on which the sign is located (e.g. garage sale signs, residential open house signs, signs providing directions to a business) are prohibited.
- (m) **Portable Signs.** Portable signs are prohibited except where expressly allowed in this article.
- (n) **Roof Signs.** Signs erected above the roof line of a building are prohibited.
- (o) **Signs that Confuse Traffic.** Signs that make use of the words "Stop", "Look", "Go", "Slow", "Caution", or "Danger", or any other words, phrases, symbols, or characters, in such a manner as to interfere with, mislead, or confuse traffic are prohibited.
- (p) **Signs that Obstruct Access.** Signs that prevent free and unobstructed access to any door, window, fire escape, or other required exit are prohibited.
- (q) **Signs that Obstruct Vision.** Signs located in such a manner as to obstruct or otherwise interfere with an official traffic sign, signal or device or obstruct or interfere with a driver's view of approaching, merging or intersecting traffic are prohibited.
- (r) **Signs Located in Public Right-of-Way.** Signs located in, encroaching upon, or overhanging public rights-of-way are prohibited, except menu boards, blade style wall signs, awnings, marquees, and wall signs, on or over the public sidewalk, provided such exception meets the additional requirements of table 19.04 and section 19.04 of the Zoning Code.
- (s) **Structurally Unsafe Signs.** Signs which are deemed structurally unsafe or are constructed in violation of the requirements of any adopted Construction Code are prohibited.
- (t) **Objects Attached to Public Signs or Utility Structures.** For sale signs or other similar signs and objects shall not be attached

to street signs, way-finding signs or utility poles in the public right-of-way.

(Ord. No. 4328, §§ 3, 6, 6-16-2015)

Section 19.06 - General Provisions for Permitted Signs

Signs which are permitted as accessory uses serving a commercial or informational purpose may be permitted subject to the requirements of this section.



- (a) **Determination of Sign Display Area.** No sign shall exceed the maximum sign display area allowed for a district. The sign display area is to be expressed in square feet, computed to the nearest tenth of a square foot, and shall be computed as follows:
- (1) **Single-Faced Sign.** The allowable area for a single-faced sign shall be measured by calculating the square footage of the sign face by enclosing the most protruding points or edges of a sign within a parallelogram or rectangle, including any frame.
 - (2) **Wall Signs.** Where a sign consists of individual letters and/or a logo affixed directly to a building, the area of the sign shall be computed by measuring the area of the envelope required to enclose the lettering and logo.
 - (3) **Double-Face Signs.** Where a sign has two or more faces, the area of only the larger face shall be considered when calculating maximum size, provided all faces are part of the same structure, back-to-back and are separated by no more than two feet.
- (b) **Setbacks.** All freestanding signs, unless otherwise provided for, shall be set back as follows. This distance shall be measured from the nearest edge of the sign, measured at a vertical line perpendicular to the ground to the right-of-way.
- (1) For sites located in the unincorporated areas of the county outside of the boundaries of the cities, signs shall be set back a minimum of ten feet from any public road right-of-way.
 - (2) For sites located within the boundaries of the cities of La Porte and Michigan City, signs shall be set back a minimum of one foot from any public road right-of-way.
- (c) **Design Requirements.**
- (1) **Architectural Features.** All signs shall be placed in a manner that does not obstruct or intrude upon architectural features of a building.
 - (2) **Materials.** Sign materials shall be designed to complement the original construction materials and architectural style of the building facade to promote an overall unified and aesthetic effect as permitted in the various zoning districts. Signs shall not be constructed from materials that are remnants or manufactured for a different purpose.
- (d) **Illumination.**
- (1) **General Requirements.** Signs may be illuminated only by steady, stationary, shielded light sources using approved electrical devices directed solely at the sign, or internal to it. Signage lighting shall be subject to the lighting intensity limits specified in Section 17.05.
 - (2) **Non-glare, Shielded Lighting.** Use of glaring undiffused lights or bulbs shall be prohibited. Lights shall be shaded and/or shielded downward so as not to project onto adjoining properties or thoroughfares.

- (3) **Traffic Hazards.** Sign illumination that could distract motorists or otherwise create a traffic hazard shall be prohibited. The color incorporated into any changeable message shall remain constant and not change in hue or intensity during the automatic cycle of the sign's copy area.
- (4) **Illumination by Other Sources.** Illumination by bare bulbs, luminous tubing or flames is prohibited, except that bare bulbs are permitted on theater marquees.
- (5) **Electronic Changeable Message Sign.** Electronic changeable message signs illuminated by Light-Emitting Diode (LED) or other similar method shall be permitted, subject to the following requirements:
- (a) Electronic changeable message signs shall only be permitted in non-residential zoning districts.
 - (b) Only one electronic changeable message sign shall be permitted per business.
 - (c) Electronic changeable message signs that are greater than 12 square feet in area shall not be located within 600 feet of any other electronic changeable message sign greater than 12 square feet in area.
 - (d) Electronic changeable message signs shall not exceed the following illuminative brightness:

Time of Day	Brightness	
	Within 500 feet of residential district or use	At least 500 feet from residential district or use
Night time	500 nits (cd/m ²)	1,250 nits (cd/m ²)
Day time	3,500 nits (cd/m ²)	5,000 nits (cd/m ²)

- (e) The message on an electronic changeable message sign shall remain static a minimum of 20 seconds and shall not take longer than one second to change. If the sign is within 500 feet of a residential use or zoning district, the message shall remain static from dusk until dawn.
 - (f) Electronic changeable message signs shall not contain any moving, blinking, flashing, scrolling or animated parts nor have the appearance of having any movement or animation. Only static messages shall be displayed. The lettering and/or message components being displayed at any given time shall not change, flash or fade to another color. The changeable message sign shall have a default design that will freeze the sign in a dark or blank position if a malfunction occurs.
 - (g) Conversion of an existing sign to a changeable message signs shall require a permit under this article. Electronic changeable message signs may not be added to a nonconforming sign.
- (6) **Wiring.** Underground wiring shall be required for all illuminated signs not attached to a building.
- (e) **Construction Requirements.** The following construction requirements apply to all permanent signs.
- (1) **Fastenings.** All signs must be erected in such a manner and with such materials to remain safe and secure during the period of use and all bolts, cables, and other parts of such signs shall be kept painted and free from corrosion. No sign may be placed upon a tree or utility pole, except signs of a unit of government or utility.
 - (2) **Support Location.** No pole, cable or support of any nature shall be placed on any publicly owned property, road right-of-way, or proposed road right-of-way.
 - (3) **Sign Safety.**
 - a. All signs erected, constructed, reconstructed, altered or moved shall be constructed in such a manner and of such materials so that they shall be able to withstand wind pressure of at least 20 pounds per square foot.

- b. All signs shall be erected so that any part including cables, guys, etc. shall have a minimum clearance of four feet from a conductor, electric light pole, road lamp, traffic light, or other public utility pole or standard.
 - c. All signs shall be designed to comply with minimum wind pressure and other requirements set forth in the adopted building code. Signs with electrical connections shall comply with electrical code requirements, including the application, inspection, and approval of an electrical permit.
- (4) **Safety Triangle.** No sign shall be located within, project into, or overhang the triangular area formed at the intersection of any two road right-of-way lines or a driveway approach, as required by Section 15.06.

Section 19.07 - Sign Permits

- (a) A sign permit shall be required prior to installing, changing the height, increasing the area or structurally altering any sign for which a permit is required. Before such a permit is issued, an inspection shall be made to determine that the sign location complies with the provisions of this article.
- (b) As a condition to approval of a sign permit, all signs to be located along state road right-of-way shall obtain the proper state sign permit or written non-objection from the Indiana Department of Transportation, and a copy shall be provided to the enforcement official.
- (c) For an off-premise sign, written consent of the property's owner or legal representative shall be submitted with the application for a sign permit.
- (d) The sign permit shall be valid for a period of 90 days. The sign must be installed within that time period or the permit shall expire, provided the enforcement official may grant an extension for an additional 90 days. When a sign permit is issued in connection with an improvement location permit for a structure on the site, the sign permit shall run concurrent with the improvement location permit.
- (e) No permit shall be required for ordinary servicing or repainting of an existing sign message, cleaning of a sign, or changing the message on the sign where the sign is designed for such changes (such as lettering on a marquee or numbers on a gasoline price sign). Furthermore, a permit shall not be required for signs which are stated as being allowable without a permit.

Section 19.08 - Application Procedure

- (a) **Application Form.** Application for a permit for a sign shall be filed with the enforcement official and shall provide the following information:
 - (1) Name, address, and telephone number of the applicant.
 - (2) Location of the building, structure, or lot on which the sign is to be attached or erected.
 - (3) Position of the sign in relation to buildings, structures, and property lines within 100 feet of the proposed sign.
 - (4) Plans showing the dimensions, materials, method of construction, and attachment to the building or in the ground.
 - (5) Copies of stress sheets and calculations, if deemed necessary, showing the structure as designed for dead load and wind pressure.
 - (6) Name and address of the person, firm, or corporation owning, erecting, and maintaining the sign.
 - (7) Information concerning required electrical connections.
 - (8) Written consent of the owner or lessee of the premises upon which the sign is to be erected.
 - (9) Other information required by the enforcement official to make the determination that the sign is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
- (b) **Application Review.**
 - (1) **Location Improvement Permit Review.** All locations for placement of a sign submitted in conjunction with the proposed construction of a new building or addition to an existing building shall be reviewed as a part of the required location improvement permit review. The location, size and height of all existing and proposed signs must be shown on the site plan.
 - (2) **Enforcement Official Review.** The enforcement official shall review the sign permit application for any sign proposed on a site or existing building where no other new construction is proposed.

- (3) **Issuance of a Permit.** Following review and approval of a sign application, the enforcement official shall have the authority to issue the permit upon payment by the applicant of the required fees.
- (4) **Denial of a Permit.** The enforcement official shall deny the application for any sign that does not comply with the requirements of this article.

Section 19.09 - Sign Inspection and Maintenance

(a) Sign Inspection.

- (1) **Responsibility for Compliance.** The owner of any property on which a sign is located is declared to be responsible for the permit, erection, inspection, safety, condition, and removal of a sign.
- (2) **Inspection of New Signs.** All signs for which a permit has been issued shall be inspected by the enforcement official when erected. Approval shall be granted only if the sign has been constructed in compliance with the approved plans and applicable requirements of other ordinances and codes.
- (3) **Inspection before Enclosure.** In cases where fastenings or anchorages are to be eventually bricked in or otherwise enclosed, the sign erector shall advise the enforcement official when such fastenings are to be installed so that inspection may be completed before enclosure.
- (4) **Inspection of Existing Signs.** The enforcement official may, at such times as deemed necessary, inspect any sign allowed under this section, and if upon inspection a sign is found to be unsafe or in a condition that does not comply with all the provisions of this section, the enforcement official shall give notice of that condition to the owner of the sign and cause the necessary repairs or alterations to be made, or require removal of the sign.

(b) Sign Maintenance.

- (1) **Maintenance of Signs.** All signs for which a permit is required and all supports therefore shall:
 - a. Be kept in compliance with the plans and specifications filed and approved for issuance of the construction permit.
 - b. Be kept and maintained in a safe condition, consistent with adopted building and mechanical codes.
 - c. At all times conform to all the provisions of this article.
- (2) **Correction of Defects.** If the enforcement official finds that any sign is unsafe, insecure, improperly constructed, or poorly maintained, the owner of the sign shall make the sign safe and secure by completing any necessary reconstruction or repairs, or entirely remove the sign in accordance with the timetable established by the enforcement official. Existing signs determined to be unsafe and an immediate hazard to health or safety shall be removed or repaired within 12 hours of notification.

(c) Obsolete Signs.

- (1) Signs which are no longer functional, in disrepair, or are abandoned for more than 60 days, shall be removed, at the expense of the property owner on which the sign is located, within 30 days following notice of non-compliance. The owner shall be notified by certified mail.
- (2) A sign which no longer identifies a use, product, business or entity located on the property, but is otherwise in conformity with the other provisions of this ordinance, may remain in place if the sign face is completely covered or obscured by a blank panel attached within the frame of the sign. In such case, the sign shall be permitted to remain for a period not to exceed 120 days. Following expiration of the 120 days, the sign shall be removed, unless identifying a new use, product, business or entity located on the property.

(d) Legal Nonconforming Signs.

- (1) **Status.** Any sign lawfully existing at the time of the adoption of this article that does not fully comply with all provisions of this ordinance shall be considered a legal nonconforming sign and may be permitted to remain as long as the sign is properly maintained and not detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the community, except as herein provided.
- (2) **Continuance.** The nonconforming sign may continue as long as it is not destroyed, abandoned, or discontinued under 19.09(c) above. A sign damaged in excess of 60 percent of its replacement cost is considered destroyed and shall be removed by the property owner. If the sign is not removed, the county or city may remove the sign.

- (3) **Restrictions.** A nonconforming sign shall not be altered or reconstructed, unless the alteration or reconstruction is in compliance with the provisions of this article. For the purpose of this article only, the terms "altered" or "reconstructed" shall not include any of the following:
- Normal maintenance.
 - Changing of surface sign space to a lesser or equal area.
 - Ornamental molding, frames, trellises, or ornamental features or landscaping below the base line.
 - The addition, construction, installation, or changing of electrical wiring or electrical devices.
 - Changing backgrounds, letters, figures, or characters, or other embellishments.
- (4) **Repairs and Maintenance.** Normal maintenance shall be allowed, provided that any nonconforming sign that is destroyed by any means to an extent greater than 60 percent of the sign's replacement value, exclusive of the foundation, shall not be reconstructed. Normal maintenance shall include painting of chipped or faded signs; replacement of faded or damaged surface panels; or repair or replacement of electrical wiring or electrical devices.
- (5) **Nonconforming Changeable Copy Signs.** The message on a nonconforming changeable copy sign or nonconforming bulletin board sign may be changed provided that the change does not create any greater nonconformity. Conversion of a nonconforming sign to an electronic changeable message sign shall not be permitted.
- (6) **Substitution.** A nonconforming sign may not be replaced with another nonconforming sign.

Section 19.10 - Fees

Any application for a sign permit or other request for action pursuant to the regulations set forth in this Article shall be subject to and accompanied by a fee as established by the legislative body. Such fees shall be collected in advance of any application review, inspection, or issuance of any permit or approval. Upon notification of deficient payment of fees, the enforcement official shall cause any permits to be suspended and reject applications for new permits directly associated with the request.

ARTICLE 20. - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Footnotes:

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Editor's note— Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.2), adopted Aug. 4, 2025, amended Art. 20 in its entirety, in effect repealing and reenacting said Art. 20 to read as set out herein. The former Art. 20, §§ 20.01—20.15, pertained to similar subject matter and carried no amendatory history.

Section 20.01 - Intent

The purpose of this article is to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens by requiring compliance with accepted standards and practices for the management of stormwater runoff and drainage. These stormwater requirements are intended to minimize off-site water run-off, increase on-site infiltration, encourage natural filtration functions, simulate natural drainage systems, and minimize off-site discharge of pollutants. Stormwater shall be managed by the best and most appropriate technology and environmentally-sound site planning and engineering techniques, which may include Low Impact Development principles and Green Infrastructure techniques such as permeable paving, infiltration basins and swales, distributed storage and bioretention as well as traditional storm sewer collection systems and storage basins.

(Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.2), 8-4-2025)

Section 20.02 - General Requirements

- All new developments shall provide for the management of all storm and surface water drainage and provide for controlled flood runoff.
- All new developments shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances and other stormwater requirements of the Michigan City Sanitary District.

Section 20.03 - Enforcement and Penalties

The Michigan City Sanitary District shall be primarily responsible for enforcement of the stormwater management plan and Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances. The Plan Department may assist in enforcement, may refuse approval of any plan, petition or project, or may require restoration of any area impacted in violation of Chapter 46, Article IX.

(Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.2), 8-4-2025)

ARTICLE 21. - FLOODPLAINS

Section 21.01 - Intent

- (a) **Findings of Fact.** Floodplains of La Porte County are important natural resources that provide multiple beneficial functions, including:
- (1) Storage of floodwaters, which reduces flashiness and downstream flooding hazards,
 - (2) Storage of sediments deposited by floodwaters,
 - (3) Filtering and transformation of pollutants from adjacent lands and floodwaters,
 - (4) Shading of waterways, providing regulation of in-stream temperature,
 - (5) Habitat for aquatic and upland wildlife,
 - (6) Stabilization of banks, which reduces erosion and minimizes the necessity of riprap or other erosion control methods,
 - (7) Storage and filtration of stormwater, and
 - (8) Scenic and recreational value.
- (b) **Destruction of Floodplains.** Whether incremental or large-scale, destruction of floodplains compromises the ability of the ecosystem to provide the functions listed above. Structures placed in floodplains can be subjected to subsidence or damage from floodwaters, and can contribute to downstream pollution.
- (c) **Statement of Purpose.** It is the purpose of this article to protect the riparian resources of La Porte County in order to protect public health, safety, and general welfare, and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas by provisions designed to:
- (1) Protect human life and health from floodwaters;
 - (2) Restrict or prohibit uses which create hazards to health, safety, natural resources or property, due to increases in erosion or in flood heights or velocities;
 - (3) Require that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;
 - (4) Control the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers which accommodate flood waters;
 - (5) Control filling, grading, dredging, and other alterations of the land which may increase erosion or flood damage;
 - (6) Prevent or regulate the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert floodwaters or may increase flood hazards to other lands;
 - (7) Make federally subsidized flood insurance available for structures and their contents by fulfilling the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program;
 - (8) Minimize expenditure of public money for costly flood control projects;
 - (9) Minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding and generally undertaken at the expense of the general public;

- (10) Minimize prolonged business interruptions;
- (11) Minimize damage to public facilities and utilities such as water and gas mains, electric, telephone and sewer lines, streets, and bridges located in floodplains;
- (12) Make potential home buyers aware that property is in a flood area;
- (13) Maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of water resources;
- (14) Achieve no net loss in the quantity, quality and biological diversity of floodplain areas and functions; and
- (15) Replace floodplain acreage, and functions where avoidance of activities is not practical and all practical measures have been taken to reduce impacts.

Section 21.02 - Lands to which this Article Applies

This article shall apply to all special flood hazard areas (SFHA) within the jurisdiction of La Porte County, the City of La Porte and the City of Michigan City.

Section 21.03 - Activities Allowed by Right

The following uses are allowed in riparian areas without a permit, provided they do not involve hydrologic modifications or fills:

- (a) Private wildlife sanctuaries, woodland preserves;
- (b) Outdoor recreation including nature study, hiking, horseback riding, swimming, camping, trapping, hunting, fishing, shell fishing, cross-country skiing where otherwise legally permitted;
- (c) Open space uses incidental to the enjoyment and maintenance of adjacent residential, commercial and industrial property such as open space for subdivisions and building setback areas;
- (d) Maintenance and repair of existing ditches, watercourses, farm ponds, utilities, roadways provided the activity does not involve the expansion of roadways or related improvements into previously unimpacted areas; and
- (e) The enhancement or restoration of riparian areas less than one acre and not associated with any development proposal.

Section 21.04 - Establishment of Floodplain Development Permit

A floodplain development permit shall be required in conformance with the provisions of this article prior to the commencement of any development activities in SFHAs. Development activities include filling, excavation, grading, dredging, construction, clear-cutting, removal of peat, sand or gravel, alteration of the water table, alteration of flood-retention characteristics, alteration of surface drainage characteristics.

Section 21.05 - Compliance

No structure shall hereafter be located, extended, converted or structurally altered within the SFHA without full compliance with the terms of this article and other applicable regulations. No land or stream within the SFHA shall hereafter be altered without full compliance with the terms of this article and other applicable regulations.

Section 21.06 - Duties and Responsibilities of Enforcement Official

- (a) The enforcement official and/or designee is hereby authorized and directed to enforce the provisions of this article. The enforcement official is further authorized to render interpretations of this article which are consistent with its spirit and purpose.
- (b) Duties and responsibilities of the enforcement official shall include, but not be limited to:
 - (1) Review all floodplain development permits to assure that the permit requirements of this article have been satisfied.
 - (2) Inspect and inventory damaged structures in SFHA and complete substantial damage determinations.
 - (3) Ensure that construction authorization has been granted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for all development projects subject to Section 21.14 and 21.16(a), and maintain a record of such authorization (either copy of actual permit or floodplain analysis/regulatory assessment).
 - (4) Ensure that all necessary federal or state permits have been received prior to issuance of the local floodplain development

permit. Copies of such permits are to be maintained on file with the floodplain development permit.

- (5) Notify adjacent communities and the State Floodplain Coordinator prior to any alteration or relocation of a watercourse, and submit copies of such notification to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- (6) Maintain for public inspection, and furnish upon request, local permit documents, damaged structure inventories, substantial damage determinations, regulatory flood data, SFHA maps, Letters of Map Amendment (LOMA), Letters of Map Revision (LOMR), copies of IDNR permits and floodplain analysis and regulatory assessments (letters of recommendation), federal permit documents, and "as-built" elevation and flood proofing data for all buildings constructed subject to this article.
- (7) Utilize and enforce all Letters of Map Revision (LOMR) or Physical Map Revisions (PMR) issued by FEMA for the currently effective SFHA maps of the community.
- (8) Assure that maintenance is provided within the altered or relocated portion of the watercourse so that the flood carrying-capacity is not diminished.
- (9) Verify and record the actual elevation of the lowest floor (including basement) of all new or substantially improved structures, in accordance with Section 21.07.
- (10) Verify and record the actual elevation to which any new or substantially improved structures have been floodproofed, in accordance with Section 21.07.
- (11) Review certified plans and specifications for compliance.
- (12) Issue stop work orders, in accordance with the following:
 - a. Upon notice from the enforcement official, that work on any building, structure or premises being done contrary to the provisions of this article shall immediately cease.
 - b. Such notice shall be in writing and shall be given to the owner of the property, or to his or her agent, or to the person doing the work, and shall state the conditions under which work may be resumed.
- (13) Revocation of permits.
 - a. The enforcement official may revoke a permit or approval issued under the provisions of this article, in cases where there has been any false statement or misrepresentation as to the material facts in the application or plans on which the permit or approval was based.
 - b. The enforcement official may revoke a permit upon determination by the enforcement official that the construction, erection, alteration, repair, moving, demolition, installation, or replacement of the structure for which the permit was issued is in violation of, or not in conformity with, the provisions of this article.

Section 21.07 - Permit Procedures

Prior to any development activities, application shall be made to the enforcement official for a floodplain development permit. The application shall be submitted on a form provided by the enforcement official, accompanied by a fee and the following additional information:

(a) **Application Stage.**

- (1) Name, address and contact information of property owner and applicant (if different);
- (2) A description of the proposed development activity;
- (3) Location of the proposed development activity sufficient to accurately locate property and structure in relation to existing roads, streams and other waterbodies;
- (4) A legal description of the property;
- (5) A site development plan showing existing and proposed building and structure locations and existing and proposed land grades;
- (6) A description of all grading, filling and vegetation removal proposed by the development plan;
- (7) An explanation of why this activity cannot be located at an upland site;
- (8) A description of all measures proposed to reduce or compensate for project impacts;

- (9) Photographs of the proposed project site showing the existing condition;
 - (10) Elevation of the 100-year flood, and floodplain and floodway boundaries at the project site;
 - (11) Elevation of the top of the lowest floor (including basement) of all proposed buildings. Elevation should be in NAVD 88 or NGVD;
 - (12) Elevation (in NAVD 88 or NGVD) to which any non-residential structure will be flood-proofed;
 - (13) Description of the extent to which any watercourse will be altered or impacted as a result of proposed development;
 - (14) Map of any wetlands that might be impacted by the proposed development activity;
 - (15) Description of construction sequencing and timetable for proposed activities, including a description of future phases of the project.
- (b) **Additional Information.** The enforcement official may also require a permit applicant to submit additional information if the enforcement official deems such information necessary to determine the compliance of a proposed activity with the standards and criteria set forth in the article. Such information may include:
- (1) Description of ecological communities and functions;
 - (2) Description of how the development activity will change, diminish, or enhance the ecological communities and functions;
 - (3) Name, address, professional status, license number, and phone number of the person who is to prepare the riparian management or mitigation plan;
 - (4) More detailed site plans;
 - (5) Engineering reports and analyses where the proposed activity may be subject to flood or erosion hazards, or increase such hazards or other types;
 - (6) Mapping or description of soil types where onsite waste disposal is proposed; and
 - (7) Analysis of chemical or physical characteristics of any fill material.
- (c) **Mitigation Plan.** In addition, the enforcement official shall require the permit applicant to submit a riparian management and/or a compensatory mitigation plan.
- (d) **Construction Stage.** Upon placement of the lowest floor, or floodproofing, it shall be the duty of the permit holder to submit to the enforcement official a certification of the NAVD 88 elevation of the lowest floor or floodproofed elevation, as built. This certification shall be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a registered land surveyor or professional engineer and certified by that individual. When floodproofing is utilized for a particular structure, the certification shall be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a professional engineer or licensed architect and certified by that individual. Any work undertaken prior to submission of the certification shall be at the permit holder's risk. (The enforcement official shall review the lowest floor and floodproofing elevation survey data submitted.) The permit holder shall correct deficiencies detected by such review before any further work is allowed to proceed. Failure to submit the survey or failure to make the corrections required hereby shall be cause to issue a stop work order for the project. All permits shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance, unless the enforcement official indicates otherwise.

Section 21.08 - Basis for Establishing Regulatory Flood Data

- (a) This article's protection standard is the regulatory flood. The regulatory flood elevation, floodway, and fringe limits for each of the unstudied SFHAs of the county and cities delineated as an "A Zone" on the FIRM of La Porte County and the cities of La Porte, and Michigan City shall be according to the best data available, as provided by the IDNR and confirmed by engineering hydrologic/hydraulic study.
- (b) Whenever a party disagrees with the best available data, the party submitting the detailed engineering study needs to replace existing data with more detailed data and submit it to the IDNR for review and approval.

Section 21.09 - Discrepancy between Mapped Floodplain and Actual Ground Elevations

- (a) In cases where there is a discrepancy between the mapped floodplain (SFHA) on the FIRM and the actual ground elevations, the elevation provided on the profiles shall govern.

- (b) If the elevation of the site in question is below the base flood elevation, that site shall be included in the SFHA and regulated accord
- (c) If the elevation (natural grade) of the site in question is above the base flood elevation, that site shall be considered outside the SFHA and the floodplain regulations will not be applied. All grades in question shall require a determination by a professional engineer or surveyor licensed in the State of Indiana using standard water surface profiling methods to confirm the 100-year floodplain limits within the entire section considered to be in question. The property owner should be advised to apply for a LOMA or LOMR.

Section 21.10 - Preventing Increased Damages

No development in the SFHA shall create a damaging or potentially damaging increase in flood heights or velocity or threat to public health and safety.

- (a) Within the floodway identified on the flood boundary and floodway map or the flood insurance rate map, the following standards shall apply:
 - (1) No structures intended for occupancy shall be constructed within the 100-year floodway limits.
 - (2) No development shall be allowed which acting alone or in combination with other development, shall cause any increase in the elevation of the regulatory flood; and
 - (3) For all projects involving channel modifications or fill, including levees, the county or city shall submit a request to the FEMA to revise the regulatory flood data.
- (b) Within all SFHAs identified as A zones, where no 100-year flood elevation and/or floodway/floodway fringe delineation has been provided, the total cumulative effect of the proposed development activity, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, shall not increase the regulatory flood elevation and will not increase flood damages or potential flood damages.
- (c) All effects on the backwater surface profile shall be modeled and submitted for review for any construction and/or grading activity. Backwater effects shall be minimized and shall not exceed current State and Federal standards. In for case shall backwater effects exceed 0.10 foot of water surface profile increase.
- (d) Any fill deposited in the floodplain or floodway as part of the development project shall be compensated for with creation of additional floodwater storage, at a volumetric ratio of 1:1. See 21.11 (k).
- (e) Public health standards in all SFHAs.
 - (1) The location or storage of chemicals, explosives, buoyant materials, flammable liquids, pollutants, or other hazardous or toxic materials below the flood protection grade (FPG) shall not be permitted.
 - (2) New and replacement sanitary sewer lines may be permitted providing all manholes or other aboveground openings are elevated above the FPG.

Section 21.11 - General Standards

Any new construction, replacement, repair, or other activity under this Article 21 shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances.

(Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.13), 8-4-2025)

Section 21.12 - Specific Standards

In all SFHAs, the following provisions are required:

- (a) In addition to the requirements of Section 21.11, all structures to be located in the SFHA shall be protected from flood damage below the FPG. This building protection requirement applies to the following situations:
 - (1) Construction or placement of any new structure having a floor area greater than 400 square feet;
 - (2) Structural alterations made to:
 - a. An existing (previously unaltered) structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the value of the pre-

- altered structure (excluding the value of the land);
- b. Any previously altered structure.
- (3) Reconstruction or repairs made to a damaged structure that are valued at or more than 50 percent of the market value of the structure (excluding the value of the land) before damage occurred;
- (4) Installing a travel trailer or recreational vehicle on a site for more than 180 days;
- (5) Installing a manufactured home on a new site or a new manufactured home on an existing site. This article does not apply to returning the existing manufactured home to the same site it lawfully occupied before it was removed to avoid flood damage; and
- (6) Reconstruction or repairs made to a repetitive loss structure.
- (b) **Residential Construction.** New construction or substantial improvement of any residential structure (or manufactured home) shall have the lowest floor, including basement, at or above the FPG (two feet above the base flood elevation). Should solid foundation perimeter walls be used to elevate a structure, openings sufficient to facilitate the unimpeded movements of floodwaters shall be provided in accordance with the standards of [subsection] (d) below.
- (c) **Non-Residential Construction.** New construction or substantial improvement of any commercial, industrial, or non-residential structure (or manufactured home) shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to or above the FPG. Structures located in all "A Zones" may be floodproofed in lieu of being elevated if done in accordance with the following:
- (1) A registered professional engineer or licensed architect shall certify that the structure has been designed so that below the FPG, the structure and attendant facilities are watertight and capable of resisting the effects of the regulatory flood. The structural design shall take into account flood velocities, duration, rate of rise, hydrostatic pressures, and impacts from debris or ice. Such certification shall be provided to the enforcement official, as set forth in Section 21.06(b)(10).
- (2) Floodproofing measures shall be operable without human intervention and without an outside source of electricity.
- (d) **Elevated Structures.**
- (1) New construction or substantial improvements of elevated structures that include fully enclosed areas formed by foundation and other exterior walls below the FPG shall be designed to preclude finished living space and designed to allow for the entry and exit of floodwaters to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls.
- (2) Structural calculations shall be submitted demonstrating sufficient structural capacity is provided in accordance with this ordinance.
- (3) Designs for complying with this requirement must either be certified by a professional engineer or licensed architect or meet the following minimum criteria:
- a. Provide a minimum of two openings that have a total net area of not less than one square inch for every one square foot of enclosed area;
- b. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above foundation interior grade (which must be equal to in elevation or higher than the exterior foundation grade);
- c. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves or other coverings or devices provided they permit the automatic flow of floodwaters in both directions;
- d. Access to the enclosed area shall be no more than the minimum necessary to allow for parking vehicles (garage door) or limited storage of maintenance equipment used in connection with the premises (standard exterior door) or entry to the living area (stairway or elevator);
- e. The interior portion of the enclosed area shall not be partitioned or finished into separate rooms; and
- f. Portions of the building below the FPG must be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage.
- (4) Where elevation requirements exceed six feet above the highest adjacent grade, a copy of a legally recorded deed restriction prohibiting the conversion of the area below the lowest floor to a use or dimension contrary to the structure's originally approved design, shall be presented as a condition of issuance of the final certificate of occupancy.
- (e) **Structures Constructed on Fill.** A residential or nonresidential structure may be constructed in a permanent fill in

accordance with the following:

- (1) The fill shall be placed in layers no greater than one foot deep before compacting to 95 percent of the maximum density obtainable with the Standard Proctor Test method.
 - (2) The fill shall extend at least ten feet beyond the foundation of the structure before sloping below the FPG.
 - (3) The fill shall be protected against erosion and scour during flooding by vegetative cover, riprap, or bulkheading. If vegetative cover is used, the slopes shall be no steeper than three horizontal to one vertical.
 - (4) The fill shall not adversely affect the flow of surface drainage from or onto neighboring properties.
 - (5) The top of the lowest floor, including basements, shall be above the FPG.
- (f) **Structures Constructed with a Crawlspace.** A residential or nonresidential structure may be constructed with a crawlspace located below the FPG, provided that the following conditions are met:
- (1) The building must be designed and adequately anchored to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy;
 - (2) Any enclosed area below the FPG shall have openings that equalize hydrostatic pressures by allowing for the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.
 - (3) A minimum of two openings having a total net area of not less than one square inch per square foot of enclosed area is provided. The bottom of the openings shall be no more than one foot above grade;
 - (4) The interior height of the crawlspace measured from the interior grade of the crawlspace to the top of the foundation wall must not exceed four feet at any point;
 - (5) Utility systems within the crawlspace must be elevated above the FPG;
 - (6) An adequate drainage system must be installed to remove floodwaters from the interior area of the crawlspace within a reasonable period of time after a flood event;
 - (7) Portions of the building below the FPG must be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage; and
 - (8) Utility systems within the crawlspace must be elevated above the FPG.
- (g) **Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles.** Manufactured homes and recreational vehicles to be installed or substantially improved on a site for more than 180 days must meet the following requirements:
- (1) The manufactured home shall be elevated on a permanent foundation such that the lowest floor shall be at or above the FPG and securely anchored to an approved foundation system to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement. This requirement applies to all manufactured homes to be placed on a site:
 - a. Outside a manufactured home park or subdivision;
 - b. In a new manufactured home park or subdivision;
 - c. In an expansion to an existing manufactured home park or subdivision; or
 - d. In an existing manufactured home park or subdivision on which a manufactured home has incurred "substantial damage" as a result of a flood.
 - (2) Recreational vehicles placed on a site shall either:
 - a. Be on site for less than 180 days;
 - b. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use (defined as being on its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices, and has no permanently attached additions); or
 - c. Meet the requirements for "manufactured homes" as state earlier in this section.

Section 21.13 - Critical Facility

Construction of new critical facilities such as schools, nursing homes, hospitals, police, fire, and emergency response installations, installations which produce, use or store hazardous materials or hazardous waste shall be, to the extent possible, located outside the limits of the SFHA. Construction of new critical facilities shall be permissible within the SFHA if no feasible alternative site is available. Critical facilities constructed within the SFHA shall have the lowest floor elevated to or above the FPG at the site. Floodproofing and sealing

measures must be taken to ensure that toxic substances will not be displaced by or released into floodwaters. Access routes elevated to or above the FPG shall be provided to all critical facilities to the extent possible. Critical facilities shall not be constructed within the limits of any floodway.

