



CITY OF RICHLAND NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PUBLIC HEARING (PLN-T4-2025-00003)

The City of Richland is proposing to amend the Richland Municipal Code (RMC) Chapter 23.54, Off-Street Parking and Landscaping, to remove all minimum requirements for the number of off-street parking spaces required within the City.

Pursuant to Richland Municipal Code (RMC) Section 19.20 the Richland Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing and review of the proposed code amendment on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Richland City Hall Council Chambers, 625 Swift Blvd. All interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony at the public hearing.

Environmental Review: The proposal is subject to environmental review. The City of Richland is lead agency for the proposal under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and has reviewed the proposed project for probable adverse environmental impacts. A Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) was issued by the City on August 13, 2025 (PLN-T1-2025-00308).

Any person desiring to express his views or to be notified of any decisions pertaining to this application should notify Mike Stevens, Planning Manager, 625 Swift Blvd., MS-35, Richland, WA 99352. Comments may also be emailed to planning@ci.richland.wa.us. Written comments should be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 to be incorporated into the staff report. Comments received after that date will be entered into the record at the hearing.

Copies of the staff report and recommendation will be available on the City of Richland website www.ci.richland.wa.us beginning Thursday, September 18, 2025.

Comment Period Begins: September 2, 2025

WHEN RECORDED RETURN TO:

Richland City Clerk's Office
625 Swift Boulevard, MS-07
Richland, WA 99352

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-23

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND, WASHINGTON,
AMENDING CHAPTER 23.54 OF THE RICHLAND MUNICIPAL
CODE REGARDING OFF-STREET PARKING AND LANDSCAPING.**

WHEREAS, the City has need, from time to time, to amend the Richland Municipal Code (RMC) to bring it into alignment with best practices and Washington state law; and

WHEREAS, during the 2025 regular legislative session, the Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5184 ("SB 5184"), known as the Parking Reform and Modernization Act, mandating new limits pertaining to minimum off-street parking for certain types of land uses in cities with populations in excess of 30,000; and

WHEREAS, the City is required to come into compliance with SB 5184; and

WHEREAS, in addition to changes necessary to comply with new state law, the City intends to exceed the new limits established by SB 5184 by eliminating all existing references to minimum off-street parking requirements currently found in the Richland Zoning Code; and

WHEREAS, exceeding the standards set forth in SB 5184 serves the City's interests by implementing key policies of the City's adopted Comprehensive Land Use Plan, lowering housing costs by reducing land development expenses associated with off-street parking, eliminating unnecessary regulation of citizens, and increasing the relevance of public transportation services; and

WHEREAS, cities with populations in excess of 50,000 are required to implement the requirements of SB 5184 within 18 months of July 27, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2025, the Richland Planning Commission conducted a public hearing to receive testimony on the proposed code amendment; and

WHEREAS, on [Date], 2025, Richland City Council conducted a public hearing to receive testimony on the proposed code amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Richland as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 23.54 of the Richland Municipal Code, entitled Off-street parking and landscaping, as first enacted by recodification occurring through Ordinance No. 28-05, and last amended by Ordinance No. 10-21, is hereby amended as follows:

Chapter 23.54 OFF-STREET PARKING AND LANDSCAPING

Sections:

23.54.010 No minimum ~~Off~~-street parking required.

~~23.54.020 Standards and requirements.~~

~~23.54.030 Unspecified uses.~~

23.54.040 Motorcycles.

23.54.050 Bicycles.

23.54.055 Compact car spaces.

~~23.54.060 Mixed occupancies.~~

~~23.54.070 Joint use of parking facilities Continuance assured.~~

~~23.54.080 Joint use of parking facilities Spaces required.~~

23.54.090 Location of parking spaces.

23.54.100 Spaces lost for access.

23.54.110 Improvement of parking spaces.

23.54.120 Layout plan.

23.54.130 Loading and unloading.

23.54.140 Landscaping of parking facilities.

23.54.150 Adjustments of landscaping standards.

23.54.160 Perimeter landscaping of industrial facilities.

23.54.010 No minimum ~~Off~~-street parking required.

Except as provided herein, there is no required minimum number of off-street parking spaces required. ~~In all use districts space for the off street parking of vehicles shall be provided and improved for use in accordance with the following:~~

~~A. For all new construction and development, off-street parking shall be provided in accordance with the requirements set forth in this chapter.~~

~~B. When any existing building or use is enlarged, expanded or altered to effect an arrangement of space or use which increases the required number of spaces by more than 10 percent over the~~

number required by the building or use prior to the change or alteration, off-street parking shall be provided in accordance with the requirements set forth in this chapter; provided, that if the number of additional required parking spaces from any such enlargement, expansion or alteration is four or less, no additional off-street parking need be provided or improved.

