



Agenda
Planning Commission Workshop Meeting
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

Commission Members: Chair Maier, Vice-Chair Richardson, and Members Eadie, Mealer, Nicholson, and Townsend

Council Liaisons: Council Liaison: VanDyke
Council Liaison Alternate: Jones

Staff Liaison: Stevens

Regular Workshop - 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order/Attendance:

Agenda Items:

- I. Zoning Height Standards Discussion
 - Kerwin Jensen, Development Services Director

Adjournment

Richland City Hall is ADA accessible. Requests for sign interpreters, audio equipment, and/or other special services must be received 48 hours prior to the meeting by calling the City Clerk's Office at 509-942-7389.



PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 4/12/2023

Agenda Category: Agenda Items

Prepared By: Kerwin Jensen, Development Services Director

Subject:

Zoning Height Standards Discussion

Request:

Core Focus Area 3 - Increase Economic Vitality

Recommended Motion:

No formal recommendation is needed at this time.

Summary:

Affordable housing continues to be a subject that is being discussed throughout the state of Washington and also here in Richland and the Tri-Cities. This is a topic that the Richland City Council has discussed and expressed a need to further evaluate.

Staff would like to begin informal discussions with the Planning Commission relative to affordable housing and specifically about how changes in the height standards may play a role in creating ways to encourage more affordable housing construction.

Included with this staff report are the current height standards found in the City of Richland zoning code. Please come prepared to the Planning Commission meeting to discuss this topic.

Attachments:

1. Chapter 23.18 RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS
2. Chapter 23.22 COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICTS

7. RMC [23.42.300](#)
8. RMC [23.42.210](#)
9. RMC [23.42.050](#)
10. RMC [23.42.200](#)
11. RMC [23.42.250](#)
12. RMC [23.42.220](#)
13. RMC [23.18.020](#)(B)(4)
14. Accessory buildings and structures are subject to RMC [23.38.020](#) – [23.38.070](#)

[Ord. 28-05 § 1.02; Ord. 04-09; Ord. 07-19 § 5; Ord. 2022-19 § 3].

23.18.040 Site requirements for residential use districts.

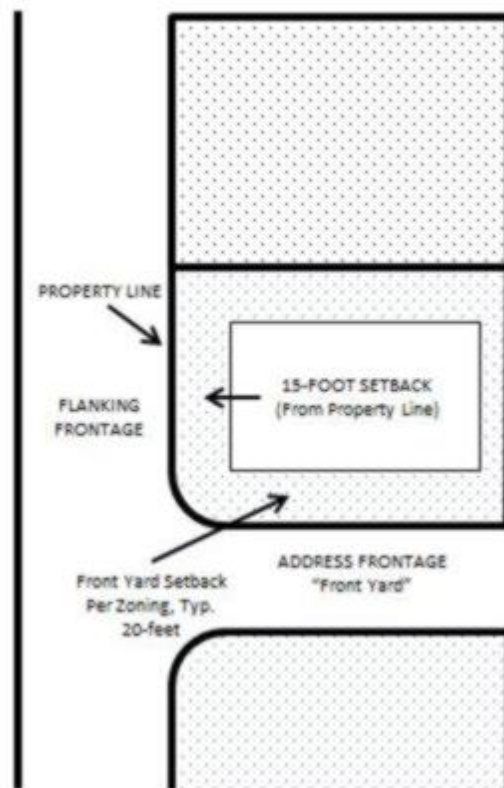
In the following chart, development standards are listed on the vertical axis. Zoning districts are listed on the horizontal axis. If a number appears in the box at the intersection of the column and row, that number represents the dimensional standard that applies to that zoning district.