Section 21.14 - Standards for Identified Floodways

- (a) Located within SFHAs established in Section 21.08, are areas designated as floodways. The floodway is an extremely hazardous area due to the velocity of floodwaters, which carry debris, and potential projectiles and also create erosion potential. If the proposed site is in an identified floodway, the enforcement official shall require the applicant to forward the application, along with all pertinent plans and specifications, to the IDNR and apply for a permit for construction in a floodway. Under the provisions of IC 14-28-1, a permit for construction in a floodway from the IDNR is required prior to the issuance of a local building permit for any excavation, deposit, construction or obstruction activity located in the floodway. This includes land preparation activities such as filling, grading, clearing, paving, and the like, undertaken before the actual start of construction of the structure. However, it does exclude non-substantial additions/improvements to existing (lawful) residences in a non-boundary river floodway. (IC 14-28-1-26 allows construction of non-substantial additions/improvements to residences in a non-boundary river floodway without obtaining a permit for construction in a floodway from the IDNR. Non-substantial additions/improvements shall be based upon IDNR floodplain management rules and are generally defined as improvements/additions that are less than 50 percent of the market value of the building. Note that, if fill is needed to elevate an addition above the existing grade, prior approval (construction in a floodway permit) for the fill is required from the IDNR.)
- (b) No action shall be taken by the enforcement official until a permit (when applicable) has been issued by the IDNR granting approval for construction in a floodway. Once a permit for construction in a floodway has been issued by the IDNR, the enforcement official may issue the local floodplain development permit, provided the provisions contained in Section 21.10 through 21.16 have been met. The floodplain development permit cannot be less restrictive than the permit for construction in a floodway issued by the IDNR. However, a community's more restrictive regulations (if any) shall take precedence.
- (c) No development shall be allowed which acting alone or in combination with existing or future development, will increase the regulatory flood.
- (d) For all projects involving channel modifications or fill (including levees) the county or city shall submit the data and request that the FEMA revise the regulatory flood data.

Section 21.15 - Standards for Identified Floodway Fringe

If the site is located in an identified floodway fringe, the enforcement official may issue the local floodplain development permit provided the provisions contained in Section 21.07 through 21.16 have been met.

Section 21.16 - Standards for SFHAS without Established Base Flood Elevation and/or Floodways/Fringes

- (a) The following standards apply if the drainage area upstream of the proposed development site is greater than one square mile:
 - (1) If the site is an identified floodplain where the limits of the floodway and fringe have not yet been determined, and the drainage area upstream of the site is greater than one square mile, the enforcement official shall require the applicant to forward the application, along with all pertinent plans and specifications, to the IDNR for review and comment.
 - (2) No action shall be taken by the enforcement official until either a permit has been issued for construction in the floodway, or a floodplain analysis/regulatory assessment that cites the 100-year flood elevation and the recommended FPG has been received from the IDNR.
 - (3) Once the enforcement official has received the proper permit for construction in a floodway, or a floodplain analysis/regulatory assessment approving the proposed development, a floodplain development permit may be issued, provided the conditions of the floodplain development permit are not less restrictive than the conditions received from the IDNR and the provisions contained in Section 21.10 through 21.16 have been met.
- (b) The following standards apply if the drainage area upstream of the proposed development site is less than one square mile.
 - (1) If the site is in an identified floodplain where the limits of the floodway and fringe have not yet been determined and the

drainage area upstream of the site is less than one square mile, the enforcement official shall require the applicant to provide an engineering analysis showing the limits of the floodway, fringe and 100-year flood elevation for the site.

- (2) Upon receipt, the enforcement official may issue the local floodplain development permit, provided the provisions contained in Section 21.10 through 21.16 have been met.
- (c) The total cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the regulatory flood and will not increase flood damages or potential flood damages.
- (d) No structures intended for occupancy shall be constructed within the floodway.

Section 21.17 - Standards for Subdivision Proposals

- (a) The enforcement official shall review all proposed subdivisions to determine whether the subdivision lies in a SFHA, as defined elsewhere by this article. If the enforcement official finds the subdivision to be so located, the enforcement official shall forward plans and materials to the IDNR for review and comment. The enforcement official shall require appropriate changes and modifications in order to assure that:
 - (1) The subdivision proposal is consistent with the need to minimize flood damages;
 - (2) All public utilities and facilities, such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems are located and constructed to prevent flood damage;
 - (3) Adequate drainage is provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards;
 - (4) On-site waste disposal systems, if provided, will be located and designed to avoid their impairment, and to prevent them from being a source of contamination during the occurrence of the regulatory flood.
- (b) Developers shall record the 100-year flood elevation on all subdivision plats containing lands identified elsewhere by ordinance as within a SFHA prior to submitting the plats for approval by the plan commission.
- (c) All owners of manufactured home parks or subdivisions located within the SFHA identified as zone A on the community's FHBM or FIRM shall develop an evacuation plan for those lots located in zone A and file it with the local plan commission and have it filed and approved by the appropriate community emergency management authorities.

Section 21.18 - Riparian Management Plan

- (a) The enforcement official shall require that a permit applicant submit a riparian management plan if the enforcement official believes such a plan is needed to meet the standards of this article, including conditions attached to permit issuance. Such a management plan may include the procedures and timing of the proposed project, water level manipulation, removal of exotic species, replanting (if necessary) and other active management activities over time. The riparian management plan may also be combined with a compensatory mitigation plan as provided in Sections 21.10 and 21.11 of this article.
- (b) The riparian management plan shall be consistent with the following requirements:
 - (1) The plan shall describe all conservation and/or land management techniques that will be used to conserve and restore the riparian area.
 - (2) The plan shall specify any management activities that will be carried out over time, and methods or techniques for implementing the activities.
 - (3) The plan shall specify the professional and personnel resources that will be committed to monitoring and managing the riparian area.
 - (4) The plan shall specify construction methods that identify and protect riparian habitat that is to be left unaltered.
 - (5) Site development shall accommodate the topography and soil so as to create the least potential for vegetation loss and site disturbance.
 - (6) Vegetation and soil removal shall be limited to the minimum amount necessary for the development of the site.
 - (7) Temporary vegetation, sufficient to stabilize the soil, may be required on all disturbed areas as necessary to prevent soil erosion. New plantings shall be given sufficient water and protection to insure reestablishment.
 - (8) If the proposed development would affect the banks of the stream or river, bank stabilization techniques shall be required to

prevent erosion.

Section 21.19 - Compensatory Mitigation

- (a) The applicant shall be required to submit a compensatory mitigation plan developed by qualified professional if it is determined that such a plan is needed to meet the standards of this article. The standards of this article include no net loss of riparian area functions, values, acreage and flood storage, and any conditions attached to the issuance of a floodplain permit. Compensatory mitigation measures may take the form of riparian area restoration, creation or enhancement. Compensatory mitigation plans shall include design, implementation, maintenance, and monitoring elements. Plans shall include a description of the mitigation area, existing and proposed topography at one foot contour intervals, any proposed fill (including source of the fill) or stockpiling, proposed excavation, planting plans (including source of plants) and erosion control measures.
- (b) A compensatory mitigation plan shall also include, at a minimum:
 - (1) The restoration of vegetation that is native to the site;
 - (2) Periodic monitoring of mitigation features;
 - (3) Maintenance and replacement of damaged plants or other features; and
 - (4) A proposal for posting a performance bond or other financial guarantee.
- (c) In general, compensatory mitigation shall be onsite and in kind. However, the enforcement official may allow use of offsite and out-of-kind mitigation including the use of mitigation banks if such use will have net ecological benefits, will not cause nuisances, will not violate other laws, and will not result in fragmentation of the riparian ecological system. Use of mitigation banks will be allowed to compensate for impacts only where onsite measures are applied to insure that flooding, water pollution, erosion, and other problems do not occur at the original site.
- (d) Where feasible, mitigation projects shall be completed prior to development activities. In other cases, mitigation shall be completed immediately following disturbance and prior to use or occupancy of the activity. There shall be no introduction of any plant or wildlife that is not native to the area into a mitigation project, unless authorized by a state or federal permit.
- (e) In general the following ratios shall be provided for floodplain storage, restoration, and enhancement: 1:1 for storage, 2:1 for restoration, and 6:1 for enhancement. The enforcement official may increase the ratios if uncertainties exist with regard to the success of the proposed mitigation, a significant period of time will elapse between impact and mitigation of riparian area functions, or the impact was unauthorized. The enforcement official may decrease the ratios if the proposed mitigation has a high likelihood of success, the proposed mitigation will provide functions and values significantly greater than the floodplain area being impacted, or the proposed mitigation is conducted in advance of the impact and has been shown to be successful.
- (f) In evaluating the adequacy of proposed compensatory mitigation, the enforcement official shall consider its effectiveness in avoiding impacts, minimizing impacts, rectifying the impacts, reducing or eliminating the impacts over time; and compensating for the impacts. The following shall be considered:
 - (1) The risk of failure of the proposed mitigation project based upon the difficulty with which this type of riparian area is restored, created, or enhanced; the experience and expertise of the individual or individuals proposing to carry out the mitigation; the proposed buffer and other protection measures; and the proposed management, monitoring and maintenance;
 - (2) The societal and natural resources value of riparian functions provided by the mitigation plan in comparison to the societal and natural resources value of the functions of the original riparian area;
 - (3) Whether the proposed mitigation will require long term maintenance and, if so, the adequacy of any proposed maintenance; and
 - (4) The need for long term monitoring and how such monitoring will be provided.

Section 21.20 - Waiver

- (a) **Natural Features Review Committee.** A natural features review committee shall be appointed for the county and each city to hear and decide on requests for waivers to the requirements of this article. The natural features review committee shall consist of the enforcement official, the city engineer or county highway engineer and one member of the board of zoning appeals.

- (b) **Waiver Procedures.** In granting waivers, the natural features review committee shall consider all technical evaluations, all relevant factors, all standards specified in other sections of this article, and:
- (1) The danger to life and property due to flooding or erosion damage;
 - (2) The susceptibility of the proposed facility, and its contents to flood damage, and the effect of such damage on the individual owner, and on the integrity of the adjacent natural resources;
 - (3) The importance of the services provided by the proposed facility to the community;
 - (4) The necessity of a waterfront location to the facility, where applicable;
 - (5) The availability of alternative locations for the proposed use which are not subject to flooding or erosion damage;
 - (6) The compatibility of the proposed use with existing and anticipated development;
 - (7) The relationship of the proposed use to the comprehensive plan and floodplain management regulations for that area;
 - (8) The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles;
 - (9) The expected height, velocity, duration, rate of rise, and sediment transport of the floodwaters at the site; and
 - (10) The costs of providing governmental services during and after flood conditions, including maintenance and repair of public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems, and streets and bridges.
- (c) **Waivers.** The natural features review committee shall use the following criteria in granting a waiver to the requirements of this article:
- (1) Waivers shall only be issued when there is:
 - a. A showing of good and sufficient cause;
 - b. A determination that failure to grant the waiver would result in a practical difficulty; and
 - c. A determination that the granting of a waiver will not result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, or creation of nuisances, will not cause fraud, or victimization of the public, and will not conflict with existing laws or ordinances.
 - (2) Waivers shall only be issued upon a determination that the waiver is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.
 - (3) No waiver may be granted for a residential use within a floodway, subject to Section 21.14 or 21.16(a) of this article.
 - (4) Any waiver granted in a floodway subject to Section 21.14 or 21.16(a) of this article will require a permit from the IDNR.
 - (5) Waivers or exceptions to the flood hazard reduction of Section 21.12 may be granted only when a new structure is to be located on a lot of one-half acre or less in size, contiguous to and surrounded by lots with existing structures constructed below the FPG.
 - (6) Waivers may be granted for the reconstruction or restoration of any structure individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places or the Indiana State Register of Historic Sites and Structures. Waivers may be issued for the repair or rehabilitation of "historic structures" upon a determination that the proposed repair or rehabilitation will not preclude the structure's continued designation as an "historic structure" and the waiver is the minimum necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the structure.
- (d) **Flood Elevation.** Any applicant to whom a waiver is granted shall be given written notice specifying the difference between the base flood elevation and the elevation to which the lowest floor is to be built and stating that the cost of the flood insurance will be commensurate with the increased risk resulting from the reduced lowest floor elevation.
- (1) Any applicant to whom a waiver is granted shall be given written notice over the signature of a enforcement official that:
 - a. The issuance of a waiver to construct a structure below the base flood elevation will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25.00 for \$100.00 of insurance coverage; and
 - b. Such construction below the base flood level increases risks to life and property. A copy of the notice shall be recorded by the enforcement official in the Office of the County Recorder and shall be recorded in a manner so that it appears in the chain of title of the affected parcel of land.
 - (2) The enforcement official will maintain a record of all waiver actions, including justification for their issuance, and report such

waivers issued in the community's biennial report submissions to the FEMA.

(e) **Special Conditions.** The natural features review committee may conditionally approve permits or waivers for development activities in floodplains. Examples of the types of conditions that may be attached to permits or waivers include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Design measures to reduce project impacts;
- (2) Relocation of the proposed activity to reduce project impacts;
- (3) Flood and erosion reduction measures to prevent hazard losses to activities or natural resources on other lands;
- (4) Compensatory mitigation measures to offset losses to riparian area acreage, functions, and values;
- (5) Inclusion in the deed for the property a warning that the property contains a riparian area and that any activities in the riparian areas are subject to the riparian, wetland, floodplain and other regulatory requirements;
- (6) Setbacks from the river, stream, or other water body of a size appropriate for the proposed activity and the particular riparian area;
- (7) Deed restrictions, covenants, or execution of conservation easements regarding the future use of lands including but not limited to preservation of undeveloped areas and restrictions on vegetation removal;
- (8) Erosion control and stormwater management measures must comply with all of the related provisions of this Zoning Ordinance and specifically the requirements of Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances;
- (9) The clustering of structures or development.

(Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.14), 8-4-2025)

Section 21.21 - Enforcement and Penalties

In addition to the enforcement and penalties provided for in Article 26, the enforcement official shall have the power to order the restoration of any riparian area impacted in violation of this article. If the responsible person or agent does not complete such restoration within a reasonable time following the order, the authorized local government shall have the authority to restore the affected wetlands to the prior condition and the person or agent responsible for the violation shall be held liable to the city or county for the cost of restoration.

Section 21.22 - Warning; Disclaimer of Liability

The degree of flood protection required by this article is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on available information derived from engineering and scientific methods of study. Larger floods can and will occur on rare occasions. Therefore, this article does not create any liability on the part of La Porte County, the City of La Porte, Michigan City, the IDNR, or the State of Indiana, for any flood damage that results from reliance on this article or any administrative decision made lawfully thereunder.

ARTICLE 22. - NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

Section 22.01 - Intent

(a) **Findings of Fact.** Natural resources of La Porte County, Indiana contain some of the richest biodiversity in the state and region. The two major watersheds in which La Porte County resides are the Little Calumet — Galien Basin, which drains to Lake Michigan, and the Kankakee River Basin, which drains to the Mississippi River. The watersheds are separated by the Valparaiso Moraine, a hilly region underlain by glacial till and sand deposited during the Wisconsin Glaciation. The Little Calumet — Galien Basin historically contained extensive sand dune/swale ecosystems, wetlands including the Great Marsh, and other ecosystems. The Kankakee River Basin was historically an extensive system of wetlands known as the 'Grand Kankakee Marsh,' one of the largest marsh-swamp river basins in the interior of the U.S.

The La Porte County region has been significantly impacted and fragmented by human activity. In the Little Calumet — Galien Basin, channelization of waterways, implementation of drainage tile, industrial development and pollution, mining of sand dunes and other impacts have significantly altered and reduced the extent of natural resources. Channelization of the Kankakee River and its tributaries

drained the Kankakee River Basin, eliminating the majority of the wetlands in that region. Expanding population, industrial and agricultural activity, historical pollution and development pressures continue to threaten the viability of La Porte County's natural resources. Piecemeal or cumulative losses have the potential, over time, to destroy remaining wetlands and other natural resources.

The wetlands and other natural resources of the County are indispensable and fragile ecosystems with significant development constraints due to flooding, erosion and soil limitations. In their natural state, wetlands and other natural resources function to serve people and nature. The multiple beneficial functions of La Porte County's natural resources, when maintained in a substantially natural state, include:

- (1) Protection and improvement of surface and groundwater quality
 - (2) Recharge and discharge of groundwater
 - (3) Storage, conveyance and attenuation of floodwaters and storm waters
 - (4) Protection and improvement of air quality
 - (5) Habitat for fish, wildlife and vegetation
 - (6) Support of biodiversity, which serves as a basis for ecosystem stability
 - (7) Mitigation of floods and droughts
 - (8) Generation and renewal of soil and soil fertility
 - (9) Stabilization of soil and prevention of erosion
 - (10) Pollination of crops and natural vegetation
 - (11) Stabilization of micro and regional climate
 - (12) Natural resource education; scientific study; open space; and recreation opportunities
 - (13) Preservation of aesthetic quality of the county, which is important to quality of life for county residents, and for recreational and tourism value
- (b) Destruction of natural resources compromises the ability of the ecosystems to provide the functions listed above. The uncontrolled use and development of natural resources in La Porte County affects public health and general welfare. Therefore, it is in the best interest of La Porte County to provide for the wise, regulated use of its shared natural resources.
- (c) **Statement of Purpose.** The intended general purpose of this article is to require planning to avoid or minimize damage to natural resources of La Porte County, including the City of La Porte and City of Michigan City; to protect the rights of the residents of La Porte County to enjoy clean air, pure water and the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment; to restrict degradation of natural resources and to provide for their protection. Specific goals to be supported by this article include:
- (1) Protect land and water resource areas, including groundwater recharge zones (aquifers), springs, streams, wetlands, woodlands, prime wildlife habitats, and areas constituting high ecological, recreational and other amenity value that exist on developed or undeveloped land, and other protected natural resource areas as defined by this article.
 - (2) Direct growth away from areas with sensitive natural resources and toward those areas most suitable for development in terms of available infrastructure (i.e. sewer, water, transportation), compatible land uses, and least impact on protected resources.
 - (3) Promote sustainable land use practices that are consistent with the preservation or improvement of the quality of the existing environment and of natural amenities. Sustainable land use includes those practices that improve or preserve the economic, social, and ecological function of natural resources.
 - (4) Establish that any development plan (e.g. site plan, subdivision plat, site condominium plan), shall be designed and arranged to protect and minimize disturbance to priority natural resource protection areas.
 - (5) Allow compensatory mitigation for natural resource impacts compliant with state and federal standards and define additional local mitigation requirements for impacts to protected natural resource areas.
- (d) **Public Safety Purpose.** A further purpose of this article is to ensure that development activities in La Porte County, including the City of La Porte and City of Michigan City do not threaten public safety or cause nuisances by:

- (1) Blocking drainage flows, destroying flood storage areas, or destroying storm barriers, thereby raising flood heights or velocities land and increasing flood damages;
 - (2) Causing water pollution through any means, including location of septic systems in wet soils, unauthorized application of pesticides, herbicides and algicides; disposal of solid wastes or surface water runoff at inappropriate sites; or the creation of unstabilized fills;
 - (3) Increasing erosion; or
 - (4) Increasing runoff of sediment and surface water.
- (e) **Preservation Purpose.** A further purpose of this article is to ensure that development activities in La Porte County do not destroy natural resource functions important to the general welfare by:
- (1) Decreasing breeding, spawning, nesting, wintering, feeding, or other critical habitat for fish and wildlife, including rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species and commercially and recreationally important wildlife;
 - (2) Decreasing groundwater recharge;
 - (3) Destroying sites needed for education and scientific research as outdoor biophysical laboratories, living classrooms and training areas;
 - (4) Interfering with public rights in waters and the recreation opportunities for hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, bird watching, photography, camping and other activities in natural resource areas; or
 - (5) Destroying aesthetic or property values.

Section 22.02 - Lands to Which This Article Applies

- (a) **Lands and Waters to Which This Article Applies.** The provisions of this article shall apply to all natural resources and associated buffers within jurisdiction of La Porte County, the City of La Porte and the City of Michigan City as mapped by the web-based GIS Database interactive mapping tool Indiana Map at <http://maps.indiana.edu/layerGallery.html> (or similar public resource), or, in the case of sand dunes and associated vegetation, as mapped by the Soil Survey Geographic Database of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. A listing of natural resource layers to be evaluated will be provided by the enforcement official, but at a minimum shall include:
- (1) Land cover;
 - (2) Soils and geology;
 - (3) Steep Slopes (> 20 percent)
 - (4) Water bodies, including rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds;
 - (5) Floodplains (FEMA);
 - (6) Infrastructure, including critical facilities, energy, railroads, recreation, schools, etc.
 - (7) Aquifers;
 - (8) Wetlands (National Wetlands Inventory);
 - (9) Watersheds; and
 - (10) Sand dunes and associated vegetation.
- (b) **Lands and Waters to Which This Article Does Not Apply.** The provisions of this article shall not apply to the following lands and waters in La Porte County:
- (1) Artificially-constructed ponds, drainage ditches, stormwater collection basins, gravel pits, stone quarries or waste treatment systems or lagoons, except to the extent that such uses are restricted or prohibited in a natural resource protection area;
 - (2) Wetlands and other natural resource areas for which local, state or federal permits for fill were issued prior to the adoption of this article or prior to the extension of the planning and zoning jurisdiction La Porte County over the areas for which the permits were issued.
- (c) In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this subchapter and those of any other part of the Zoning Ordinance that governs the management of natural resource areas, the more restrictive provision shall take precedence.

Section 22.03 - Activities Allowed by Right

The following uses are allowed in natural resource areas without a permit, providing they do not involve hydrologic or soil modifications, land disturbance or fills:

- (a) Private wildlife sanctuaries, natural resource preserves, scientific or educational research, provided that they do not harm the natural ecosystem;
- (b) Outdoor recreation including nature study, hiking, horseback riding, swimming, camping, trapping, hunting, fishing, shell fishing, cross-country skiing where otherwise legally permitted;
- (c) Open space uses incidental to the enjoyment and maintenance of adjacent residential, commercial and industrial property such as open space for subdivisions and building setback areas;
- (d) Maintenance and repair of existing ditches, watercourses, farm ponds, utilities, roadways providing the activity does not involve the expansion of roadways or related improvements into previously unimpacted areas; and
- (e) Removal of diseased or invasive exotic plant species as identified and quantified in writing by a qualified biologist and approved in writing by Natural Resources Enforcement Official, and removal of dead or detached plant material.

Section 22.04 - Establishment of Setback Requirements

- (a) **Minimum Setback of Development Activity From Streams, Lakes, Ponds, and Wetlands.** Absolutely no development activity (except as provided below) may occur within the minimum setback which is defined as 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark of streams, lakes, and ponds, and 50 feet from the edge of wetlands, or within a designated depressional area. In no case shall the setback be less than the boundary of the 100-year floodway as defined by FEMA. The enforcement official may require a larger setback based upon flooding, erosion, pollution, endangered species, riparian or wetland functions and values, or other relevant factors.
- (b) Where a development pattern exists, the setback for a proposed principal structure may be reduced to the average setback of the principal structure on each adjacent lot, but the setback may not be reduced to less than 35 feet from the ordinary high water mark of any navigable water.
- (c) These setback requirements do not apply to a stream in a culvert unless the stream is taken out of a culvert as part of development activity. If a culvert functions as a low-flow culvert, where water is intended to periodically flow over it, the setback requirements shall apply. Review waiver of this article for proposed development activity within the minimum setback area will consider the following:
 - (1) Only limited filling and excavating necessary for the development of public boat launching ramps, swimming beaches, or the development of park shelters or similar structures is allowed. The development and maintenance of roads, parking lots and other impervious surfaces necessary for permitted uses are allowed only on a very limited basis, and where no alternate location outside the setback area is available.
 - (2) Land surface modification within the minimum setback shall be permitted for development of stormwater drainage swales between the developed area of the site (including a stormwater detention facility on the site) and a stream, lake or pond, or wetland. Detention basins within the setback are generally discouraged, unless it can be shown that resultant modifications will not impair water quality, habitat, or flood storage functions. All modifications, including detention facilities must be built pursuant to the requirements found in Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances.
- (d) The purpose of this protection offset is to preserve the natural resource areas themselves and the environmentally sensitive areas immediately around the natural resource areas. These protection setbacks are separate and different from any state or federal wetland requirements.

Section 22.05 - Requirement for Natural Resources Due Diligence Inventory

- (a) Provision shall be made for the identification, evaluation, review, and permitting of identified natural resources in conformance with provisions of this article prior to the commencement of any regulated land disturbance activities in natural resource areas. Activities include filling; excavating; grading; dredging; construction; clear-cutting; removal of peat, sand or gravel; or alteration of the water table flood-retention characteristics, of surface drainage or of topographical characteristics.
- (b) Upon reviewing the project location and site plan, the enforcement official may require submittal of a Natural Resources Due Diligence Inventory to determine the presence or absence of identified natural resources requiring protection, mitigation and/or permitting. The Natural Resources Due Diligence Inventory shall be prepared by a professional wetland consultant employed by a professional ecological consulting firm included on the USACE Indiana Engineering and Environmental Consulting Firm list, as amended.
- (c) In addition, a Natural Resources Inventory Survey shall be required for any project directly adjacent to an existing nature preserve, including but not limited to, the Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve, Barker Woods Nature Preserve, Little Calumet Headwaters Nature Preserve, Wintergreen Woods Nature Preserve, and Spice Lake Nature Preserve (St. Joseph County). A delineation of all natural resources including wetlands and/or streams shall be completed on the project site. The wetland delineation shall be completed using methods and procedures most recently established by the USACE.
- (d) The Natural Resource Inventory Survey shall include correspondence with the United States Fish and Wildlife (FWS) and Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Nature Preserves regarding Threatened, Endangered, or Rare (ETR) species. Additionally, the most recent, available list of ETR species shall be consulted. The project site shall be assessed to determine if potential habitat is present for any listed ETR noted in the region. A more exhaustive investigation may be warranted if it is determined that ETR species may exist on the project site.

IDNR ETR List: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve>
- (e) Submittal of a Natural Resources Due Diligence Inventory does not preclude the applicant from obtaining local, state, and federal permits for impacts to natural resources.

(Ord. No. 4500, §§ 5.37., 5.38., 2-5-2019)

Section 22.06 - Compliance

- (a) No structure shall hereafter be located, extended, converted or structurally altered within identified natural resource areas without full compliance with the terms of this article and other applicable regulations. No natural resource area within La Porte County, the City of La Porte or the City of Michigan City shall hereafter be altered without full compliance with the terms of this article and other applicable regulations.
- (b) Any entity responsible for a premises, which is, or may be, the source of an impact to a protected natural resource area shall provide, at their own expense, reasonable protection from this impact through the use of acceptable best management practices (BMPs) and/or compensatory mitigation practices, as determined by the jurisdictional authority and outlined herein.

Section 22.07 - Duties and Responsibilities of Enforcement Official

- (a) The enforcement official and/or designee is hereby authorized and directed to enforce the provisions of this article. The enforcement official is further authorized to render interpretations of this article which are consistent with its spirit and purpose.
- (b) Duties and responsibilities of the enforcement official shall include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) Review all due diligence inventory information pertaining to natural resource development to assure that the requirements of this article have been satisfied.
 - (2) Inspect and inventory damaged structures in natural resource areas and complete substantial damage determinations.
 - (3) Ensure that construction authorization has been granted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Indiana Department of Natural Resources, (IDNR), and/or Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for all development projects subject to Section 401 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and maintain a record of such authorization (either copy of actual permit, water quality certification, jurisdictional determination, regional general permit notification or construction in a floodway).

- (4) Ensure that all necessary federal or state permits have been received prior to issuance of the ILP. Copies of such permits are to maintained on file.
- (5) Notify adjacent communities and the State Floodplain Coordinator prior to any alteration or relocation of a watercourse, and submit copies of such notification to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- (6) Maintain for public inspection, and furnish upon request, local permit documents, damaged structure inventories, substantial damage determinations, regulatory flood data, copies of USACE and IDEM permits, jurisdictional determination and regulatory assessments (letters of recommendation), federal permit documents, and "as-built" elevations and data for all structures and mitigated wetland areas constructed subject to this article.
- (7) Assure that monitoring and maintenance is provided within any mitigated portion of the natural resource area in accordance with permit requirements.
- (8) Review certified plans and specifications for compliance.
- (9) Issue stop work orders:
 - a. Upon notice from the enforcement official, work on any building, structure or premises that is being done contrary to the provisions of this article shall immediately cease.
 - b. Such notice shall be in writing and shall be given to the owner of the property, or to his or her agent, or to the person doing the work, and shall state the conditions under which work may be resumed.
- (10) Revocation of approval.
 - a. The enforcement official may revoke approval issued under the provisions of this article, in cases where there has been any false statement or misrepresentation as to the material facts in the application or plans on which the approval was based.
 - b. The enforcement official may revoke approval upon determination by the enforcement official that the construction, erection, alteration, repair, moving, demolition, installation, or replacement of the structure for which the permit was issued is in violation of, or not in conformity with, the provisions of this article or the conditions of the permit.

Section 22.08 - Inventory Procedures

Prior to any development activities, the enforcement official shall review the LDM interactive GIS database map information (or similar public resource), conduct an analysis of submitted project materials required in [Article 23](#) of this ordinance and notify the applicant if a natural resource due diligence inventory will be required for the project.

If required, the applicant shall retain a qualified ecological engineering consultant to perform a Natural Resources Due Diligence Inventory, including a wetland delineation, an Endangered, Threatened, or Rare (ETR) Species Investigation of flora and fauna including a database search of U.S. Fish and Wildlife information and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for ETR species documented within one-mile of the site, and a preliminary summary of any available regulatory information for floodway/floodplain identified within the proposed project boundaries to meet the requirements of [Section 22.07](#).

The inventory survey shall include the following information:

(a) Application Stage.

- (1) Name, address and contact information of property owner and applicant (if different);
- (2) A description of the proposed development activity;
- (3) Location of the proposed development activity sufficient to accurately locate property and structure in relation to existing roads, streams and other waterbodies;
- (4) A legal description of the property;
- (5) A site development plan showing identified natural resources, existing and proposed building and structure locations, existing and proposed land grades, and potential or proposed impact to wetlands;
- (6) A description of all grading, filling and vegetation removal proposed by the development plan;
- (7) An explanation of why this activity cannot be located at an upland site;

- (8) A description of all measures proposed to reduce or compensate for project impacts;
 - (9) Photographs of the proposed project site showing the existing condition;
 - (10) Elevation of the 100-year flood, and floodplain and floodway boundaries (if applicable) at the project site;
 - (11) Elevation of the top of the lowest floor (including basement) of all proposed buildings. Elevation should be in NAVD 88;
 - (12) Elevation (in NAVD 88) to which any non-residential structure will be floodproofed;
 - (13) Description of the extent to which any wetland natural resource area will be altered or impacted as a result of proposed development;
 - (14) Description of construction sequencing and timetable for proposed activities, including a description of future phases of the project;
 - (15) Natural resource feature determination in accordance with this article;
 - (16) Copies of approved permits from USACE, IDNR and/or IDEM.
- (b) **Additional Information.** The enforcement official may also require a permit applicant to submit additional information if the enforcement official deems such information necessary to determine the compliance of a proposed activity with the standards and criteria set forth in the article. All plans, reports, calculations, and narratives shall be prepared in accordance with this article and signed and sealed by a professional engineer, registered by the State of Indiana. Such information may include:
- (1) Description of ecological communities and functions;
 - (2) Description of how the development activity will change, diminish, or enhance the ecological communities and functions;
 - (3) Name, address, professional status, license number, and phone number of the person who is to prepare the protected natural resource management or mitigation plan;
 - (4) More detailed site plans;
 - (5) Engineering reports and analyses where the proposed activity may be subject to flood or erosion hazards, or increase such hazards or other types;
 - (6) Mapping or description of soil types where onsite waste disposal is proposed; and
 - (7) Analysis of chemical or physical characteristics of any fill material.
- (c) **Construction Stage.** Upon placement of improvements, it shall be the duty of the permit holder to submit to the enforcement official a certification of the improvements including NAVD 88 elevation, as built. This certification shall be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a registered land surveyor or professional engineer and certified by that individual. When floodproofing is utilized for a particular structure, the certification shall be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a professional engineer or licensed architect and certified by that individual. Any work undertaken prior to submission of the certification shall be at the permit holder's risk. (The enforcement official shall review the lowest floor and floodproofing elevation survey data submitted.) The permit holder shall correct deficiencies detected by such review before any further work is allowed to proceed. Failure to submit the survey or failure to make the corrections required hereby shall be cause to issue a stop work order for the project. All permits shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance, unless the enforcement official indicates otherwise.
- (d) **Erosion Control Standards.** This Erosion Control Standards section applies to the following types of development:
- (1) General: No changes shall be made in the contour of the land, nor shall grading, excavating, removal or destruction of the topsoil, trees, or other vegetative cover of the land be commenced, until a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) has been reviewed and approved by the enforcement official.
 - (2) The SWP3 shall meet the requirements of the MS4 Construction Activity Erosion and Sediment Control Program in accordance with Phase II Version of 327 IAC 15-5 (Rule 13)
 - (3) IDEM Review: Any development over one acre shall be reviewed by IDEM. A copy of the submittal for approval shall be held in the office of the enforcement official.
 - (4) Off-site Sedimentation: Whenever sedimentation is caused by stripping of vegetation, regrading, or other development

activities, it shall be the responsibility of the petitioner to remove it from all adjoining surfaces, drainage systems, and watercourses, and to repair any damage at the petitioner's expense.