23.54.020 Standards and requirements.

The minimum required parking spaces for the respective uses shall be as follows:

A.	Residential Uses	Number of Parking Stalls Required
1.	Single-family attached and detached dwellings, manufactured homes, condominiums and duplexes	2 spaces per dwelling unit.
2.	Multiple-family complexes Apartments, studio	1.5 spaces per dwelling unit. 1 space per dwelling unit.
3.	Housing for the elderly	1 space per 2 dwelling units.
4.	Rooming houses, boardinghouses and dormitories	1 space per person capacity.
5.	Hotels and motels	1 space/room, plus required space for any restaurant (1 space per 100 square feet of GFA*), plus 50% of required spaces for other associated uses.
B.	Institutional Uses	Number of Parking Stalls Required
1.	Elementary and middle schools	2 spaces for each classroom.
2.	High schools	8 spaces for each classroom.
3.	Colleges, universities and instructional facilities —adult	1 space per every 3 seats in classrooms.
4.	Day-care centers	2 spaces per staff person with a minimum of 4 spaces.
5.	Churches, mortuaries and funeral homes	1 space per 4 seats in the chapel or nave.
6.	Rest homes, nursing homes and convalescent centers	1 space per staff doctor plus 1 space for every 3 other staff plus 1 space per every 5 beds.
7.	Hospitals	1 space per staff doctor, plus 1 space for every 3 other staff members, plus 1 space for every 3 beds.
8.	Medical and dental clinics	1 space per 250 square feet of GFA.
C.	Office Uses	Number of Parking Stalls Required

1.	Banks, businesses or professional offices	1 space per 350 square feet of GFA less 3 spaces for each drive-through window up to a maximum reduction of 33% of the required spaces.
2.	Drive-through windows—banks	6 spaces per drive-through window (8' wide x 18' long) plus 1 service space and 1 exit space per window.
3.	Drive-through windows—nonbank and nonfood	1 service space per window plus 1 stacking space per window (8' wide x 18' long) plus 1 parking space per maximum number of on-duty employees.
D.	Commercial and Industrial Uses	Number of Parking Stalls Required
1.	Food stores, markets, drugstores, liquor stores, and designed shopping centers less than 3,000 square feet GFA (exclusive of basement areas)	1 space per 400 square feet of GFA.
2.	Food stores, markets, drugstores, liquor stores, and designed shopping centers more than 3,000 square feet GFA (exclusive of basement areas)	1 space per 300 square feet of GFA.
3.	Small appliance, personal service, hardware, household equipment, clothing and other retail stores	1 space per 400 square feet of GFA.
4.	Large appliance and furniture stores	1 space per 800 square feet of GFA.
5.	Wholesale stores, warehouses, storage buildings, motor vehicle or machinery sales	1 space per employee, with a minimum of 4 spaces.
6.	Service stations	1 space per employee, plus 1 space per service bay (bay not counted as a space), with a minimum of 4 spaces.
7.	Automobile laundries and car washes	2 spaces at the ingress and 2 spaces at the egress of each lane or washing bay.
8.	Self-service laundromat	1 space per 2 washing machines.
9.	Manufacturing	1 space per each 2 employees on the largest shift.
E.	Restaurant and Tavern Uses	Number of Parking Stalls Required
1.	Seated customers	1 space per 100 square feet of GFA.
2.	Take-out service	1 space per 100 square feet of GFA.
3.	Drive-in only	1 space per 50 square feet of GFA.

4.	Drive-in as fixed type of facility	1 space per 100 square feet of GFA.
5.	Drive-through	5 spaces per window with a minimum of 8 spaces.
F.	Places of Assembly and Recreational Facilities	Number of Parking Stalls Required
1.	Places of assembly, dance halls, skating rinks and exhibition halls without fixed seats	1 space per 150 square feet of GFA.
2.	Places of assembly, stadiums, sports arenas, auditoriums with fixed seats	1 space per 3 seats.
3.	Bowling alleys	5 spaces per each lane.
4.	Tennis, squash, handball, etc.	2 spaces per court.
5.	Swimming pools	1 space per 50 square feet of surface water area.
6.	Basketball and volleyball	6 spaces per court.
7.	Golf	7 spaces per green.
8.	Indoor not previously mentioned	1 space per 250 square feet of GFA.
9.	Outdoor not previously mentioned	1 space per 2,500 square feet of land area.

* ~~GFA = Gross Floor Area.~~

~~23.54.030 Unspecified uses.~~

~~In those instances where this title does not specify a parking requirement for a specific use, the administrative official shall establish the minimum requirement on a case by case basis. The applicant may be required to provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the parking demand for a specific use will be satisfied, based upon existing uses similar to the proposed use and other relevant factors including but not limited to required parking for the proposed use as determined by other comparable jurisdictions and based on available planning and technical studies. The administrative official may require the applicant to have a parking study for the proposed use prepared by a professional consultant with expertise in preparing traffic and parking demand analyses.~~

23.54.040 Motorcycles.

When ~~P~~parking spaces for motorcycles are provided: ~~shall be provided as follows:~~

~~A. All multiple family developments and nonresidential uses listed in RMC 23.54.020 shall provide one motorcycle space for every 25 required automobile spaces, with a minimum of one space.~~

~~B~~A. Each motorcycle space shall be easily accessible and have adequate space for a standard size motorcycle.

~~C~~B. Spaces shall be surfaced in accordance with RMC 23.54.110.

~~D. The normal automobile parking requirement may be reduced by one space for every three motoreyele spaces provided, up to a maximum reduction of five percent of the required spaces.~~

~~E~~C. Motorcycle parking areas shall be clearly identified with appropriate striping.

