
DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

MASTER PLAN REVIEW CRITERIA:

7.5.408: REVIEW CRITERIA:

Master plans and major and minor amendments to approved master plans shall be reviewed for substantial conformance with the criteria listed below. Minor amendments are not subject to review criteria in subsection F of this section.

- A. Comprehensive Plan: The Comprehensive Plan and the 2020 Land Use Map are the context and the benchmark for the assessment of individual land use master plans. The proposed land use master plan or the amendment conforms to the policies and strategies of the Comprehensive Plan. The proposed land use pattern is consistent with the Citywide perspective presented by the 2020 Land Use Map.
- B. Land Use Relationships:
 - 1. The master plan promotes a development pattern characterizing a mix of mutually supportive and integrated residential and nonresidential land uses with a network of interconnected streets and good pedestrian and bicycle connections.
 - 2. Activity centers are designed so they are compatible with, accessible from and serve as a benefit to the surrounding neighborhood or business area. Activity centers also vary in size, intensity, scale and types of uses depending on their function, location and surroundings.
 - 3. The land use pattern is compatible with existing and proposed adjacent land uses and protects residential neighborhoods from excessive noise and traffic infiltration.
 - 4. Housing types are distributed so as to provide a choice of densities, types and affordability.
 - 5. Land use types and location reflect the findings of the environmental analysis pertaining to physical characteristics which may preclude or limit development opportunities.
 - 6. Land uses are buffered, where needed, by open space and/or transitions in land use intensity.
 - 7. Land uses conform to the definitions contained in article 2, part 2 of this Zoning Code.
- C. Public Facilities:
 - 1. The land use master plan conforms to the most recently adopted Colorado Springs parks, recreation and trails master plan.
 - 2. Recreational and educational uses are sited and sized to conveniently service the proposed population of the master plan area and the larger community.
 - 3. The proposed school sites meet the location, function and size needs of the school district.
 - 4. The land use master plan conforms to the adopted plans and policies of Colorado Springs Utilities.
 - 5. Proposed public facilities are consistent with the strategic network of long range plans.
 - 6. The master development drainage plan conforms to the applicable drainage basin planning study and the drainage criteria manual.
- D. Transportation:
 - 1. The land use master plan is consistent with the adopted intermodal transportation plan. Conformity with the intermodal transportation plan is evidence of compliance with State and local air quality implementation and maintenance plans.
 - 2. The land use master plan has a logical hierarchy of arterial and collector streets with an emphasis on the reduction of through traffic in residential neighborhoods and improves connectivity, mobility choices and access to jobs, shopping and recreation.
 - 3. The design of the streets and multiuse trails minimizes the number of uncontrolled or at grade trail crossings of arterials and collectors.
 - 4. The transportation system is compatible with transit routes and allows for the extension of these routes.

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5. The land use master plan provides opportunities or alternate transportation modes and cost effective provision of transit services to residents and businesses.
 6. Anticipated trip generation does not exceed the capacity of existing or proposed major roads. If capacity is expected to be exceeded, necessary improvements will be identified, as will responsibility, if any, of the master plan for the construction and timing for its share of improvements.
- E. Environment:
1. The land use master plan preserves significant natural site features and view corridors. The Colorado Springs open space plan shall be consulted in identifying these features.
 2. The land use master plan minimizes noise impacts on existing and proposed adjacent areas.
 3. The land use master plan utilizes floodplains and drainageways as greenways for multiple uses including conveyance of runoff, wetlands, habitat, trails, recreational uses, utilities and access roads when feasible.
 4. The land use master plan reflects the findings of a preliminary geologic hazard study and provides a range of mitigation techniques for the identified geologic, soil and other constrained natural hazard areas.
- F. Fiscal:
1. A fiscal impact analysis and existing infrastructure capacity and service levels are used as a basis for determining impacts attributable to the master plan. City costs related to infrastructure and service levels shall be determined for a ten (10) year time horizon for only the appropriate municipal funds.
 2. The fiscal impact analysis demonstrates no adverse impact upon the general community and the phasing of the master plan is consistent with the adopted strategic network of long range plans that identify the infrastructure and service needs for public works, parks, police and fire services.
 3. The cost of on site and off site master plan impacts on public facilities and services is not borne by the general community. In those situations where the master plan impacts are shown to exceed the capacity of existing public facilities and services, the applicant will demonstrate a means of increasing the capacity of the public facilities and services proportionate to the impact generated by the proposed master plan. Mitigation of on site and off site costs may include, but is not limited to, planned expansions to the facilities, amendments to the master plan, phasing of the master plan and/or special agreements related to construction and/or maintenance of infrastructure upgrades and/or service expansions. Any special agreements for mitigation of on site and off site impacts for public improvements, services and maintenance are shown to be workable and supported by financial assurances. Preexisting and/or anticipated capacity problems not attributable to the master plan shall be identified as part of the master plan review.
 4. Special agreements for public improvements and maintenance are shown to be workable and are based on proportional need generated by the master plan.
 5. Any proposed special districts are consistent with policies established by the City Council. (Ord. 84-221; Ord. 87-38; Ord. 91-30; Ord. 94-107; Ord. 97-109; Ord. 01-42; Ord. 02-51)