- (5) Off-site Fill: Off-site fill material shall be free of environmentally hazardous materials. The petitioner shall ensure to the enforcement official's satisfaction that fill material hauled from an off-site location is free of environmental contaminants. The source of fill material shall be identified prior to application for a Grading Permit, Improvement Location Permit, or Subdivision Improvement Permit. If directed by the enforcement official, the petitioner shall have testing performed on representative samples of the fill material to determine if environmentally hazardous materials are present in the fill.
- (6) Other Fill:
 - a. Organic Material: Detrimental amounts of organic material shall not be permitted in fills.
 - b. Irreducible Material: No rock or similar irreducible material with a maximum dimension greater than 12 inches shall be buried or placed in fills unless included and approved as part of a grading permit, improvement location permit, or subdivision improvement permit.
- (7) Health, Safety and Welfare: If the enforcement official determines that any existing excavation, embankment or fill has become a hazard to life or limb, endangers property, or adversely affects the safety, use or stability of a public way or drainage channel, a written notice shall be issued to the owner of the property upon which the hazard is located or other person or agent in control of the property, who shall repair or eliminate such excavation, fill or embankment within the period specified in the notice to eliminate the hazard.
- (8) Disturbance of Protected Areas: If any "no disturb" areas are driven over, altered, disturbed or damaged in any way, the petitioner or property owner shall be subject to a stop work order as outlined in Section 22.07 of this article.
- (e) **Sand Dunes.** In addition to the applicable provisions in Section (d), Erosion Control Standards, above, the following provisions shall apply to development that occurs on or impacts soils classified as Duneland (DU), or Oakville Fine Sand (OaE), or Urban Land - Oakville Complex (UoC) that are greater than 12 percent slope as defined by the Soil Survey Geographic Database of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
 - (1) Except as permitted in Paragraph (2), below, alteration of a dune shall not directly or indirectly result in:
 - a. The removal or diminution of the amount of sand, silt, shell, sediment, or other geologic components of any sand dune;
 - b. An increased risk of flood damages;
 - c. Clear-cutting or the removal or destruction of vegetation that contributes to dune stability; and
 - d. Interference with the enjoyment or use of the sand dunes or beach for humans or wildlife.
 - (2) A property owner may modify the following locations without violation of Paragraph (1), above:
 1. The area within the foundation perimeter, and extending out 12 feet from such perimeter, of any existing or proposed structure, as shown on an approved Improvement Location Permit.
 2. The area within the boundaries of existing or proposed driveways and parking areas, as shown on an approved Improvement Location Permit.
 3. Areas delineated for land disturbing activity on an approved SWP3, as set forth in Section (d), above.

(Ord. No. 4500, §§ 5.39., 5.40., 2-5-2019)

Section 22.09 - Basis for Protected Natural Resource Areas Determination

- (a) Protected natural resource features include, but are not limited to, areas mapped and identified as such in Section 22.02 utilizing the LDM GIS interactive database map and the following reference materials and sources.
 - (1) **Wetlands.**
 - a. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service national wetland inventory (NWI) maps (for general location only)
 - b. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil surveys indicating hydric soils
 - c. Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center

d. USEPA Region 5 Critical Ecosystems Report

e. Jurisdictional determination and delineation of the boundaries of "waters of the United States" and "waters of the State" in accordance with the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and electronic updates, to include field survey and mapping of plant material and hydric soils by a certified wetland specialist.

f. La Porte County Soil and Water Conservation District

(2) **Floodplain/Floodways.** See Article 21

(3) **Riparian Areas.**

a. La Porte County Surveyors Office

b. La Porte County Soil and Water Conservation District

(4) **Sand Dunes.** Soils classified as Duneland (DU), or Oakville Fine Sand (OaE), or Urban Land - Oakville Complex (UoC) that are greater than 12 percent slope as defined by the Soil Survey Geographic Database of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(b) Where published sources listed above conflict with field based determinations, the applicant must receive correspondence from the publishing source concurring with the determination.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.41., 2-5-2019)

Section 22.10 - Standards for Subdivision Proposals

(a) The enforcement official shall review all proposed subdivisions to determine whether the subdivision contains natural resource areas, as defined in Section 22.02. If the enforcement official finds the subdivision to be so located, the enforcement official shall require appropriate changes and modifications in order to assure that:

(1) The subdivision proposal is consistent with the need to minimize natural resource impacts and to comply with the relevant provisions of this Article;

(2) All public utilities and facilities, such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems are located and constructed to prevent adverse impact;

(3) Adequate drainage is provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards;

(4) On-site waste disposal systems, if provided, will be located and designed to avoid their impairment, and to prevent them from being a source of contamination during the occurrence of the regulatory flood.

(b) Developers shall record the delineated wetland boundaries on all subdivision plats containing lands identified elsewhere by ordinance as within a SFHA prior to submitting the plats for approval by the plan commission.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.42., 2-5-2019)

Section 22.11 - Riparian Management Plan

(a) The enforcement official may require that a permit applicant submit a riparian management plan if the enforcement official believes such a plan is needed to meet the standards of this article, including conditions attached to permit issuance. Such a management plan must comply with procedures outlined in the Indiana Drainage Handbook and may include the procedures and timing of the proposed project, water level manipulation, removal of exotic species, replanting (if necessary) and other active management activities over time. The riparian management plan may also be combined with a compensatory mitigation plan as provided in Sections 21.12 of this article.

(b) The riparian management plan shall be consistent with the following requirements:

(1) The plan shall describe all conservation and/or land management techniques that will be used to conserve and restore the riparian area.

(2) The plan shall specify any management activities that will be carried out over time, and methods or techniques for implementing the activities.

(3) The plan shall specify the professional and personnel resources that will be committed to monitoring and managing the

riparian area.

- (4) The plan shall specify construction methods that identify and protect riparian habitat that is to be left unaltered.
- (5) Site development shall accommodate the topography and soil so as to create the least potential for vegetation loss and site disturbance.
- (6) Vegetation and soil removal shall be limited to the minimum amount necessary for the development of the site.
- (7) Temporary vegetation, sufficient to stabilize the soil, may be required on all disturbed areas as necessary to prevent soil erosion. New plantings shall be given sufficient water and protection to insure reestablishment.
- (8) If the proposed development would affect the banks of the stream or river, bank stabilization techniques shall be required to prevent erosion.

Section 22.12 - Compensatory Mitigation

- (a) The applicant may be required to submit a compensatory mitigation plan developed by a qualified professional if it is determined that such a plan is needed to meet the standards of this article and IDEM, IDNR, and or USACE regulatory requirements. The standards of this article include no net loss of natural resource area functions, values, acreage and flood storage, and any conditions attached to the issuance of a wetland permit. Compensatory mitigation measures may take the form of protected natural resource area restoration, creation or enhancement. Compensatory mitigation plans shall comply with IDEM requirements and include design, implementation, maintenance, and monitoring elements. Plans shall include a description of the mitigation area, existing and proposed topography at one foot contour intervals, any proposed fill (including source of the fill) or stockpiling, proposed excavation, planting plans (including source of plants) and erosion control measures.
- (b) A compensatory mitigation plan shall also include, at a minimum:
 - (1) The restoration of vegetation that is native to the site;
 - (2) Periodic monitoring of mitigation features;
 - (3) Maintenance and replacement of damaged plants or other features; and
 - (4) A proposal for posting a performance bond or other financial assurances.
- (c) In general, compensatory mitigation shall meet jurisdictional requirements. However, the enforcement official may allow use of offsite and out of kind mitigation including the use of mitigation banks if such use will have net ecological benefits, will not cause nuisances, and will not violate other laws. Use of mitigation banks will be allowed to compensate for impacts only where onsite measures are applied to insure that flooding, water pollution, erosion, and other problems do not occur at the original site.
- (d) Where feasible, mitigation projects shall be completed prior to development activities. In other cases, mitigation shall be completed immediately following disturbance and prior to use or occupancy of the activity. There shall be no introduction into a mitigation project of any plant or wildlife that is not native to the area, unless authorized by a state or federal permit.
- (e) Minimum mitigation ratios shall be in compliance with current IDEM requirements for State Regulated Isolated Wetlands based on classification of the wetlands in accordance with IAC 13-18 or in compliance with USACE requirements for jurisdictional waters of the U.S.
- (f) In evaluating the adequacy of proposed compensatory mitigation, the enforcement official shall consider its effectiveness in avoiding impacts, minimizing impacts, rectifying the impacts, reducing or eliminating the impacts over time; and compensating for the impacts. The following shall be considered:
 - (1) The risk of failure of the proposed mitigation project based upon the difficulty with which this type of protected natural resource area is restored, created, or enhanced; the experience and expertise of the individual or individuals proposing to carry out the mitigation; the proposed buffer and other protection measures; and the proposed management, monitoring and maintenance;
 - (2) The societal and natural resources value of protected natural resource functions provided by the mitigation plan in comparison to the societal and natural resources value of the functions of the original protected natural resource area;
 - (3) Whether the proposed mitigation will require long term maintenance and, if so, the adequacy of any proposed maintenance; and

- (4) The need for long term monitoring and how such monitoring will be provided.

Section 22.13 - Variances

- (a) **Board of Zoning Appeals.** The board of zoning appeals shall hear and decide appeals and requests for variances from the requirements of this article in accordance with the procedures of Article 28.
- (b) **Variance Procedures.** In passing upon such applications, the board of zoning appeals shall consider all technical evaluations, all relevant factors, all standards specified in other sections of this article, and:
 - (1) The danger to life and property due to flooding or erosion damage;
 - (2) The importance of the services provided by the proposed facility to the community;
 - (3) The necessity of the proposed location to the success of the facility, where applicable;
 - (4) The availability of alternative locations for the proposed use which are not subject to degradation of natural resources;
 - (5) The compatibility of the proposed use with existing and anticipated development;
 - (6) The relationship of the proposed use to the comprehensive plan and development regulations for that area;
 - (7) The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles;
 - (8) The additional impact on natural resources for providing governmental services to the facility, including maintenance and repair of public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems, and streets and bridges.
 - (9) The impact of the request on the economic, ecological, and social value of designated natural resources.
- (c) **Variances.** Variances shall only be issued when there is:
 - (1) A showing of good and sufficient cause;
 - (2) A determination that failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship; and
 - (3) A determination that the granting of a variance will not result in increased natural resource degradation, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, or creation of nuisances, will not cause fraud, or victimization of the public, and will not conflict with existing laws or ordinances.
- (d) **Permits.** Any variances granted in a natural resource area subject to this article will require applicable permits from USACE, IDNR and or IDEM.
- (e) **Historic Structures.** Variances may be issued for the repair or rehabilitation of "historic structures" upon a determination that the proposed repair or rehabilitation will not preclude the structure's continued designation as an "historic structure" and the variance is the minimum activity necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the structure.
- (f) **Special Conditions.** The board of zoning appeals may conditionally approve permits or variances for development activities in natural resource areas. Examples of the types of conditions that may be attached to permits or variances include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) Design measures to reduce project impacts;
 - (2) Relocation of the proposed activity to reduce project impacts;
 - (3) Flood and erosion reduction measures to prevent hazard losses to activities or natural resources on other lands;
 - (4) Compensatory mitigation measures to offset losses to protected natural resource area acreage, functions, and values;
 - (5) Inclusion of a warning in the property deed that the property contains a protected natural resource area and that any activities in the protected natural resource areas are subject to the protected natural resource, wetland, floodplain and other regulatory requirements;
 - (6) Setbacks from the river, stream, or other water body of a size appropriate for the proposed activity and the particular protected natural resource area;
 - (7) Deed restrictions, covenants, or execution of conservation easements regarding the future use of lands including but not limited to preservation of undeveloped areas and restrictions on vegetation removal;
 - (8) Erosion control and storm water management measures;
 - (9) The clustering of structures or development;

- (10) Long term monitoring and management requirements including control of exotic plant and animal species;
- (11) Other conditions necessary to protect protected natural resource area functions, offset losses, and prevent increased natural hazard losses in the community.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.43., 2-5-2019)

Section 22.14 - Enforcement and Penalties

In addition to the enforcement and penalties provided for in Article 26, the enforcement official shall have the power to order the restoration of any natural resource area impacted in violation of this article. If the responsible person or agent does not submit a restoration plan to the enforcement official in accordance with the requirements outlined herein within 120 days following the order, the authorized local government shall have the authority to restore the affected wetlands to the prior condition and the person or agent responsible for the violation shall be held liable to the city or county for the cost of restoration.

ARTICLE 23. - IMPROVEMENT LOCATION PERMITS, SITE PLANS, BUILDING PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY

Section 23.01 - General Requirements

No permit pertaining to the use of land or permits as required by building codes for the erection, enlargement, or structural alteration of a building or structure shall be issued by an officer, department, or employee of the county or city unless the applications for the permits have been examined by the enforcement official, indicating that the applications comply with the provisions of this chapter. Any certificate or occupancy certificate issued for applications that are in conflict with the provisions of this chapter shall be null and void.

Section 23.02 - Improvement Location Permits

- (a) An improvement location permit shall be obtained for any of the following actions. This provision is applicable to any structure, including accessory structures, whose ground floor area exceeds 144 square feet, or any additions to existing structures where the change will enlarge the ground floor area of the structure, regardless of the size of the addition. However, it does not apply to any interior alterations, other than a change of use, or any exterior change which does not alter the ground floor area of a structure.

Table 23.02
Required Permit Types

Activity/Use	Improvement Location Permit
Agricultural buildings or structures	Sketch plan
Single family detached and two family dwellings	Sketch plan
Multiple family dwellings	Site plan
Non residential building	Site plan
Mixed-use building or development	Master Development Plan

Establishment of a new special exception use (see Article 17)	Site plan
Planned Unit Development (see Article 25)	Site plan
Private road	Site plan
Construction solely on the building interior that does not increase usable floor area	Exempt
Cosmetic (non-structural) changes to any structure including the replacement of windows in existing openings, re-roofing, the installation of siding material, and repainting	Exempt
Wireless communication facility	Site plan
Change in use to an existing building to a similar or less intensive use, as determined by the enforcement official based upon the classification of uses in the district	Exempt
Change in use to an existing building to a more intensive use, as determined by the enforcement official	Sketch plan
Temporary uses, buildings, structures, and seasonal events	Sketch plan
Temporary storage/accessory structures	Sketch plan
Accessory commercial or industrial outdoor storage	Site plan
New parking lot/loading area or change in driveway access for a non-residential use	Site plan
Expanding an existing parking lot or paving an existing gravel parking lot	Site plan
Resurfacing of existing parking lot without increasing number of spaces	Exempt
Residential driveways and sidewalks that are located entirely on private property	Sketch plan
Construction, relocation or erection of signs, retaining walls, fences, walls, waste receptacle, sidewalks, antennas, lights, poles, cooling/heating or other mechanical equipment for any nonresidential use	Sketch plan
All fences (landscaping, privacy or security) and all retaining walls except on farms and lots in the Agricultural District	Sketch plan
Residential TV towers, satellite dishes, and other similar structures	Exempt
Modifications to comply with accessibility requirements	Exempt
Mineral extraction	Site plan
Alteration of the existing grade in excess of two (2) feet relative to the grade at the property lines of adjoining property owners in Subdivisions, and/or in R-1, R-2, R-3, LR, MH Zoning Districts	Sketch plan

Private ponds	Sketch plan
All uses on the La Porte and Michigan City airport properties	Exempt See Article 11

Section 23.03 - Site Plan/Sketch Plan/Master Development Plan Requirements

The application for an improvement location permit shall be accompanied by the following:

- (a) A description of the proposed development and legal description of the property site.
- (b) A dimensioned site plan, sketch plan, or master development plan drawn to scale showing existing and proposed structure locations and existing and proposed land grades. Engineered site plans must include all of the information listed below. Sketch plans shall include the information noted with an "x;" provided the level of detail is sufficient to demonstrate compliance with this ordinance.

A Master Development Plan provides a site layout for property developed within the Mixed Use (MU) district, which is a first step toward development approval. It is to provide the applicant an opportunity to submit a master plan showing the nature and character of land proposed for development. This plan will be of sufficient detail to assure quality development but done so in a manner that is more efficient than that required of a Planned Unit Development (PUD).

Submittal, review, and approval of a master development plan is a prerequisite for submission of any other plan or permit approval for a mixed-use development. The contents of submittal are set out in Table 23.03, Required Plan Contents.

The Master Development Plan is the basis for approval of individual site plans and preliminary and final plats, as well as to gain approval or conditional approval through the public hearing process. Once the master plan is approved, all subsequent plans and permits must clearly demonstrate consistency and conformance with the adopted plan otherwise requiring either minor or major modifications to the plan.

Table 23.03
Required Plan Contents

Site Plan/Sketch Plan/Master Development Plan Information	Sketch Plan	Site Plan	Master Development Plan
Name, address and seal of professional engineer, architect, landscape architect, or land surveyor who prepared the site plan, along with the applicant, owner, or other representative	X	X	X
A title report by an abstracting or title insurance company, or an attorney's opinion of title, showing the name(s) of the landowner(s) and all other persons who have an interest in or an encumbrance on the platted land. The consent of all such persons shall be shown on the plat.			X
Evidence showing that all taxes and any special assessments due and payable have been paid in full. In the case of taxes which have been protested as provided by law, monies or other sufficient escrows guaranteeing the payment			X

of such taxes in the event the protest is not upheld shall be placed on deposit with such officials or bodies to meet this requirement.			
Proposed name of the development	X	X	X
The address of the parcel or its general proximity relative to streets or other fixed improvements	X	X	X
Photographs of existing site conditions, including building and parking areas, accessory buildings or structures, pervious and impervious areas, on-site vegetation, means of ingress/egress, pedestrian improvements, and other relevant site improvements	X	X	X
Written statement describing the proposed development and its conformance with the comprehensive plan and other plans	-	-	X
Property survey showing footprints of existing structures and utilities	X	X	
Land areas within the 100-year floodplain including the floodplain line with elevations			X
Contours of existing grades at intervals not more than five feet. Intervals less than five feet may be required dependent on the character of the topography.			X
Property boundaries, including bearings and dimensions, as well as subdivided lots, parcels, or tracts within the property	X	X	X
The names of all adjacent subdivisions or, in the case of unplatted land, the names of the landowners of adjacent property			X
Reference ties to previous surveys or plats as follows: • Distance and direction to the monuments used to locate the land described in the certificate of survey • The location of all other monuments required to be installed by the provisions of these regulations		X	
Net lot area (exclusive of any road right-of-way, preserved and dedicated open space or landscape surface area, or submerged land)	X	X	X
Drawing scale and a north arrow	X	X	X
Site location map showing the subject property, adjacent streets, and the nearest intersections	—	X	X
Existing land use and zoning of the site and adjacent land within 500 feet of the	X	X	X

site			
Rights-of-way (with street name and classifications labeled) and easement types, widths, and locations	X	X	
Drainage courses, floodplains, lakes, ponds, streams and wetlands	X	X	X
Natural features such as sand dunes, rock outcroppings, marshes, lakes, wooded areas and isolated trees for preservation			X
Required building setbacks and front, interior, street side, and rear yards	X	X	X
Sufficient dimensions to indicate relationship between buildings, property lines, intersections, easements, parking areas and other elements of the development plan		X	
Adjacent buildings, structures, signs, and pavement within 100 feet of site, including buildings and decks on adjacent waterfront lots	X	X	X
All existing and proposed structures or other site improvement with the dimensions of such improvements	X	X	
Height(s) of all buildings, structures, and signs	X	X	
Distances from all proposed buildings or structures to the property lines	X	X	
Location of any existing or proposed septic field or other onsite wastewater treatment system	X	X	
Well sites	X	X	
Utility information including water mains, water service leads, fire hydrants, storm drainage lines, and sewer lines	—	X	
Location(s) and dimensions of any existing or proposed driveways and/or parking and loading areas	X	X	X
Parking space dimensions, number of required and provided parking spaces, driving aisle widths, pavement materials, and island and curb locations	—	X	
Driveway number, widths, intersection radii, pavement materials, curb locations, acceleration lanes, deceleration tapers, and distances to the nearest drives on the same and opposite sides of the street	—	X	
Location of any drive-through or drive-in facilities, including the number(s) and dimension(s) of vehicle stacking spaces and point of service	—	X	

Location of any loading areas and docks	—	X	X
Sidewalks (public and private) including construction and accessible ramp details	—	X	
Landscaping, with plant materials labeled according to size at plantings (diameter at breast height for trees) and species	—	X	
Permanent or occasional outdoor storage, sales, and/or display and the number(s) and dimension(s) of such areas, as well as their percentages of building and site areas	X	X	
Fence or wall materials, heights, and locations, as well as structural condition and status of maintenance	X	X	
Photometric plan and detailed specifications for all exterior lighting, including locations, heights, candle power, and types of fixtures for buildings and parking lots.	—	X	
Waste containers and details demonstrating how they are to be enclosed and screened from public view	X	X	
Location, type, and dimensions of any stormwater structures, stormwater landscaping, conduits, or detention/retention ponds that are located on, cross, or adjoin the subject property	—	X	X
General grades on-site sufficient to determine positive drainage	X	X	X
Flood hazard areas, including the finished floor elevation(s), base flood elevation(s), and flood protection grade(s) for all structures	X	X	X
Schematic land plan drawn at a range of scale from 10 feet to an inch to 100 feet to an inch of the proposed development plan showing, at a minimum: •The general placement and heights of residential, commercial, industrial, public and institutional, mixed use, and other buildings and land uses; •An approximate layout of street rights-of-way, their proposed roadway designations, and alignment with existing streets; •Land parcels to be dedicated for any purpose, public or private, as distinguished from lots or tracts intended for sale; •General plans for transitioning uses and development types, particularly for the existing, adjoining developments, as applicable; •Principal materials of construction; and •Site features to be preserved or integrated into the development.			X

Tabulation of the following information which may be expressed in ranges, if applicable: •Total number of dwelling units proposed; •The general categories of land use categorized to include, but not be limited to: - Residential uses by type of structure; - Commercial and office uses; - Light industrial uses; - Public or institutional uses; - Public (common) and private open space; and - Streets. •The general categories of land use and their percentages of the total site area.			X
A general description of any building or structure proposed to be constructed, erected or structurally altered			X
If required, building elevations shall: •Be in color and drawn to a standard architectural scale. Include dimensions sufficient to determine relationship between various elements, building height, proportion, adequate screening of mechanical equipment, etc.; •Depict the architectural style, size, exterior construction materials, and colors of the proposed buildings; •Depict the elevations of all sides of proposed buildings including notation indicating building materials to be used on exteriors and roofs; •Depict the size, location, color and materials of all signs to be attached to building exteriors, unless the site is subject to an approved master sign plan; AND •Depict the location, size and materials to be used in all screening of rooftop mechanical equipment.		X	
Approximate height, bulk and shape, gross and net square footage of proposed buildings and structures		X	
Proposed location of buildings and other structures, parking areas, driveways, walks, noise generating sources (refrigeration units, mechanical equipment, loading docks, etc.) screening, landscaping and proposed utility connection layouts for water and sewer all of which shall conform to the provisions for stormwater management as set out in Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances		X	
A copy of any applicable covenants or deed restrictions applicable to the property. The restrictions may appear on the face of a plat or site plan or may be submitted separately.		X	

- (c) All plans shall be based on an accurate survey prepared by a licensed land surveyor. The requirement for a survey may be waived on agricultural parcels greater than two acres where all buildings will be setback from all lot lines at least five feet more than the minimum required setback.
- (d) A driveway permit from the applicable state, county or city highway engineer.
- (e) A well and septic permit or letter of nonobjection from the county health department.
- (f) A letter of approval from the Michigan City Sanitary District relative to the drainage and stormwater plans and setbacks from legal drains.
- (g) A letter of air space approval, if so applicable.

(Ord. No. 4500, §§ 5.44.—5.47., 2-5-2019; Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.16—18), 8-4-2025)

Section 23.04 - Improvement Location Permits Review

- (a) Upon receipt of an application for an improvement location permit and site plan/sketch plan, it shall be reviewed by all applicable departments, including planning, engineering, fire, water and sewer, as applicable or site plan review committee. The departments shall provide their recommendations to the enforcement official as to whether the application complies with this ordinance, other ordinances and other applicable building, and engineering standards. Based upon department reviews the enforcement official shall determine if the site plan/sketch plan complies with the requirements of this ordinance and Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances.
- (b) If the application for an improvement location permit is approved, the applicant shall post the permit in a conspicuous location on the site of a new, or altered building or structure, or an addition, or a building or structure moved from another location.
- (c) All necessary building permits required by the Building Code shall be obtained prior to commencing construction.
- (d) All improvement location permits shall be valid for 24 months from the date of issuance, and any structure or change in the use of land must be completed prior to the expiration of the permit.
- (e) Buildings shall be completed for issuance of an occupancy certificate within one year from the initiation of construction, or a building permit extension must be obtained.

(Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.19), 8-4-2025)

Section 23.05 - Occupancy Certificate

- (a) Any land, vacant on the effective date of this chapter, and any building, structure, or addition or major alteration thereto, constructed after the effective date of this chapter shall not be used or occupied until an occupancy certificate has been issued by the building administrator and enforcement official. No new use shall be made of any land, building, or structure until an occupancy certificate has been issued.
- (b) Every application for a building permit shall be deemed to be an application for an occupancy certificate. Every application for an occupancy certificate for a new use of land or existing building or structure where no building permit is required shall be made to the enforcement official.
- (c) Time of issuance.
 - (1) An occupancy certificate shall be issued only after the enforcement official has inspected the premises and finds:
 - a. The premises to be in compliance with all applicable regulations of the zoning district in which it is located; and
 - b. That the use or building or structure is in conformance with the plans and specifications for which the building permit was issued.
 - (2) The enforcement official may issue only one temporary occupancy certificate for each application for a building permit as follows:

- a. For a period not to exceed six months from the date of its issuance, and with provisions, if required, for an extension of not total of three additional months;
 - b. That the portion of the land, building, or structure for which the temporary occupancy certificate is issued has been completed and meets the requirements as set forth above, and the remaining portion of the land, building, or structure is in the process of completion.
- (3) Every occupancy certificate shall be dated, shall state that the use or occupancy complies with the provisions of this chapter and shall be signed by the enforcement official.
- (4) The occupancy certificate shall be issued, or written notice shall be given to the applicant specifying the reasons why a temporary or permanent certificate cannot be issued, not later than 14 days after the enforcement official is notified in writing that the building or premises are ready for occupancy.

Section 23.06 - Records

A record of each improvement location permit and each occupancy certificate shall be kept by the enforcement official. Upon request, a copy shall be furnished to any person having proprietary or possessory interest in the premises concerned.

Section 23.07 - Performance Guarantees

- (a) Where required by this ordinance or as a condition of approval for a permit under this ordinance, a guarantee in a form acceptable to the county or city, such as a bond, cash deposit, certified check or irrevocable bank letter of credit shall be provided.
- (b) In instances where all required improvements are not completed, and a temporary certificate of occupancy is requested, the estimated cost of completing the improvements shall be provided in the form of a guarantee acceptable to the county or city, such as a bond, cash deposit, certified check or irrevocable bank letter of credit.
- (c) The guarantee shall include a schedule of costs assigned to the different improvements. Monies may be released to the applicant in proportion to work completed on the different elements after inspection of work and approval of the enforcement official. Any partial release of funds shall not reduce the amount of the remaining guarantee to less than ten percent of the original amount, which shall be retained by the county or city until all work has been completed and subsequently inspected and approved by the enforcement official.

ARTICLE 24. - SPECIAL EXCEPTION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Section 24.01 - Special Exception Approval

A use listed in a zoning district as a special exception, special use, contingent use or conditional use may only be established or expanded with the approval of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) following the procedures and requirements of this article.

Section 24.02 - Application

The applicant shall submit a special exception use application, the required filing fee, and required supporting information. Supporting information shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) **Site Plan.** A site plan, signed and dated, and clearly showing all features relevant to the special exception use request in accordance with Section 23.03.
- (b) **Written Commitments.** Documentation of any written commitments being made as a part of the application.

Section 24.03 - Notification

For all public hearings, notice shall be provided to the public consistent with the requirements of Indiana State Code. The petitioner shall provide public notice setting forth the time and place, given at least ten days before the date of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation. Notification shall also be provided by certified letter at least ten days before the date of the hearing to all abutting properties in all directions from the subject property and properties across the street. At the public hearing, the petitioner shall provide proof that he has conformed to the above by proof of publication and return-receipt mail or personal sign-off on delivery of notices. The cost of such notices shall be borne by the person applying for the special exception.

Section 24.04 - Public Hearing

The BZA will, in a public hearing scheduled consistent with the adopted Calendar of Filing and Meeting Dates, review the special exception use application and required supporting information.

- (a) **Procedures.** The presentation of reports and testimony and all other aspects of the public hearing shall be consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the Board.
- (b) **Possible Action.** The BZA may approve, approve with conditions, deny, or continue the application.
 - (1) **Approval.** The application may be approved if findings of fact are made consistent with the requirements of Section 24.05.
 - (2) **Approval with Conditions.** The application may be approved with conditions if the BZA determines that the required findings of fact may be made only if certain written commitments are applied to the application.
 - (3) **Denial.** The application shall be denied if findings of fact consistent with the requirements of 24.05 are not made.
 - (4) **Continued.** The application may be continued by the BZA based on a request by the enforcement official, applicant, remonstrator, or interested party; an indecisive vote; or a determination by the BZA that additional information is required prior to action being taken on the request.

Section 24.05 - Decision Criteria

The BZA may grant a special exception use approval for any use listed as "special exception" in the applicable zoning district of this ordinance if, after a public hearing, it makes findings of fact in writing that each of the following is true:

- (a) **General Welfare.** The proposal will not be injurious to the public health, safety, and general welfare of the community.
- (b) **Surrounding Property.** The special exception use will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity for the purpose already permitted, nor substantially diminish or impair property values within the neighborhood. The establishment of the special exception use will not impede the normal and orderly development and improvement of the surrounding property for uses permitted in the district.
- (c) **Hazard.** The special exception shall not be hazardous to adjacent property, or involve uses, activities, materials or equipment which will be detrimental to the health, safety or welfare of persons or property through the excessive production of traffic, noise, smoke, odor, fumes or glare.
- (d) **Public Facilities and Services.** The use will be served adequately by essential public facilities and services such as: highways, streets, police and fire protection, drainage structures, water and sewage facilities, refuse disposal and schools. Adequate measures have been or will be taken to provide ingress and egress so designed as to minimize traffic congestion in the public streets.
- (e) **Development Requirements.** The development of the property will be consistent with the intent of the development requirements established by this ordinance for similar uses. The development will be designed, constructed, operated and maintained to be compatible with, and not significantly alter, the existing or intended character of the general vicinity, based upon the County Comprehensive Land Development Plan.
- (f) **Ordinance Intent.** Granting the special exception use will not be contrary to the general purposes served by this ordinance, and will not permanently injure other property or uses in the same zoning district and vicinity.
- (g) **Comprehensive Plan.** The proposed use will be consistent with the character of the zoning district in which it is located and

the provisions of the Michigan City Comprehensive Plan.

- (h) **Use Regulations.** Where there are use-specific regulations contained in Article 14, the special exception use shall comply with all of the regulations applicable to the use.

(Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.20), 8-4-2025)

Section 24.06 - Conditions and Commitments

The BZA may impose such reasonable conditions upon its approval as it deems necessary to find that the criteria for approval in Section 24.05 will be served. The BZA may also accept written commitments concerning the use or development of the property as specified under IC 36-7-4-921. Any conditions and/or commitments shall be recorded in the La Porte County Recorder's Office by the applicant within 90 days of approval.

- (a) **Recording Required.** A copy of the recorded document shall be provided to the enforcement official for inclusion in the petition file prior to the issuance of any improvement location permits.
- (b) **Compliance Required.** No improvement location permit shall be issued for any permit application which does not comply with the recorded conditions and/or commitments.
- (c) **Expiration of Approval.** If a person to whom an improvement location permit has been issued for a special exception use fails to begin construction within 12 months after the permit is issued, or fails to comply with the approved plan, the BZA, may on its own initiative, or shall, upon written request of any interested person, require the permittee to show cause why the permit should not be revoked. However, an order to show cause may not be issued for failure to begin construction on time if in the meantime construction has begun.
 - (1) In a proceeding to show cause under this subsection (c), the BZA shall hold a public hearing, of which written notice shall be published according to law and sent by certified mail to the holder of the permit. This notice must be published and mailed at least ten days before the date set for the hearing.
 - (2) At the hearing, evidence may be presented by any person present. If on the evidence the BZA finds that the holder of the permit has failed, as described in this subsection (c), it shall revoke the permit. However, if it considers the failure correctable within six months, it may defer revocation and continue the hearing until a specified day within that period.

Section 24.07 - Limitations

Special exception use approvals shall be invalid if:

- (a) Changes are made to the site that violate the ordinance or the conditions of approval, or
- (b) The special exception use approval is terminated.

Section 24.08 - Special Exception Use Expansion

A use authorized as a special exception use may not be expanded, extended, enlarged or moved to a new location unless reauthorized by the BZA under the procedures set forth in this Article for granting a special exception use approval.

ARTICLE 25. - PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT

Section 25.01 - Intent

- (a) The Planned Unit Development (PUD) standards are a supplementary list of "overlay" zoning district standards which apply to properties simultaneously with one or more of the other zoning districts established in this Ordinance, hereinafter referred to as the "underlying" zoning district(s).
- (b) The PUD standards are provided as a design option, intended to permit flexibility in the regulation of land development; to encourage innovation in land use, form of ownership, and variety in design, layout, and type of structures constructed; to achieve

economy and efficiency in the use of land; to preserve farmland, significant natural, historical, and architectural features and open space; to promote efficient provision of public services and utilities; to minimize adverse traffic impacts; to provide better housing, employment, and shopping opportunities particularly suited to residents; to encourage development of convenient recreational facilities; and to encourage the use and improvement of existing sites when the uniform regulations contained in other zoning districts alone do not provide adequate protection and safeguards for the site or its surrounding areas.

- (c) The standards are intended to accommodate development on sites with significant natural, historical, and architectural features, on land which exhibits difficult development constraints, to encourage redevelopment of urban areas as mixed-use neighborhoods, to provide the opportunity to mix compatible uses or residential types, and to allow clustering of residential units to preserve common open space and natural features. The PUD standards shall not be sought primarily to avoid the imposition of standards and requirements of other zoning classifications rather than to achieve the stated purposes set forth in this section.
- (d) In order to encourage PUD developments on specific properties, these standards may allow the plan commission and legislative body to relax or waive one or more of the requirements of the underlying district through approval of a PUD ordinance. The PUD also allows the developer the opportunity to mix compatible uses or residential types on a single property, allows clustering to reduce construction costs, and may enhance marketability through the preservation of significant natural, historical, and architectural features.

