

18.06.020 Purposes

A. The general purposes of this Chapter are as follows:

1. To provide appropriate commercial areas for retail and service establishments, neighborhood convenience and office uses required by residents of the City in a manner consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
2. To provide employment opportunities for existing and future residents of the City and those of adjacent communities.
3. To provide for land uses which meet the needs of and attract regional populations, in addition to local residents.
4. To provide adequate space to meet the needs of commercial development, including off-street parking and loading.
5. To protect commercial and adjacent areas from excessive noise, illumination, unsightliness, odor, smoke, and other objectionable influences.
6. To provide for an intensity of development and activity within commercial areas which will increase their vitality, facilitate mass transit, and make better use of available infrastructure.
7. To accommodate a balanced mix of commercial, residential, and recreational uses in commercial areas which will enable people to live, shop, work, and play within walking distance; thereby reducing dependence on motor vehicles and potentially reducing traffic congestion, energy consumption, and air pollution.
8. To establish standards for the development of commercial areas which will make them easily accessible and inviting for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders, as well as motorists.
9. To establish guidelines for the design of commercial areas which will improve their appearance, function, and appeal.

B. The purpose of each commercial district is as follows:

1. Community Retail District (CMR).

This district is intended to:

- a. Permit businesses which offer the most frequently needed consumer goods and services, in districts of sufficient size to provide a relatively wide range of such goods and services.
- b. Provide for site development standards which will achieve the clustering of buildings and/or business establishments in such fashion as to create a safe, convenient and attractive pedestrian environment, including access for transit riders and bicyclists, as well as safe and convenient parking and access.
- c. Allow for clustering of commercial services along urban arterials adjacent to residential neighborhoods, in order to reduce the amount of vehicular travel required of the consumer to acquire such goods and services.
- d. Allow for residential and mixed-use projects to increase the opportunities for people to live, work, shop, and recreate within walking distance.
- e. Not locate new community retail districts closer than three-fourths of a vehicular mile from one another, or

from any other district providing similar services or facilities.

2. Commercial Services - High Density District (CS-H).

This district is intended to:

- a. Allow limited commercial services that supplement or enhance activities on the capitol campus, not large-scale retail sales for regional markets.
- b. Allow high-density multifamily residences near the chief employment centers such as the Downtown Business District, the Capitol Campus, and the central waterfront.
- c. Be located where high land values and public necessity warrant this type of development.

3. Auto Services (AS) District.

This district is intended to:

- a. Encourage development of a regional center for auto sales and services and related uses.
- b. Discourage development incompatible with auto sales and services.

4. Urban Waterfront (UW) District.

This district is intended to:

- a. Integrate multiple land uses in the waterfront area of downtown and the West Bay in a way that improves the City's appeal and identity as the Capital City on Budd Inlet.
- b. Encourage high-amenity recreation, tourist-oriented, and commercial development which will enhance public access and use of the shoreline.
- c. Encourage development that protects views of Budd Inlet, the Olympics, Mt. Rainier, and the Capitol, and preserves a sense of openness on the waterfront.
- d. Encourage water-dependent and water-related development (as defined in the Shoreline Master Program for the Thurston Region) on shoreline properties and permit light manufacturing uses which support nearby industrial and marine related uses.
- e. Provide shoreline public access to significant numbers of the population, which is a major goal of the Shoreline Master Program for the Thurston Region. It is also the intent of this district to integrate the policies of the Shoreline Master Program for the Thurston Region into zoning designations applicable to waterfront properties. It is not the intent of this district, however, to make the restrictions of the Shoreline Master Program legally applicable outside the shoreline management zone.

5. Downtown Business District (DB).

This district is intended to:

- a. Encourage a wide range of activities which make downtown Olympia the cultural, civic, commercial, and employment heart of the community.
- b. Retain existing downtown housing and encourage additional development of a dense mix of urban housing

which is located near jobs, shopping, and transit.

- c. Provide a full range of urban services, tourism, recreation, and entertainment activities to support downtown workers, residents, and visitors.
- d. Encourage pedestrian-oriented land uses and design, in order to link downtown activity to the Capitol Campus and the waterfront, and to the gateways to the City.
- e. Permit development of a scale, height, and bulk which reinforces downtown Olympia's historic character, buildings, places, and street layout. Modern architecture is appropriate if it is consistent with the City's urban design vision.

6. General Commercial District (GC).

This district is intended to:

- a. Provide for those commercial uses and activities which are heavily dependent on convenient vehicular access.
- b. Encourage the location of such uses on sites having safe and efficient access to major transportation routes.
- c. Discourage extension of "strip" development by filling in available space in areas where substantial auto-oriented commercial development already exists.
- d. Provide development standards which enhance efficient operation of these districts, and lead to more pedestrian-oriented development.
- e. Achieve minimum adverse impact on the community, especially on adjacent properties having more restrictive development characteristics.