Standard	R-1-12	R-1-10	R-2	R-2S	R-3
Minimum Lot Area Requirement – One-Family Detached Dwelling	10,000 feet ¹	8,000 feet	6,000 feet	4,000 feet	4,000 feet
Minimum Lot Area Requirement – Two-Family Detached Dwelling	N/A	N/A	10,000 feet	7,000 feet	7,000 feet
Minimum Lot Area Requirement – One-Family Attached Dwellings	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,000 feet	3,000 feet
Maximum Density – Multifamily Dwellings (Units/Square Foot)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1:3,000
Minimum Lot Width – One-Family Detached Dwelling	90 feet	70 feet	50 feet	42 feet	42 feet
Minimum Lot Width – Two-Family Detached Dwelling	N/A	N/A	70 feet	64 feet	64 feet
Minimum Lot Width – One-Family Attached Dwellings	N/A	N/A	N/A	30 feet	30 feet
Average Lot Size Requirement ²	12,000	10,000	None	None	None
Minimum Front Yard Setback ³	20 feet	20 feet	20 feet	15 feet/18 feet ⁴	20 feet ^{6,10}

Standard	R-1-12	R-1-10	R-2	R-2S	R-3
Minimum Side Yard Setback	10 feet	10 feet	6 feet	6 feet ⁵	6,10
Minimum Alley/Private Access Easement Setback	6 feet	6 feet	6 feet	6 feet	6 feet
Minimum Rear Yard Setback	25 feet	25 feet	25 feet	20 feet/3 feet ⁷	25 feet ^{6,10}
Maximum Lot Coverage ⁸	40%	40%	40%	50%	33%/45% ^{9,10}
Maximum Building Height – Main Building	30 feet	30 feet	30 feet	30 feet	40 feet ¹⁰
Maximum Building Height – Detached Accessory Buildings ¹¹	16 feet	16 feet	16 feet	16 feet	16 feet

1. The minimum lot size in existing residential neighborhoods shall be based on the mean average lot size of existing platted R-1-12 lots within a radius of 500 feet of the property proposed for subdivision. However, in no case shall the minimum lot requirement exceed 12,000 square feet, nor be less than 10,000 square feet.
2. Minimum average lot area per subdivision, exclusive of the area of streets and lots designated for nonresidential uses. In calculating average lot size, at least 35 percent of all lots shall be larger than the average lot size requirement.
3. Front yard setbacks are required from all street rights-of-way adjoining a lot as shown in the table above, except as follows:
 - a. In single-family residence districts and in R-2 and R-3 districts where more than 50 percent of the normal or average-size lots in a block fronting on one side of the street are developed with existing buildings, other than accessory buildings, with front yard setbacks less than that required for the district, a new single-family or duplex dwelling shall adopt a minimum front yard setback dimension which is the average of the setbacks of the buildings on the two adjoining lots, existing prior to July 22, 1960, but in no case shall this dimension be less than 15 feet nor need it exceed 30 feet.
 - b. Residential Districts. In any R district, or any combination therewith, on any corner lot where there is provided a side yard along the interior side lot line at least equal in width to the minimum depth of the rear yard required for the district, the main building may encroach upon the required rear yard up to a line where the remaining rear yard is no less in depth than the minimum width of the side yard required for the district. No accessory buildings may be located in said side yard, except a patio shelter enclosed on no more than two sides by walls or other enclosures and in conformity with the other provisions of this title.
 - c. The flanking frontage or nonaddress front yard of a corner lot may reduce the front yard setback of said frontage to 15 feet; see diagram below.
4. Front yards shall not be less than 15 feet in front of living areas, up to a maximum of 55 percent of the front lot line, and not less than 18 feet in front of all other areas.
5. Detached one-family or detached two-family dwellings shall have two side yards with each side yard having a width of not less than six feet. A nonattached side of an attached one-family dwelling shall have a side yard having a width of not less than six feet.
6. For multiple-family dwellings and other allowable uses other than one-family attached and one-family and two-family detached dwellings, front yards shall be 20 feet, side yards shall be equal to one foot of side yard for each three feet or portion thereof of building height, and rear yards shall be 25 feet, except as required by RMC [23.18.020\(B\)](#) when multifamily development is located adjacent to a single-family residential zoning district or development.