Section 25.02 - Qualifying Conditions

In order to qualify for PUD approval, the applicant must demonstrate in writing that each of the following criteria will be met by the proposed PUD:

- (a) **Demonstrated Benefit.** The PUD shall provide one or more of the following benefits not possible under the requirements of another zoning district, as determined by the plan commission:
 - (1) Preservation of significant natural features or farmland.
 - (2) A complementary mixture of uses or a variety of housing types that provides a benefit to the community over conventional development.
 - (3) Common open space for passive or active recreational use.
 - (4) Off-site mitigation to community impacts resulting from the development, such as public roadway improvements to maintain or improve roadway level of service.
 - (5) Redevelopment of an outdated urban site or brownfield site where creative design can address unique site constraints.
- (b) **Availability and Capacity of Public Services.** The proposed type and density of use(s) shall not result in an unreasonable increase in the use of public services, public facilities, and utility capacities.
- (c) **Compatibility with the County Land Development Plan.** The proposed PUD shall be compatible with the overall goals and recommendations as proposed in the county or city county land development plan.
- (d) **Compatibility with the PUD Purpose.** The proposed PUD shall be consistent with the intent of this Article and spirit of this Ordinance.
- (e) **Development Impact.** The proposed PUD shall not impede the continued use or development of surrounding properties for uses that are permitted in this Ordinance.

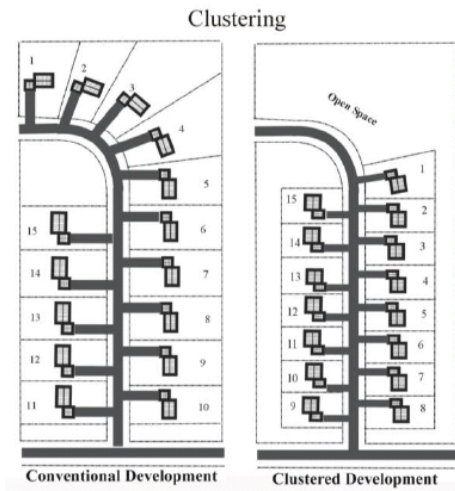
Section 25.03 - Permitted Uses

Principal uses permitted under the PUD standards are based on the underlying zoning district(s).

- (a) All permitted uses and special exception uses of the underlying district(s) shall be permitted unless otherwise specified in the PUD ordinance. In agricultural districts the uses may be based on uses permitted in the lowest intensity residential, commercial, or industrial district for the jurisdiction depending on the planned uses of the PUD and based upon the land use recommendations of the County Land Development Plan.
- (b) In addition to those uses otherwise permitted, a mixture of single and multiple-family dwellings on a planned basis, through

the use of attached dwellings, townhouses, apartment buildings, zero lot line configurations, and/or other similar building configurations; or any combination of these residential uses may be permitted within any PUD.

- (1) Residential density shall be determined by a conventional development plan that illustrates how the site could be developed as a conventional subdivision, meeting all applicable zoning and subdivision requirements. The plan commission shall review the design and determine the number of buildable lots that could be feasibly constructed, taking into consideration any wetlands or other non-buildable land. This number shall be the maximum number of dwelling units allowable for the PUD. Where the underlying zoning is multiple family, density shall be determined based upon the underlying zoning district density limits. Portions of the site that are currently zoned for a non-residential use or are proposed to be developed with only non-residential uses shall not be included in the plan used to determine density. In agricultural districts, the density may be based on the allowable density in the lowest intensity residential district for the jurisdiction.



- (2) Once the density has been determined, residential units may be clustered on smaller lots on a portion of the site, with the remaining land area being preserved as open space.
- (3) For PUDs located within a city, a density bonus of up to 25 percent may be granted where the development will provide for infill development/redevelopment, create a walkable neighborhood and be in accordance with the city comprehensive plan.
- (c) For a PUD in a residential district that has an area of at least 40 acres, up to ten percent of the total site acreage may be developed with uses permitted in the B1 District. Such uses must front a public street and be developed in conjunction with, or following, development of the residential uses.
- (d) For a PUD in a B1, B2, CBD1, CBD2, MB district, residential uses, such as residential apartments on a second floor above retail or office uses, may be permitted in a mixed use PUD.

Section 25.04 - Dimensional Requirements

- (a) **Base Zoning Regulations.** Unless modified by the plan commission and legislative body, according to the PUD standards, all Zoning Ordinance requirements for the zoning district shall remain in full force. In agricultural districts the requirements for the lowest intensity residential, commercial, or industrial district in the jurisdiction may be used as the base zoning regulations depending on the planned uses for the PUD and based upon the land use recommendations of the County Comprehensive Land Development Plan.
- (b) **Regulatory Flexibility.** To encourage flexibility and creativity consistent with the PUD concept, the plan commission and legislative body may grant specific departures from the requirements of the zoning ordinance as a part of the approval process through the PUD ordinance. Development standards for lot area, lot width, building height, setbacks, off-street parking, general provisions, subdivision regulations or other zoning ordinance provisions may be modified, provided that such modifications

result in enhanced buffering from adjacent land uses or public rights-of-way, preservation of natural features or creation of a walkable neighborhood. Minimum standards for improvements, such as road construction, sewage, water, and drainage may not be reduced as a part of the PUD ordinance.

- (c) **Approval of Modifications.** Any regulatory modification shall be approved with the PUD overlay district and preliminary site plan through a finding by the plan commission and legislative body that the deviation shall result in a higher quality of development than would be possible using conventional zoning standards. No part of a PUD plan may be appealed to the board of zoning appeals. This provision shall not preclude an individual lot owner from seeking a variance following final approval of the PUD, provided such variance does not involve alterations to open space areas, as shown on the approved PUD site plan or the requirements of the article.
- (d) **Table of Modifications.** A table shall be provided on the preliminary PUD site plan that specifically details all deviations from the established zoning district's development standards for lot area, lot width, building height, and setbacks, off-street parking regulations, general provisions, subdivision regulations or other zoning ordinance provisions which would otherwise be applicable to the uses and development proposed in the absence of this PUD article. This specification should include Ordinance provisions, from which deviations are sought, and the reasons and mechanisms to be utilized for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare in lieu of the regulations from which deviations are sought. Only those deviations consistent with the intent of this ordinance and the county land development plan shall be considered.

Section 25.05 - Open Space

- (a) **Open Space Requirement.** All PUDs shall set aside a minimum of 25 percent of the total site area as common open space (including residential and non-residential areas).
 - (1) Common open space shall be planned in locations visible and accessible to all in the PUD. The common open space may either be centrally located, along the road frontage of the development, located to preserve natural features, located to buffer adjacent farmland, link with adjacent open space or recreation land or located to connect open spaces throughout the development. Open space shall be situated to maximize the preservation of any existing site woodlands, meadows and other high-quality natural areas.
 - (2) Land area uses shall meet the minimum 25 percent open space requirement; the land included in the 25 percent open space shall not include stormwater detention/retention basins as approved by the Michigan City Sanitary District, wetlands, open water, or other unbuildable areas. These areas may be preserved as common open spaces but are not to be included in the 25 percent of required open space.
 - (3) On urban infill sites within the cities, open space may be in the form of parks, gardens and other green space, pedestrian plazas or walkways.
- (b) **Open Space Protection.** The dedicated open space shall be set aside in perpetuity by the developer through a conservation easement.
 - (1) The conservation easement shall assure that the open space will be protected from all forms of development, except as shown on an approved site plan, and shall never be changed to another use.
 - (2) The dedicated open space shall be maintained by parties who have an ownership interest in the open space. A maintenance agreement shall be recorded with approval of the final site plan.
 - (3) The dedicated open space shall forever remain open space, subject only to uses on the approved site plan. Further subdivision of open space land or its use for other than recreation, conservation or agricultural purposes shall be strictly prohibited. Any change in use of the open space from what is shown on the approved site plan shall require plan commission approval, and shall not diminish compliance with the requirements of this ordinance.
 - (4) The open space or a conservation easement for the open space may be conveyed to a conservation organization or to a public agency for recreational or conservation use; however, any conveyance to a public agency shall be at the owner's discretion.

The application process for a PUD involves two steps for review of a preliminary and final PUD. The procedures are described below.

- (a) **Pre-application Meeting.** The applicant shall meet with the enforcement official to review the PUD requirements and ensure that application materials are complete. An optional pre-application workshop with the plan commission may be requested by the applicant to discuss the appropriateness of the PUD concept, solicit feedback, and receive requests for additional materials supporting the proposal. An applicant desiring such a workshop shall request placement on the plan commission agenda.
- (b) **Application.** The applicant shall submit the preliminary PUD site plan, meeting the requirements of [Section 25.07](#), at least 15 days prior to the meeting at which the plan commission shall first review the request.
- (c) **Checkpoint Agency Review.** The following agencies shall review the application prior to the plan commission hearing and recommend changes or sign-off that they do not have concerns with the application.
 - (1) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - (2) Drainage board and/or MS4 coordinating agency and/or Michigan City Sanitary District
 - (3) City or county engineer
 - (4) Fire department
 - (5) Street or highway department
 - (6) Health department
 - (7) Utility providers (water, sewer) if applicable
- (d) **Public Hearing.** The plan commission shall review the preliminary PUD site plan, and shall conduct a public hearing. Legal notice shall be provided to the public by the petitioner consistent with the requirements of IC 5-3-1. Public notice setting forth the time and place shall be given at least ten days before the date of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation by the community. Notification shall also be provided by certified letter at least ten days before the date of the hearing to all abutting properties in all directions from the subject property and properties across the street. At the public hearing, the petitioner shall provide proof that he has conformed to the above by proof of publication and return-receipt mail or personal sign-off on delivery of notices. The cost of such notices shall be borne by the petitioner.
- (e) **Plan Commission Action.** During this review, the plan commission may request additional materials supporting the PUD proposal, or recommend modifications or conditions based on the standards of [Section 25.08](#) and comments from the checkpoint agencies. Once the plan commission is satisfied that all of the required information has been provided, the plan commission shall either forward the PUD overlay district and preliminary site plan to the legislative body with a favorable recommendation, an unfavorable recommendation based upon the standards of this article and [Article 30](#). The plan commission shall certify its recommendation by resolution to the legislative body within ten business days of its determination. The plan commission may stipulate conditions to approval, which the applicant shall incorporate into the preliminary PUD site plan and resubmit to the enforcement official prior to legislative action.
- (f) **Legislative Action.** The legislative body shall vote on the proposed PUD overlay district within 90 days of its certification by the plan commission (per IC 36-7-4-608). The legislative body may either approve or deny the PUD overlay district. The legislative body may also seek modifications or additions to any written commitments, as described in [Section 30.08](#) of this ordinance.
- (g) **Commitments.** Any commitments attached to the approval of the preliminary PUD site plan shall be made part of the approval and shall be reflected in the final PUD site plan. The county or city attorney, as applicable, shall prepare the written commitments based on the legislative body action. The applicant shall reimburse the county or city attorney, as applicable, for all costs related to the preparation of the written commitments. The shall be signed by the legislative body and the applicant and recorded in the office of the County Recorder. The commitments must be recorded prior to submitting an application for final site plan approval.
- (h) **Effect of Approval.** Approval of the PUD overlay district and preliminary site plan shall be effective for a period of one year. If a final PUD site plan for at least the first phase of the project is not submitted within one year of the preliminary approval, or

an extension applied for, the preliminary PUD site plan shall expire and a new application must then be filed and processed. The one year period for preliminary PUD approval may be extended for one year, if applied for by the petitioner prior to expiration and granted by the plan commission. If a preliminary PUD is allowed to expire, the plan commission and legislative body shall take action to remove the overlay district from the zoning for the site.

- (i) **Phased PUD.** If the approved preliminary PUD site plan indicated that the proposed development was to occur in phases, final PUD site plan approval may be granted on each phase of the development, provided that each phase contains all the necessary components to insure protection of significant natural, historical, and architectural features, and the health, safety, and welfare of the users of the PUD and the residents of the surrounding area. Roads, utilities and other infrastructure for each phase shall be designed to fully operate in accordance with county or city, as applicable, engineering standards and not be dependent upon the completion of subsequent phases. Subsequent phases shall also follow the process for final PUD site plan outlined in this Article.
- (j) **Final Site Plan.** The applicant shall submit the final PUD site plan for any or all phases of, the approved preliminary PUD site plan at least 30 days prior to the plan commission meeting at which the plan commission shall first review the request. If the PUD is being developed as a subdivision, then all requirements of the subdivision regulations shall be met and the final PUD application shall also include a primary plat. The primary plat shall be reviewed concurrently with the requirements of this article.
- (k) **Checkpoint Agency Review.** The agencies in [Section 25.06\(c\)](#) shall review the final site plan for compliance with applicable federal, state, and local ordinances and standards prior to the plan commission review. The agency official shall state any items that need to be address prior to approval or sign-off that the final site plan is acceptable.
- (l) **Plan Commission Review.** Upon submission of all required materials and fees, the plan commission shall review the final PUD site plan and shall take final action on the final PUD site plan, in accordance with the standards and regulations of this ordinance.
- (m) **Conditions.** If the final PUD site plan was approved with conditions, the applicant shall submit a revised final PUD site plan to the enforcement official for approval prior to submitting construction plans.
- (n) **Subdivision.** If the PUD is being developed as a subdivision, then the applicant shall be required to submit construction plans and secondary plat drawings in accordance with the subdivision regulations.
- (o) **Final Approval.** Approval of the final PUD site plan shall be effective for a period of two years. If construction has not begun on the first phase of the project within two years of the final PUD approval, the right to develop under the PUD site plan shall terminate and a new application must then be filed and processed. If a final PUD is allowed to expire, the plan commission and legislative body shall take action to remove the overlay district from the zoning for the site.

(Ord. No. [4770](#), § 2(Exh. B, A.22), 8-4-2025)

Section 25.07 - Preliminary PUD Site Plan Submittal Requirements

The preliminary PUD site plan shall set forth the proposed uses to be developed in the PUD. The following specific information shall be provided in the preliminary PUD site plan submittal:

- (a) **Proof of Ownership.** Current proof of ownership of the land to be utilized or evidence of a contractual ability to acquire the land, such as an option or purchase agreement with written authorization from the owner.
- (b) **Written Documentation.** Written documentation that the preliminary PUD site plan meets the standards of [Section 25.08](#).
- (c) **Application Form and Fees.** A completed application form, supplied by the enforcement official, and an application/review fee; a separate escrow deposit shall be required for administrative charges to review the PUD submittal.
- (d) **Preliminary PUD Site Plan.** Sheet size of submitted drawings shall be at least 24 inches by 36 inches, with graphics at an engineer's scale of one inch equals 20 feet for sites of 20 acres or less; and up to one inch equals 100 feet or less for sites over 20 acres.

Applicant's name.
Name of the development.
Preparer's name and professional seal of architect, engineer or surveyor, licensed in the State of Indiana.
Date of preparation and any revisions.
North arrow.
Property lines and dimensions.
Complete and current legal description and size of property in acres.
Small location sketch of the subject site and area within one-half (1/2) mile, and scale.
Zoning and current land use of applicant's property and all abutting properties and of properties across any public or private street from the PUD site.
Lot lines and all structures on the property and within 100 feet of the PUD property lines.
Location of any vehicle access points on both sides of the street within 100 feet of the PUD site along roads where vehicle access to the PUD is proposed.
PUD Site Plan
Existing locations of all natural, historical, and architectural features, existing drainage patterns, surface water bodies, floodplain areas, wetlands, meadows and woodlands.
Existing and proposed topography at five (5) foot contour intervals, and a general description of grades within 100 feet of the site.
Dimensions of existing and proposed right-of-way lines, names of abutting public roads, proposed access driveways and parking areas, and existing and proposed pedestrian paths.
Existing buildings, utility services, and any public or private easements, noting those which will remain and which are to be removed.
Layout and typical dimensions of proposed lots, footprints, and dimensions of proposed buildings and structures.
Proposed uses with the acreage allotted to each use. For developments with residential components: the number, type, and density of proposed housing units.
General engineering information for utilities and drainage.
General location and type of landscaping proposed (evergreen, deciduous, annuals, perennials, berm, etc.) noting existing

trees and landscaping to be retained.

Size, type, and location of proposed identification signs.

- (e) **PUD Development Ordinance.** A draft written PUD Ordinance specifying all the terms and understandings of the PUD. The content of the ordinance shall be based on the extent of the proposed development, but shall, at a minimum, provide the following:

A survey of the acreage comprising the proposed development.

The manner of ownership of the developed land.

The amount, manner of ownership, and proposed method of dedication or mechanism to protect any areas designated as common areas or open space.

Land use description including list of proposed uses, residential density, dwelling types, lot dimensions, setbacks and other dimensional standards.

Description of improvements to common areas, recreational facilities and non-motorized pathways, including a plan for continued maintenance responsibility.

General description of any improvements to roads or utilities. The cost of installing and maintaining all roads and the necessary utilities shall be assured by a means satisfactory to the plan commission.

Provision assuring that open space areas shown on the plan for use by the public or residents of the development will be irrevocably committed for that purpose. The plan commission may require conveyances or other documents to be placed in escrow to accomplish this. The cost of installing and maintaining all open space amenities shall be assured by a means satisfactory to the plan commission.

Provisions for the future financing of any improvements shown on the plan for site improvements, open space areas and common areas which are to be included within the development and that maintenance of such improvements.

Provisions to ensure adequate protection of natural features.

The preliminary PUD site plan shall be incorporated by reference and attached as an exhibit.

- (f) **Multi-Phased PUD.** If a multi-phase PUD is proposed, the areas included in each phase shall be identified. For residential uses identify the number, type, and density of proposed housing units within each phase.
- (g) Any additional graphics or written materials requested by the plan commission to assist in determining the appropriateness of the PUD such as, but not limited to: aerial photography; market studies; impact on public primary and secondary schools; impact on utilities; traffic impact study, impact on significant natural, historical, and architectural features; impact on

drainage; stormwater management plan and drawings; impact on the general area and adjacent property; description of how property could be developed under the regulations of the underlying district; preliminary architectural sketches; and estimated construction cost.

(Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.23, 24), 8-4-2025)

Section 25.08 - PUD Site Plan Standards for Approval

Based upon the following standards, the plan commission may deny, approve, or approve with conditions the proposed preliminary PUD site plan, subject to approval of the PUD ordinance by the legislative body.

- (a) The PUD shall meet the qualifying conditions of Section 25.02.
- (b) The PUD must be consistent with the Michigan City Comprehensive Plan.
- (c) The uses must have a beneficial effect, in terms of public health, safety, welfare, or convenience, on present and future potential surrounding land uses. The uses proposed must not adversely affect the public utility and circulation system, surrounding properties, or the environment. The public benefit shall be one which could not be achieved under the regulations of the underlying district alone or that of any other zoning district.
- (d) Any modifications to the dimensional standards of this Ordinance, such as lot sizes, setbacks, height limits, required facilities, buffers, open space, permitted sign area, and other similar dimensional standards shall be reviewed and approved by the plan commission.
- (e) Any increase in the density requirements of the underlying zoning district must be approved by the plan commission and be included under review of the preliminary PUD site plan and in the PUD ordinance.
- (f) The number and dimensions of off-street parking shall be sufficient to meet the minimum required by Article 18. However, where warranted by overlapping or shared parking arrangements, the plan commission may reduce the required number of parking spaces in the PUD ordinance.
- (g) All roads and parking areas within the PUD shall meet the minimum design standards, unless modified by the plan commission and legislative body in the PUD ordinance.
- (h) Safe, convenient, uncongested, and well defined vehicular and pedestrian circulation within and to the site shall be provided.
- (i) Landscaping shall be preserved and/or provided to ensure that proposed uses will be adequately buffered from one another and from surrounding public and private property. Plantings and other landscape features shall meet or exceed the standards of Article 17.
- (j) Judicious effort shall be used to preserve significant natural, historical, and architectural features and the integrity of the land.
- (k) Adequate water, sewer and stormwater facilities shall be available or shall be provided by the developer as part of the site development.

(Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.25), 8-4-2025)

Section 25.09 - Final PUD Site Plan Submittal Requirements

The final PUD site plan shall include all the following information, unless the enforcement official determines that some of the required information is not reasonably necessary for the consideration of the PUD:

- (a) All information required for site plan submittal in accordance with Section 23.03. If the PUD is being developed as a subdivision, then all information required for a preliminary plat shall be submitted in accordance with the Subdivision Regulations.
- (b) Any additional graphics or written materials requested by the plan commission to assist in determining the impacts of the proposed PUD site plan, including, but not limited to: economic or market studies; impact on public utilities; traffic impacts; impact on significant natural, historical and architectural features; impact on stormwater drainage and management; impact on the general area and adjacent property; and estimated construction cost.

- (c) A written version of the approved of PUD ordinance specific to the PUD. Such document shall include provisions for site layout, vehicular and pedestrian circulation, parking, screening, building design and architecture, landscaping, open space, lighting, and The PUD ordinance shall also include any variations to the dimensional standards of this Ordinance, such as density, lot sizes, height limits, required facilities, buffers, open space, permitted sign area, and other similar dimensional standards.

(Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.26), 8-4-2025)

Section 25.10 - Final PUD Site Plan Standards for Approval

The plan commission shall use the standards for approval in Section 25.08 and any design requirements developed specifically for the PUD, in reviewing the final PUD site plan.

Section 25.11 - Deviations from Approved Final PUD Site Plan

- (a) Minor deviations and amendments from the approved final PUD site plan and associated PUD ordinance shall be reviewed and approved by the enforcement official. The following minor modifications can be approved by the enforcement official without the need for a new preliminary PUD site plan:
- (1) For residential buildings, the size of structures may be reduced; or increased by five percent, provided the overall density of units does not increase and the minimum square footage requirements are met.
 - (2) Gross floor area of non-residential buildings may be decreased; or increased by up to five percent.
 - (3) Floor plans may be changed if consistent with the character of the use.
 - (4) Horizontal and/or vertical elevations may be altered by up to five percent.
 - (5) Relocation of a building by up to five feet, if consistent with required setbacks and other standards.
 - (6) Designated "Areas not to be disturbed" may be increased.
 - (7) Plantings approved in the Final Landscape Plan may be replaced by similar types of landscaping on a one-to-one or greater basis; consistency with the requirements of Article 17 must be maintained.
 - (8) Improvements or slight relocation of site access or circulation, such as inclusion of deceleration lanes, boulevards, curbing, pedestrian/bicycle paths, etc.
 - (9) Changes of building materials to another of higher quality.
 - (10) Internal rearrangement of parking lot which does not affect the number of parking spaces or alter access locations or design, or reduce stormwater management capacity.
 - (11) Changes required or requested by the county or city for traffic safety reasons.
- (b) If the enforcement official determines that the modifications to the final PUD site plan significantly alter the intent of the preliminary PUD site plan, a new submittal illustrating the modification shall be required and must be approved by the plan commission and legislative body as a new preliminary PUD site plan.
- (c) Any deviation from the approved final PUD site plan that is not approved shall be considered a violation of this Article and shall invalidate the PUD overlay. The plan commission and legislative body shall take action to remove the overlay district in the event that the PUD is invalidated.

ARTICLE 26. - ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Section 26.01 - Enforcement Official Designated

The county and cities shall each designate an enforcement official for the jurisdiction under the provisions of IC 36-7-4-1013(a) and IC 36-7-4-1014(a) by resolution of the legislative body of each jurisdiction.

- (a) **Enforcement Official.** The enforcement official shall have the authority to carry out all duties under this ordinance.
- (b) **Staff.** The duties of the enforcement official specified in this ordinance may be delegated to staff working under the direction

of the officials specified above in each of the local jurisdictions.

Section 26.02 - Duties of the Enforcement Official

The enforcement officials designated in 26.01 above, and designated department staff, shall be responsible for carrying out the duties under this ordinance as follows:

- (a) Determine conformance of applications for improvement location permits with the regulations of this chapter;
- (b) Issue all zoning certificates, and make and maintain records thereof;
- (c) Issue all certificates of occupancy, and make and maintain records thereof;
- (d) Conduct inspections of buildings, structures, and use of land to determine compliance with the terms of this chapter;
- (e) Maintain permanent and current records of the administration and enforcement of this chapter, including, but not limited to, applications, processing and decisions for all amendments, special exceptions, variances, and appeals, and designate on the zoning district map each amendment and special exception granted by the plan commission or board of zoning appeals;
- (f) Receive, file, and forward to the board of zoning appeals all applications for variances, special exceptions, or other matters on which the board of zoning appeals is required to act under this chapter;
- (g) Forward to the clerk all applications upon which the legislative body of the community is required to act;
- (h) Coordinate applications effecting Airport Overlay District with the La Porte Municipal Airport Authority or the Michigan City Board of Aviation Commissioners;
- (i) Initiate, from time to time, a study of the provisions of this chapter, and make reports of recommendations to the plan commission not less than once a year;
- (j) Issue permits regulating the erection and use of tents for specific periods of time for purposes such as temporary carnivals, churches, voluntary organizations such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, eleemosynary uses, revival meetings or similar uses, provided, however, that said tents and uses thereof are in conformance with all other ordinances and codes;
- (k) Review all applications for improvement location permits for new construction or additions to existing construction to ascertain whether the proposed construction or addition lies in a flood hazard area, as defined elsewhere by ordinance. If the proposed construction or addition is found to lie in such an area, the enforcement official may require modifications to the design and materials the enforcement official may deem appropriate to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure and minimize potential future flood damages.

Section 26.03 - Schedule of Fees

The county and cities may adopt annually a schedule of fees at the first organization meeting of each year. Fees to consider would be any permit authorized for issuance by the enforcement official under the jurisdiction of the BZA or the plan commission.

Section 26.04 - Enforcement

- (a) **Injunction.** The county, city, BZA, or the enforcement official may bring an action against any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity for the following:
 - (1) An injunction to restrain the violation of any part or provision of this title; or
 - (2) A mandatory injunction directing the removal of any structure erected in violation of any part or provision of this title.
- (b) **Costs.** If any action as in division (a) above is successful and injunctive relief is granted, then the judgment may also award the county or city, as applicable, costs of the action, including attorney's fees, and fines as assessed or determined by the court as provided by this title for violation thereof.
- (c) **Airport.** Any violations to the Airport Overlay District may be enforced under this section by the La Porte Municipal Airport Authority or the Michigan City Board of Aviation Commissioners.

Section 26.05 - Procedure to Impose a Fine for Violation

- (a) Any proceeding brought by the county or city, as applicable, to enforce the provisions of this title shall be brought pursuant to and governed by the provisions of:
- (1) IC 36-1-3-8(a)(10);
 - (2) IC 36-1-6-1 et seq.;
 - (3) IC 34-28-5-1 et seq.;
 - (4) IC 36-7-4-1012;
 - (5) IC 36-7-4-1013(a);
 - (6) IC 36-7-4-1014(a) and (b);
 - (7) IC 36-7-4-1015;
 - (8) IC 36-7-4-1016;
 - (9) IC 36-7-4-1017; and
 - (10) IC 36-7-4-1018.
- (b) This includes any amendments to any of the above cited provisions, hereinafter adopted, or any other provisions of state law hereinafter adopted in place thereof or supplemental thereto.

Section 26.06 - Penalties for Violation; Collection

Any person or persons, firm, partnership, corporation, or any other entity that violates, or permits or assists in the violation of any part or provision of this ordinance, may be fined in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00. The county or city, as applicable, may recover a judgment, plus attorney's fees, in the amount of any fine thus imposed against any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity found to have violated this ordinance.

Section 26.07 - Separate Violations

Each day that any person who violates, or permits or assists in the violation of any part or provision of this ordinance shall be a separate violation and a separate fine or judgment may be recovered by the county or city, as applicable, for each separate daily violation.

Section 26.08 - Common Nuisance

Any structure erected, raised or converted, or land or premises used, in violation of this ordinance is a common nuisance and the owner or possessor of any such structure, land or premises is liable for maintaining a common nuisance.

ARTICLE 27. - PLAN COMMISSIONS

Section 27.01 - Establishment

There shall be plan commissions for the county and each city, established as follows:

- (a) **County of La Porte.** The county of La Porte plan commission exists as an advisory plan commission under the authority of IC 36-7-4-208 and any amendments thereto. The rules of the plan commission are adopted in accordance with the requirements of IC 36-7-4-401.
- (b) **City of La Porte.** The City of La Porte plan commission exists as an advisory plan commission under the authority of IC 36-7-4-207(b) and any amendments thereto. The rules of the plan commission are adopted in accordance with the requirements of IC 36-7-4-401.
- (c) **City of Michigan City.** The City of Michigan City plan commission exists as an advisory plan commission under the authority of IC 36-7-4-207(a) and any amendments thereto. The rules of the plan commission are adopted in accordance with the requirements of IC 36-7-4-401.

Section 27.02 - Officers and Employees

- (a) Each plan commission shall establish officers consistent with IC 36-7-4-303 and 304.
- (b) Each plan commission may appoint employees consistent with IC 36-7-4-311.
- (c) Each plan commission may establish committees consistent with IC 36-7-4-407.

Section 27.03 - Duties

The powers and duties of each plan commission shall be those set forth in state statute and other responsibilities as may be required by local ordinance including this ordinance. The plan commission has the following powers:

- (a) The power to review all PUD applications and to hold pre-application workshops; the power to approve preliminary site plans, final site plans and all modifications and changes to any PUD or PD district including those that were existing under any predecessor zoning ordinance; the power to review, report upon, and enforce compliance with final plans for any PUD or PD district including those that were existing under any predecessor zoning ordinance.
- (b) The power to hear and determine minor subdivision and major subdivision applications.
- (c) The power to conduct hearings regarding changes to the zoning ordinance and the zoning maps, upon its own or upon request of the city common council or county commissioners or other landowner petitioners, and to make recommendations thereon to the city common council or county commissioners.
- (d) The power to review and enforce any decision made under a predecessor zoning ordinance.
- (e) The power to make recommendations on the zoning ordinance.
- (f) The power to make an annual report to the city common council or county commissioners concerning the operation of the plan commission and the status of planning within its jurisdiction.
- (g) The power to exercise all other powers and duties as set forth in state statute or this ordinance.

Section 27.04 - Policy Covering Plan Commission Activities

- (a) So as to assure the promotion of public health, safety, morals, convenience, order, or the general welfare and for the sake of efficiency and economy in the process of development, each plan commission shall prepare a county land development plan which must contain the items in (1) through (3) below (per IC 36-7-4-502) and may contain the other following items.
 - (1) A statement of objectives for the future development of the jurisdiction.
 - (2) A statement of policy for the land use development of the jurisdiction.
 - (3) A statement of policy for the development of public way, public places, public lands, public structures, and public utilities.
 - (4) Careful and comprehensive surveys and studies of existing conditions and probable future growth of the county or city and its environs.
 - (5) Maps, plats, charts, and descriptive material presenting basic information, locations, extent, and character of the community, including demographics, land use, infrastructure and environmental conditions.
 - (6) Reports, maps, charts, and recommendations setting forth plans for the development, redevelopment, improvement, extension, and revision of the subjects and physical situation of the community so as to substantially accomplish the object of the legislation.
 - (7) A long range development program of public works projects based on the recommended plans of the plan commission for the purpose of eliminating unplanned, unsightly, untimely, and extravagant projects and with a view to stabilizing industry and employment and the keeping of the program up to date by yearly revision.
 - (8) A long range financial program of governmental expenditures in order that the development program may be carried out and the keeping of the program up to date for all separate taxing units within the county or city for the purpose of assuring efficient and economic use of public funds.
- (b) The plan commission may also formulate policies for:
 - (1) The districts in which subdivision of land is permitted.

- (2) The issuance of improvement location permits.
- (3) Laying out and development of public ways and services to platted and unplatted lands.
- (4) If the county land development plan includes a major thoroughfare or highway plan, the plan commission may determine the lines for new, extended, widened, or narrowed streets or highways in any portion of the community and certify to the legislative body the amended or additional plan.
- (5) Procedures of the plan commission, including ethical standards.

Section 27.05 - Meetings

- (a) The plan commissions will meet as necessary to carry out the duties of this article. At the yearly organizational meeting, the plan commission will establish dates and times for meetings for the current year.
- (b) Special meetings may be called by the president or two members of the plan commission upon written request to the secretary. The secretary shall send to all members, at least three days before the special meeting, a written notice fixing the time and place of the meeting.
- (c) The president of the plan commission shall preside over meetings, decide questions of order, subject to appeal by plan commission members, and preserve decorum in the meeting room. The president shall pronounce the decisions of the plan commission for purpose of recording in the minutes.

Section 27.06 - Official Action; Discussion and Voting

- (a) A majority of the members of the plan commission who are qualified to vote shall constitute a quorum. Action of the plan commission shall not be official unless it is authorized at a regular or properly-called special meeting by a majority of the entire membership of the plan commission.
- (b) All members present shall vote on every question unless they are permitted to abstain by the presiding officer, or, in the case of a zoning matter, have disqualified themselves because of a conflict of interest as described in [subsection] (c) below.
- (c) No member of the plan commission shall participate in a hearing, discussion, or decision of the plan commission upon any zoning matter in which the member has a direct or indirect financial interest. A "zoning matter" does not include the preparation or adoption of a county land development plan. A member shall declare his or her known conflict of interest. The plan commission shall enter into its records the fact that the member has this disqualification.
- (d) In the event that a majority vote of the plan commission cannot be achieved due to absences, permitted abstentions, or disqualifications, the matter shall be rescheduled for the next regular meeting at the request of any plan commission member, a petitioner, or a remonstrator.

Section 27.07 - Minutes and Records

- (a) The secretary of the plan commission shall prepare and maintain minutes of its meetings. The minutes shall include the vote of each member on each question presented or shall indicate that the member is absent, abstaining with permission, or not voting because of a disqualification.
- (b) The minutes of plan commission meetings and all records shall be filed in the office of the plan commission and are public records, as defined by IC 5-14-3, once approved by the plan commission.
- (c) The minutes shall be presented to the plan commission for approval at the next succeeding regular meeting. When approved, the minutes shall be signed by the president and attested by the secretary.

Section 27.08 - Public Hearings

- (a) The plan commission shall hold those public hearings as are required by state statute and county or city ordinances. The plan commissions may hold additional hearings at times and places and upon such notice as it considers necessary.
- (b) The petitioner shall prepare the legal advertisement of the public hearing for approval by the plan commission and shall bear the expense of the advertising costs. In addition, the petitioner will notify all persons deemed by state statute and the plan commission to be interested parties at least ten days before the date of the public hearing. At the public hearing, the petitioner

shall provide proof that he or she has complied with this requirement.

