



Design Framework



AT RAMSEY

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Design Framework – The COR

Purpose

The primary purpose of Design Framework is to set basic parameters, describe preferences and illustrate design intent. These framework standards serve as a framework within which creative design can and should occur – there is no one solution, but many options that meet the basic requirements of this document.

Application

The format and content of this framework are specifically tailored for use as a supplement to the Zoning Ordinance. This document is organized into two sections. The first section outlines issues and recommendations that apply to the entire COR. The second section highlights specific framework that apply to each sub-district within The COR.

Implied Responsibility

All participants in the development of The COR recognize the local and regional impacts of this project and the various systems that play an important role. Each parcel and each building must fit within the context of the entire plan. Individual projects must complement, not compete with, adjacent development in terms of public green space, walk and trail connections, stormwater management solutions, street layout, parking strategies, land use mix and building design.

Part One: Overall Framework

There are a number of framework that apply to the entire COR including recommendations for stormwater management, parks, streets, land use, parking, transit and other development components. Many of these overall COR framework overlap, or are integrated with one another. For ease of discussion they are categorized according to the same list of 'layers' that formed the basic structure for the Master Framework:

- Context – local, city, regional
- Street Hierarchy--access, circulation, arrangement
- Streetscape—preferred design, location
- Parking -- quantity, location, type
- Building Design-- preferred uses, horizontal/vertical mixed use, built form, character of development
- Signage—design, location, quantity, type
- Stormwater Management-- surface water features, stormwater management
- Parks/Public Spaces – parks, trails and open space

It is essential that proposed design solutions for development projects and other improvements within The COR demonstrate an understanding of the interplay between these layers.

Overall Framework - Context

Overview

The COR is a unique area within the City; but it is a part of, and connected with, a variety of local, city-wide and regional systems (See Figure 1). Each development project, whether a single building, one lot, or a series of blocks, must provide reasonable links to these systems as a primary design objective.

Guideline Recommendations

To ensure that The COR takes full advantage of local and regional systems, development should:

- Provide safe, easily recognized connections to city, county and state trail corridors
- Make provisions for city and regional transit service and amenities (including the Northstar Line) and encourage their use
- Tie into, and improve, the Ramsey utility network
- Integrate with and complement the existing (and future) street framework
- Become an integral part of the city and county drainage/stormwater management plan

Objectives

- Overall COR design (and all new private development within The COR) will accommodate stormwater from new projects and from off-site, and highlight stormwater features as an amenity
- Bikeways and pedestrian routes into The COR from adjacent neighborhoods must be designed for safety and ease of access, suggesting that a child on a bicycle has an equally accessible route to downtown.
- Parks and open space will be easily accessible to all COR residents, visitors, people who work here and also for the citizens of Ramsey and the surrounding area. This connected green system is reminiscent of the world renowned 'Grand Rounds' of Minneapolis.

Overall Framework – Street Hierarchy

Overview

The Development Master Plan defines a specific strategy for the layout of streets and blocks within, and around The COR. The size, type and configuration of this street hierarchy (See Figure 2) is based on a combination of projected traffic volume, level of service at intersections, proposed adjacent land use (destination commercial, residential, civic, recreation, etc.) and desired aesthetic character.

Great streets are essential components of an attractive and inviting public realm. These guidelines promote a street system that balances pedestrian and vehicular use. Providing streets that support traffic flow is important, but also creating ample space for street-side activities, strolling promenades, pockets of green and other amenities is critical to the success of The COR. Streets will promote convenient access by car – to storefronts, to parking lots and ramps, to entertainment attractions – but will also encourage foot traffic as a primary way to move about and conduct business in the core area.

Guideline Recommendations

The proposed street and block pattern reflects a compact urban character, not allowing dead end streets or cul-de-sacs, in favor of a traditional grid pattern and connected streets including the following:

- Provide a street network that distributes pedestrian and vehicular traffic throughout the various districts in The COR and encourages a more dispersed and less congested traffic flow (many choices or travel paths).
- Provide a clear hierarchy of streets resulting in a simple and understandable system for movement – easy access and convenient circulation throughout The COR.
- Convert primary perimeter streets (arterials such as Ramsey, Armstrong and Bunker Lake Boulevards) to urban street sections, providing sidewalks and street trees to replace roadside ditches.
- Promote improvements that invite pedestrian and bicycle use including wide sidewalks, streetscape amenities and designated bicycle trails (both on and off-street).