7. Rear yards shall be not less than 20 feet in back of living areas and three feet in back of garages or carports up to a maximum of 60 percent of the rear lot line for the garage or carport portion of the rear yard.
8. Lot coverage includes all buildings, including accessory buildings or structures on any lot in a residential district, exclusive of patios without roof coverings or patios with only open lattice or similar type roof construction.
9. Buildings in an R-3 district shall cover not more than 33 percent of the area of the lot except one-family attached dwellings, which may cover up to 45 percent of the area of the lot.
10. Setbacks, building heights, and lot coverage requirements for one-family attached, one-family detached and two-family detached dwellings in the R-3 zoning district shall be the same as those set forth for development in the R-2S zoning district.
11. Detached accessory structures built pursuant to the setback provisions of RMC [23.38.020](#) are limited to one story.



[Ord. 28-05 § 1.02; Ord. 04-09; Ord. 20-10 § 1.01; amended during 2011 recodification; Ord. 14-11 § 1.01; Ord. 32-11 § 3; Ord. 20-14 § 1.01].

23.18.050 Parking standards for residential use districts.

Off-street parking space shall be provided in all residential zones in compliance with the requirements of Chapter [23.54](#) RMC. [Ord. 28-05 § 1.02].

The Richland Municipal Code is current through Ordinance 2023-02, passed February 7, 2023.

Disclaimer: The City Clerk's office has the official version of the Richland Municipal Code. Users should contact the City Clerk's office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

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24. RMC [23.42.180](#)
25. RMC [23.18.025](#)
26. See definition, RMC [23.06.780](#).
27. RMC [23.42.185](#)
28. Activities permitted only when directly related to and/or conducted in support of winery operations.
29. Within the central business district (CBD), existing commercial laundry/dry cleaning uses, established and operating at the time the CBD district was established, are allowed as a permitted use. All use of the land and/or buildings necessary and incidental to that of the commercial laundry/dry cleaning use, and existing at the effective date of the CBD district, may be continued. Commercial laundry/dry cleaning uses not established and operating at the time the CBD district was established are prohibited.
30. RMC [23.42.325](#)

[Ord. 28-05 § 1.02; Ord. 15-07; Ord. 04-09; Ord. 07-10 § 1.02; amended during 2011 recodification; Ord. 32-11 § 5; Ord. 48-17 § 2; Ord. 07-19 § 6; Ord. 15-21 § 1, 2021; Ord. 2022-19 § 4].

23.22.040 Site requirements and development standards for commercial use districts.

In the following chart, development standards are listed on the vertical axis. Zoning districts are listed on the horizontal axis. The number appearing in the box at the intersection of the column and row represents the dimensional standard that applies to that zoning district.

Standard	C-LB	C-1	C-2	C-3	CBD	WF	CR	CW
Minimum Lot Area	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Maximum Density – Multifamily Dwellings (units:square feet)	1:1,500	N/A	N/A	N/A	None	1:1,000	N/A	N/A
Minimum Lot Width – One-Family Attached Dwellings	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30 feet	N/A	N/A
Minimum Front Yard Setback ¹⁴	20 feet	45 feet ¹	0 feet ²	0 feet ²	CBD, Parkway, Uptown Districts: 0 feet min. – 20 feet max. ^{3,11,13} Medical District: 0 feet min.	Note 4,5	Note 4	20 feet