Section 27.09 - Notice Requirements; Public Hearings

- (a) A notice of a public hearing required by state statute or county, or city ordinance shall contain as a minimum the following information:
 - (1) The substance of the matter to be heard by the plan commission and including the nature and request concerning the appeal, use, exception, or variance applied for, if any;
 - (2) General location, general description, and address of the property affected;
 - (3) Name of the person, agency, or entity initiating the matter to be heard;
 - (4) Time and place of the hearing;
 - (5) Statement that the petition may be examined at the plan commission office;
 - (6) Statement that any person may offer verbal comments at the hearing or may file written comments prior to or at the hearing; and
 - (7) Any other information which may be required by law to be contained in the notice.
- (b) Where a petition to rezone a specific piece of property or several adjacent properties is filed by a private property owner, all interested parties as defined by Section 30.03 of this code must receive notice of any petition pending before the plan commission. The applicant must provide the plan commission proof of mailing of notice to all interested parties at the time the petition is presented for hearing.
- (c) The applicant must also publish notice pursuant to IC 5-3-1 et seq. Publication must occur at least ten days prior to the meeting in which the petition is heard. At the time of hearing, the petitioner must provide an affidavit showing proof of publication.
- (d) For the purpose of this subchapter, the notice requirements contained in the previous sections are the bare minimum necessary for the presentation of the petition of any matter to be heard before the plan commission. In the event that any state statute, particularly IC 36-7-4 et seq., requires any other additional notice, in addition to that provided by this subchapter, the petitioner shall comply with same.
- (e) The names of the interested parties who are property owners to be notified are to be ascertained from the real estate tax records, as maintained by the county or city assessor's office.

Section 27.10 - Conduct of Public Hearings

The plan commission shall conduct public hearings required under this ordinance based upon rules of procedure adopted by the plan commission.

Section 27.11 - Final Disposition of Cases

- (a) The final disposition of any petition shall be in the form of a findings of fact of the plan commission, together with any modification, specification, or limitation which it makes.
- (b) The plan commission may dismiss a petition for lack of prosecution or lack of jurisdiction. When a petitioner has failed to appear at two consecutive meetings, the petition may be dismissed for lack of prosecution.
- (c) Following the publication of notice for any public hearing, until the conclusion of the hearing, a petitioner may not withdraw the matter to come before the public hearing without the approval of the plan commission.
- (d) A petition which has been withdrawn by the petitioner shall not be again placed on the docket for consideration within a period of 12 months after the date of withdrawal.
- (e) A petition for rezoning which has been decided adversely to the petitioner shall not again be placed on the docket for consideration until 12 months after the date of decision previously rendered.
- (f) **Legislative Action.** The plan commission recommendations on resolution, ordinance amendments and rezonings are advisory. Petitions for rezoning, amendments to the county land development plan, and amendments to the zoning or subdivision control ordinances shall be forwarded to the city common council or county commissioners for consideration within ten days of the plan

commission recommendation.

Section 27.12 - Conformance with County Land Development Plan

After adoption of the county land development plan and zoning code, the legislative body and the plan commission shall be guided by and shall give consideration to the general policy and pattern of development set out in the county land development plan in the:

- (a) Authorization, construction, alteration, or abandonment of public ways, public places, public structures, or public utilities. Further, no public way or platted lot shall be abandoned or vacated until the plan commission having jurisdiction over the area involved shall have first given notice and held public hearing on vacation or abandonment of the public ways or platted lots. The plan commission shall forward its recommendation to the governing body having jurisdiction over the area. This body shall not override the recommendation of the plan commission unless done so by a two-thirds vote of the governing body.
- (b) Authorization, acceptance, or construction of water mains, sewers, connections, facilities, or utilities.

Section 27.13 - Actions for Injunction for Restraint of Violation

- (a) The plan commissions or any designated enforcement official may institute a suit for injunction in the circuit court of La Porte County to restrain an individual or a governmental unit from violating the provisions of IC 36-7-4 or of an ordinance enacted pursuant to its terms.
- (b) The plan commissions may institute a suit for a mandatory injunction directing an individual or a governmental unit to remove a structure erected in violation of the provisions of IC 36-7-4 or of an ordinance enacted pursuant to its terms. If the plan commission is successful in its suit the respondent shall bear the cost of the action.
- (c) No compensation or delegations shall be awarded for the taking of or injury to any structure erected in violation of the provisions of IC 36-7-4 or of an ordinance enacted pursuant to its terms.

Section 27.14 - Coordination with State Statutes

Should any provisions of state statute be amended in any way that affects this article, the provisions of this article shall be applied in a manner consistent with any such amendment.

ARTICLE 28. - BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Section 28.01 - Establishment

- (a) **County of La Porte.** The county Board of Zoning Appeals, hereinafter called "the BZA," exists as an advisory BZA under the authority of IC 36-7-4-901 and any amendments thereto. The BZA shall consist of five voting members, who shall be appointed and shall hold office for such terms as are provided by IC 36-7-4-902, as amended.
- (b) **City of La Porte.** The Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals for the City of La Porte shall consist of one division, as provided for in IC 36-7-4-901 and shall be hereinafter called "the BZA." The BZA shall consist of five members who shall be appointed and shall hold office for such terms as are provided by IC 36-7-4-902 et seq.
- (c) **City of Michigan City.** The Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals for the City of Michigan City shall consist of one division, as provided for in IC 36-7-4-901 and shall be hereinafter called "the BZA." The BZA shall consist of five members who shall be appointed and shall hold office for such terms as are provided by IC 36-7-4-902 et seq.
- (d) The duties of the BZA shall be those set forth in the statute named above, and other responsibilities as may be required by the ordinances of the city or county.

Section 28.02 - Powers and Duties of the BZA

The BZA shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) Hear and decide all applications for special exceptions, special uses, contingent uses or conditional uses following the procedure 24.
- (b) The BZA shall have the power to grant variances from the provisions and requirements of this ordinance, in the following situations:
 - (1) A use variance under the provisions of, and after making the findings as required by IC 36-7-4-918.4 and Section 28.11(a).
 - (2) A variance of developmental standards under the provisions of, and after making the findings as required by IC 36-7-4-918.5 and Section 28.11(b).
- (c) Hear and determine appeals from and review any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by the enforcement official or any other official or administrative board charged with the enforcement of this ordinance. In exercising its powers, the BZA may reverse, affirm or modify the order, requirement, decision, or determination appealed from. For this purpose, the BZA has all the powers of the official or administrative board from whom the appeal is taken.

Section 28.03 - Officers and Employees

- (a) A chairperson and vice chairperson for each BZA shall be appointed consistent with IC 36-7-4-912.
- (b) A secretary and employees may be appointed consistent with IC 36-7-4-913.

Section 28.04 - Meetings

- (a) The BZA will meet as necessary to carry out the duties under this ordinance. At the yearly organizational meeting, the BZA will establish dates and times for meetings for the current year. The location of the meeting shall be set by the BZA. If the date of a regular meeting falls on a legal holiday, or if it is impossible to conduct the meeting at that time or place, the chairperson may set an alternate date, time, or place for the regular meeting or may cancel the meeting with the consent of the majority of the members of the BZA.
- (b) Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or two members of the BZA upon written request to the secretary. The secretary will notify all members at least three days prior to the special meeting. Any special meeting must comply with the notice requirements of IC 5-14-1.5.
- (c) The agenda shall list all items to be considered by the BZA at the regular or special meeting.
- (d) The chairperson of the BZA shall preside over meetings and hearings, decide questions of order, subject to appeal by BZA members, and preserve decorum in the meeting room.
- (e) The secretary of the BZA shall keep minutes of its proceedings and record the vote on all actions taken. The BZA shall also make written findings of fact in all cases heard by it.

Section 28.05 - Official Action; Discussion and Voting

- (a) A majority of the members of the BZA shall constitute a quorum. Action of the BZA shall not be official unless it is authorized at a regular or properly called special meeting by a majority of the entire membership of the BZA.
- (b) At the conclusion of a public hearing on any petition requesting a variance, a special exception or special use, any member of the BZA may make any of the following motions with respect to the petition requesting a variance, special exception or special use to:
 - (1) Grant the request, as requested;
 - (2) Partially grant the request, or with limitations;
 - (3) Grant the request, but subject to certain conditions as enumerated in the motion;
 - (4) Deny the request; or
 - (5) Table the request until a future meeting.
- (c) If any such motion is seconded, and then receives the affirmative vote of a majority of all of the members of the BZA, and not just a majority of those present and voting, the adoption of the motion will be considered to be a decision of the BZA. If any such motion fails to receive an affirmative vote by a majority of all of the members of the BZA, then the motion fails, but the BZA will

not have made a final decision regarding the petition before it.

- (d) If none of the above motions are made, or if made and seconded, fails to be approved, and if no other motion to dispose of the pending petition is made, then without any motion being made or seconded, the chairman shall declare that there is a motion before the board to grant a variance, special exception or special use as requested. Then, after permitting discussion on that motion, the chairman shall then submit this motion to a roll call vote. If the motion is approved by a majority of the members of the BZA, then the petition for a variance, special exception or special use is granted as requested. If the motion fails to receive an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the BZA, then the petition is denied. In either case, the BZA will then have made a final decision on the petition before it.
- (e) Voting by the BZA shall be by roll call vote of the members. All members present shall vote on every question unless they are permitted to abstain by the presiding officer.
- (f) No member of the BZA shall participate in a hearing or decision of the BZA upon any zoning matter in which the member has a direct or indirect financial interest. A member shall declare his or her known conflict of interest. The BZA shall enter into its records the fact that the member has this disqualification, and the name of the alternative member, if any, who participates in the hearing or decision in place of the regular member.
- (g) In the event a majority vote of the BZA cannot be achieved due to absences, permitted absenteeism, or disqualifications, the matter shall be rescheduled for the next regular meeting at the request of any BZA member, a petitioner, or a remonstrator.
- (h) The final disposition of any case shall be in the form of a findings of fact of the BZA, together with any modification, specification, or limitation which it makes.

Section 28.06 - Minutes and Records

- (a) The Secretary of the BZA shall prepare and maintain minutes of its meetings. The minutes shall include the vote of each member on each question presented, or indicate that the member is absent, abstaining with permission, or not voting because of a disqualification.
- (b) The minutes of BZA meetings and all records shall be filed in the office of the BZA and are public records, as defined by IC 5-14-3.
- (c) The minutes shall be presented to the BZA for approval at the next succeeding regular meeting. When approved, the minutes shall be signed by the Chairperson and attested by the Secretary.

Section 28.07 - Public Hearings

- (a) All regular special meetings and hearings of the BZA shall be open to the public, and all petitions acted on by the BZA at these meetings shall constitute a public hearing thereon.
 - (b) The applicant or his or her agent must appear before the BZA in order to present a petition. Failure to appear can cause the petition to be dismissed subject to the BZA's discretion. A petition continued more than once can be dismissed by the BZA or upon request by a remonstrator.
 - (c) The applicant may be granted a continuance of a public hearing for which a petition is scheduled but not acted upon and which has had a notice issued and published. The Chairperson or his or her designated representative may continue a hearing for the first time if the applicant requests a continuance at least 24 hours in advance of any scheduled public hearing. Any other additional continuances must be made before the BZA. These requests may be granted at the BZA's discretion upon the determination of good cause. The BZA may further waive notice requirements. If any additional notice for the continuance is necessary, the applicant shall bear responsibility for notice.
 - (d) A remonstrator may be granted a continuance which shall be made at the public hearing. No further notice is necessary if the hearing is rescheduled at that time. The continuance shall be based on cause as determined by the BZA.
 - (e) The BZA may continue a public hearing or defer decision upon an application to a subsequent public hearing. At the subsequent hearing the BZA may not consider any additional evidence unless all parties are given equal opportunities to present additional evidence as necessary within the discretion of the BZA.
- (1) Any applicant or petitioner may withdraw his or her petition at any time prior to the presentation of any evidence on application or petition as described in division (e)(1). The applicant may not refile the petition for three months after a

withdrawal. After the beginning of presentation of evidence on the application or petition, the application or petition shall not be allowed to be withdrawn without unanimous consent of the BZA.

- (2) After the beginning of presentation of evidence, the petitioner or applicant may move for a dismissal of his or her petition. In that event, the petition dismissed shall be considered the same as denial of the petition. In either event, the applicant may not refile the petition for 12 months after dismissal or denial.
- (3) No further notice is necessary if the hearing is rescheduled at that time.

Section 28.08 - Rules and Procedures

- (a) The BZA may adopt any rules and procedures necessary to effectuate the intended purposes of this Title concerning conduct of business and for filings and hearings on applications for use, variance, special exception, or appeal.
- (b) For the purpose of this title, all provisions enacted governing the conduct of hearings and the filing of applications and not in contradiction with IC 36-7-4 et seq. may be amended from time to time by the BZA, as herein provided. The BZA may further adopt any additional rules governing procedures as it deems necessary.
- (c) The BZA may make amendments to the rules and procedures at the regular scheduled meeting.
- (d) The BZA may suspend, by unanimous consent of all the BZA members present, rules and procedures as they deem necessary for the appropriate conduct of any hearing.

Section 28.09 - Variance, Use, Exception and Appeal Procedure

- (a) Every petitioner or applicant for an administrative appeal, special exception or variance of use or of developmental standards shall file a petition stating the reasons for the petition or application and the location of the property affected.
 - (1) Every petition for a special exception or variance of use or of developmental standards shall be filed with the Secretary no later than 15 days prior to its consideration by the BZA at the next regular scheduled BZA meeting.
 - (2) Any appeal of an administrative decision shall be filed no later than 15 days from the date of the decision appealed and shall be heard at the BZA's next regular scheduled meeting.
- (b) An application for an administrative appeal, special exception or variance of use or of developmental standards should be signed by the owner of record of the real estate which is the subject matter of the application. If the applicant is other than the owner of record of the subject real estate, the applicant shall describe on the application the nature of his or her interest thereon and sign the same along with the owner of record. Only final decisions of the BZA may be appealed to the appropriate civil court as permitted by statute.

Section 28.10 - Notice Requirements

- (a) Any notice of an application or petition for an administrative appeal, special exception or variance of use or of developmental standards shall include at least the following items:
 - (1) General location, legal description, and address of the property affected;
 - (2) Nature of the request concerning the administrative appeal, special exception or variance of use or of developmental standards applied for; and
 - (3) Date and time of the public hearing thereon.
- (b) For the purpose of IC 36-7-4-920(b), any person who is the owner of abutting property as well as any adjacent party, as defined by this title, shall be entitled to specific notice of the application for special exception or variance of use or of developmental standards.
- (c) The applicant for the administrative appeal, special exception or variance of use or of developmental standards shall be responsible for placing publication or notice of the application or petition as scheduled for public hearing. The notice shall be published pursuant to the requirements of IC 36-7-4-900 and IC 5-14-1.5. Publication shall be ten days prior to the regular meeting or public hearing on the petition or application.
- (d) The applicant or petitioner shall be required to provide to the BZA proof of mailing or receipt of notice of all adjacent parties

being mailed certified return receipt requested no less than ten days prior to the date of the public hearing. The applicant may also file notice, personally signed, or delivered to the adjacent parties, and this notice shall be signed by the adjacent parties. Personal notice must show receipt at least five days prior to the hearing.

- (e) Prior to presentation of the petition the applicant shall provide an affidavit and listing of all owners of record considered as adjacent parties according to the real estate master file maintained by the County Auditor, as well as a copy of the notice mailed.
- (f) Before approval of a variance in the Airport Overlay District, involving a structure regulated under IC 8-21-10 may become effective, the BZA must have received:
 - (1) A copy of:
 - a. The permit for the structure issued by the Indiana department of transportation; or
 - b. The Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation issued by the Federal Aviation Administration; and
 - (2) Evidence that notice of the filing of the petition for such a variance was delivered to the La Porte Municipal Airport Authority Board and the Michigan City Board of Aviation Commissioners, as required in IC 8-21-10-3 not less than 60 days before the proposal is considered.

Section 28.11 - Variance

- (a) **Use Variance.** The BZA may approve or deny variances from the use provisions of the zoning ordinance only upon a findings of fact that support the following:
 - (1) The approval will not be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community;
 - (2) The use and value of the area adjacent to the property included in the variance will not be affected in a substantially adverse manner;
 - (3) The need for the variance arises from some condition peculiar to the property involved;
 - (4) The strict application of the terms of the zoning ordinance will constitute an unnecessary hardship if applied to the property for which the variance is sought; and
 - (5) The approval does not interfere substantially with the Comprehensive Land Development Plan.
- (b) **Development Standards Variance.** The BZA may approve or deny variances from the development standards (such as height, bulk, or area) of the zoning ordinance only upon a findings of fact that support the following:
 - (1) The approval will not be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community;
 - (2) The use and value of the area adjacent to the property will not be affected in a substantially adverse manner; and
 - (3) The strict application of the terms of the zoning ordinance will result in practical difficulties in the use of the property. Practical difficulties shall result from exceptional or extraordinary circumstances or conditions applying to the property that do not apply generally to other properties in the same zoning district. The variance shall be necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right similar to that possessed by other properties in the same zoning district.

Section 28.12 - Commitments and Conditions Authorized

- (a) Prior to granting any special exception or variance of use or of developmental standards, the BZA may prescribe appropriate commitments which shall be provided by the applicant before approval of any variance. The BZA may require the owner of a parcel of property to make a written commitment which shall be provided by the applicant before approval of any special exception or variance of use or of developmental standards. The BZA may require the owner of a parcel of property to make a written commitment concerning the use or development of that parcel, and record the same.
 - (1) For the purpose of IC 36-7-4-921(b), the BZA or any person claiming to be adversely affected by any commitment is entitled to enforce the commitment.
 - (2) A commitment shall be created by the owner of the property by affixing his or her signature to a written statement of the terms of the commitment. The commitments shall be approved by the BZA and the same recorded with the La Porte County Recorder's Office by the petitioner prior to any variance taking effect.
 - (3) A commitment may be modified or terminated only by a decision of the BZA made at a public hearing after notice is given in

accordance with the requirements set forth in this title.

- (4) If any person fails to abide by a commitment, that person commits a violation of this ordinance. The commitment shall be enforced in accordance with the provisions of Article 26. Any violation of any commitment for which a variance has been granted shall constitute a nullification of that variance.
- (b) In granting a special exception or variance of use or of developmental standards, the BZA may also prescribe reasonable conditions or safeguards which it deemed reasonable.
- (c) The violation of any specified conditions or commitment required as a part of granting a special exception or variance of use or of developmental standards will serve as a voidance of the special exception or variance of use or of developmental standards upon issuance of a stop order by the BZA or its designated representative.

Section 28.13 - Approval Period

Approval of a special exception or variance of use or of developmental standards shall be valid for a period not longer than one year unless the use or building authorized by the approval is established. Where the use or building is not established, the approval shall expire after one year unless a building permit for the construction is obtained and construction is started and proceeds to completion in accordance with the terms of the permit and the requirements of the BZA.

Section 28.14 - Appeal

Any decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals may be appealed to the circuit court or any superior court sitting in the county in the manner provided for by IC 36-7-4-1003 et seq., or any amendment thereto.

ARTICLE 29. - NONCONFORMING

Section 29.01 - Nonconforming Uses

A use of a building or premises, lawfully existing at the time it was established, but is made nonconforming by the passage of a new ordinance or amendment, may be continued, except as hereinafter provided, although such use no longer conforms to all provisions of the ordinance or amendments to this ordinance.

- (a) A nonconforming use may be extended throughout a building provided no structural alterations are made therein, except those required by law.
- (b) A nonconforming use may be changed to another nonconforming use of the same or greater restrictions, provided no structural changes are made in the building. Whenever a nonconforming use has been changed to a conforming use or to a use permitted in a district of greater restrictions, it shall not thereafter be changed to a nonconforming use or a less restricted one.
- (c) No building shall be erected upon any premises devoted to a nonconforming use, except in conformance with regulations of this ordinance.
- (d) When a building containing a nonconforming use is damaged by any means or in any manner to the extent that the cost of reconstruction or restoration is equal to or less than 50 percent of the value of the structure prior to the damaging occurrence, it may be restored, within 12 months, provided that its original use is not changed and size is not increased. Where the damaged is greater than 50 percent of the value of the structure, it may not be restored. The value of the structure prior to the damaging occurrence shall be as determined by the most recent assessment of the market value of the structure, exclusive of the market value of land.
- (e) In the event that a nonconforming use of any building or land is abandoned or discontinued for a period of one year, the use shall thereafter conform to the uses permitted in the district in which it is located.

Section 29.02 - Nonconforming Structures and Buildings

Structures and buildings that are existing and lawful on the effective date of this ordinance or amendments thereto, may be continued even though the structure or building does not conform with the dimensional or other provisions of this ordinance, subject to the following provisions of this section.

- (a) If a nonconforming structure or building is altered or modified so as to eliminate, remove or lessen any or all of its nonconforming characteristics, then the nonconforming characteristics shall not be later re-established or increased.
- (b) In the event that any nonconforming structure or building is damaged by any means or in any manner to the extent the cost of reconstruction or restoration is equal to or less than 50 percent of the value of the structure prior to the damaging occurrence, reconstruction or restoration shall be permitted, provided a building permit for reconstruction or restoration is issued within one year of the occurrence of the damage. The value of the structure prior to the damaging occurrence shall be as determined by the most recent assessment of the market value of the structure, exclusive of the market value of land.
- (c) In the event that any nonconforming structure or building is damaged by any means or in any manner to the extent the cost of reconstruction or restoration exceeds 50 percent the value of the structure prior to the damaging occurrence, reconstruction or restoration shall only be permitted in conformity with the provisions of this ordinance, except residential structures or buildings as provided for below.
- (d) In the event a nonconforming residential structure or building is damaged by fire or other natural cause, a residential structure may be reconstructed on the same foundation provided the first floor footprint and the total floor area does not exceed the size of the previous residence.
- (e) Repairs, improvements, or modernization of non-conforming structures and buildings shall be permitted provided the repairs or improvements do not exceed 50 percent of the value of the building or structure during any period of 12 consecutive months. This cost/value calculation shall not include any costs associated with modernization of electrical, plumbing, heating or cooling systems. However, if a non-conforming structure or a structure containing a non-conforming use becomes physically unsafe or unlawful due to lack of maintenance and repairs and is declared as such by the county or city, as applicable, it shall not thereafter be restored, repaired, or rebuilt except in full conformity with the regulations in the district in which it is located.
- (f) A building that is nonconforming may be altered or rehabilitated if that activity will make the building conform to the regulations of this zoning ordinance and the building code.
- (g) A residential nonconforming building may be expanded provided the expansion will be within required setbacks; other dimensional requirements are met (spacing between structures, height, maximum lot coverage, etc.). (Example: a home with a nonconforming front yard setback may be expanded in the rear so long as the rear yard setback remains conforming and maximum lot coverage is not exceeded). The addition must comply with all health department and building code requirements. Additional height above the nonconforming portion of the building shall not be permitted. The total cost of the expansion shall be limited by the improvements allowed by subsection (e) above.
- (h) Nonresidential nonconforming buildings shall not be expanded, unless a variance is obtained from the board of zoning appeals.
- (i) Nonconforming structures and buildings shall not be enlarged nor altered in a way which increases the nonconformity within the provisions of this ordinance or beyond the limits set in this section, unless approved by the board of zoning appeals.

Section 29.03 - Nonconforming Lots

- (a) In any zoning district, notwithstanding limitations imposed by other provisions of this ordinance, where an existing lot of record fails to meet the requirements of this ordinance for minimum lot area, minimum lot width or both, of the zoning district in which it is located, the lot may be used for the permitted uses of the zoning district, including permitted accessory uses, provided other requirements of the zoning district in which the lot is located are met. The lot must be an existing lot of record, created prior to the effective date of the original zoning ordinance or the amendment that made the lot nonconforming.
- (b) A principal building and customary accessory buildings for a permitted use may be erected on any single lot of record existing at the effective date of this zoning ordinance, provided all other standards of the zoning ordinance are met. This provision shall

apply even though the lot fails to meet the requirements for area or width, or both, that are generally applicable in the district, provided that the buildings are in conformance with all other applicable yard setback, minimum floor area, maximum height and access requirements for the district in which they are located.

- (c) Where there are multiple contiguous nonconforming lots under single ownership they may be combined and used as a single lot. Combined use of multiple contiguous lots shall be permitted; provided approval under the subdivision regulations shall be required if any lots are divided or any lot boundaries changed.

Section 29.04 - Nonconforming Sites

The county or city, as applicable, may permit improvements and minor modifications to a conforming use and building on a site that does not meet all of the various site improvement related regulations of this zoning ordinance. This section is intended to allow gradual compliance with the site related requirements for sites which predate the various zoning ordinance standards for landscaping, paving, lighting and other non-safety items in proportion to the amount of expansion or improvement proposed. Improvements or expansions may be permitted by the enforcement official during site plan review without a complete upgrade of all site elements under the following conditions:

- (a) The applicant is proposing reasonable site improvements on the overall site in relation to the scale and construction cost of the building improvements or expansion.
- (b) The applicant has addressed safety related site issues on the overall site.
- (c) The improvements or minor expansion will not increase noncompliance with site requirements.
- (d) All driveways that do not conform to the access standards of this zoning ordinance shall be eliminated, provided that the minimum reasonable access shall be maintained.

Section 29.05 - Nonconformity Resulting in Right-of-Way Dedication

Where a nonconforming front yard setback, parking lot setback or greenbelt is created as a result of additional road right-of-way width being acquired by the city, county or state, the building or parking lot may be improved or expanded without the need to obtain a variance from the board of zoning appeals, provided the following conditions are met:

- (a) The building or parking lot complied with the front yard setback prior to the acquisition of the additional road right-of-way.
- (b) The building or parking lot expansion will not reduce the remaining depth of the front yard setback.
- (c) All other ordinance requirements are met and necessary approvals obtained.

ARTICLE 30. - AMENDMENTS AND REZONINGS

Section 30.01 - Application Initiation

- (a) **Rezoning.** Proposals for zoning map amendments may be initiated by either the plan commission or legislative body, or through an application signed by property owners of at least 50 percent of the land involved (per IC 36-7-4-602(c)(1)(B)).
 - (1) **Plan Commission/Legislative Body Initiation.** The enforcement official shall prepare the application for zoning map amendment on behalf of the plan commission if either the commission or the legislative body has initiated the application. The enforcement official shall serve as the representative of the applicant for such proposals.
 - (2) **Property Owner Initiation.** Any property owners requesting a zoning map amendment shall be the applicants and assume responsibility for preparing application materials.
- (b) **Zoning Text.** The procedure to repeal and adopt an entire new ordinance or to amend the text of the ordinance or to amend the zone maps is set forth in IC 36-7-4-601 et seq.

Section 30.02 - Application

The applicant shall submit a rezoning application, a legal description for the property involved, the required filing fee, and any supporting information.

Section 30.03 - Notification

Before any action can be taken by the Plan Commission to adopt a new ordinance, amend the text or amend the zone maps, notice must be given as required in IC 36-7-4-604. Public notice setting forth the time and place shall be given at least ten days before the date of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation. Notification shall also be provided by regular U.S. mail at least ten days before the date of the hearing to the applicant and all abutting properties in all directions from the subject property and properties across the street from the parcel where the zone map change is requested. For a rezoning request initiated by a property owner, the cost of such notices shall be borne by the person applying for the rezoning and at the public hearing, the petitioner shall provide proof that he has conformed to the above by proof of publication and return-receipt mail or personal sign-off on delivery of notices.

Section 30.04 - Plan Commission Public Hearing

The plan commission will then, in a public hearing scheduled no later than 60 days following the receipt of the application (per IC 36-7-4-608), review the rezoning application and required supportive information. The procedure to be followed by the Plan Commission at any hearing on an amendment to the zoning ordinance or to the zoning maps, the notification of the Plan Commission's action to the Common Council to the legislative body of the City an action by the legislative body shall follow the provisions set forth in 36-7-4-604 to 36-7-4-614. The plan commission shall either forward the application to the legislative body with a favorable recommendation, an unfavorable recommendation, or no recommendation; or continue the request.

Section 30.05 - Certification

The plan commission shall certify its recommendation by resolution to the legislative body within ten business days of its determination (per IC 36-7-4-608).

Section 30.06 - Legislative Action

The legislative body shall vote on the proposed rezoning ordinance within 90 days of its certification by the plan commission (per IC 36-7-4-608).

Section 30.07 - Decision Criteria

In reviewing the rezoning application, the plan commission shall pay reasonable regard to all of the following (per IC 36-7-4-603):

- (a) **County Land Development Plan.** That a change of zoning will be consistent with the county land development plan, local community plans and any other applicable, adopted planning studies or reports.
- (b) **Current Conditions.** That a change of zoning will be compatible with the conditions and character of current structures and uses in each district or that the character of the area under consideration has changed either through technological advances or developmental changes.
- (c) **Reasonable Use.** That a change of zoning will provide for the most reasonable use for which the land in each district is adapted and the proposed land use will not have an adverse effect on surrounding land.
- (d) **Property Values.** That a change of zoning will not be injurious or detrimental to the surrounding property values and will further the conservation of property values throughout the planning jurisdiction.
- (e) **Responsible Growth.** That a change of zoning will promote for orderly and responsible community growth and development and will not adversely affect the community.
- (f) **Environmental Conditions.** That the topography, soil condition, and other physical features of the land involved are suitable for the proposed use and zoning change.
- (g) **Spot Zoning.** That the petition is not "spot zoning" which will confer a special benefit on a relatively small tract without

commensurate benefit to the community.

- (h) **Neighborhood Plan.** In areas where there is a neighborhood plan, that a change of zoning will not disrupt or destroy the neighborhood plan.

Section 30.08 - Written Commitments

The applicant in any rezoning application may make written commitments regarding the characteristics of the proposed future use of, or the resolution of outstanding issues in existence on, the subject property consistent with IC 36-7-4-615. Written commitments may also be initiated by the plan commission or legislative body.

Section 30.09 - Zoning Text Amendments

- (a) In accordance with IC 36-7-4-602, the appropriate legislative body may amend or partially repeal the text of this ordinance. The legislative body or the plan commission may initiate a proposal to amend or partially repeal the text according to the procedures of IC 36-7-4-602(b). The plan commission shall conduct a public hearing following the same procedures outlined in Section 30.04, identified above, and make a recommendation on the zoning ordinance amendment to the legislative body in accordance with Section 30.05. The legislative body shall consider the proposed zoning ordinance amendments following the same procedures in Section 30.06 above.
- (b) The plan commission shall review the ordinance on an annual basis and identify any amendments deemed necessary to the ordinance for review, public hearing and recommendation for adoption.

ARTICLE 31. - DEFINITIONS

Section 31.01 - Construction of Language

(a) **Interpretations.**

- (1) If the meaning of this Ordinance is unclear in a particular circumstance, then the individual or body charged with interpreting or applying the Ordinance shall construe the provision to carry out the intent of the Ordinance, if the intent can be discerned from other provisions of the Ordinance or law.
- (2) All words and phrases shall be construed and understood according to the common preferred use of the language; but technical words and phrases that may have acquired a peculiar and appropriate meaning in the law shall be construed and understood according to that peculiar and appropriate meaning.
- (3) Whenever a word or term defined hereinafter in the text of this Ordinance, its meaning shall be construed as defined herein. Words or terms not herein defined shall have the meaning customarily assigned to them.
- (4) The definitions contained in this Article are for the purposes of this Ordinance.

(b) **Terms.**

- (1) The word "shall" is always mandatory and not discretionary. The word "may" is permissive.
- (2) The terms "Ordinance" shall be understood to include the term "as amended" where the context is appropriate.
- (3) The terms "abutting" or "adjacent to" include property along the lot lines of the subject site, including those in another community, but do not include lands separated by a public street right-of-way.
- (4) A "building" or "structure" includes any part thereof.
- (5) The word "building" includes to "erect" or "construct."
- (6) The word "person" includes an individual, a corporation, a partnership, an incorporated association, or any other similar entity. A masculine term shall include the feminine version of the term and vice versa.
- (7) The phrase "used for" includes "arranged for," "intended for," "occupied for," and "maintained for."
- (8) Unless the context clearly indicates the contrary, the conjunctions noted below shall be interpreted as follows.
 - a. "And" indicates that all connected items, conditions, provisions, or events shall apply.

- b. "Or," indicates that the connected items, conditions, provisions or events may apply separately or in combination.
- c. "Either...or" indicates that the connected items, conditions, provisions or events shall apply separately, not in combination.
- (c) The particular shall control the general. For terms used in this Ordinance the use of a general term shall not be taken to be the same as the use of any other specific term.
- (d) Words used in the present tense shall include the future; words used in the singular number shall include the plural; and the plural the singular, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.
- (e) Computing the number of days, the first day is excluded and the last day is included. If the last day of any period during which an application, filing, or request is required to be made to the city, county or other governmental agency is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the period is extended to include the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.
- (f) All measurements shall be to the nearest integer, unless otherwise specified herein.
- (g) Unless the context clearly indicates to the contrary, where an illustration accompanies any item in this Ordinance, the written text shall have precedence over the illustration.

Section 31.02 - Definitions "A"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Abandoned. Cessation of the use of a structure or land, with the intent to abandon the use at that location. The intent to abandon may be demonstrated by records indicating that the address is vacant or occupied by another use, the utility service associated with the use has been disconnected, the telephone number associated with the use as disconnected/moved to another location or the business associated with the use has moved to another location or been discontinued.

Abuts or abutting. *Having a common property line or district line.*

Access management. A technique to improve traffic operations and decrease the potential for accidents along major thoroughfares through the control of driveway locations and design; consideration of the relationship of traffic activity for properties adjacent to, and across from, one another; and the promotion of alternatives to direct access.

Accessory building or use. A subordinate building located on the same lot with the main building, or a subordinate use of land, either of which is incidental to the main building or to the principal use of the land. An **accessory building or use** includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) A children's playhouse, garden house, or private greenhouse;
- (2) A detached garage, shed, or building for domestic storage;
- (3) Incinerators incidental to residential use;
- (4) Storage of merchandise normally carried in stock on the same lot with any retail, service, or business use, unless that storage is prohibited by district regulations;
- (5) Storage of goods used in, or produced by, manufacturing activities on the same lot or parcel of ground with those activities, unless that storage is prohibited by district regulations;
- (6) A non-paying guest house or rooms for guests within an **accessory building**, if those facilities are used for the occasional housing of guests of occupants of the principal building and not for permanent occupancy by others as housekeeping units;
- (7) Servants quarters, if part of an accessory garage and solely for occupancy by a servant or household employee of the occupants of the principal dwelling and the family of that servant or employee;
- (8) Off-street motor vehicle parking area and loading and unloading facilities;
- (9) Signs, other than advertising signs, as permitted and regulated in each district incorporated in this title;
- (10) Boat house;
- (11) Swimming pool, if private and being incidental to use by the owner and guests; and
- (12) Public utility communication, electric, gas, water, and sewer lines, their supports, and incidental equipment.