23.54.050 Bicycles.

Parking spaces for bicycles shall be provided as follows:

A. All commercial (office, retail, wholesale, warehousing), industrial, institutional, and recreational uses, except businesses whose main purpose is servicing automobiles, shall provide a minimum of five bicycle spaces, with an additional bicycle space for each 30 ~~required~~ parking stalls provided. Schools shall provide five spaces per elementary and junior high classroom, and two spaces per high school classroom.

B. Required bicycle parking spaces shall be located within 100 feet of the main entrance of a building, be well lit, and visible to pedestrians and bicyclists.

~~B~~C. Devices shall be provided to which bicycles can be securely locked.

~~C~~D. Spaces shall be easily accessible, large enough to park a full sized 10-speed bicycle when other bicycles are present, have a durable and dust-free surface, graded and drained, and be maintained in a trash-free manner.

~~D~~E. Spaces shall be adequately illuminated during normal hours of operation.

23.54.055 Compact car spaces.

Any parking lot of four or more spaces may have 25 percent of the provided ~~required~~ spaces marked for compact cars. Compact car spaces for commercial developments must be no less than nine feet wide and 15 feet long. Multifamily development compact car spaces must be no less than be seven and one-half feet wide and 15 feet long. In addition to the dimension standards of this section, all compact car spaces must have adequate back-up space to efficiently and safely negotiate the parking area.

~~23.54.060 Mixed occupancies.~~

~~In the case of mixed uses, the total requirements for off-street parking facilities shall be the sum of the requirements for the various uses computed separately. Off-street parking facilities for one use shall not be considered as providing required facilities for any other use except as hereinafter specified for a joint use.~~

~~23.54.070 Joint use of parking facilities—Continuance assured.~~

~~Two or more properties may jointly use a common parking facility, provided said facility is jointly owned or otherwise secured by easement or other sufficient legal document that assures continuance of the joint use of said facility.~~

~~23.54.080 Joint use of parking facilities—Spaces required.~~

~~For joint use of parking facilities, the total number of required spaces may be reduced by 10 percent. The number may be reduced by a total of 25 percent with the approval of the board of adjustment. Under the following circumstances, further reduction may be made:~~

~~A. No more than 50 percent of the parking spaces required for a theater, church, bowling alley, dance hall, bar, restaurant, or other enterprise which is primarily a nighttime or Sunday use may be supplied by the off-street parking spaces allocable to certain other types of uses specified under RMC 23.54.020.~~

~~B. No more than 50 percent of the parking spaces required for a bank, business office, retail store, personal service shop, household equipment or furniture shop, or other enterprise which is primarily a daytime and non-Sunday use may be supplied by the off-street parking spaces allocable to certain nighttime or Sunday uses.~~

~~Application to the board of adjustment for more than 10 percent reduction shall be by letter, stating the reasons for the request.~~

23.54.090 Location of parking spaces.

Provided ~~Required~~ off-street parking spaces shall be located as follows:

A. For any type of dwelling: on the same lot with the building to be served.

B. For any other use except one served by an approved joint-use parking facility: on the same lot with, or not more than 500 ~~300~~ feet from, the building or use to be served.

C. For a use served by an approved joint-use parking facility: on the same lot with, or not more than 800 feet from, the building or use to be served.

D. For a planned shopping center: in the location or locations contemplated by the general overall layout scheme for said center at ultimate development (e.g., peripheral parking).

23.54.100 Spaces lost for access.

In situations where parking spaces attributed to one use become the official means of access to another use, the latter use shall, as a condition of site or building plan approval, provide a number of spaces equal to the number rendered unusable. Such spaces shall be in addition to the number required for the new use, and the allocation shall be documented in a manner satisfactory to the administrative official.

23.54.110 Improvement of parking spaces.

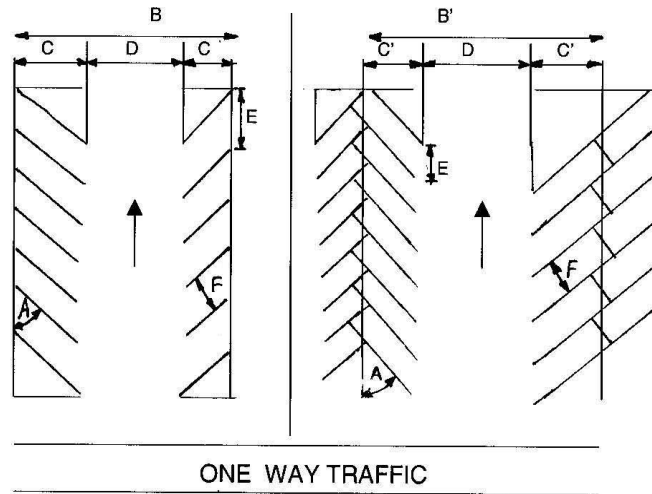
Any parking facility for four or more vehicles shall be improved in accordance with the following requirements:

- A. Off-street parking facilities; including but not limited to a parking, loading, circulation area, aisle, or driveway shall be surfaced with Portland cement, asphaltic concrete, or other approved hard surface in order to provide a ~~durable and~~ dust-free parking surface; and shall be graded and drained so as to dispose of surface water to the satisfaction of the city engineer; and shall be maintained in good condition free of weeds, dust, trash, and debris. Applicants are encouraged to consider use of permeable surfaces as a means to reducing storm water runoff. Hard surface materials other than concrete and asphalt may be permitted and are subject to additional review and prior approval by the Zoning Administrator. ~~Nonemployee parking areas shall be paved and all such spaces shall be delineated by striping as shown in attached Plate 3 which is set forth at the end of this section.~~
- B. Any lighting used to illuminate any off-street parking facility shall be so arranged as to reflect light away from any residential adjoining premises.
- C. No more than two feet six inches of overhang beyond a wheel stop may be counted as part of a parking space. Said overhang shall not interfere with landscaping or decrease the clear width of a sidewalk to less than four feet by its encroachment.
- D. Off-street parking area layout and dimensions shall be not less than as shown by Plates 1, 2 and 3, which are set forth at the end of this section. Exits and entrances shall be approved by the administrative official.
- E. Except for parking spaces or other vehicle use areas under, on, or within buildings, and areas serving single-family and two-family uses, off-street parking facilities shall be landscaped in accordance with RMC 23.54.140.

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PLATE 1 - 23.54.110

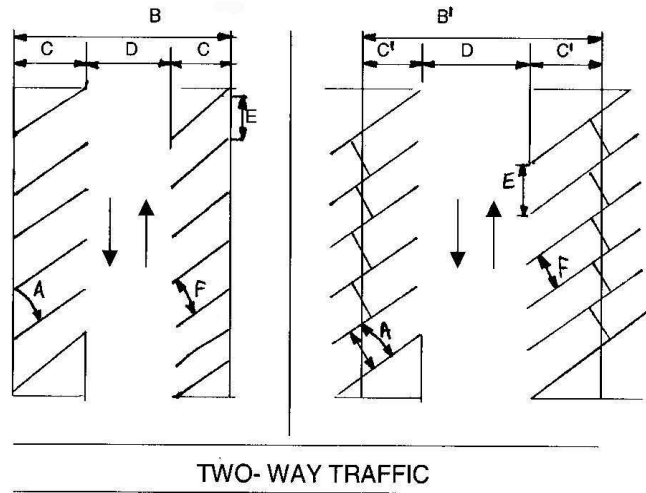
PLATE 1



A Parking Angle (Degrees)	B Parking Section Width	C Parking Bank Width	D Traffic Aisle Width	E Curb Length Per Car	F Car Stall Width	B1 Parking Section Width	C1 Parking Bank Width
0	30'	9'	12'	20'	9'	30'	9'
35	49.6'	18.8'	12'	15.8'	9'	42.4'	15.2'
40	51.2'	19.6'	12'	14.1'	9'	44.6'	16.3'
45	53.2'	20.6'	12'	12.7'	9'	46.6'	17.3'
50	54.6'	21.3'	12'	11.7'	9'	48.4'	18.2'
55	56.2'	21.6'	13'	10.9'	9'	51'	19.0'
60	58.8'	21.9'	15'	10.4'	9'	54.2'	19.6'
65	61.0'	22'	17'	9.9'	9'	57'	20.0'
70	62.8'	21.9'	19'	9.6'	9'	59.6'	20.3'
90	64.0'	20.0	24'	9.0'	9'	--	--