Objectives

Creative design solutions for public realm improvements should reflect these basic street classifications (street hierarchy) including:

- Arterial street – these streets provide the boundary of The COR and all access into The COR will be from one of these three streets:
 - Bunker Lake Boulevard
 - Armstrong Boulevard
 - Ramsey Boulevard
- Destination street – signature addresses for shopping, entertainment, services, work place and other primary amenities



- Sunwood Drive is the Destination street in The COR
- Parkway – premier ‘green streets’ adjacent to primary public park / green space
 - E. Ramsey Parkway
 - West Ramsey Parkway (east of the Sunwood roundabout)
 - Town Center Drive (north of the roundabout)
- Connector street – primary routes that link various districts within The COR, usually providing the most direct means of getting from point A to point B
 - Rhinestone Street
 - Zeolite Street
 - Civic Center Drive
- Downtown street – the most urban of street sections where high pedestrian traffic is intended and traffic calming measures such as on street parking, bump outs and other methods will be employed
 - Town Center Drive (south of the roundabout)
 - Sapphire Street
 - Other streets as shown on the Street Hierarchy Map
- Local street – neither destination nor primary connector routes, these streets provide much of the rest of the street grid throughout The COR.



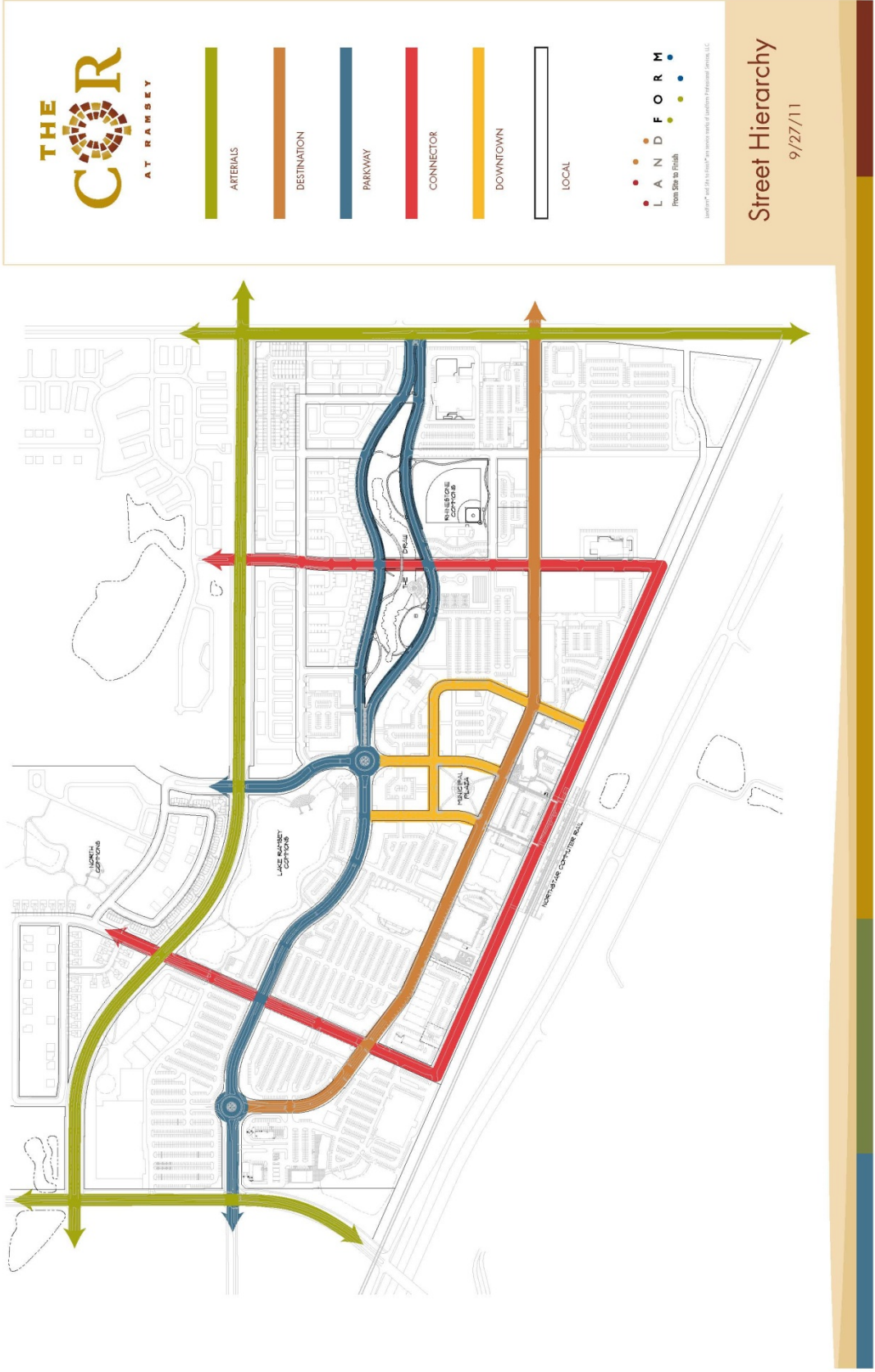
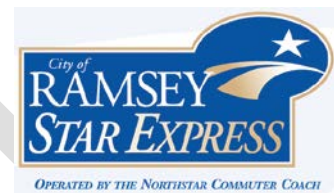