Accessory equipment building. A structure used to house equipment for the operation, maintenance, or repair of a wireless communications tower, including electronic receiving and relay equipment.

Accessory living quarters. Living quarters within an accessory building for the sole use of persons employed on the premises, such as quarters having no kitchen facilities and not rented or otherwise used as a separate dwelling.

Acreage. Any tract or parcel of land which has not been subdivided and platted.

Adjacent. To lie near or close to; in the neighborhood or vicinity of, including across a public right-of-way, stream, river or railroad.

Adjacent property owners, owner, or interested party. The owners of record of each lot or parcel of real estate abutting the tract of real estate that is the subject of the application, petition, or matter upon which a public hearing is to be held before the legislative body, plan commission, or board of zoning appeals. The owners of record shall be according to the real estate master file as maintained by the auditor of the county or city, at the time of the filing of an application or petition,

Adjoining. Touching or contiguous, as distinguished from lying near or adjacent.

Adult regulated use. The following definitions shall apply to adult regulated uses:

- (1) **Adult bath house.** An establishment which is not a hotel but which contains any combination of baths, showers, saunas and pools for public use and which excludes persons under the age of 18 from part or all of the facility that is open to adults
- (2) **Adult cabaret.** An establishment that customarily features adult entertainers providing live adult entertainment or which holds itself out to the public as an establishment where adult entertainment is available, but such definition shall not include any uses prohibited by this ordinance. Signs, advertisements or an establishment name including verbal or pictorial allusions to sexual stimulation or gratification or by references to "adult entertainment," "strippers," "showgirls," "exotic dancers," "gentleman's club," "XXX" or similar terms, shall be considered evidence that the establishment holds itself out to the public as providing adult entertainment. The fact that an establishment does not serve alcoholic beverages shall not remove it from classification as an adult cabaret if it otherwise falls under this definition.
- (3) **Adult encounter center.** A business or enterprise that offers live physical contact between two or more persons when one or more of the persons is in a state of nudity or semi-nudity, for the purpose of engaging in sexually explicit activities or touching specified anatomical areas.
- (4) **Adult entertainer.** Any person paid by some form of remuneration to provide live adult entertainment to customers at an adult regulated use that may consist of dancing, singing, acting, other forms of performing, or individual conversations with customers whereby the entertainer is paid any form of remuneration directly or indirectly for such conversations.
- (5) **Adult entertainment.** Any of the following activities, when performed live by an adult entertainer at an adult regulated use: dancing, singing, talking, touching, gymnastics, acting, other forms of performing, or individual conversations with customers.
- (6) **Adult massage establishment.** A business or enterprise where a massage is provided by a person not certified by the state as a massage therapist under Indiana Code Title 25, Art. 21.8 or by someone other than a physician, surgeon, nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or chiropractor who is licensed, certified or registered to practice their respective professions under the laws of the state, or any business that provide massage for the purpose of sexual stimulation.
- (7) **Adult media.** Media which are distinguished or characterized by their emphasis on matter depicting, describing, or relating to sexually explicit activities or specified anatomical areas.
- (8) **Adult motel.** An establishment which customarily:
 - a. Offers accommodations to the public for any form of consideration and provides patrons with transmissions of adult media; and which advertises the availability of adult media by means of a sign, visible from the public right-of-way, or by means of any off-premises advertising, including, but not limited to, newspapers, magazines, pamphlets or leaflets, radio, internet or television; or
 - b. Permits patrons to be filmed or photographed performing "sexually explicit activities" or displaying "specified anatomical areas" for electric transmission outside the room; or
 - c. Offers a room for rent for a period of time that is less than ten hours; or allows an occupant of a room to sub-rent the

room for a period of time that is less than ten hours.

- (9) **Adult motion picture theater.** An establishment which customarily shows adult media and is marketed as or offers adult media described as "XXX". This definition specifically excludes adult video arcades.
- (10) **Adult novelties.** Instruments, devices, toys, or paraphernalia either designed as representations of human genitals or female breasts or designed or marketed primarily for use in sexual stimulations of specified anatomical areas.
- (11) **Adult regulated use.** An adult cabaret, adult motion picture theater, adult retail store.
- (12) **Adult retail store.** A retail establishment that meets any one of the following four tests:
 - a. Thirty-five percent or more of the gross public floor area or gross wall display area or stock in trade consists of adult media; or
 - b. Offers for sale items from any two of the following categories; adult media; lingerie; leather goods marketed or presented in a context to suggest their use for sadomasochistic practices; and the combination of such items comprise more than ten percent of its gross public floor area or stock in trade; or
 - c. More than ten percent of its gross public floor area or stock in trade consists of adult novelties; or
 - d. It is advertised, marketed, or holds itself out in any forum as an "XXX," "adult," or "sex" business.
- (13) **Adult video arcade.** Any place to which the public is permitted or invited wherein cash-operated, credit-operated, coin-operated or slug-operated or electronically, internet or mechanically controlled still or motion picture machines, projects or other image producing devices are maintained to show images depicting "sexually explicit activities" or "specified anatomical areas".
- (14) **Escort.** A person who, for consideration in any form, offers to act as a companion or date for another person, and who offers to perform sexually explicit activities while acting as a companion or date.
- (15) **Escort agency.** A person or business association that offers to furnish or advertises to furnish escorts as one of its business purposes, for a fee, tip or other consideration.
- (16) **Nude modeling or photography studio.** Any place where a person appears in a state of nudity or displays specific anatomical areas, and is provided any form of consideration to be observed, sketched, drawn, painted, sculpted, photographed or similarly depicted by other persons. This does not include a modeling studio whose primary function is to provide art classes as part of a college, university or educational institution and which is certified by the State of Indiana.
- (17) **Nudity.** A state of undress in which the human pubic area, anus, genitals, nipples or areolas are viewable.
- (18) **Semi-nudity.** A state of undress in which clothing (of any type) covers no more than the human pubic area, anus, and genitals.
- (19) **Sexually explicit activities.** Acts of human masturbation, sexual intercourse, sodomy, bestiality, erotic or sexual stimulation with objects or mechanical devices; acts of human anilingus, cunnilingus, fellatio, flagellation, masturbation, sadism, sadomasochism, sexual intercourse, sodomy, or any excretory functions as part of or in connection with any of the activities set forth above. This definition shall include sexual stimulation of another person's genitals whether clothed or unclothed.
- (20) **Specified anatomical areas.** Any of the following: less than completely and opaquely covered human genitals, pubic area, anus, female areola or nipple, or any combination thereof; or human male genitals in a discernibly turgid state, even if completely and opaquely covered. Opaquely covered does not include the use of paint or latex or other similar materials applied to the body.

Adverse Impact. Any activity that would destroy, harm, impair, diminish or degrade the value, utility or function of a natural resource.

Advertising device. An advertising sign, billboard, or poster panel which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, or entertainment not exclusively related to the premises where the sign is located or to which it is affixed. However, this does not include those advertising signs, billboards, or poster panels which direct attention to the business on the premises or to a brand name of a product or commodity with which the business is specifically identified and which is sold on the premises.

Agricultural building. A structure utilized for the keeping of livestock, storage, or raising of agricultural products or storage of agricultural equipment.

Agricultural land use. The use of land for the production of animal or plant life, including forestry, pasturing or yarding livestock, and planting, growing, cultivating, and harvesting crops for human or livestock consumption.

Agriculture. The use of land for agricultural purposes with the intent of selling any products produced by this type of activity. Agricultural uses include farming, dairying, pasturage, apiculture, horticulture, floriculture, viticulture, and animal and poultry husbandry, and the necessary accessory uses for packing, treating, or storing the products. The operation of any accessory uses shall be secondary to that of the normal agricultural activities. The agricultural use does not include the operation or maintenance of a commercial stockyard or feedlot (confined feeding operation).

Alteration. Any change, addition, or modification in construction, or any change in the structural members of a building, such as load bearing walls, columns, beams, or girders.

Anchoring system. An approved system of straps, cables, turnbuckles, chains, ties, or other approved materials used to secure a manufactured or mobile home.

Animal

- (1) **Small or domesticated animal/pet.** Any animal that is commonly considered capable of being trained or is capable of adapting to living in a human environment and being of use to human beings, and which is not likely to bite without provocation, nor cause death, maiming or illness to human beings, including: dogs, cats (domesticated), birds (caged), fish, turtles, rodents (bred, such as a gerbils, rabbits, hamsters or guinea pigs) and lizards (non-poisonous). Wild, vicious, or exotic animals shall not be considered domesticated.
- (2) **Exotic or vicious animal.** Any animal of a species not indigenous to the State of Indiana and not a domesticated animal, including any hybrid animal that is part exotic animal; or any animal which, irrespective of geographic origin, is of wild or predatory character, or which because of size, aggressive or vicious characteristics would constitute an unreasonable danger to human life or property if not kept, maintained or confined in a safe and secure manner, including any hybrid animal that is part exotic animal; or any animal that attacks, bites, or injures human beings or other domesticated animals without adequate provocation, or which because of temperament, conditioning, or training, has a known propensity to attack, bite, or injure human beings or domesticated animals.
- (3) **Large animal or livestock.** Any of various bird or animal breeds, long ago domesticated by man so as to live and breed in a tame, docile, tractable condition useful to man, including animals such as: horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, cattle, sheep, goats, buffaloes, lama, swine, chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys.

Ansi/NFPA 501: a standard for installation of manufactured homes. Model national standards (including all authorized successor documents) for installation of manufactured and mobile homes, as adopted and copyrighted by the National Fire Protection Association and the Manufactured Housing Institute.

Apartment. See *dwelling, apartment*.

Applicant. The owner, or his or her representative, of land which is proposed to be developed, subdivided, or rezoned or for which a variance is sought, or their designated representative.

Arcade. A commercial recreation business, usually conducted indoors, which provides mechanical and/or electronic games for entertainment.

Automobile car wash. A commercial building, or portion thereof, containing facilities for washing vehicles or other items using production line methods, or other mechanical devices including the use of steam cleaning or high pressure equipment.

Automobile repair.

- (1) **Major.** Engine rebuilding, or major reconditioning, collision service, body, frame, or fender straightening, or repair and overall painting of vehicles, or trailers.
- (2) **Minor.** Incidental repairs, replacement of parts, and motor service to motor vehicles, such as oil changes, and lubrication, tune-ups, wheel alignment, replacement of mufflers, exhaust systems, brakes, shock absorbers, batteries, pumps, belts, hoses, air filters, and windshield wipers, radiator cleaning, and flushing; auto detailing, sale/installation of automobile

accessories such as tires, radios, and air conditioners, but not including any operation included above under automobile repair, major.

Automobile service station. A building, or portion thereof, or premises used for dispensing or offering for sale, at retail, gasoline when stored only in underground tanks, kerosene, lubrication oil, or grease, for operation of automobiles, and where tires, batteries, and similar automobile accessories may be offered for sale on the premises at retail. Minor vehicle repair services and installation customarily incidental thereto may also be performed if enclosed in a building. However, **automobile service stations** do not include **open sales lots**, as defined herein, or vehicle wash establishments.

Awning. A roof-like structure which projects from the wall of a building.

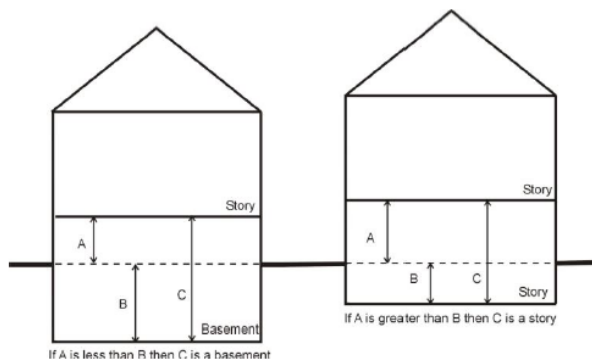
(Ord. No. 4254, § 3(Exh. A), 10-30-2013; Ord. No. 4500, §§ 5.48., 5.49., 2-5-2019)

Section 31.03 - Definitions "B"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Balcony. An unenclosed platform that projects from or recesses into the wall of a building a minimum of 2 feet, is surrounded by a parapet or railing on its open side(s) and is entirely supported by the building and/or columns. When such platform is both roofed and enclosed, it is considered interior space and is not a balcony.

Basement or cellar. A story partly or wholly underground, but having more than one-half of its clear height below finished grade. If more than one-half its clear height is above grade, it shall be considered a story for the purposes of height measurement.



Bay window. A window that projects outward from the building façade in a semicircular, rectangular, or polygonal design. The base of the projected area of each bay window shall be at least one foot above the level of the floor, shall project a minimum of two feet from the façade, shall not be used as an extension of interior floor space, and shall span a maximum of eight feet along a street-facing façade.

Bed and breakfast. A residential building, or portion thereof, (other than a hotel, apartment hotel, or motel) containing lodging rooms for accommodation of persons who are not members of the keeper's family and where lodging and/or meals are provided by pre-arrangement, for definite periods of time and for compensation.

Bicycle parking, short-term. Space for temporary parking of bicycles for visitors and customers. Such spaces may be public or private and typically consist of outdoor bicycle racks.

Bicycle parking, long-term. Space for parking of bicycles for all-day users or residents. Such spaces may consist of bicycle lockers, bicycle racks in enclosed areas, or space within a building where a resident, employee, or visitor may park a bicycle for the day or overnight.

Block. A tract of land bounded by streets, public or institutionally owned lands, railroad rights-of-way, rivers and lakes, and other lines of demarcation.

Block face. The frontage on a public street located between intersecting public or private streets or alleys.

Board of zoning appeals (BZA). The board of zoning appeals has the duty to hear and determine appeals on orders, requirements, or decisions made in connection with this ordinance and is authorized to grant variances and special exceptions from the code. There shall be individual bzas for the county and both cities.

Boarding stable. A building or structure designed, arranged, used, or intended to be used for housing saddle horses or ponies where horse owners pay a fee to keep their horses.

Boat club. A private facility that provides service to members for docking, storing and loading of at least five watercraft. A boat club may include docking facilities, boat storage, clubhouse and other recreational facilities for members. A boat club shall include a lot held in common by a subdivision, association, similar agency or group of individuals which provides docking, storing and loading of at least five watercraft. (See also "Boat harbor/public marina.")

Boat harbor/public marina. A facility that: can service simultaneously at least five watercraft; and provides, for a fee, one or more of the following:

- (1) Watercraft engine fuel.
- (2) Watercraft repair.
- (3) Watercraft sales or rental.

A public marina shall be distinguished from a "boat club" in that a public marina may lease docks for long-term mooring of watercraft or short-term transient boaters (See also "Boat club.")

Bond. Any form of security, including a cash deposit, surety bond, collateral, property, or instrument of credit, in an amount and form satisfactory to the plan commission. All bonds shall be approved by the plan commission whenever a bond is required by these regulations.

Buffer. A landscaped or naturally vegetated area established or managed to provide separation between adjacent land uses.

Buffer strip. An area of required space adjacent to the boundary of a natural feature or property, not less in width than is designated in this article, which consists of native vegetation appropriate to the feature to which it is adjacent.

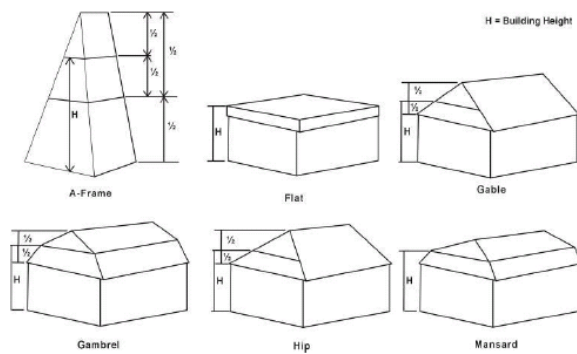
Building. A structure built for the support, enclosure, shelter, or protection of persons, animals, or chattels, or affixed to the land.

- (1) **Building, detached.** A building, surrounded by open space on the same lot with, but no structural attachment to, another structure.

Building height. The vertical distance from the average grade around the building foundation to the highest point of the roof surface for a flat roof, to the deck line of a mansard roof, and the midpoint between the peak and eave of a pitched roof. Chimneys, spires, elevator penthouses, tanks, and similar projections that do not include usable floor space shall not be included in calculating the height. This definition and method of measuring building height shall apply to all structures including principal buildings and accessory structures. For buildings located in the R1E Zoning District, the method for determining building height shall be as specified in Section 04.04(b)(2).

- (2) **Building, principal.** The main or dominant building in which is conducted the principal use of the lot on which the building is located.
- (3) **Building, residential.** A building which is arranged, designed, used, or intended to be used for residential occupancy by one or more families or lodgers and which includes, but is not limited to, the following types:
 - a. Single-family detached dwellings;
 - b. Two-family dwellings;
 - c. Single-family or two-family attached and semi-detached dwellings developed initially under single ownership or unified control.
 - d. Multiple-family dwellings; and
 - e. Mixed-use buildings with residential uses on upper floors above non-residential uses.
- (4) **Building, semi-detached.** A building having one party wall in common with an adjacent building.
- (5) **Building, temporary.** Any building not designed to be permanently located at the place where it is, or where it is intended to be temporarily placed or affixed.

Building commissioner. The secretary of the county plan commission and board of zoning appeals oversees the operation of the building department and is responsible for insuring the enforcement of county zoning and subdivision ordinances, building standards, and compliance with related planning requirements, and issues and approves building permits.



Building height. The vertical distance from the average grade around the building foundation to the highest point of the roof surface for a flat roof, to the deck line of a mansard roof, and the midpoint between the peak and eave of a pitched roof. Chimneys, spires, elevator penthouses, tanks, and similar projections that do not include usable floor space shall not be included in calculating the height. This definition and method of measuring building height shall apply to all structures including principal buildings and accessory structures. For buildings located in the Waterfront View Protection Overlay Zoning District, the method for determining building height shall be as specified in [Section 12.03](#).

Building line. A horizontal line generally parallel to a front, rear, or side lot line which is located at the point of the foundation of a principal building nearest to the front, rear, or side lot line.

Building permit. An official document or certification issued by the building official authorizing performance of a specified activity that complies with all provisions of this title and the building code.

Bulk. The term used to indicate the size and setback of buildings or structures, and their location with respect to one another, and includes the size and height of buildings, the location of exterior walls, the floor area ratio, the open space allocated to buildings, and the lot area and lot width.

Business. An occupation, employment, or enterprise which occupies time, attention, labor, and materials, or wherein merchandise is exhibited or sold, or where services are offered.

(Ord. No. 4254, § 3(Exh. A), 10-30-2013; Ord. No. 4500, §§ 5.50., 5.51., 2-5-2019)

Section 31.04 - Definitions "C"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Capacity in persons. The maximum number of persons that can avail themselves of the services or goods of an establishment or use at any one time, with reasonable comfort and safety.

Carport. An open-sided roofed automobile shelter, formed by the extension of a roof from the side of a building.

Cemetery. Land or structure used or intended to be used for the lawful disposition of the remains of a deceased individual in the earth, a mausoleum, a garden crypt, a columbarium, or scattering garden area, including crematories, mausoleums, and mortuaries if operated in connection with and within the boundaries of a **cemetery**.

Certificate of compliance. A document issued by the proper authority stating that the plans for a proposed use meet all applicable codes and regulations.

Certificate of occupancy. A certificate stating that the occupancy and use of land or a building or structure referred to therein complies with the provisions of this title, and any other ordinance adopted by the county or city relating to a building code.

Club or lodge, private. A private association of persons who are bonafide members paying annual dues, which owns, hires, or leases a building, or portion thereof, the use of the premises being restricted to members and their guests. The affairs and management of a private club or lodge are conducted by a board of directors, executive committee, or similar body chosen by the members.

Co-location. The use of a wireless telecommunications facility by more than one wireless communications provider.

Commission's seal. The official seal of the plan commission.

Commitments. Restrictions and guidelines placed upon a property's use or development and recorded in the office of the county recorder to take effect upon adoption of an amendment to the zoning map or upon granting approval for a special exception, contingent use, or variance from the terms of this ordinance.

Common ownership. The ownership of real property by family members, shareholders, business partners, corporations, or any other legal entity with the intent to develop under a common scheme or plan.

Compensatory mitigation: See: "**Flood-Related Definitions.**"

Comprehensive plan. See "**County Land Development Plan.**"

Condominium. Ownership in common with others of a parcel of land and certain parts of a building thereon which would normally be used by all the occupants, such as yards, foundation, basements, floors, walls, hallways, stairways, elevators, and all other related common elements, together with individual ownership in fee of a particular unit or portion of the building.

Confined feeding operation. A feedlot is the confinement of livestock or fowl for any period of time, whether open or enclosed based upon the number of animals regulated by the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Ordinance contained in Chapter 97 of the La Porte County Code of Ordinances.

Conforming building or structure. Any building or structure which complies with all the regulations of this title or of any amendment hereto governing the zoning district in which the building or structure is located.

Conservation The planned management of a natural resource to prevent its exploitation, destruction or neglect.

Contractor. Any person, firm, or corporation engaged in the business of general contractor, roofing, insulation, electrical, plumbing, sewage, well installation, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, or other ancillary contracting, excepting those individuals doing work on their own residence.

Contractor's yard. A site on which a building or construction contractor stores equipment, tools, vehicles, building materials, and other appurtenances used in or associated with building or construction. A contractor's yard may include outdoor or indoor storage, or a combination of both.

Conservation easement. A legal agreement in which the landowner retains ownership of private property, but conveys certain specifically identified rights to a land conservation organization or a public body.

Construction. Any act or process that is carried out under a current and valid building permit consisting of on-site erection, fabrication, installation, alteration, demolition, or removal of any structure, facilities or addition thereto, including related activities. Construction implies a diligent continuance of action toward completion, and any construction that has ceased due to expiration of a permit shall be considered inactive.

Convenience store. A small retail store that is designed and stocked to sell primarily food, beverages and other household supplies to customers who purchase relatively few items. It may be designed to attract, and depend upon, a large volume of transient traffic. The store may or may not also sell gasoline and other automotive supplies.

Corner lot. See "**Lot, corner.**"

County Land Development Plan. The document, adopted by the La Porte County Plan Commission, City of La Porte Plan Commission and City of Michigan City Plan Commission, that is a compilation of policy statements, goals and objectives, standards, maps, and statistical data for the physical, social, and economic development of the community. The County Land Development Plan serves as the community comprehensive plan under the requirements of IC 36-7-4. The County Land Development Plan shall include any community master plan, comprehensive plan or other similar plan.

Court. An open unoccupied space bounded on two or more sides by the exterior walls of a building or by exterior walls and lot lines.

Critical facilities: See: "**Flood-Related Definitions.**"

Cupola. A decorative, small, projecting tower at the top of the roof of a building, often square, round or octagonal in shape.

Section 31.05 - Definitions "D"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Day care centers, commercial. A child care use licensed to care for more than 12 children from a provider:

- (1) While unattended by a parent, legal guardian, or custodian;
- (2) For regular compensation; and
- (3) For more than four hours but less than 24 hours in each of ten consecutive days per year, excluding intervening Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. licensed for 12 or fewer children.

Day care homes, residential. A residential structure in which at least six and not more than 12 children plus three children during the school year only who are enrolled in at least grade one at any time receive child care from a provider:

- (1) While unattended by a parent, legal guardian, or custodian;
- (2) For regular compensation; and
- (3) For more than four hours but less than 24 hours in each of ten consecutive days per year, excluding intervening Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. licensed for 12 or fewer children.
- (4) A child for whom a provider of care in the child care home is a parent, stepparent, guardian, custodian, or other relative and who is at least seven years of age; or who is at least 14 years of age and does not require child care; shall not be counted in determining whether the child care home is within the limit set forth in subsection (a).

Decibel. A unit of measurement of the intensity (loudness) of sound. Sound level meters, which are employed to measure the intensity of sound, are calibrated in decibels.

Developer. Any person engaged in developing or improving a lot or group of lots or structures thereon for use or occupancy.

Development.

- (1) Any improvement or change to property brought about by human activity (man-made), including, but not limited to:
 - a. Construction, reconstruction, or placement of a building or any addition to a building valued at more than \$1,000.00;
 - b. Installing a manufactured home on a site, preparing a site for a manufactured home, or installing a recreational vehicle on a site for more than 180 days;
 - c. Installing utilities, erection of walls and fences, construction of roads, or similar projects;
 - d. Construction of flood control structures such as levees, dikes, dams, channel improvements, and the like;
 - e. Mining, dredging, filling, grading, excavation, or drilling operations;
 - f. Construction and/or reconstruction of bridges or culverts;
 - g. Storage of materials; and
 - h. Any other activity that might change the direction, height, or velocity of flood waters or surface waters.
- (2) **Development** does not include activities such as the maintenance of existing buildings and facilities such as painting, re-roofing, resurfacing roads, or gardening, plowing, and similar agricultural practices that do not involve filling, grading, excavation, or the construction of permanent buildings.

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH). The diameter of the trunk of a tree (including the bark) measured in inches at point four and one-half (4.5) feet above the ground level. This point of measurement is used for established and mature trees.

District. A geographical area within which certain uniform regulations and requirements or various combinations thereof apply under the provisions of this title.

Domesticated Animal/Pet. See: "**Animal.**"

Dooryard. Building fronts are located in front setbacks and provide small landscaped and paved yards at building entrances. In residential settings dooryards can be enclosed by low walls, fences or hedges.

Drive-in establishment. An establishment which offers merchandise, service, or entertainment to persons in parked motor vehicles. A drive-in restaurant is distinct from a drive-through restaurant in that the majority of drive-in patrons consume food and beverages while in the vehicle and parked on the premises.

Drive-through establishment. An establishment where persons in motor vehicles wait in line to obtain merchandise from a service window.

Driveway. An approach and private vehicle travel way providing access from a street to private property.

Dune and Swale Complex. A series of roughly parallel, sandy ridges and low, wet swales formed from irregular cycles of high and low water levels, also known as linear dunes, beach ridge complexes or shore parallel dune ridges.

Dwelling. A permanent building, or portion thereof, designed or used exclusively for residential occupancy, including single-family dwellings, two-family dwellings, and multiple-family dwellings, but not including hotels or lodging houses.

- (1) **Apartment dwelling.** An apartment is an attached dwelling unit with party or common walls, contained in a building with other dwelling units or sharing the occupancy of a building with other than a residential use. Apartments are commonly accessed by a common stair landing or walkway. Apartments are typically rented by the occupants but may be condominiums. Apartment buildings often may have a central heating system and other central utility connections. Apartments typically do not have their own yard space.
- (2) **Duplex.** A pair of dwellings that may be located side-by-side with a shared wall from the finished floor to the roof, or that may be attached vertically, separated by a floor, which are located on a single platted lot. May also be termed as a two-family.
- (3) **Live-Work Unit.** A dwelling unit that provides space that is designed for one or more light commercial or office uses that are allowed in the zoning district. Access between the dwelling unit and the light commercial or office space is provided within the unit or from an exterior stairwell. A live-work unit may have up to three employees who do not live on the premises.
- (4) **Multiple-family dwelling.** A building, or portion thereof, used or designed as residences for three or more families living independently of each other and each doing their own cooking in the building, with the number of families in residence not exceeding the number of dwelling units provided. This definition includes three-family houses, four-family houses, and apartment houses.
- (5) **Multiplex.** A multiple-family building type that is designed to resemble a large single-family home. Units are not necessarily separated by a wall that extends from the foundation to the roof. Units may have either private or shared access and may be arranged in a variety of configurations, including back-to-back, side-to-side, or over-under units.
- (6) **Single-family detached dwelling.** A detached building or manufactured home designed exclusively for the complete living accommodations of one family and containing one dwelling unit only.
- (7) **Single-family, attached/townhouse.** A self-contained single dwelling unit attached to a similar single dwelling unit with party or common walls, designed as part of a series of three or more dwelling units, each on a separate lot or parcel and each with: a separate entryway with direct access to the outdoors at ground level, a separate garage, separate utility connections and defined front, and rear yards. Single-family attached townhouses may also be known as row houses, clustered single-family dwellings or stack ranches. Any three or more attached dwellings not meeting the above criteria shall be considered a multiple-family dwelling.
- (8) **Twin Home.** A dwelling designed as a single structure, containing two separate living units on individually platted lots, each of which is designed to be occupied as a separate residence for one family. Each unit is separated from the other by an unpierced fire rated wall that extends from the ground to the roof.
- (9) **Two-family.** A detached building, designed for or occupied exclusively by two families living independently of each other on a single lot or parcel. May also be termed as a duplex.

Dwelling unit. A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.

Section 31.06 - Definitions "E"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Easement. An authorization or grant by a property owner for right of access or passage for limited use of private land by another person or for a defined public or quasi-public purpose.

Ecosystem. A system made up of a community of organisms and its interrelated physical and chemical environment.

Enforcement official. Officials for each of the cities and the county, duly appointed and designated as the enforcement official responsible for administering the terms of this ordinance and supporting the functions of the plan commission.

Entrance. A doorway providing direct access into an individual dwelling unit or nonresidential building, or a common entryway providing indirect access to multiple dwelling units or offices through a common area, foyer, lobby or hallway.

Erosion. The detachment and movement of soil, sediment, or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity.

Erosion control measure. A practice or a combination of practices to control erosion and resulting sedimentation.

Erosion control plan. A written description of pertinent information concerning erosion control measures designed to meet the requirements of this title as submitted with a site plan or subdivision application.

Essential services. The erection, construction, alteration, or maintenance of public utilities of underground, surface or overhead distribution of gas, electrical, cable TV, fuel, steam, or water transmission or distribution systems, collection, communication, supply or disposal systems, including mains, drains, sewers, pipes, conduits, wires, cables, transformers, splice boxes, police call boxes, fire alarm boxes, traffic signals, hydrants, towers, poles, and other similar equipment, and accessories in connection therewith but not including buildings or storage yards.

Section 31.07 - Definitions "F"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Family. One person or two or more persons each related to the other by blood, marriage, or legal adoption, or a group of not more than four persons not all so related, together with his or their domestic servants, maintaining a common household in a dwelling unit. In addition, a family may include not more than two roomers, boarders, or permanent guests, whether or not gratuitous.

Farm. An area of ten or more acres used for agricultural operations including truck gardening, forestry, tree or plant nursery, or the production and/or keeping of livestock and poultry.

Feedlots. The confinement for any period of time of livestock or fowl, whether open or enclosed.

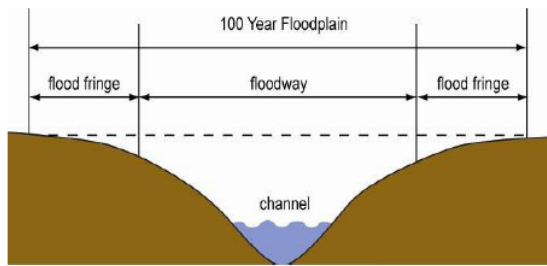
Fence. A barrier of wood, masonry, stone, wire, metal or any other manufactured material or combination of materials, used to prevent, or control entrance, confine within, mark a boundary or screen.

Fill material. Any solid material, when placed in a wetland or lake, that displaces water or reduces water holding capacity.

Flood-Related Definitions

- (1) **Compensatory Mitigation.** Replacement of floodplain acreage, functions and values to compensate for floodplain areas that were subjected to human disturbance.
- (2) **Critical facilities.** Facilities that if impacted by flood, can have a community-wide impact on public health, safety and welfare, including schools, nursing homes, hospitals, police, fire, and emergency response installations, installations which produce, use or store hazardous materials or hazardous waste.
- (3) **FEMA.** Federal Emergency Management Agency.

- (4) **FHBM.** Flood Hazard Boundary Map. A FHBM is defined by FEMA as a map based on approximate data that identifies, in general within a community. A FHBM is used in the NFIP's Emergency Program for floodplain management and insurance purposes.
- (5) **Floodplain.** The channel proper and the areas adjoining any wetland, lake or watercourse that have been or hereafter may be covered by the regulatory flood. The floodplain includes both the floodway and the floodway fringe districts. Floodplains are generally relatively flat lowlands next to a watercourse. For the purposes of this document, all SFHAs are considered floodplains, defined by the 100-year flood as delineated on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

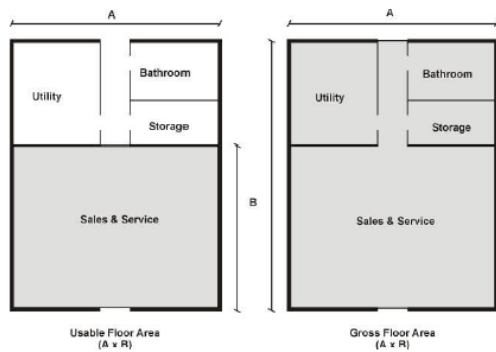


- (6) **Floodway.** The channel of a river, stream or other watercourse and the land areas of the floodplain adjoining the channel that are reasonably required to efficiently carry and discharge the flood water or flood flow of a river or stream and must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.
- (7) **Floodway Fringe.** The portions of the floodplain lying outside of the floodway.
- (8) **Flood Protection Grade (FPG).** The elevation of the regulatory flood plus two feet at any given location in the Special Flood Hazard Area or 100-year floodplain.
- (9) **IDNR.** Indiana Department of Natural Resources.
- (10) **Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA).** An amendment to the currently effective FEMA map that establishes that a property is not located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). A LOMA is only issued by FEMA. See: "**Flood-Related Definitions.**"
- (11) **Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).** An official revision to the currently effective FEMA map. It is issued by FEMA and changes flood zones, delineations and elevations.
- (12) **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).** A program managed by FEMA, to identify and map flood hazard areas, assist with community floodplain management programs, and to provide flood insurance to participating communities that are located within a SFHA.
- (13) **Regulatory Flood.** In La Porte County, the flood having a one percent probability of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, as calculated by a method and procedure that is acceptable to and approved by the Indiana Natural Resources Commission and the FEMA.
- (14) **Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).** The land area covered by the floodwaters of the regulatory flood on NFIP maps. The SFHA is the area where the NFIP's floodplain management regulations must be enforced and the area where the mandatory purchase of flood insurance applies. The SFHA includes Zones A, AO and AH. The SFHAs of the County are generally identified as such on the Flood Insurance Rate Map of the County prepared by the FEMA and dated June 4, 1996.

Floor area.