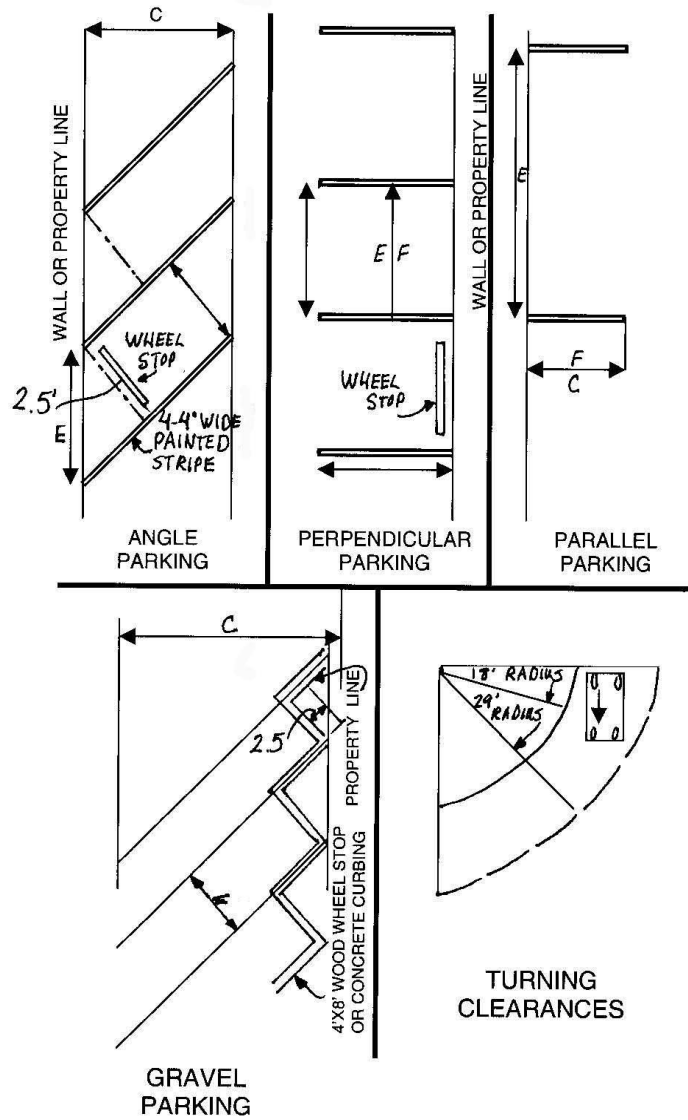
PLATE 2 - 23.54.110

PLATE 2



A	B	C	D	E	F	B1	C1
0	38'	9'	20'	20'	9'	38'	9'
35	57.6'	18.8'	20'	15.8'	9'	50.4'	15.2'
40	59.2'	19.6'	20'	14.1'	9'	52.6'	16.3'
45	61.2'	20.6'	20'	12.7'	9'	54.6'	17.3'
50	62.6'	21.3'	20'	11.7'	9'	56.4'	18.2'
55	63.2'	21.6'	20'	10.9'	9'	58'	19.0'
60	63.8'	21.9'	20'	10.4'	9'	59.2'	19.6'
65	64.0'	22'	20'	9.9'	9'	60'	20.0'
70	63.8'	21.9'	20'	9.6'	9'	60.6'	20.3'
90	64.0'	20.0	24'	9.0'	9'	--	--

PLATE 3



23.54.120 Layout plan.

Prior to the issuance of a permit for any commercial, multiple-family, industrial, public or semipublic building or use, an engineered plan prepared by a licensed civil engineer or licensed architect showing the proposed and existing building or buildings; the layout, dimension and number of parking spaces; and any required landscaping of the lot area, including that required for an off-street parking facility, shall be submitted to and approved by the City Engineer and Zoning Administrator. ~~administrative official.~~

Any landscape plan submitted pursuant to this section shall be in conformance with the requirements of RMC 23.54.140 and shall be prepared by a licensed architect or licensed landscape architect. Said plans shall be drawn to scale, including dimensions and distances, and shall clearly delineate the existing and proposed parking spaces, other vehicle use areas, access aisles, driveways, irrigation systems (sprinklers or water outlet locations), and the name of each plant species (both specific and common name), the location, size and description (including the height and spread of crown at maturity of trees and shrubs) of all landscape materials to be installed or, if existing, to be maintained in accordance with the requirements of RMC 23.54.140. A landscape plan prepared under this section shall be submitted to and approved by the Zoning Administrator.

23.54.130 Loading and unloading.

On every lot in a commercial or industrial district, and on every lot in any district on which is conducted any hotel, public or semipublic use, there shall be provided space, either inside or outside a building, for the loading and unloading of goods and materials. Such space shall be not less than 10 feet in width, 25 feet in length, nor less than 15 feet in height when covered. Such space shall be provided with access to an alley or a street.

23.54.140 Landscaping of parking facilities.

The purpose of landscaping requirements for parking facilities is to protect and promote the public health, safety, and general welfare by reducing wind and air turbulence, heat and noise, and the glare of automobile lights; to act as a natural drainage system and ameliorate stormwater drainage problems; to reduce the level of carbon dioxide and return pure oxygen to the atmosphere; to prevent soil erosion; to provide shade; to conserve and stabilize property values and to otherwise facilitate the creation of a convenient, attractive and harmonious community; to relieve the blighted appearance of parking facilities; and to generally preserve and promote a healthful and pleasant environment.

A. Design Criteria. Landscape areas shall be located in such a manner as to divide and break up the large expanses of pavement; divide and define driveways, parking stalls and corridors; limit cross-taxiing; delineate and separate pedestrian and vehicular traffic and screen parking facilities from abutting properties. Planting areas and landscaping shall be reasonably dispersed throughout the parking lot with the interior dimensions of such areas being sufficient to protect the landscaping materials planted therein and to ensure proper growth. The primary landscaping materials used shall be trees, which provide shade or are capable of providing shade at maturity. Shrubbery, hedges and other planting materials shall be used to complement the tree landscaping, but shall

not be the sole contribution to the landscaping. Effective use of earth berms and existing topography is encouraged as a component of the landscape plan. [Use of native shrub steppe plantings for required landscaping will satisfy these design criteria if the resulting product satisfies Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife standards for Priority Habitat.](#)

B. Interior Coverage. A minimum of five percent of the interior of a parking facility shall be landscaped. Landscaping which is required for screening along the perimeter of any lot and border plantings adjacent to buildings upon which a parking lot abuts shall not be considered as part of the interior coverage requirements. Parking spaces abutting a perimeter for which landscaping is required by other requirements of this section shall not be considered as a part of the interior of the parking facility.

1. For off-street parking facilities providing 10 or fewer parking stalls as required by RMC 23.54.020, and in areas zoned for industrial use, the interior coverage requirements stated herein shall not apply.
2. Any interior landscape area shall contain a minimum of 50 square feet, shall have a minimum dimension of at least five feet, and shall include at least one tree with the remaining area adequately landscaped with shrubs, ground cover or other approved landscaping materials not to exceed three feet in height.
3. Trees shall number not less than one for each 100 square feet of required interior coverage.