Standard	C-LB	C-1	C-2	C-3	CBD	WF	CR	CW
Minimum Side Yard Setback	0 feet ⁶	0 feet ⁷	None	None	0 feet ^{6,8}	0 feet ^{5,9}	0 feet	0 feet ^{6,8}
Minimum Rear Yard Setback	0 feet ^{6,8}	0 feet ⁷	None	None	0 feet ^{6,8}	0 feet ^{5,8,10}	0 feet	0 feet ^{6,8}
Maximum Building Height ¹⁴	55 feet	30 feet	80 feet	80 feet	CBD: 110 feet Medical: 140 feet Parkway: 50 feet Uptown: 50 feet	35/55 feet ¹²	35/55 feet ¹²	35 feet
Minimum Dwelling Unit Size (in square feet, excluding porches, decks, balconies and basements)	500 feet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	500 feet	N/A	N/A

- Each lot shall have a front yard 45 feet deep or equal to the front yards of existing buildings in the same C-1 district and within the same block.
- No setback required if street right-of-way is at least 80 feet in width. Otherwise, a minimum setback of 40 feet from street centerline is required.
- Unless a greater setback is required by Chapter [12.11](#) RMC, Intersection Sight Distance.
- Front and Side Street. No building shall be closer than 40 feet to the centerline of a public right-of-way. The setback area shall incorporate pedestrian amenities such as increased sidewalk width, street furniture, landscaped area, public art features, or similar features.
- In the case of attached one-family dwelling units, setback requirements shall be as established for attached dwelling units in the medium-density residential small lot (R-2S) zoning district. Refer to RMC [23.18.040](#).
- In any commercial limited business (C-LB), central business (CBD) or in any commercial winery (CW) zoning district that directly abuts a single-family zoning district, the following buffer, setback and building height regulations shall apply to all structures:
 - Within the commercial limited business (C-LB), the central business district (CBD) and the commercial winery (CW) districts, buildings shall maintain at least a 35-foot setback from any property that is zoned for single-family residential use. Single-family residential zones include R-1-12 – single-family residential 12,000, R-1-10 – single-family residential 10,000, R-2 – medium-density residential, R-2S – medium-density residential small lot, or any residential planned unit development that is comprised of single-family detached dwellings.
 - Buildings that are within 50 feet of any property that is zoned for single-family residential use in commercial limited business (C-LB) and the commercial winery (CW) districts and buildings that are within 50 feet of any property that is zoned for and currently developed

with a single-family residential use in the central business district (CBD) (as defined in footnote (6)(a)) shall not exceed 30 feet in height. Beyond the area 50 feet from any property that is zoned for single-family residential use, building height may be increased at the rate of one foot in building height for each additional one foot of setback from property that is zoned for single-family residential use to the maximum building height allowed in the C-LB, CW and CBD zoning districts, respectively.

c. A six-foot-high fence that provides a visual screen shall be constructed adjacent to any property line that adjoins property that is zoned for single-family residential use, or currently zoned for and developed with a single-family residential use in the CBD district. Additionally, a 10-foot landscape strip shall be provided adjacent to the fence. This landscape strip may be used to satisfy the landscaping requirements established for the landscaping of parking facilities as identified in RMC [23.54.140](#).

d. In the C-LB and CW districts, a 20-foot setback shall be provided for any side yard that adjoins a street.

7. Side yard and rear yard setbacks are not required except for lots adjoining a residential development, residential district, or a street. Lots adjoining either a residential development or residential district shall maintain a minimum 15-foot setback. Lots adjoining a street shall maintain a minimum 20-foot setback. Required side or rear yards shall be landscaped or covered with a hard surface, or a combination of both. No accessory buildings or structures shall be located in such yards unless otherwise permitted by this title.

8. No minimum required, except parking shall be set back a minimum of five feet to accommodate required landscape screening as required under RMC [23.54.140](#).

9. Side Yard. No minimum, except parking shall be set back a minimum of five feet, and buildings used exclusively for residences shall maintain at least one foot of side yard for each three feet or portion thereof of building height. Side yards adjoining a residential district shall maintain setbacks equivalent to the adjacent residential district.

10. No minimum, except parking shall be set back a minimum of five feet. Rear yards adjoining a residential district shall maintain setbacks equivalent to the adjacent residential district.