- (1) **Gross floor area (GFA).** The area within the perimeter of the outside walls of the building under consideration, without deduction for hallways, stairs, closets/storage rooms, thickness of walls, columns, or other features.
- (2) **Residential floor area.** For the purposes of computing the minimum allowable floor area in a residential dwelling unit, the sum of the horizontal areas of each story of the building shall be measured from the exterior faces of the exterior wall. The floor area measurement is exclusive of areas of basements, unfinished attics, attached garages, breezeways, and enclosed or unenclosed porches.
- (3) **Usable floor area (UFA).** That area used for or intended to be used for the sale of merchandise or services, or for use to serve patrons, clients or customers. Such floor area which is used or intended to be used principally for the storage of merchandise, or areas such as hallways, stairways, elevator shafts, utilities space or sanitary facilities, shall be excluded from

this computation of UFA. Measurement of UFA shall be the sum of the horizontal areas of the several floors of the building, measured from the exterior faces of the exterior walls. When a detailed floor plan is not available, a factor of 80 percent shall be used to estimate the useable floor area for purposes of calculating parking requirements and other standards based on useable floor area.



Footcandle. A unit of illumination, equivalent to the illumination at all points which are one foot distant from a uniform point source of one candlepower.

Forecourt. A private frontage wherein a portion of the facade is close to the frontage line and the central portion is set back.

Foster care home. As defined by the state department of social service, homes which provide congregate living arrangements for non-family members.

Foundation siding or skirting. A type of wainscoting constructed of fire and weather resistant material, such as aluminum, asbestos board, treated pressed wood, or other approved materials enclosing the entire undercarriage of a manufactured or mobile home.

Freight terminal. A building or area in which freight brought by motor truck or railroad freight cars is assembled or stored for routing in intrastate or interstate shipment by motor trucks or railroad freight cars.

Frequency. Signifies the number of oscillations per second in a sound wave and is an index of the pitch of the resulting sound.

Frontage. All of the property of the lot fronting on a street, road, or highway as measured between the side lot lines and as measured along the front lot line unless a public right-of-way easement exists, then along the easement line of the parcel or lot.

Funeral home. A business that provides burial and funeral services for the deceased and their families. These services may include a prepared wake and funeral, the provision of a chapel for the funeral and a crematory.

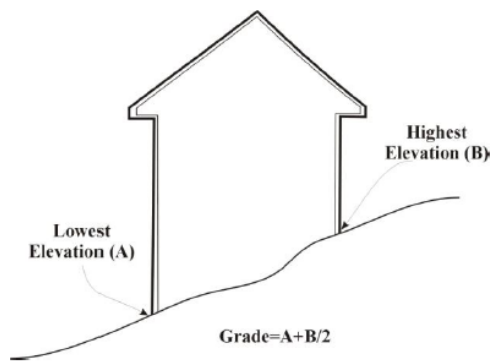
(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.57., 2-5-2019)

Section 31.08 - Definitions "G"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Garage. An accessory building or an accessory portion of the principal building, including a carport, which is intended for or used for storing the private passenger vehicles of the family or families residing upon the premises. No business, service, or industry connected directly or indirectly with the motor vehicles is carried on.

Grade. The arithmetic average of the lowest and highest pre-construction grade elevations within the boundaries of the foundation line of a building or structure.



- (1) For construction on a vacant lot, the pre-construction grade shall be the undisturbed average grade of the proposed building site, before it is altered by land clearing, berming or preparation for construction.
- (2) For additions to existing buildings, the pre-construction grade shall be the average grade within the boundaries of the foundation line of the building and the undisturbed land area proposed to be covered by an addition.
- (3) For lots located in the Waterfront View Protection Overlay Zoning District, the method for determining grade shall be as specified in [Section 12.03](#).

Greenbelt. A zone of trees or treelike plantings along a road frontage.

Ground floor area. The area of a building in square feet, as measured in a horizontal plane at the ground floor level within the largest outside dimensions, exclusive of open porches, breezeways, terraces, garages, and exterior stairways.

Group homes. A residential facility licensed by the State of Indiana that provides residential services for not more than four unrelated individuals and such staff, as are sufficient to manage the home, but not including a halfway house.

Section 31.09 - Definitions "H"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Halfway house. A facility used to house persons who have been recently released from prison for the purpose of reintegration with society, while still providing monitoring and support.

Home occupation. Any gainful occupation or profession conducted within a dwelling unit by a member of the family residing in the dwelling unit which is incidental and secondary to the use of the dwelling unit for residential purposes, provided that no retail sales activities are conducted.

Horizontal Mixed-Use Development. A grouping of single-use buildings, both residential and nonresidential, within one cohesive, interconnected development.

Hospital. An institution where sick or injured persons are given medical care and, in the course of same, are housed overnight, fed and provided nursing and related services. This definition shall include any related, accessory facilities such as laboratories, outpatient departments, training facilities, central service facilities and staff offices which are integral parts of the facility.

Hotel (motel). A building or structure under a single management that provides rental rooms or suites intended primarily as sleeping accommodations for public rental on a daily basis for registered guests. A hotel or motel shall maintain a central, internal lobby. A hotel or motel shall provide daily room cleaning and linen changes for its guests, and may include supportive areas such as meeting rooms, incidental retail sales and commercial services, central kitchen facilities, dining rooms, restaurants, lounges, office areas, swimming pools, recreational facilities, spas, and fitness/exercise areas and other similar services and amenities intended principally as services for registered guests.

Hotel room. A room in an inn, motel, hotel or other facility operated to accommodate overnight guests; a room shall be considered a "hotel room" if it occupies at least 150 square feet and includes a bathroom and bed.

Hotel-minium. A structure meeting the definition of a hotel (motel), and in addition allows for individually-owned units with full kitchen facilities.

Section 31.10 - Definitions "I"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

IDEM. Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

IDNR. Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Impact fee. A fee imposed on a development to help finance the cost of improvements or services.

Impervious surface. Any man-made material which covers the surface of land and substantially reduces the infiltration of storm water to a rate of five percent or less. Impervious surfaces include but are not limited to pavement, buildings, and structures.

Improvement location permit. A permit stating that the proposed erection, construction, enlargement, or moving of a building or structure referred to therein complies with the provisions of this ordinance.

Individual sewage disposal system. A septic tank, seepage tile sewage disposal system, or any other approved sewage treatment device.

Indoor recreation facility. An establishment which provides indoor exercise facilities and/or indoor court and field sports facilities, and which may include spectator seating in conjunction with the sports facilities such as skating rinks, swimming pools, indoor golf facilities, pool or billiard halls and bowling alleys. Auditoriums and stadiums are not included.

Industrial waste facility. Any facility used for the storage, transportation, reclamation, or disposal of any waste classified as hazardous or toxic by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Industry, heavy. Manufacturing, processing, assembling, storing, testing, and similar industrial uses which are generally major operations and extensive in character; which require large sites, open storage and service areas, extensive services and facilities, and ready access to regional transportation; and which normally generate some nuisances such as smoke, noise, vibration, dust, glare, air pollution, and water pollution, but not beyond the district boundary. Waste is limited to wastes other than those classified as hazardous or toxic by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Industry, light. Manufacturing or other industrial uses which are usually controlled operations; relatively clean, quiet, and free of objectionable or hazardous elements such as smoke, noise, odor, or dust; operating and storing within enclosed structures; and generating little industrial traffic and no nuisances. Waste disposal is limited to wastes other than those classified as hazardous or toxic by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Infill Development. Development that occurs on vacant or underutilized land in an area where 50 percent or more of the existing lots within the same block face are occupied by principal structures.

Interested party. The interested parties shall include, but are not limited to, the appellant and the county or city's official or body whose order, decision, or determination is being appealed, the applicant for the relief being sought, and adjacent property owners. This also includes any individual who addresses the Board favoring or opposed to a matter before the legislative body, plan commission, or board of zoning appeals.

Invasive plant species. Predominantly non-native, non-indigenous, alien tree, shrub, vine, or herbaceous species that grow or reproduce aggressively, usually because they have no natural predators, and which can so dominate an ecosystem that they kill off or drive out many indigenous plant species. Invasive trees, shrubs, vines, or herbaceous species include, but are not limited to:

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.59., 2-5-2019)

Section 31.11 - Definitions "J"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Junk. For the purpose of this ordinance, the term "junk" shall mean any motor vehicles, machinery, appliances, product, or merchandise with parts missing or scrap metals or other scrap materials that are damaged, deteriorated, or are in a condition which cannot be used for the purpose for which the product was manufactured.

Junk yard. See "*Salvage yard*."

Section 31.12 - Definitions "K"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Kennel. Any premises, or portion thereof, on which more than four dogs, cats, or other household domestic animals over four months of age are kept, or on which more than two of these animals are maintained, boarded, bred, or cared for, in return for remuneration, or are kept for the purpose of sale.

Section 31.13 - Definitions "L"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Laboratory. A facility devoted to experimental study, testing, or analysis. Manufacturing, assembly, or packaging of products shall not be conducted within this facility.

Land disturbing activity. Any man-made change of the land surface, including removing vegetative cover, excavating, filling, transporting, and grading. In the context of this title, it includes only non-agricultural land disturbing activities on sites which also require a local improvement location permit or an approved subdivision plat.

Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA). See: "*Flood-Related Definitions*."

Letter of Map Revision (LOMR). See: "*Flood-Related Definitions*."

Livestock. See: "*Animal*."

Live-Work. A dwelling unit that provides space that is designed for one or more commercial or office uses that are allowed in the zoning district. Access between the dwelling unit and the commercial or office space is provided within the unit or from an exterior stairwell. A live-work unit may have up to two employees who do not live on the premises.

Loading and unloading space, off-street. An open, hard-surfaced area of land other than a street or public way, which is principally used for the standing, loading, and unloading of motor trucks, tractors, and trailers to avoid undue interference with the public use of streets and alleys.

Locker plants. A facility for the cold storage and preservation of food in separate and individual compartments that are offered to the public for cold storage of privately owned food, including meat processing.

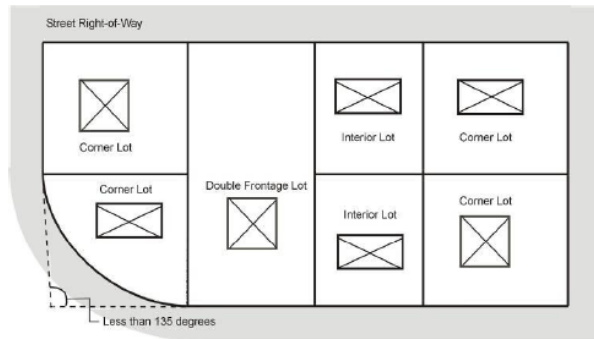
Lodger or roomer. Any person, not the principal tenant or a family member of the principal tenant, who resides in a living unit and who pays remuneration to the principal tenant, as distinguished from a guest who does not pay remuneration to the principal tenant.

Lodging room. A room rented as sleeping and living quarters, but without cooking facilities and with or without an individual bathroom. In a suite of rooms without cooking facilities, each room which provides sleeping accommodations shall be counted as one lodging room for the purpose of this title.

Lot.

- (1) **Lot.** A legally described parcel of land occupied, or intended to be occupied, by a building or a group of buildings, or utilized for the principal and accessory uses, together with such yards and open spaces as are required under the provisions of this ordinance. For purposes of meeting the dimensional standards of this ordinance, a lot does not include public rights-of-way or private road easements, but does include access easements for a service drive. A lot may consist of:
 - a. A single lot of record;
 - b. A portion of a lot of record;

- c. A combination of complete lots of record, of complete lots of record and portions of lots of record, or of portions of lots of record.
 - d. A parcel of land described by metes and bounds.
- (2) **Lot, corner.** A lot situated at the intersection of two streets, the interior angle of that intersection not exceeding 135 degrees. (the narrowest part of a lot having frontage on a street is the front of the lot.)
 - (3) **Lot, double frontage or through.** A lot, other than a corner lot, which fronts on two more or less parallel streets.
 - (4) **Lot, interior.** A lot other than a corner lot or a through lot.
 - (5) **Lot, reverse corner.** A corner lot where the side lot line adjoining a street is substantially a continuation of the front line of an adjacent interior lot.



- (6) **Lot, zoning.** A single tract of land located within a single block, which (at the time of filing for a building permit) is designated by its owner or developer as a tract to be used, developed, or built upon as a unit, under single ownership or unified control. A zoning lot may or may not coincide with a lot of record.

Lot area, gross. The area of a horizontal plane bounded by the front, side and rear lot lines, but not including any area occupied by a public road right-of-way or the waters of a lake, river.

Lot coverage. The percentage of the lot area that is occupied by buildings or structures, including accessory buildings or structures.

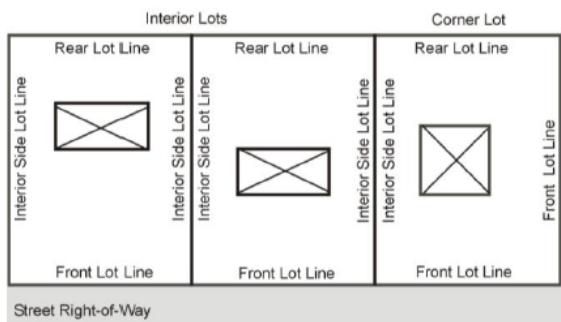
- (1) **Building lot coverage.** The percent of the lot area that is covered by buildings.
- (2) **Impermeable surface coverage.** The percent of the lot area that is covered by buildings plus other impermeable surfaces, such as pavement, decks and pools.

Lot depth. The average distance between the front lot line and the rear lot line of a lot.

Lot frontage. See "Frontage."

Lot line.

- (1) **Front lot line.** The boundary of a lot which is along an existing or dedicated public street or, where no public street exists, is along a public way. On a corner lot the lot line having the shortest length abutting a street line shall be the front lot line, unless otherwise determined by the enforcement official.



- (2) **Rear lot line.** The boundary of a lot which is most distant from, and is, or is most nearly, parallel to the front lot line.
- (3) **Side lot line.** Any boundary of a lot which is not a front or rear lot line.

Lot of record. A lot which is part of a subdivision, the plat of which has been recorded in the office of the county recorder, or a parcel of land, described by metes and bounds, the deed to which was recorded in the office of the recorder prior to the adoption of this title.

Lot width. The horizontal distance between the side lot lines, measured at the two points where the minimum required front setback line intersects the side lot lines.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.60., 2-5-2019)

Section 31.14 - Definitions "M"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Manufactured home. A dwelling unit (as defined in IC 9-13-2-96), designed and built in a factory, which bears a seal certifying that it was built in compliance with the federal Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Law, and certified by the state. Also, a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term MANUFACTURED HOME does not include a recreational vehicle.

Manufactured home park. Any parcel or tract of land licensed and registered under provisions of IC 16-41-27 et seq. under the control of any persons, upon which three or more occupied manufactured homes are harbored on a continual or non-recreational basis, or which is offered to the public for that purpose, regardless of whether a charge is made therefor, together with any building, structure, enclosure, street, equipment, or facility used or intended for use incident to the harboring or occupancy of manufactured homes.

Manufactured home subdivision. A parcel of land platted for subdivision according to all requirements of the subdivision and zoning ordinances, designed or intended for lots to be conveyed by deed to individual owners for residential occupancy primarily by manufactured homes.

Manufactured home tie downs. Sufficient anchorage to resist flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of any mobile home. At a minimum, this anchorage shall consist of:

- (1) Over-the-top ties to be provided at each of the four corners of the manufactured home, with two additional ties per side at intermediate locations, with manufactured homes less than 50 feet long requiring only one additional tie per side;
- (2) Frame ties to be provided at each corner of the home with five additional ties per side at intermediate points, with manufactured homes less than 50 feet long requiring four additional ties per side;
- (3) All components of the anchoring system to be capable of carrying a force of 4,800 pounds; and
- (4) Additions to the manufactured home to be similarly anchored.

Manufactured housing construction and safety standard codes. Title VI of the 1974 Housing and Community Development Act (42 USC 5401 et seq.), as amended (previously known as the Federal Mobile Home Construction and Safety Act), rules and regulations adopted thereunder (including information supplied by the home manufacturer, which has been stamped and approved by a Design Approval Primary Inspection Agency, an agent of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to HUD rules), and regulations and interpretations of that code by the state Administrative Building Council; all of which became effective for mobile and manufactured home construction on June 15, 1976.

Marina. (See also "**Boat harbor/public marina.**")

Marquee or canopy. A roof-like structure of a permanent nature which projects from the wall of a building.

Massage. The act of touching, stroking, kneading, stretching, friction, percussion, and vibration, and includes holding, positioning, causing movement of the soft tissues and applying manual touch and pressure to the body.

Massage therapy services. A massage provided by massage therapists certified under Indiana Code Title 25, Art. 21.8 or by physicians, surgeons, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, or chiropractors who are licensed, certified or registered to practice their respective professions under the laws of the state.

Media store, general. A store that sells or rents books, videos and other media in which ten percent or less of the retail floor area or numbers of items in inventory are adult media, but does not meet the criteria contained in the definition of an "Adult Retail Store."

Media store, with backroom. A store that sells or rents books, videos and other media in which more than ten percent but less than 35 percent of the retail floor area or numbers of items in inventory are adult media, but does not meet the criteria contained in the definition of a "Adult Retail Store."

Medical or dental clinic. A building, or portion thereof, the principal use of which is for medical or dental study and/or treatment and in which the services of at least two professionals in the medical or dental fields of practice are provided.

Micro-brewery or micro-winery. A facility for the brewing of beer or wine that produces less than 15,000 barrels of non-distilled alcohol (beer, cider, mead, wine, or other similar beverages) per year. The use may include a tasting room and retail space to sell the alcohol to patrons on-site or it may be in conjunction with a tavern/bar or restaurant. Copies of reports filed with the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) shall be maintained to demonstrate, upon request of the enforcement official, that they have not exceeded the annual beverage production limit in any 12-month period. A microbrewery may also be known as a brewpub.

Micro-distillery. A facility for the distillation of alcohol that produces less than 10,000 barrels of distilled alcohol per year. The use may include a tasting room and retail space to sell the alcohol to patrons on-site or may be in conjunction with a tavern/bar or restaurant. Copies of report filed with the TTB shall be maintained to demonstrate, upon request of the City, that they have not exceeded the annual beverage production limit in any 12-month period.

Mineral extraction. Includes mining, quarrying, and removal of earth materials.

Mobile home. A detached transportable structure larger than 320 square feet and designed to be used as a single-family residential dwelling with all of the following characteristics:

- (1) Certified in a factory and fabricated to the standards outlined in IC 20-12-5 et seq. pursuant to IC 9-20-12-1;
- (2) Designed to be transported after fabrication on its own wheel; and
- (3) Arriving at the site where it is to be occupied as a dwelling complete, including the major appliances, and ready for occupancy, except for minor and incidental unpacking and assembly operations, location on foundation supports, connection to the utilities, and the like.

Modular home. A housing unit designed, built, and certified in a factory to IC 22-12-2 through 22-12-5 for use as a principal residence. It is to be constructed complete with the necessary plumbing, heating, and electrical systems. It is designed to be transported by means other than its own undercarriage to a prepared site, and becomes suitable for permanent occupancy after proper installation of foundation supports and connection to utility service.

Monopole. A support structure constructed of a single, self-supporting hollow metal tube securely anchored to a foundation.

Motel. See "*Hotel/motel*."

Motor vehicle. A passenger vehicle, truck, truck-trailer, or semi-trailer propelled or drawn by mechanical power.

(Ord. No. 4254, § 3(Exh. A), 10-30-2013; Ord. No. 4500, § 5.61., 2-5-2019)

Section 31.15 - Definitions "N"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): See: "*Flood-Related Definitions*."

National wetlands inventory or NWI. A series of maps produced by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior, in coordination with the maps produced by the U.S. Geologic Survey, showing the location and classification of certain identified wetlands in standard topographic areas.

Native vegetation. Vegetation composed of plants which originated, developed, or were produced naturally in the Northern Indiana region and were not introduced directly or indirectly by humans. Native vegetation may be found in but is not limited to marshes, native grasslands, coastal/inland sage scrub, woodlands, and forests.

Natural resources. A component of a landscape existing or maintained as a part of the natural environment and having ecological value. Such resources include those which, if disturbed, may cause hazards or stress to life, property and the natural environment. Natural resources shall include, but not be limited to, all ecosystems listed in [Article 22](#) and the following:

- (1) **Sensitive areas.** A Local Decision Maker map layer that indicates areas where development is illegal or highly undesirable. "Sensitive areas" as defined by Indiana Code (327 IAC 16-2-34) are 300 foot buffers around streams, lakes, karst areas and 100 foot buffers around water wells. These buffer areas are especially susceptible to pollution from human activity and serve as a refuge for many plant and wildlife species.
- (2) **Steep slopes.** A Local Decision Maker map layer that shows distribution of slopes steeper than 20 percent in Indiana.
- (3) **Major rivers and lakes of Indiana (USGS).** A Local Decision Maker map layer that shows main hydrologic features of Indiana landscape.
- (4) **Streams and lakes of Indiana (NHD).** A Local Decision Maker map layer that shows detailed hydrologic features of Indiana landscape. The National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) is a feature-based database that interconnects and uniquely identifies the stream segments or reaches that make up the nation's surface water drainage system.
- (5) **Recreational facilities in Indiana.** A Local Decision Maker map layer dataset that contains point locations of sites in Indiana that have outdoor recreation facilities. It includes facilities managed by federal, state, and local governments, as well as non-government organizations, private and commercial entities, and schools. It does not include sites that are private and not open to the public.
- (6) **Indiana Biodiversity Initiative (IBI) - High irreplaceability sites.** A Local Decision Maker map layer that shows grid squares that have the highest potential to contribute to the conservation of plant communities and plant species. Grid squares containing rare plant species often have particularly high scores. The highest scores are typically for grid squares with unique conservation potential, not necessarily those with the greatest area of natural vegetation.
- (7) **CrEAM - Species Rarity (C3.2), Indiana.** A Local Decision Maker map layer map of species rarity that is based on the Heritage Program data that contained observations for any individual quad with a possible GHRS (Global Heritage Ranking System) rank as rare as G1 or as common as G5. Within a quad, the rarest GHRS rank determined the score for the entire quad. If the highest observation in the quad was G1, the whole quad received the score of 100. A score from 100 to zero was assigned to each quad in the region, and each cell was assigned the score of the quad in which it was located.
- (8) **Indiana Floodplains, IDEM.** A Local Decision Maker map database layer that is an interim version of the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Database. The DFIRM depicts flood risk information and supporting data used to develop the risk data. The primary risk classifications used are the one-percent-annual-chance flood event, the 0.2-percent-annual-chance flood event, and areas of minimal flood risk.
- (9) **Indiana wetlands.** A Local Decision Maker map layer that represents the extent, approximate location and type of wetlands and deepwater habitats in the conterminous United States.
- (10) **Biodiversity — Ecological Classifications - Indiana Natural Regions.** A Local Decision Maker map layer that presents the ecological classification system (ECS) of the eastern United States.

Non-access easement. A public easement along a public road right-of-way which restricts or prohibits direct access from the property to the roadway.

Non-conforming building or structure. A legally established building or structure, or portion of a structure, existing at the effective date of this code, or subsequent amendment thereto, that could not be built under the terms of this title by reasons of restrictions on lot size, height, yards, location on the lot, or other requirements concerning the structure.

Non-conforming use. A legally established use of land, buildings, or structures which does not comply with all of the regulations of this title or of any amendment hereto governing use for the zoning district in which that use is located.

Normal water level. The water level of the lake established by law or if the water level has not been established, the level where the presence and action of the water has been so constant as to give to the bed of the lake a character distinct from that of the surrounding land with regard to vegetation and the nature of the soil.

Noxious matter or materials. Matter or material which is capable of causing injury to living organisms by chemical reaction or is capable of causing detrimental effects upon the physical or economic well-being of individuals.

Nursery, plant materials. Land, buildings, structures, or the combination thereof for the storage, cultivation, or transplanting of live trees, shrubs, or plants offered for retail sale on the premises including products used for gardening and landscaping.

Nursing home. A home for the care of aged, chronically ill, children, infirm, or incurable persons, or a place of rest for those persons suffering bodily disorders, in which three or more persons not members of the family residing on the premises, are received and provided with food, shelter, and care, but not including hospitals, clinics, or similar institutions devoted primarily to the diagnosis and treatment of disease or injury, maternity cases, or mental illness. A nursing home also includes rehabilitation housing for released mental or alcoholic patients where medical treatment is not provided and no longer deemed necessary.

Nuisance. An offensive, annoying, unpleasant, or obnoxious thing or practice, a cause or source of annoyance, especially a continuing or repeating invasion of any physical characteristics of activity or use across a property line which can be perceived by or affects a human being, or the generation of an excessive or concentrated movement of people or things, such as, but not limited to: noise, dust, smoke, odor, glare, fumes, flashes, vibration, shock waves, heat, electronic or atomic radiation, objectionable effluent, noise of congregation of people and traffic.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.62., 2-5-2019)

Section 31.16 - Definitions "O"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Occupancy permit. A required permit allowing the use of a building or structure after it has been determined that all the requirements of applicable ordinances have been met.

Odorous matter. Matter or material that yields an odor which is offensive in any way.

Official thoroughfare plan. The part of the County land development plan, now or hereafter adopted, which includes a major thoroughfare and highway plan and sets forth the location, alignment, dimensions, identification, and classification of existing and proposed streets, highways, and other thoroughfares.

Off-site. Restoration or creation of a wetland at a location not adjacent to, or within 25 feet of, a previous wetland.

One- and two-family dwelling code, Indiana. The nationally-recognized model building code prepared by the Council of American Building Officials, adopted by the state Administrative Building Council (ABC) as mandated through P.L. 360, Acts of 1971, and which includes those supplements and amendments promulgated by the ABC.

Open sales lot (yard, garage, roadside, or similar). Land used or occupied for the purpose of buying or selling merchandise stored or displayed out-of-doors. The merchandise includes, but is not limited to, passenger cars, trucks, motor scooters, motorcycles, boats, and monuments.

Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM): Uppermost elevation on bank or shore influenced by prolonged contact with surface water, evidence of which is found in distinctive marks left by surface water. Such marks can include water lines on trees, erosion scour line, debris deposits, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, transition point from wetland to terrestrial vegetation.

Outdoor recreation. Outdoor recreation includes one or more of the following uses: riding clubs, polo fields, horse shows, hunter trials, and other equestrian sports; conservation clubs; girl scout and boy scout lodges or clubhouses; private parks or playgrounds; archery ranges; and other outdoor recreation uses, and accessory uses, buildings, and structures such as off-street parking and loading facilities, administration, maintenance, and clubhouse buildings.

Overhead Door. A large door that typically rolls up when opened, the vertical dimension for which is typically greater than six feet. Such doors have uses that include, but are not limited to, giving vehicles access to a building, for loading and unloading materials, or for personal access to storage or self-storage areas in a building.

Owner. Any individual, firm, association, syndicate, co-partnership, or corporation having sufficient proprietary interest in the land sought to be subdivided to commence and maintain proceedings to subdivide the same under this title.

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.63., 2-5-2019)

Section 31.17 - Definitions "P"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Parcel. A separate division of land individually described, surveyed, and of record to show the actual boundaries of the property.

Parcel of property. A single tract or plot of land.

Parking space. An area reserved for the parking of one motor vehicle, unenclosed or enclosed in a building.

Particulate matter. Dust, smoke, or any other form of airborne pollution in the form of minute separate particles.

Pediment. A decorative element, usually triangular or curved in shape, above a door or window.

Performance guarantee. A security, in the form of cash deposit, certified check, irrevocable bank letter of credit, or surety bond, in an amount sufficient to cover the estimated cost of improvements required as part of an application for development that is deposited with the municipality to ensure that said improvements are satisfactorily completed.

Performance standard. Criteria established to control smoke and particulate matter, noise, odor, toxic or noxious matter, vibration, fire and explosion hazards, glare or heat, or radiation hazards generated by or inherent in uses of land or buildings.

Permanent foundation. Any structural system for transposing loads from a structure to the earth at a depth below the established frost line without exceeding the safe bearing capacity of the supporting soil.

Permanent perimeter enclosure. A permanent perimeter structural system completely enclosing the space between the floor joists of the home and the ground.

Person. Includes a corporation, firm, partnership, association, organization, or any other group which acts as a unit.

Philanthropic and eleemosynary institutions. Centers operated by philanthropic or non-profit institutions that assist individuals with social needs, such as shelters and rehabilitation centers. These centers may provide temporary housing, meals, counseling, health services, education, job placement assistance and leisure-time activities. Adult care facilities, community centers, hospitals, medical centers, medical/psychiatric offices, shelters for abused women/children and government health/social services facilities are not regulated under the requirements of "philanthropic and eleemosynary institutions." Places of public assembly that provide community outreach services are also not regulated under this definition, unless they operated an onsite homeless shelter.

Plan commission. The county plan commission has jurisdiction within the unincorporated area of the county and each city has a plan commission for the incorporated areas of each city. The plan commissions have the following duties for each of their respective jurisdictions: to formulate and recommend the adoption of plans for the conservation of resources and community betterment, participate in the preparation of a county land development plan for the development of the county, approve proposed subdivisions, authorize the preparation of public road maps, and administer this ordinance.

Planned unit development or PUD. A tract of land developed under single ownership or control, the development of which is unique, incorporating some or all, but not limited to, the following attributes: a variety of uses, varied density of development, reduced right-of-way width, dedicated open space, and zero lot line development.

Plat.

- (1) A map representing a tract of land showing the boundaries and location of individual properties and streets; or
- (2) A map of a subdivision or site plan.

Plat, final. A map or chart indicating the subdivision or resubdivision of land, intended to be filed for record.

Plat, preliminary. The preliminary drawing or drawings, described in these regulations, indicating the proposed manner or layout of the subdivision to be submitted to the plan commission for approval.

Plat, primary. The preliminary drawing or drawings, described in these regulations, indicating the proposed manner or layout of the subdivision to be submitted to the plan commission for approval.

Plaza. An unenclosed gathering space on private property open to the sky, surrounded partly by a building, and that may have integrated landscaping and street furnishings. Ground space is primarily covered with patterned paving material.

Porch. A roofed-over structure, projecting out from the wall or walls of a main structure, with a portion of it commonly open to the weather.

Practical alternative. An alternative to a proposed project that would accomplish the basic purpose of the project and avoid, or have less adverse impact on, a wetland or lake.

Private road. A non-dedicated road serving more than one parcel for access.

Private sewer. A disposal system which is not constructed, installed, maintained, operated, or owned by a municipality, taxing district established for that purpose, or a utility under the jurisdiction of the Public Services Commission of the state.

Private water. A water supply which is not constructed, installed, maintained, operated, or owned by a municipality, taxing district established for that purpose, or a utility under the jurisdiction of the Public Services Commission of the state.

Property lines. Legally defined lot lines bounding a lot.

Protected Natural Resource Area. Include wetlands, streams, floodplains, riparian zones, and other natural resource features regulated by local, state and/or federal regulation.

Public improvement. Any drainage ditch, roadway, parkway, sidewalk, pedestrian way, tree lawn, off-street parking area, lot improvement, or other facility for which the local government may ultimately assume the responsibility for maintenance and operation, or which may affect an improvement for which local government responsibility is established.

Public sewer. A sewage disposal system which is constructed, installed, maintained, operated, and owned by a municipality or taxing district established for that purpose.

Public utility. A firm, corporation, municipal department, or board duly authorized to furnish or furnishing under regulation to the public: electricity, gas, steam, communication (including CATV), transportation, drainage, sewer, or water.

Public water. A water supply system which is constructed, installed, maintained, operated, and owned by a municipality, taxing district established for that purpose, or a utility under the jurisdiction of the Public Services Commission of the state.

(Ord. No. 4500, §§ 5.64., 5.65., 2-5-2019)

Section 31.18 - Reserved for Future Use

Section 31.19 - Definitions "R"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Railroad right-of-way. A strip of land with tracks and auxiliary facilities for track operation, but not including depots, loading platforms, stations, train sheds, warehouses, car shops, car yards, locomotive shops, or water towers.

Recreational campground. An area of land on which two or more recreational vehicles, including campers, tents, RVs, or other similar temporary recreational structures, are regularly accommodated with or without charge, including any building, structure, or fixture of equipment that is used or intended to be used in connection with providing these accommodations.

Recreational vehicle. Commonly referred to as an RV. A vehicle used for travel, camping recreation, and vacation use.

(a) This type of vehicle is:

- (1) Built on a single chassis;
 - (2) Four-hundred square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projections;
 - (3) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
 - (4) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling, but as temporary living quarters for recreational camping, travel, or seasonal use.
- (b) An RV may include, but is not limited to:
- (1) **Motor home.** A self-propelled vehicle with a dwelling constructed as an integral part of the vehicle, or so altered.
 - (2) **Pick-up coach.** A structure designed to be mounted on a truck chassis or cut-down car.
 - (3) **Travel or camping trailer.** A vehicle or other portable structure that is designed to move on the highway and designed or used as a dwelling.

Recycling facility. See "*waste disposal management and reduction.*"

Regulatory Flood: See: "*Flood-Related Definitions.*"

Research laboratory. A building or group of buildings in which are located facilities for scientific research, investigation, testing, or experimentation, but not facilities for the manufacture or sale of products, except as incidental to the main purpose of the laboratory.

Resubdivision. A change in a map of an approved or recorded subdivision plat so that the change affects any street layout on the map or area reserved thereon for public use, or any lot line; or if it affects any map or plan legally recorded prior to the adoption of any regulations controlling subdivisions.

Restaurant. Any establishment whose principal business is the sale of food and beverages to the customer in a ready-to-consume state, and whose method of operation is characteristic of a carry-out, drive-in, drive-through, fast food, standard restaurant, or bar/lounge, or combination thereof, as defined below:

- (1) **Carry-out restaurant.** A business establishment whose method of operation involves sale of food, beverages, and/or frozen desserts in disposable or edible containers or wrappers in a ready-to-consume state for consumption primarily off the premises.
- (2) **Delicatessen.** A restaurant typically offering both carry-out and seating of sandwiches and other foods and beverages. A delicatessen also typically offers meats, cheese and prepared foods on a retail basis.
- (3) **Drive-in restaurant.** A business establishment whose method of operation involves delivery of prepared food so as to allow its consumption in a motor vehicle or elsewhere on the premises, but outside of an enclosed building. A drive-in restaurant may also have interior seating.
- (4) **Drive-thru restaurant.** A business establishment whose method of operation involves the delivery of the prepared food to the customer in a motor vehicle, typically through a drive-through window, for consumption off the premises. A drive-thru restaurant may also have interior seating.
- (5) **Standard restaurant.** A business establishment whose method of operation involves either the delivery of prepared food by waiters and waitresses to customers seated at tables within a building or the prepared food is acquired by customers at a cafeteria line and is subsequently consumed by the customers at tables within a completely enclosed building. Restaurants may include accessory outdoor seating.
- (6) **Tavern/bar.** An establishment licensed to serve alcoholic beverages on the premises. Taverns/bars may include accessory outdoor seating.