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7.5.501 (E): CONCEPT PLAN REVIEW CRITERIA:

- D. Concept Plan Review Criteria: A concept plan shall be reviewed using the criteria listed below. No concept plan shall be approved unless the plan complies with all the requirements of the zone district in which it is located, is consistent with the intent and purpose of this Zoning Code and is compatible with the existing and proposed land uses surrounding the site.
1. Will the proposed development have a detrimental effect upon the general health, welfare and safety or convenience of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the proposed development?
 2. Will the proposed density, types of land uses and range of square footages permit adequate light and air both on and off the site?
 3. Are the permitted uses, bulk requirements and required landscaping appropriate to the type of development, the neighborhood and the community?
 4. Are the proposed ingress/egress points, traffic circulation, parking areas, loading and service areas and pedestrian areas designed to promote safety, convenience and ease of traffic flow and pedestrian movement both on and off the site?
 5. Will the proposed development overburden the capacities of existing streets, utilities, parks, schools and other public facilities?
 6. Does the proposed development promote the stabilization and preservation of the existing properties in adjacent areas and surrounding residential neighborhoods?
 7. Does the concept plan show how any potentially detrimental use-to-use relationships (e.g., commercial use adjacent to single-family homes) will be mitigated? Does the development provide a gradual transition between uses of differing intensities?
 8. Is the proposed concept plan in conformance with all requirements of this Zoning Code, the Subdivision Code and with all applicable elements of the Comprehensive Plan? (Ord. 94-107; Ord. 01-42; Ord. 03-157; Ord. 09-78)

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7.5.603 (B): ESTABLISHMENT OR CHANGE OF ZONE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES:

- B: A proposal for the establishment or change of zone district boundaries may be approved by the City Council only if the following findings are made:
1. The action will not be detrimental to the public interest, health, safety, convenience or general welfare.
 2. The proposal is consistent with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan.
 3. Where a master plan exists, the proposal is consistent with such plan or an approved amendment to such plan. Master plans that have been classified as implemented do not have to be amended in order to be considered consistent with a zone change request.
 4. For MU zone districts the proposal is consistent with any locational criteria for the establishment of the zone district, as stated in article 3, "Land Use Zoning Districts", of this Zoning Code. (Ord. 94-107; Ord. 97-111; Ord. 01-42; Ord. 03-157)

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7.3.606: REVIEW CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

A PUD development plan for land within a PUD zone shall be approved if it substantially conforms to the approved PUD concept plan and the PUD development plan review criteria listed below. An application for a development plan shall be submitted in accord with requirements outlined in article 5, parts 2 and 5 of this chapter. Unless otherwise specified by a development agreement, the project shall be vested by the PUD development plan in accord with section 7.9.101 and subsection 7.5.504(C)(2) of this chapter.

- A. Consistency with City Plans: Is the proposed development consistent with the Comprehensive Plan or any City approved master plan that applies to the site?
- B. Consistency with Zoning Code: Is the proposed development consistent with the intent and purposes of this Zoning Code?
- C. Compatibility Of The Site Design With The Surrounding Area:
 - 1. Does the circulation plan minimize traffic impact on the adjacent neighborhood?
 - 2. Do the design elements reduce the impact of the project's density/intensity?
 - 3. Is placement of buildings compatible with the surrounding area?
 - 4. Are landscaping and fences/walls provided to buffer adjoining properties from undesirable negative influences that may be created by the proposed development?
 - 5. Are residential units buffered from arterial traffic by the provision of adequate setbacks, grade separation, walls, landscaping and building orientation?
- D. Traffic Circulation:
 - 1. Is the circulation system designed to be safe and functional and encourage both on and off site connectivity?
 - 2. Will the streets and drives provide logical, safe and convenient vehicular access to the facilities within the project?
 - 3. Will adequately sized parking areas be located to provide safe and convenient access, avoid excessive parking ratios and avoid expanses of pavement?
 - 4. Are access and movement of handicapped persons and parking of vehicles for the handicapped appropriately accommodated in the project design?
 - 5. As appropriate are provisions for transit incorporated?
- E. Overburdening Of Public Facilities: Will the proposed development overburden the capacities of existing and planned streets, utilities, parks, and other public facilities?
- F. Privacy: Is privacy provided, where appropriate, for residential units by means of staggered setbacks, courtyards, private patios, grade separation, landscaping, building orientation or other means?