C. Perimeter Coverage Adjacent to Abutting Properties. A minimum landscape strip of five feet in width shall be required along any side of a parking facility that abuts adjoining property that is not a public right-of-way when such facilities will not be entirely screened visually by an intervening building or structure; provided, that when such parking facility abuts and is designed in coordination with a parking facility on the adjoining property such landscape strip shall not be required abutting such adjoining parking facility; and provided further, that in areas zoned for industrial use, the perimeter coverage requirements stated herein shall not apply.

1. Perimeter landscape strip shall be planted or installed with a wall, hedge, or other durable landscape barrier to form a continuous screen between the parking facility and abutting property. The height of any such barrier shall be not less than three feet and no more than six feet.
2. Trees shall also be planted for each 40 linear feet and shall have at least 25 square feet of planting area.
3. Where a proposed parking facility abuts an existing hedge, wall or other durable landscape barrier on an abutting property, said existing barrier may be used to satisfy the landscape barrier requirements of this subsection; provided, that said existing barrier meets all applicable standards of this section.

D. Perimeter Coverage Adjacent to Public Right-of-Way. A minimum landscape strip of 10 feet in width shall be required along any side of a parking facility that abuts a public right-of-way, excluding dedicated alleys; provided, that in areas zoned for industrial use, the perimeter coverage requirements stated herein shall not apply.

1. Perimeter landscape strip shall be planted or installed with a wall, hedge, or other durable landscape barrier of at least three feet in height which shall be placed along the parking facility side of such landscape strip.
2. If such a durable barrier is of nonliving material, one shrub for each 10 linear feet shall be planted along the street side of such barrier; provided, that if the shrubs are of sufficient height at the time of planting to be readily visible over the top of such barrier, they may be planted along the parking facility side of such barrier. The remainder of the landscape strip shall be landscaped with ground cover or other approved landscape treatment excluding pavement.
3. At least one shrub for each 50 square feet shall be provided.
4. Trees shall also be planted for each 30 linear feet or portion thereof and shall have at least 50 square feet of planting area.
5. No tree, as measured from its center, shall be located within 10 feet of a street light standard, or within five feet of a fire hydrant, a vehicular driveway, or a public sidewalk.

E. Landscaping Material. Landscaping materials used to achieve the design criteria in conformance with provisions of this section shall conform to the following standards:

1. Trees shall be species having an average mature spread of crown of greater than 15 feet and shall be a minimum of six to eight feet in height and have a diameter at breast height (dbh) caliper of at least one and one-half inches at planting. Diameter at breast height is measured at four and one-half feet from average grade within six feet of the tree trunk so as not to include mounding at the tree base. Trees having an average mature spread of crown less than 15 feet may be substituted by grouping the same so as to create the equivalent of a 15-foot crown spread. Tree species whose roots are known to cause damage to public roadways or other public works shall not be planted closer than 12 feet to such public works, unless the tree root system is completely contained within a barrier being a minimum of five feet deep and five feet wide.
2. Shrubs shall be a minimum of two feet in height when measured immediately after planting.
3. Hedges shall be planted and maintained so as to form a continuous, unbroken, solid, and visual screen within a maximum of two years after time of planting.
4. Vines shall be a minimum of 30 inches in height immediately after planting and may be used in conjunction with fences, screens or walls to meet physical barrier requirements as specified in this section.

5. Lawn grass shall be planted in species normally grown as permanent lawn in Benton County. Grass areas may be sodded, plugged, sprigged or seeded, except that solid sod shall be used in swales or other areas subject to erosion; and provided, that in areas where other than solid sod or grass seed is used, nurse grass seed shall be sown for immediate effect and protection until coverage is otherwise achieved.

6. Ground covers used in lieu of grass shall be planted or installed in such a manner as to present a finished appearance, and if of living material, shall complete coverage within 12 months after planting.

~~F. Coverage Transfer to Public Right-of-Way. For sites where landscaping coverage of a public right-of-way would comply with the general intent and standards of this section, the transfer of the area requirements, or a portion thereof, from within the property line to the public right-of-way may be approved by the city; provided, that the area measurement shall not be less than that required by, and shall comply with, all other design standards and requirements of this section; and further provided, that a revocable permit for use of the right-of-way shall be secured from the city by the owner of the site by stipulating full financial responsibility for costs of movement, replacement and relocation should such permit be revoked by the city.~~

~~FG. Driveway and Street Intersections. To ensure that landscape materials do not constitute a safety hazard, a vision clearance triangle (VCT) shall be provided at all intersections of public rights-of-way and driveways in accordance with Ch. 12.11 RMC. Within this VCT area unobstructed cross-visibility at a level between three feet and 10 feet shall be provided. However, trees having limbs or foliage trimmed, except during early growth stages, so as to not extend into the VCT area shall be allowed. Landscaping material shall not be located closer than four feet from the edge or top of the curb line or driveway apron, except for required ground cover. The VCT for said intersections shall be as follows:~~

- ~~1. At intersections of public rights-of-way the VCT shall be formed by measuring 20 feet along each property line from the intersection and connecting the end point of such lines formed by such measurement.~~
- ~~2. At intersections of driveways with public rights-of-way the VCT shall be formed by measuring 10 feet along the property line and the driveway apron or top of the curb lines and connecting the end point of such lines formed by such measurement.~~