Rezone. To change the zoning classification of particular lots or parcels of land, otherwise known as a map amendment.

Right-of-way. A strip of land occupied or intended to be occupied by a street, crosswalk, railroad, road, electric transmission line, oil or gas pipeline, water main, sanitary or storm sewer main, shade trees, or for another special use. The usage of the term right-of-way for land platting purposes shall mean that every right-of-way hereafter established and shown on a secondary plat is to be separate and distinct

from the lots or parcels adjoining the right-of-way and not included within the dimensions or areas of the lots or parcels. Rights-of-way intended for streets, crosswalks, water mains, sanitary sewers, storm drains, shade trees, or any other use involving maintenance by a public agency, shall be dedicated to public use by the maker of the plat(s) on which the rights-of-way are established.

Riparian: Lands adjacent to waterways and lakes, that are influenced by the adjacent water body by overbank flooding and changes in elevation of the water table.

Riparian or wetland buffer. An area surrounding a watercourse, floodplain or wetland, containing trees and other vegetation that intercepts surface water runoff, wastewater, subsurface flow, and/or groundwater flows from upland sources. Riparian and wetland buffers help process and remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, or other pollutants from runoff and subsurface flow. This transition area between aquatic and terrestrial environments can also provide wildlife habitat, control water temperature, attenuate flood flows, and provide opportunities for passive recreation.

Roadside stand. A structure for the display and sale of agricultural products, with no space for customers within the structure itself.

Roadway. That portion of a street which is used or intended to be used for the travel of vehicles. See also "street."

Runoff. The portion of precipitation from such sources as rainfall, snow melt, or irrigation water that flows over the ground surface.

Section 31.20 - Definitions "S"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Salvage yard. An open area where waste or used materials are bought, sold, exchanged, stored, baled, packed, disassembled or handled. Such waste and used materials include, but are not limited to, motor vehicles, vehicles, machinery or equipment drawn or operated by being attached to motor vehicles, mechanical units which are not in running or operable condition, scrap iron, other metals, paper, rags, rubber tires, and bottles. It does not include residential, commercial or municipal "garbage" which is defined as animal, vegetable or mineral refuse. Any lot containing three or more unlicensed vehicles shall be considered a salvage yard.

Sand Dunes. Soils classified as Duneland (DU), or Oakville Fine Sand (OaE), or Urban Land - Oakville Complex (UoC) that are greater than 12 percent slope as defined by the Soil Survey Geographic Database of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Self-storage facility. A building or group of buildings in a controlled-access and fenced compound that contains varying sizes of individual, compartmentalized, and controlled-access stalls or lockers for the storage of customer's goods or wares.

Setback. The minimum horizontal distance between a lot line and the wall of a building or structure.

Shopping center. A structure or group of structures located on the same lot or parcel which is developed in accordance with an overall plan and designed and built as an interrelated project that provides a variety of commercial uses and common off-street parking, pedestrian access and vehicular movements. Buildings constructed on outlots shall not be considered part of the shopping center unless access and parking easements are provided.

Shoreline. The average normal water level as established under IC 14-26-4-1 through 14-26-4-12 for public freshwater lake and administered under supervision of the state Department of Natural Resources or the ordinary high water mark.

Sight distance. The length of roadway visible to the driver. Generally related to the distance or time (perception/reaction time) sufficient for the driver to execute a maneuver (turn from driveway or side street, stop or pass) without striking another vehicle or object in the roadway.

Sign. A name, identification, description, display, or illustration which is affixed to, or represented directly or indirectly upon a building, structure, or piece of land and which directs attention to an object, product, place, activity, person, institution, organization, or business.

(1) A **sign** shall not include:

- a. The display of official court or public office notices;
- b. The flag, emblem, or insignia of a nation, political unit, school, or religious group; or
- c. One located completely within an enclosed building, except signs located behind window areas intended to be viewed

from outside the building.

- (2) **Billboard.** A structure or accessory structure that advertises or directs attention to a business, commodity, service, entertainment or any other subject matter not located or carried on the parcel of real estate where any such sign is located or in the building or structure to which the sign is affixed.
- (3) **Business sign.** A sign which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, or entertainment related to the premises where the sign is located or to which it is affixed.
- (4) **Electrical reader board.** Sign which contains a traveling message or a message which appears to be traveling and usually in a horizontal manner.
- (5) **Flashing sign.** An illuminated sign on which the artificial light is not maintained stationary or constant in intensity and color at all times when the sign is in use. A revolving, illuminated sign shall be considered to be a flashing sign.
- (6) **Gross area of sign:**
 - a. The entire area within a single continuous perimeter enclosing the extreme limits of the sign and in no case passing through or between any adjacent elements of same.
 - b. The perimeter shall not include any structural elements lying outside the limits of the sign and not forming an integral part of the display.
- (7) **Ground/monument sign.** A three dimensional, base mounted freestanding display sign, that is supported by uprights or braces in or upon the ground surface or mounted on a base, and consisting of two or more sides extending up from the base, and upon which a message, business, group of businesses or center name is affixed.
- (8) **Identification sign.** A sign which directs attention to a residence, a business, commodity, service, entertainment, or other activity conducted on the lot upon which the sign is located.
- (9) **Nameplate sign.** Non-illuminated sign flush with the front of the building indicating the name or address of a building, or the name of an occupant thereof and the practice of a permitted occupation therein.
- (10) **Pole or pylon sign.** A type of freestanding sign that is elevated above the ground on poles or braces and not attached to any building or other structure.
- (11) **Reader board sign.** A sign whereon provision is made for letters or characters to be placed in or upon the surface area either manually or electronically to provide a message that may be changed periodically.
- (12) **Roof sign.** A sign erected, constructed, and maintained above the roof of any building.
- (13) **Wall sign/Blade sign.** A wall sign is a sign attached to, painted on, or erected against the wall of a building with the sign face in a parallel plane to the plane of the building. A blade sign is a sign attached or erected against the wall of a building with the sign face in a perpendicular plane to the plane of the building.
- (14) **Window Signs.** A sign attached to a window or glass door and any sign on the interior of a window that is visible from the outside of the window, including signs not attached to the window.

Site plan. A drawing to scale which must be furnished to the enforcement official when application is made for an improvement location permit and which shows size and location of all existing and proposed buildings, all adjacent streets and highways, size of all entrances and exits from the land, and a legal description of the land. For some uses a landscape development plan must be included.

Special exception. Those uses of land which are not essentially incompatible with the uses permitted in a zoning district, but possess characteristics or locational qualities which require individual review and restriction by the board of zoning appeals.

Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA): See: "**Flood-Related Definitions.**"

Spot zoning. The rezoning of a lot or parcel of land to benefit an owner for a use incompatible with surrounding land uses and that does not further the county land development plan.

Sprawl. Uncontrolled growth, usually of a low-density nature, in previously rural areas and some distance from existing development and infrastructure.

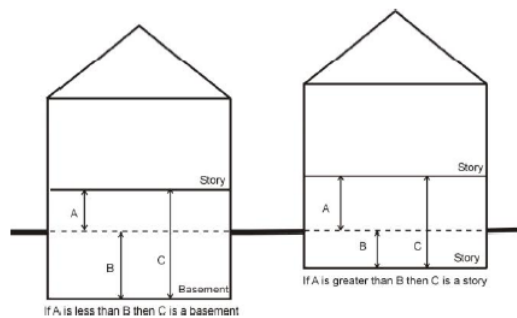
Stable. A building or structure designed, arranged, used, or intended to be used for housing saddle horses or ponies. See also: **"Boarding Stable."**

Stockyards. A yard for livestock; especially an enclosure, usually with pens, and the like, in which cattle, hogs, sheep, or horses are kept temporarily before being slaughtered or sent to market.

Stoops are small staircases leading to the entrance of a residential building. The stoop elevation provides some privacy between the sidewalk and ground floor uses. Stoops may be covered by a building awning or canopy.

Storefront Cafés provide ground floor dining spaces directly accessible from the adjacent sidewalks. Storefront café frontages are similar to storefront frontages but provide specific provisions for outdoor seating.

Story. That portion of a building, other than a cellar, included between the surface of any floor and the surface of the floor next above it or, if there be no floor above it, then the space between the floor and the ceiling next above it. The floor of a story may have split levels provided that there is not more than four feet difference in elevation between the different levels of the floor. A mezzanine floor shall be counted as a story when it covers over one-third the area of the floor next below it, or if the vertical distance from the floor next below it to the floor next above it is 24 feet or more. A basement shall be counted as a story if it is 50 percent or more above the average grade.



Story, half. A partial story under a gable, hip, or gambrel roof, the wall plates of which on at least two opposite exterior walls are not more than three feet above the floor of the story, except that any partial story used for residence purposes, other than for a janitor or caretaker or his family, or by a family occupying the floor immediately below it, shall be deemed a full story.

Streetfront. A frontage type whereby the building is parallel to street right-of-way and setback the distance required by this ordinance.

Street or road. A right-of-way, other than an alley, dedicated or otherwise legally established to the public use, usually affording the principal means of access to abutting property. A street may be designated as a highway, thoroughfare, parkway, boulevard, road, avenue, lane, drive, or other appropriate name.

- (1) **Cul-de-sac street.** A street with a single common ingress and egress and with a turn-around at the end.
- (2) **Highway, limited access.** A freeway, or expressway, providing a for through traffic, to which abutting lands have no legal right to have direct access, and all access is at defined points determined by the public road agency having jurisdiction over that roadway.
- (3) **Minor street.** A local roadway, the primary function of which is to provide direct access to residential, commercial, industrial, or other abutting real estate.
- (4) **Major thoroughfare.** All arterial streets, county primary roads, major city streets and state highways.

Stormwater-related Definitions:

- (1) **Accelerated erosion.** Erosion caused by development activities that exceeds the natural processes by which the surface of the land is worn away by the action of water, wind, or chemical action.
- (2) **Applicant.** A property owner or agent of a property owner who has filed an application for a stormwater management permit.
- (3) **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** Structural measures (wetlands, ponds, infiltration basins, etc.) or non-structural measures (low impact development planning, restrictive zoning, reduced impervious areas, etc.). BMPs are designed for the benefit of water quality and quantity.

- (4) **Building.** Any structure, either temporary or permanent, having walls and a roof, designed for the shelter of any person, animal property, and occupying more than 100 square feet of area.
- (5) **Channel.** A natural or artificial watercourse with a definite bed and banks that conducts flowing water continuously or periodically.
- (6) **Clean Water Act (CWA).** The federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), and any subsequent amendments thereto.
- (7) **Construction Activity.** Activities subject to a stormwater management permit as set out in Chapter 46, Article IX of the Michigan City, Indiana Code of Ordinances. These include construction projects resulting in land disturbances of 10,000 square feet or more. Such activities include, but are not limited to, clearing and grubbing, grading, excavation, and demolition.
- (8) **Detention.** The temporary storage of storm runoff in a stormwater BMP with the goals of controlling peak discharge rates and providing settling and filtration of pollutants.
- (9) **Detention facility.** A detention basin or alternative structure designed for the purpose of temporary storage of stream flow or surface runoff, and gradual release of stored water at controlled rates.
- (10) **Drainage easement.** A legal right granted by a landowner to a grantee allowing the use of private land for stormwater management purposes.
- (11) **Erosion and sediment control plan (ESCP).** A plan that is designed to minimize the erosion and sediment runoff at a site during construction activities.
- (12) **Hotspot.** An area where land use or activities generate highly contaminated runoff, with concentrations of pollutants in excess of those typically found in stormwater.
- (13) **Hydrologic soil group (HSG).** The Natural Resource Conservation Service classification system in which soils are categorized into four runoff potential groups according to texture and drainage capacity. The groups are HSG-A, B, C, and D. Runoff volume for a given rainfall depth increases, and infiltration capacity decreases, From HSG A to D.
- (14) **Illicit Connections.** Either of the following:
 - a. A stormwater conveyance system that allows an illicit discharge to enter the storm drainage system or the MS4. Such systems include but not limited to any conveyances that allow any non-stormwater discharge, and any connections to the storm drainage system, MS4, or receiving waters from indoor drains and sinks. Such systems are illicit regardless of whether said drain or connection had been previously allowed, permitted, or approved. Or,
 - b. Any conveyance connected from a commercial or industrial land use to the storm drainage system, MS4, or receiving water that has not been documented in plans, maps, or equivalent records and approved.
- (15) **Illicit Discharge.** An unapproved direct or indirect non-stormwater or pollutant discharge to the storm drainage system, MS4, or receiving waters.
- (16) **Industrial Activity.** Activities subject to NPDES Industrial Permits as defined by 327 IAC 15-6-1:12 (Rule 6).
- (17) **Invasive Plant Species.** Predominantly non-native, non-indigenous, alien tree, shrub, vine, or herbaceous species that grow or reproduce aggressively, usually because they have no natural predators, and which can so dominate an ecosystem that they kill off or drive out many indigenous plant species.
- (18) **Impervious cover.** Surfaces that cannot effectively infiltrate rainfall (e.g., building rooftops, pavement, sidewalks, driveways, etc).
- (19) **Industrial stormwater permit.** A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued to a commercial industry or group of industries, which regulates the pollutant levels associated with industrial stormwater discharges or specifies on-site pollution control strategies.
- (20) **Infiltration.** The process of percolating stormwater into the subsoil.
- (21) **Infiltration facility.** Any structure or device designed to infiltrate retained water to the subsurface. These facilities may be above grade or below grade.
- (22) **Land disturbance activity.** Any activity which changes the volume or peak flow discharge rate of rainfall runoff from the land

surface. This may include the grading, digging, cutting, scraping, or excavating of soil, placement of fill materials, paving, construction, substantial removal of vegetation, or any activity which bares soil or rock or involves the diversion or piping of any natural or man-made watercourse.

- (23) **Low Impact Development (LID).** Development strategy that encourages maintaining existing drainage patterns while minimizing changes to existing topography. LID often employs distributed, localized storage of stormwater, disconnection of directly connected impervious surfaces to the site outlet, and incorporation of public education into the long-term plan for stormwater management.
- (24) **Maintenance agreement.** A legally recorded document that acts as a property deed restriction, and that provides for long-term maintenance of stormwater management practices.
- (25) **Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP).** The statutory standard that establishes the level of pollutant reductions that operators of regulated MS4s must achieve.
- (26) **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).** A stormwater conveyance system which is owned or operated by a state, city, town, county, tribe, district, association, or other public body or a designated and approved management agency under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act, that discharges into waters of the United States (40 CFR 122.26(b)(8)).
- (27) **MS4 Advisory Committee.** Appointed representatives of the municipal and county entities who administer the MS4 Program under the permit issued by IDEM.
- (28) **MS4 Coordinator.** Designated representative of the city responsible for assisting in the implementation and management of the Stormwater Quality Management Program for the city.
- (29) **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Discharge Permit.** A permit issued by EPA (or by a state under authority delegated pursuant to 33 USC § 1342(b)) that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States, whether the permit is applicable on an individual, group, or general area-wide basis.
- (30) **Non-point source pollution.** Pollution from any source other than discernible, confined, and discrete conveyances, including but not be limited to pollutants from agricultural, silvicultural, mining, construction, subsurface disposal and urban runoff sources.
- (31) **Notice of Intent (NOI).** A written notification indicating an entity's intention to comply with the terms of a specified general permit rule in lieu of applying for an individual NPDES stormwater discharge permit. The NOI includes information as required under 327 IAC 15-3 and the applicable general permit rule.
- (32) **Pollutant.** Anything that causes or contributes to pollution. **Pollutants** may include, but are not limited to: paints, varnishes, and solvents; oil and other automotive fluids; non-hazardous liquid and solid wastes; yard wastes, including grass, brush, leaves, and limbs; refuse, rubbish, garbage, litter, or other discarded or abandoned objects, ordinances, and accumulations; floatables, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; hazardous substances and wastes; sewage, fecal coliform and pathogens; dissolved and particulate metals; animal wastes; wastes and residues that result from constructing a building or structure; soil and sediments; and noxious or offensive matter of any kind.
- (33) **Recharge.** Replenishment of underground water reserves.
- (34) **Redevelopment.** Any construction, alteration or improvement equal to or greater than 43,560 square feet (one acre) in areas where existing land use is high density commercial, industrial, institutional or multi-family residential.
- (35) **"Rule 5" and "Rule 13.** 327 IAC 15-5 and 327 IAC 15-13, respectively. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has the authority to administer the Erosion Control Program under Rule 5. When IDEM approves the transfer of the Erosion Control Program to MS4 entities, such authority will be by Rule 13 in the MS4 areas only. Rule 5 will continue to apply to non-MS4 areas of the state. The issuance of an authorization letter by IDEM will determine which rule will have precedence or apply.
- (36) **Stormwater Conveyance Systems.** System of surface and subsurface drainage systems, catch basins, and other drainage structures including retention and detention BMPs, vegetated swales, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, roads with subsurface drainage systems, reservoirs, pumped piping systems and other drainage structures or watercourses.
- (37) **Stormwater management.** The use of structural or non-structural practices, physical and biological measures that are

designed to reduce stormwater runoff pollutant loads, discharge volumes and peak flow discharge rates. Goals of stormwater management include avoiding detrimental changes in the hydrology, water quality and temperature of receiving waters that affect habitat and ecological function, and minimizing flash floods.

- (38) **Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).** A document that describes the best management practices and activities to be implemented by an entity to identify sources of pollution or contamination at a site, and actions that will be taken to eliminate or reduce pollutant discharges to stormwater, stormwater conveyance systems, and/or receiving waters to the maximum extent practicable.
- (39) **Watercourse.** A permanent or intermittent stream or other body of water, either natural or manmade, which gathers or carries surface water.
- (40) **Structural alteration.** A change, other than incidental repairs, which would prolong the life of the supporting members of a building, such as the addition, removal, or alteration of bearing walls, columns, beams, girders, or foundations.

Structure. Anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires location above the ground or attached to something having location on the ground. A structure will include buildings, fences, walls, decks, towers, pools, gazebos, play structures, tree house, and other similar above ground structures.

Subdivision. The division of land by deed or other recorded instrument. A subdivision shall be deemed to have occurred on any land, vacant or improved, that is divided into two or more lots, parcels, sites, units, plots or interests for the purpose of offer, sale, lease, mortgage or development, either on the installment plan or upon any and all other plans, terms and conditions, including re-subdivision and the granting of access easements. However, this regulation shall not apply to the following:

- (a) An allocation of land by a court decree for the distribution of property;
- (b) The unwilling sale of land as a result of legal condemnations as defined and allowed in the Indiana State Law.

Support system. A pad or a combination of footings, piers, caps, plates, and shims, which, when properly installed, support the manufactured or mobile home.

(Ord. No. 4328, § 9, 6-16-2015; Ord. No. 4500, § 5.66., 2-5-2019; Ord. No. 4770, § 2(Exh. B, A.27), 8-4-2025)

Section 31.21 - Definitions "T"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Tattoo establishment. Any place or establishment which is operated for the principal business or primary purpose of marking the skin with indelible pigment or other such substance so as to produce a permanent design, mark or similar feature on the skin.

Tavern/bar. A building where liquors are sold to be consumed on the premises and where entertainment may or may not be provided.

Terrace, open. A level and rather narrow plane, or platform, which for the purpose of this title is located adjacent to one or more faces of the principal structure and which is constructed not more than four feet in height above the average level of the adjoining ground.

Travel trailer park. An area of land on which two or more travel trailers are regularly accommodated with or without charge, including any building or other structure, fixture, or equipment that is used or intended to be used in connection with providing that accommodation.

Truck stop. Any building, premises or land in which or upon which a business, service or industry involving the maintenance, servicing, storage or repair of commercial vehicles is conducted or rendered including the dispensing of motor fuel or other petroleum products directly into motor vehicles, the sale of accessories or equipment for trucks and similar commercial vehicles. A truck stop may include overnight accommodations and restaurant facilities solely for use of truck crews.

Truck terminal or yard, commercial. Any land use with or without buildings for, but not limited to: parking, storage, maintenance, or transfer station for commercial trucks, tractors, truck trailers, and other commercial vehicles.

Section 31.22 - Definitions "U"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Urban Frontage is suitable for mixed use, commercial or office uses. It provides access to ground floor uses but is primarily characterized by windows facing the sidewalk. Unlike storefronts there is no minimum ground floor height.

Use (of property). The purpose or activity for which the land or building thereon is designed, arranged, or intended, or for which it is occupied or maintained. This includes any manner of performance of activity or operation with respect to the performance standards of this title. Uses are classified under the following major categories:

- (1) **Residential**, which includes single-family, two-family, multiple-family and manufactured homes.
- (2) **Agriculture**, which includes all farming, livestock and forestry.
- (3) **Commercial**, which includes all retail trade uses, motor vehicle service, lodging accommodation, food services, other services and entertainment/recreational businesses.
- (4) **Office**, which includes administrative offices and buildings, used for finance, insurance, legal, real estate, professional, scientific, technical, health care, and social assistance uses.
- (5) **Institutional**, which includes all religious, civic, social, and similar organizations, educational services and public uses.
- (6) **Industrial**, which includes all manufacturing, transportation, warehousing, utilities (generation/treatment plants), waste processing/disposal, construction contractors and mining/mineral extraction uses.

Use, permitted. A use which may be lawfully established in a particular district or districts, provided that it conforms with all requirements, regulations, and performance standards, if any, of the district.

Use, principal. The main use of land or buildings, as distinguished from a subordinate or accessory use. May be either a permitted use or a special exception use.

Use, special exception. See "**Special exception.**"

(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.67., 2-5-2019)

Section 31.23 - Definitions "V"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Variance. A deviation, authorized by the board of zoning appeals, from the strict application of the specific requirements of zoning as it pertains to use, building, frontages, access, lot size, setbacks, or other developments as it pertains to specific property.

Vertical Mixed-Use Building. A building that combines residential and nonresidential uses in the same building with residential uses only located above the first floor.

Veterinary clinic. An institution which is licensed to provide for the care, diagnosis, and treatment of sick or injured animals, including those in need of medical or surgical attention. A veterinary clinic may include customary pens or cages for the overnight boarding of animals and such related facilities as laboratories, testing services, and offices.

Veterinary hospital. An institution which is licensed to provide for the care, diagnosis, and treatment of sick or injured animals, including those in need of medical or surgical attention. A veterinary hospital may include customary pens or cages for the overnight boarding of animals and such related facilities as laboratories, testing services, and offices.

(Ord. No. 4254, § 3(Exh. A), 10-30-2013; Ord. No. 4500, §§ 5.68., 5.69., 2-5-2019)

Section 31.24 - Definitions "W"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Walkway. A pedestrian connection from the public right-of-way to a principal building.

Warehouse. A building used for long-term and short-term storage and wholesale of manufactured products, supplies, and equipment related to the operation of a single business and material for "just in time" delivery to a manufacturing facility. The use will include truck loading and unloading, provided the area dedicated to the outdoor storage of trucks and trailers is no more than the area of the warehouse

building.

Waste.

- (1) **Hazardous waste.** Regulated by the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA, 1976) (42 USC 6901) and its amendments; any waste that is "corrosive, ignitable, reactive, or toxic" or poses a substantial threat to human health and environment when improperly managed.
- (2) **Industrial solid waste.** Generally consists of materials such as wastewater treatment sludge (waste with most of the water removed; semi-liquid), agricultural wastes, plastics, oil, paint, metal, or coal ash, and is managed on-site in landfills, surface impoundments, land application units, and waste piles and/or off-site land facilities, discharged to wastewater treatment plants and to surface waters.
- (3) **Municipal solid waste.** The refuse discarded by households, institutions, and commercial establishments (as distinguished from hazardous wastes and sludge), and which is disposed of in landfills, by incineration, or is composted, recycled, or reused.
- (4) **Yard waste.** Plant clippings, pruning, and other discarded materials from yards and gardens; also called yard rubbish.

Waste disposal management and reduction. Techniques which include but are not limited to:

- (1) **Collection center or intermediate processing facility.** A light industrial facility for collecting secondary materials, usually from the public, and reselling to brokers, processing centers, or manufacturing. Collection centers may or may not buy material, can be permanent or mobile, and do no processing of materials for resale.
- (2) **Composting.** The controlled decay of organic matter, producing a nutrient-rich mulch or organic soil, thus removing part of the waste going to landfills and incinerator.
- (3) **Incineration.** A process technology which reduces the amount (particularly by volume) of wastes, the residues of which must then be managed and disposed of properly.
- (4) **Landfill, sanitary.** An engineering project for refuse disposal in which the waste is dumped in accordance with a preconceived plan, compacted, and covered during and at the end of each day.
- (5) **Processing center.** A heavy industrial facility that buys secondary material, usually from brokers, collection centers, and various post-consumer waste facilities, to use on-site for the remanufacturing of products.
- (6) **Recycling.** The process by which materials otherwise destined for disposal are retrieved and remanufactured into new products. Recycling involves four steps:
 - a. Separating recyclable material from the waste stream;
 - b. Processing recyclable materials so that they can substitute for virgin materials in the manufacture of products;
 - c. Producing a marketable commodity using the recycled material; and
 - d. Consumer purchase and use of recycled products.
- (7) **Transfer station.** An inter- mediate facility where collected refuse is deposited for transfer to the final disposal site.

Watershed. All land and water within the confines of a drainage divide (a ridge separating two drainage basins).

Wetland. Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, including swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Any area meeting the official wetland definition of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, shall be considered a wetland for the purposes of this Ordinance. In the event the definition of a wetland conflicts between any of these agencies, the more restrictive definition shall apply.

Wetland delineation. The determination as to whether an area is a wetland. Reference shall be made to and guided by, and field observations shall be conducted in accordance with, the methods set forth and described in the most recent legislation for: Federal Interagency Committee for Wetlands Delineation, and subsequent amendments; Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service, Washington D.C. (Cooperative technical publication, 76 pages, plus appendices.)

Wetland maps.

- (1) The portion of the National Wetlands Inventory which includes the county and cities, and which shows wetlands and lakes located within the county's geographic area.
- (2) The National Wetlands Inventory, as periodically updated, is incorporated herein by reference. These maps are intended as a preliminary guide, as only the general location of wetlands may be shown. Copies of these maps are on file at the office of the plan commission.

Wholesale establishment. A business establishment engaged in selling to retailers or jobbers rather than consumers.

Wireless communications. The technology by which communications or radio signals are transmitted or received from one communication source to another, which may include mobile units, land-based units, or satellite, whether radio, digital, telephone, or television not otherwise exempted by federal regulation.

Wireless communications antenna. The physical device through which wireless communications signals are transmitted or received.

Wireless communications facility. A facility consisting of the equipment and structures involved in receiving and transmitting wireless communications signals.

Wireless communications tower. A structure intended to support equipment used to transmit and/or receive wireless communications signals, including monopoles and self-supporting lattice towers.

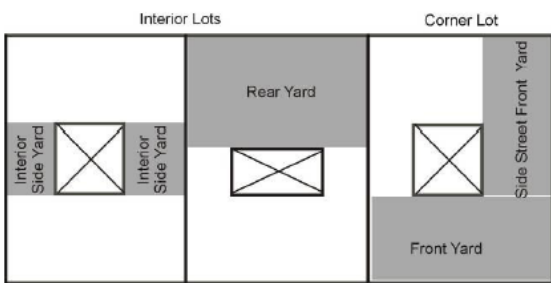
(Ord. No. 4500, § 5.70., 2-5-2019)

Section 31.25 - Definitions "Y"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Yard. An open space on the same lot with a building or structure unoccupied and unobstructed from its lowest level to the sky, except as otherwise permitted. A yard extends along a lot line, and to a depth or width specified in the yard requirements for the zoning district in which the lot is located, and shall not include that part in use as or to be used as a street.

- (1) **Front yard.** A yard between the front line of the building and the street right-of-way, extending along the full length of the front lot line between the side lot lines, which shall not include that part in use or to be used as a street. On a corner lot, the front yard shall be along the street right of way that the front of the building faces or the shorter of the two front lot lines. The side street front yard shall also be considered a front lot line, but may be distinguished with separate requirements in the district.
- (2) **Interior side yard.** A side yard which is located immediately adjacent to another lot or to an alley separating the side yard from another lot.
- (3) **Rear yard.** A yard between the rear line of the building and the rear lot line, extending along the full length of the rear lot line between the side lot lines. In the case of a corner lot, the rear yard will be opposite the street frontage that the building faces or the shorter of the two front lot lines, but there shall be only one rear yard.



- (4) **Required yard.** That portion of a lot that meets the required minimum front, side, or rear setback of the zoning district in which the property is located.
- (5) **Side yard.** A yard extending along a side lot line from the front yard to the rear yard.

Section 31.26 - Definitions "Z"

For the purpose of this title, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Zero lot line. The location of a building on a lot in such a manner that one or more of the building's sides rest directly on a lot line.

Zoning. The delineation of districts and the establishment of regulations governing the use, placement, spacing, and size of land and buildings.

Zoning district(s). A section or sections of the territory of the county and cities, for which the regulations and requirements governing use, lot, bulk of buildings, and premises are uniform.

Zoning map. The map or maps that are a part of the zoning ordinance and delineate the boundaries of zoning districts.

Zoning Ordinance. The part of the Comprehensive Plan or County Land Development Plan, now or hereafter adopted, which includes an ordinance and zoning maps which divide the jurisdiction of the plan commission into districts, with regulations, requirements, and procedures for the establishment of the land use controls.

ARTICLE 32. - ENACTMENT PROVISIONS

Section 32.01 - Severability

The provisions and sections of this Ordinance shall be deemed separable and the invalidity of any portion of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity of the remainder.

Section 32.02 - Adoption

- (a) Pursuant to a ____ to ____ favorable recommendation by the _____ Plan Commission, certified after notice and hearing as required by statute, the entire zoning and subdivision control ordinances and zoning map of _____ are hereby repealed and replaced with a new zoning ordinance and subdivision ordinance and replacement zoning map as certified by the _____ Plan Commission.
- (b) These ordinances shall be in full force and effect starting _____ upon enactment by the _____ and publication according to law.
- (c) Passed and adopted by _____ this ____ day of _____.

APPENDIX: - USES BY ZONING DISTRICT

La Porte County, City of La Porte and Michigan City

[illegible]

Multiple-family dwellings										P	P		P			P	P	P			
Dwellings in mixed-use buildings													P			P	P	S			
Dwelling units for watchmen and operating personnel and their families													P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P
Fraternity, sorority or student cooperatives								S	S	S	S		S	S		S	S	S			
Home occupations	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				P	P	P			
Mobile home parks												P									
Mobile home subdivisions												P									
Accessory dwelling unit	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P										
Agriculture and animal-related uses																					
Agricultural uses	P	P	P	P																	
Boarding stables	P	P																			
Confined feeding operations	S	S																			
Farm implement dealers	S	S											P						P	P	
Farm seasonal worker housing	P	P																			
Grain elevator and storage	P	P																	P	P	
Hatcheries	P	P																			
Keeping of horses and livestock	P	P	P	P																	
Kennels	P	P											S						P	P	
Livestock yards	S	S																	S	S	
Locker plants	S																		P	P	
Plant nursery and commercial greenhouses	P	P											P	P					P	P	
Produce terminals	P	P																	P	P	
Roadside stands	P	P											P								

[illegible]

[illegible]

Automobile washes														S	S				P		
Vehicle service stations														S	S				P	S	
Minor automobile service and repair														S	S					P	P
Major automobile service, body repair and painting														S						P	P
Motorcycle, snowmobile and ATV sales/service														P	P						
Parts stores													S	P	P		P	P		P	
Truck rental														S	S					P	P
Truck sales (new/used)														S	S					P	P
Truck stops															S					S	S
Vehicle salvage yards																					S
Vehicle auctions														S						P	P
Accommodation and food services																					
Banquet halls														P	P	P	P	P	P		
Bed & breakfasts	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		P	P	P		P	P	P	
Cafeterias (as an accessory use)														P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Candy and ice cream shops														P	P	P		P	P	P	
Catering services														P	P	P		P	P		
Delicatessens														P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Exhibition halls															P	P	P	P			
Hotel-miniums																P		P	P	P	
Hotels/motels															P	P	P	P	P	P	
Restaurants, carryout														P	P	P	P	P	P	P	S
Restaurants, standard not including drive-														P	P	P	P	P	P	P	S

[illegible]

Halfway houses											S	S												
Hospital-related uses														P		P	P							
Hospitals														S		S	S							
Massage therapy services														P	P	P		P	P			P	P	
Medical and dental clinics														P	P	P	P	P	P			P		
Medical laboratories															P		P	S	S			P		
Nursing homes and senior assisted living						S		S	S	S	P			P			P	P	P					
Optical sales														P	P		P	P	P					
Orthopedic and medical appliance sales														P	P		P	P	P					
Philanthropic and eleemosynary institutions											S	S			S		S	S	S					
Entertainment and recreation																								
Adult cabaret																						P	P	
Adult motion picture theater																						P	P	
Amusement/arcade establishments															S			S	S					
Amusement parks															S	S				P				
Archery ranges	S	S																						
Boat clubs			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S					P				
Boat harbors/public marinas, including service, storage, and fuel sales															S					P				
Boat sales, including service	P	P													S	S				P		P	P	
Boat storage																				P		P	P	
Bowling alleys															P									
Campgrounds	S	S													S	P				S				
Canoe rental															P					P				

Casinos																			S			
Commercial outdoor recreation facilities such as batting cages, driving ranges and putt-putt golf															S	S			S			
Dance schools														P	P		P	P	P			
Forestry/wildlife preserve	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P		P	P
Golf course and country clubs		S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	S	P			S			
Health and athletic clubs														P	P	P	P	P	P			
Ice skating rinks															P	P		P	P		P	
Parks/playgrounds	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Racetracks and go-cart tracks																S					S	
Shooting ranges, indoors	S	S													P						P	P
Shooting ranges, outdoors	S	S																			S	S
Stadiums/arenas															S			S	S	S	S	
Theaters															S			S	S	S		
Civic, religious, social assistance organizations																						
Cemeteries	S	S			S	S		S	S	S	S				P							
Places of public assembly			S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S			P	P		P	P	P			
Clubs, lodges, union halls															P	P		P	P	P		
Community centers			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P		P	P	P			
Conference and convention halls																P	P	P	P	P		
Convents, monasteries and seminaries								S	S	S	S			P	P		P	P	P			
Places of public assembly			S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S			P	P		P	P	P			
Educational services																						
Colleges, universities, and accessory uses,								S	S	S	S			P	P		P	P	P			

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]