11. Commercial developments such as community shopping centers or retail centers over 40,000 square feet in size and typically focused around a major tenant, such as a supermarket grocery, department store or discount store, and supported with smaller "ancillary" retail shops and services located in multiple building configurations, are permitted front and street side maximum setback flexibility for the largest building. Maximum setback standards on any other new buildings may be adjusted by the planning commission as part of the alternative design review as set forth in the performance standards and special requirements of RMC [23.22.020\(E\)\(9\)](#).

12. All buildings that are located in both the waterfront (WF) district and that fall within the jurisdictional limits of the Shoreline Management Act shall comply with the height limitations established in the Richland shoreline master program (RMC Title [26](#)). Buildings in the WF district that are not subject to the Richland shoreline master program shall not exceed a height of 35 feet, unless the planning commission authorizes an increase in building height to a maximum height of 55 feet, based upon a review of the structure and a finding that the proposed building is aesthetically pleasing in relation to buildings and other features in the vicinity and that the building is located a sufficient distance from the Columbia River to avoid creating a visual barrier.

13. Physical additions to existing nonconforming structures are not subject to the maximum front yard setback requirements.

14. The medical, uptown and parkway districts of the CBD zoning district are established as shown by Plates 23.22.040(1), (2) and (3).

PLATE NO. 1 - 23.22.040**PLATE 1****CBD - MEDICAL DISTRICT**

PLATE NO. 2 - 23.22.040

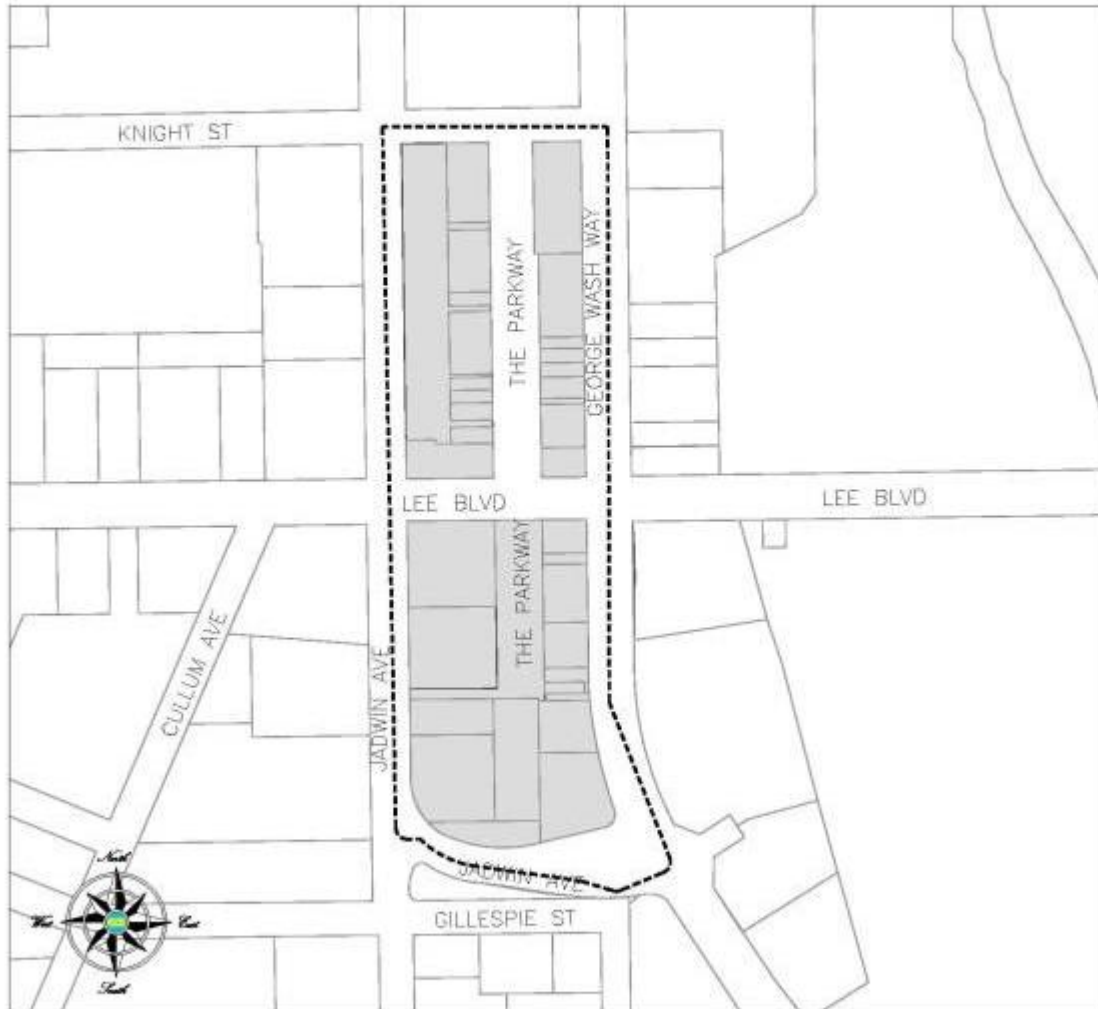
PLATE 2



CBD - UPTOWN DISTRICT

PLATE NO. 3 - 23.22.040

PLATE 3



CBD - THE PARKWAY DISTRICT

[Ord. 28-05 § 1.02; Ord. 04-09; Ord. 07-10 § 1.03; amended during 2011 recodification; Ord. 32-11 § 6; Ord. 13-21 § 1; Ord. 15-21 § 2, 2021].

23.22.050 Parking standards for commercial use districts.

A. Off-street parking space shall be provided in all commercial zones in compliance with the requirements of Chapter [23.54](#) RMC.