~~GH. Curbing. In order to protect the landscaping materials planted and to ensure proper growth, all planter areas shall be separated from contiguous property, including parking stalls, by curb stops. Such curb stops shall be of Portland cement or shall otherwise conform to Standard Specifications for Municipal Public Works Construction (APWA Standards), or shall be approved by the city engineer.~~

~~HI. Installation. All landscaping shall be installed in a workmanlike manner and according to accepted good planting procedures. All elements of landscaping, exclusive of plant material other than hedges, shall be installed so as to meet all other applicable ordinances and code requirements.~~

IJ. Maintenance. The owner, tenant or duly authorized agent, if any, shall be responsible for the maintenance of all landscaping required pursuant to this section. Such landscaping shall be maintained in good condition so as to present a neat and orderly appearance; shall be kept free from refuse and debris; and living landscape material shall be kept alive and in a healthy condition. If an underground irrigation system is not provided, all landscaped areas shall be provided with a readily available water supply with at least one outlet located within 150 feet of all plant material to be maintained.

1. The administrative official shall inspect all landscaping and no certificates of occupancy or similar authorization will be issued unless the landscaping meets the requirements herein provided.

2. In those cases where landscaping cannot be safely installed due to the time of year without jeopardizing living landscape material, or for other good cause, a temporary certificate of occupancy may be issued for a period of six months; provided, that the property owner, lessee, or duly authorized agent shall furnish satisfactory assurances guaranteeing installation of the approved landscaping.

JK. Landscaping of Existing Lots. Any reconstruction of a building or structure or lot area, including off-street parking facility, consisting of increases of 50 percent or greater of the existing building lot area or parking facility shall be subject to the standards specified herein. In such cases, the existing parking facility, as well as any new facility, shall be improved in accordance with the standards stated herein; provided, that:

~~1. A sufficient period of time, but no longer than three years, shall be allowed to bring existing development into compliance with the standards stated herein.~~

12. In instances where existing parking spaces are used to achieve compliance, the parking facility shall be considered to comply with the parking standards and requirements of RMC 23.54.020; provided, however, that no more than 10 percent of the total number of required spaces may be removed for purposes of providing landscape areas.

23. No alteration of existing building nor acquisition of additional land to increase the lot area shall be required in order to bring the property into compliance with the landscaping requirements herein.

23.54.150 Adjustments of landscaping standards.

Where literal interpretation of the provisions of RMC 23.54.140 or special conditions or circumstances exist which would create a hardship in the development and/or maintenance of the landscaping, or where easements, pedestrian ways, trail systems, existing vegetation, continuity of design concepts within a zoning district, parking design, emergency vehicle access, or other matters of public design, safety or welfare would be promoted, the administrative official may adjust the provisions of RMC 23.54.140, provided it is determined that such an adjustment will not be contrary to the public interest and will be in keeping with and preserve the intent of RMC 23.54.140.

A. An application for adjustment of landscaping requirements shall be filed on forms prescribed by the city, executed and sworn to by the owner or tenant of the property concerned or by duly authorized agents. Such application shall clearly and in detail state what adjustment of requirements are being requested and the reasons such adjustments are warranted, and shall be accompanied with such supplementary data, such as sketches, surveys and statistical information as is deemed necessary to substantiate the adjustment.

B. Any decision of the administrative official, under this section, may be appealed by the applicant to the board of adjustment. Such an appeal shall be heard by the board of adjustment in accordance with RMC 23.70.070.

23.54.160 Perimeter landscaping of industrial facilities.

Plans for construction and development of new uses on parcels of land zoned industrial (I-M, and M-2) pursuant to the city's zoning ordinance shall include, along with other required plans, a landscaping plan that at a minimum sets forth landscape treatment adjacent to all public rights-of-way.

A. Landscape Plan Requirements. A landscaping plan, drawn to scale, shall include the following information:

1. Property boundaries;
2. Location of existing and proposed buildings and uses;
3. Driveway intersections with streets;
4. Location of plantings;
5. Common and scientific names of plantings;
6. Size and description of plantings, height and caliper at planting, and spread of crown at maturity for trees; and
7. Location of underground sprinklers.

B. Minimum Design Criteria. A landscape strip shall be located adjacent to all public rights-of-way in that portion of the parcel on which construction or development is proposed and shall meet the following minimum criteria:

1. The landscape strip shall be a minimum of 10 feet in width.
2. One tree is required for each 40 linear feet or portion thereof of the required landscape strip, and each tree shall have at least 50 square feet of planting area. Trees shall be planted in a balanced manner throughout the required landscape strip but are not required to be planted on 40-foot centers.

3. No tree, as measured from its center, shall be located within 10 feet of a street light standard, or within five feet of a fire hydrant, a vehicular driveway, or a public sidewalk.

4. In addition to the required trees, the entire landscape strip shall, at a minimum, include landscape cover of decorative rock, bark, or similar treatment. Vegetative cover of lawn, low-lying shrubs, or flowers are encouraged.

5. Landscape areas shall be provided with an underground irrigation system capable of sustaining the required trees and other planted vegetation. Low water consumptive landscape techniques are encouraged.