7. Medical Service District (MS).

This district is intended to:

- a. Allow the development of major and full-service health care facilities to serve a regional population.
- b. Permit the clustering of interrelated and complementary health care facilities.
- c. Permit limited types of nonmedical uses which provide convenience services primarily to medical facility users and employees.
- d. Allow relatively high density housing near medical facilities to help meet the needs of the large number of people employed there.
- e. Allow developments which will provide maximum convenience to medical facility users and employees, and an environment conducive to the healing arts. Incompatible land uses and traffic generated by uses other than those providing medical and related services are to be avoided.

8. Neighborhood Retail District (NR).

This district is intended to:

- a. Permit small retail establishments which offer a limited range of goods within a residential neighborhood.
 - b. Protect existing neighborhood retail districts and permit new establishments where local economic demand and appropriate design can assure compatibility with the neighborhood.
 - c. Be located not less than one-half (1/2) mile from another neighborhood retail district or any other commercial district providing similar services or facilities.
 - d. Have a maximum size for a Neighborhood Retail district of not more than one (1) acre.
 - e. Limit the size, scale and expansion of such establishments in order to minimize traffic volumes and congestion, and other adverse impacts on the neighborhoods in which said establishments are located.
 - f. Ensure that development in this district is characterized by small buildings, low traffic generation, considerable walk-in trade, quiet operations and little or no night activity.
9. Professional Office/residential Multifamily District (PO/RM).

This district is intended to:

- a. Provide a transitional area, buffering residential areas from more intensive commercial uses. Development within this district should be compatible with residential uses and generate low vehicular traffic characteristic of less intrusive uses.
 - b. Provide for a compatible mix of office, moderate- to high-density residential, and small-scale commercial uses, in order to provide opportunities for people to live, work, and recreate in a pedestrian-oriented area.
10. High Density Corridor-1 (HDC-1).

This district is intended to:

- a. Provide for a compatible mix of office, moderate to high-density multifamily residential, and small-scale commercial uses.
- b. Ensure that residential and mixed-use projects are built within walking distance to transit.
- c. Establish a street edge that is as continuous as possible with buildings which are close to the street and which have multiple floors, distinctive windows facing the street, and entrances that are visible from the street.
- d. Ensure that projects are designed, using a neighborhood area design theme in order to blend with the historic buildings in the corridor and the adjacent neighborhoods.
- e. Create a safe, convenient, and attractive environment for pedestrians, transit riders and bicyclists, and which includes parking and convenient access for vehicles.

11. High Density Corridor-2 (HDC-2).

This district is intended to:

- a. Provide for a compatible mix of office, medium intensity commercial and moderate to high-density multifamily residential uses.
- b. Ensure that residential and mixed-use projects are built within walking distance to transit.

- c. Establish a street edge that is as continuous as possible with buildings which are close to the street and which have multiple floors, distinctive windows facing the street, and entrances that are visible from the street.
- d. Ensure that projects (buildings) are designed, using a neighborhood area design theme in order to blend with the historic buildings in the corridor and the adjacent neighborhoods.
- e. Create a safe, convenient, and attractive environment for pedestrians, transit riders, and bicyclists, and which includes parking and convenient access for vehicles.

12. High Density Corridor-3 (HDC-3).

This district is intended to:

- a. Provide for a compatible mix of medium to high-intensity commercial, offices, and moderate to high-density multifamily residential uses.
- b. Ensure that access to transit is a part of all new projects.
- c. Establish a street edge that is as continuous as possible with buildings which are close to the street and which have multiple floors, distinctive windows facing the street, and entrances that are visible from the street.
- d. Create a safe, convenient, and attractive environment for pedestrians, transit riders, and bicyclists, and which includes parking and access for vehicles.

13. High Density Corridor-4 (HDC-4).

This district is intended to:

- a. Provide for a compatible mix of high-intensity commercial, offices, and high-density multifamily residential uses.
- b. Transform these areas to commercial and residential activity centers, over time.
- c. Ensure that access to transit is a part of new projects.
- d. Establish a street edge that is as continuous as possible with buildings which are close to the street and which have multiple floors, distinctive windows facing the street, and entrances that are visible from the street.
- e. Create a safe, convenient, and attractive environment for pedestrians, transit riders, and bicyclists, and which includes parking and access for vehicles.

14. Urban Waterfront - Housing District.

This district is intended to:

- a. Provide for a neighborhood of residential housing with the option of limited retail/commercial/office or other uses able to locate in a street edge storefront configuration.
- b. Help meet downtown housing and sustainability density goals, through the use of land for housing in a location, and at a density, that makes the use of a car a choice and not a necessity.
- c. Contribute to downtown vitality.

- d. Result in well designed buildings on continuous urban street edges.
- e. Increase resident surveillance and all day use of public spaces to increase safety and decrease vandalism or other security problems.
- f. Help the City achieve land use, transportation, environment, and housing goals.

(Ord. 7032 §6 (Exh. E), 2016; Ord. 6195 §16, 2002; Ord. 6073 §13, 2000; Ord. 5830 §2, 1998; Ord. 5569 §3, 1995; Ord. 5517 §1, 1995).