B. Central Business District Off-Street Parking. All uses have a responsibility to provide parking. The parking responsibility for any new use or change in use shall be determined in accordance with the requirements of Chapter [23.54](#) RMC. The maximum number of parking spaces provided on site shall not exceed 125 percent of the minimum required parking as specified in Chapter [23.54](#) RMC; provided, that any number of parking spaces beyond the established maximum may be approved by the planning commission subject to RMC [23.22.020](#)(E)(9) (Alternative Design).

1. The off-street parking requirement may be reduced as follows:

- a. The planning commission may reduce the parking responsibility as provided by RMC [23.54.080](#), joint use; and/or
- b. Within a 600-foot radius of the property, and within the CBD zoning district, a 25 percent credit will be provided for each on-street parking space and/or for each off-street parking space located in a city-owned public parking lot. The allowed combined reduction in required off-street parking shall not exceed 50 percent of the overall off-street parking requirement (including any reductions contained in RMC [23.54.080](#)). Example: one off-street space will be credited if four on-street spaces are located within 600 feet of the property. Parking space dimensions are found in RMC [23.54.120](#). Only those streets designated for on-street parking shall be considered for the credit. Curb cuts, driveways, hydrant frontages, and similar restricted parking areas shall be excluded from the calculation.

2. Any parking lot that has frontage on a public street or accessway shall be screened with a combination of trees planted at no less than 30 feet on center and shrubs planted to form a uniform hedge within five years. A masonry wall not lower than 18 inches and not higher than 36 inches may be substituted for the shrubs. The landscaping and masonry wall, if used, shall be at no greater setback than the maximum setback for a front or street side (RMC [23.22.040](#)). Masonry walls are subject to the performance standards found in RMC [23.22.020](#)(E), and must be granted approval by the public works director for compliance with vision clearance requirements for traffic safety before installation. [Ord. 28-05 § 1.02; Ord. 04-09; Ord. 07-10 § 1.02; amended during 2011 recodification].

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