C. Landscaping Material. Landscaping materials used to achieve the design criteria set forth in this section shall conform to the following standards:

1. Trees shall be species having an average mature spread of crown of greater than 15 feet and shall be a minimum of eight feet overall height and a one-and-one-half-inch caliper immediately after planting. Trees having an average mature spread of crown less than 15 feet may be substituted by grouping the same so as to create the equivalent of a 15-foot crown spread. Tree species whose roots are known to cause damage to public roadways or other public works shall not be planted closer than 12 feet to such public works, unless the tree root system is installed within an approved root barrier.

2. Lawn grass shall be planted in species normally grown as permanent lawn in Benton County. Grass areas may be sodded, sprigged, or seeded, except that solid sod shall be used in swales or other areas subject to erosion.

D. Installation. All landscaping shall be installed in a workmanlike manner and according to accepted good planting procedures. Trees shall be staked on planting to avoid disturbance by wind and shall remain staked for a minimum of one year after planting.

E. Coverage Transfer to Public Right-of-Way. For sites where landscaping coverage of a public right-of-way would comply with the general intent and standards of this section, the transfer of the area requirements, or a portion thereof, from within the property line to the public right-of-way may be approved by the city; provided, that the area measurement shall not be less than that required by, and shall comply with, all other design standards and requirements of this section; and further provided, that a revocable permit for use of the right-of-way shall be secured from the city by the owner of the site by stipulating full financial responsibility for costs of movement, replacement, and relocation should such permit be revoked by the city.

F. Driveway and Street Intersections. To ensure that landscape materials do not constitute a safety hazard, a vision clearance triangle (VCT) shall be provided at all intersections of public rights-of-way and driveways. Said VCT shall comply with all provisions of Chapter 12.11 RMC, Intersection Sight Distance.

G. Maintenance. The owner, tenant, or duly authorized agent, if any, shall be responsible for the maintenance of all landscaping required pursuant to this section. Such landscaping shall be maintained in good condition so as to present a neat and orderly appearance; shall be kept free from refuse and debris; and living landscape material shall be kept alive and in a healthy condition. Landscaping shall at all times be maintained in a manner consistent with the vehicular sight distance requirements of subsection (F) of this section.

1. The administrative official shall inspect all landscaping and no certificates of occupancy or similar authorization will be issued unless the landscaping meets the requirements herein provided.

2. In those cases where landscaping cannot be installed due to the time of year without jeopardizing living landscape material, or for other good cause, a temporary certificate of occupancy may be issued for a period of six months; provided, that the property owner, lessee, or duly authorized agent shall furnish satisfactory assurances guaranteeing installation of the approved landscaping.

H. Adjustment of Landscaping Standards. Adjustments from the specific requirements of this section shall be reviewed and approved in accordance with the provisions of RMC 23.54.150.

I. Landscaping of Developed Industrial-Zoned Property. On developed industrially zoned properties whenever any structure(s) is altered, expanded or reconstructed in a manner which increases the total gross floor area of structure(s) located on the lot by 50 percent or more ~~over what existed on March 21, 1994~~, or whenever a change of use occurs to an existing structure or facility which increases the required number of parking stalls by 50 percent or more over what was required of the prior use, landscaping of the lot shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

1. The square footage of landscaped area provided pursuant to this subsection shall be the same as would be required if a new facility were constructed on the parcel.

2. Landscaping shall be located on the property in accordance with provisions for new industrial facilities. In those instances where existing structures and/or pavement preclude the location of the required landscaping adjacent to the street right-of-way as set forth for new facilities, landscaping shall be located on the lot in a manner that most closely meets the objectives of the landscaping requirements by providing an aesthetically appealing streetscape and providing for uniformity of appearance in the industrially zoned areas of the city.

3. No alteration of existing structures, acquisition of additional land, or removal of existing asphalt/concrete walks, drives or parking areas shall be required in order to bring the property into compliance with landscaping requirements herein.

J. A temporary exemption may be granted upon the filing and acceptance by the city of an application by any start-up business for a delay in installing required landscaping. This exemption

may be granted up to, but shall not exceed, four years. The following information must be provided by the applicant to the administrative official, to demonstrate:

1. The business has no more than three years of business history;
2. No more than one corporation may be an investor in the start-up business and that corporation cannot own more than 10 percent of the start-up business; and
3. The landscape ordinance imposes a financial burden on the start-up business such that deferral of the required landscaping would increase the likelihood of the new business's success. Criteria to establish this hardship must be provided to the above designated personnel and approval of the exemption shall not be unreasonably withheld. The determination of city staff shall be final.

Section 2. The City Clerk is directed to file with the Auditor of Benton County, Washington a copy of this Ordinance, duly certified by the Clerk as a true copy.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect the day following its publication in the official newspaper of the City of Richland.

Section 4. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Section 5. The City Clerk and the codifiers of this Ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this Ordinance, including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's errors/clerical errors, section numbering, references, or similar mistakes of form.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Richland, Washington, at a regular meeting on the ____ day of _____, 2025.

Theresa Richardson, Mayor

Attest:

Approved as to Form:

Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

Heather Kintzley, City Attorney

First Reading: _____

Second Reading: _____

Date Published: _____