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G. Pedestrian Circulation:

1. Are pedestrian facilities provided, particularly those giving access to open space and recreation facilities?
2. Will pedestrian walkways be functionally separated from vehicular ways and located in areas that are not used by motor vehicles?

H. Landscaping:

1. Does the landscape design comply with the City's landscape code and the City's landscape policy manual?
2. The use of native vegetation or drought resistant species including grasses is encouraged. The City's landscape policy manual or City Planning's landscape architect can be consulted for assistance.

I. Open Space:

1. Residential Area:

A. Open Space: The provision of adequate open space shall be required to provide light, air and privacy; to buffer adjacent properties; and to provide active and passive recreation opportunities. All residential units shall include well designed private outdoor living space featuring adequate light, air and privacy where appropriate. Common open space may be used to reduce the park dedication requirements if the open space provides enough area and recreational facilities to reduce the residents' need for neighborhood parks. Recreational facilities shall reflect the needs of the type of residents and proximity to public facilities.

B. Natural Features: Significant and unique natural features, such as trees, drainage channels, slopes, and rock outcroppings, should be preserved and incorporated into the design of the open space. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board shall have the discretion to grant park land credit for open space within a PUD development that preserves significant natural features and meets all other criteria for granting park land credit.

2. Nonresidential And Mixed Use; Natural Features: The significant natural features of the site, such as trees, drainage channels, slopes, rock outcroppings, etc., should be preserved and are to be incorporated into the design of the open space.

J. Mobile Home Parks: Does a proposed mobile home park meet the minimum standards set forth in the mobile home park development standards table in section 7.3.104 of this article? (Ord. 03-110; Ord. 03-190, Ord. 12-68)

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7.5.502 (E): DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW CRITERIA:

- E. Development Plan Review Criteria: A development plan shall be reviewed using the criteria listed below. No development plan shall be approved unless the plan complies with all the requirements of the zone district in which it is located, is consistent with the intent and purpose of this Zoning Code and is compatible with the land uses surrounding the site. Alternate and/or additional development plan criteria may be included as a part of an FBZ regulating plan.
1. Will the project design be harmonious with the surrounding land uses and neighborhood?
 2. Will the proposed land uses be compatible with the surrounding neighborhood? Will the proposed development overburden the capacities of existing streets, utilities, parks, schools and other public facilities?
 3. Will the structures be located to minimize the impact of their use and bulk on adjacent properties?
 4. Will landscaping, berms, fences and/or walls be provided to buffer the site from undesirable views, noise, lighting or other off site negative influences and to buffer adjacent properties from negative influences that may be created by the proposed development?
 5. Will vehicular access from the project to streets outside the project be combined, limited, located, designed and controlled to channel traffic to and from such areas conveniently and safely and in such a manner which minimizes traffic friction, noise and pollution and promotes free traffic flow without excessive interruption?
 6. Will all the streets and drives provide logical, safe and convenient vehicular access to the facilities within the project?
 7. Will streets and drives within the project area be connected to streets outside the project area in such a way that discourages their use by through traffic?
 8. Will adequately sized parking areas be located throughout the project to provide safe and convenient access to specific facilities?
 9. Will safe and convenient provision for the access and movement of handicapped persons and parking of vehicles for the handicapped be accommodated in the project design?
 10. Will the design of streets, drives and parking areas within the project result in a minimum of area devoted to asphalt?
 11. Will pedestrian walkways be functionally separated from vehicular traffic and landscaped to accomplish this? Will pedestrian walkways be designed and located in combination with other easements that are not used by motor vehicles?
 12. Does the design encourage the preservation of significant natural features such as healthy vegetation, drainage channels, steep slopes and rock outcroppings? Are these significant natural features incorporated into the project design? (Ord. 94-107; Ord. 95-125; Ord. 01-42; Ord. 02-64; Ord. 03-74; Ord. 03-157; Ord. 09-50; Ord. 09-78)