Figure 2: Street Hierarchy Map

Transit Overview

The COR is designed to be 'transit ready' in a variety of ways that go beyond providing a walkable public realm and connected street grid. The Master Plan also includes a multimodal transit station, with dedicated commuter parking, integrated with other uses at the heart of the retail, restaurant and entertainment district. This station functions as a hub where local circulator transit comes together with regional transit service and the Northstar Corridor. This station is designed to meet the short term needs of the Ramsey Star Express service, and also the long term objectives for proposed commuter rail service in the future. The COR is the Twin Cities' first and only transit-oriented development along the new Northstar Commuter Rail Line. With final approval from the Metropolitan Council as an in-fill station, the City of Ramsey has lined up financing and prepared plans for Ramsey Station at The COR. Construction is expected to commence in the fall of 2011 with riders boarding the train in the fall of 2012. As Northstar's most visible station, The COR will immediately bolster the ridership on the line, and continue to build recognition for this regional service.



Transit components include the following:

- Ramsey Star Express service provides peak period, peak direction bus service between downtown Minneapolis and Ramsey
- North Star Commuter Rail provides train service between Big Lake and downtown Minneapolis
- 350 park and ride parking spaces are provided for commuters adjacent to the transit station
- Pedestrian and bicycle connections are emphasized in the Master Plan as major links between the transit station, various districts within The COR and into the surrounding neighborhoods
- The COR can accommodate Metro Mobility, citywide circulator bus or town trolley connections as part of local and regional service to the transit station

The COR also encourages developers to participate in a Travel Demand Management (TDM) program to both assist and encourage residents and visitors to take advantage of the various modes available for their commuting and travel needs. The TDM program draws from incentives and services available through Anoka County and Metro Commuter Services that match riders with carpools and vanpools, provide discounted transit passes and manage work hours among other functions. Developers should submit a TDM plan with their site plan application for development and work with the City to implement their plans.

Transit Guideline Recommendations

Transit is an important component of the overall plan, with expectations for more ridership, using a greater range of transit options as they become available. More people, together with the mix of

activities and amenities in The COR, encourages better designed, better connected transit service. It is a shared responsibility between city, county and developer to promote transit use, with both policy and bricks-and-mortar attention to the following framework:

- Understand and take advantage of opportunities to use existing and proposed transit components
- Provide transit related facilities specifically linked to uses and character within each COR district, including signage and lighting for way-finding and bicycle amenities
- Building future Northstar Commuter Rail riders through the Ramsey Star Express bus service

Transit Objectives

The primary objective is to provide a balance of transit service, bicycle and pedestrian connections and lanes to move traffic. The framework for The COR promotes public transportation as part of the solution and suggests a variety of street improvements and other amenities to invite increased use. Photographs throughout the framework suggest some of the many possibilities.

Overall Framework - Streetscape

Overview

The Master Plan defines a specific strategy for the layout of streets and blocks within, and around The COR. The amenities within the public right-of-way -and immediately adjacent -play an important role in the aesthetics of The COR. Great streets are essential components of an attractive and inviting public realm. Developing a streetscape that is comfortable and inviting to pedestrians is important to realizing the vision for The COR. The framework will encourage interesting and inviting places for the public.

The Streetscape framework defines the visual character and physical improvements for all public spaces within The COR. The document also provides the general framework and examples for design of proposed quasi-public and private space located within each development parcel.

Public realm/streetscape framework focus on the following elements:

- Parks, plazas and other public gathering spaces
- Street/sidewalk character and streetscape elements
- Bicycle/pedestrian connections (on-street and off-street)
- Residential courts, pocket parks and other private green space



The goal is to foster a safe and interesting public realm that will invite pedestrian activity, promote traffic calming, increase transit use and encourage community gathering. Street trees, lighting and decorative fencing provide the backbone for streetscape improvements. Added detail, such as special pavements, street furniture, public art and layered plantings will highlight specific nodes or uses.

Destination and Connector streets must balance a high level of service for the automobile with attractive and inviting amenities for the pedestrian (see Figure 2) including:

- Provide gracious sidewalk width to support intensity of pedestrian traffic in the core
- Install street trees to frame the street and provide shade
- Provide street lighting that meets all safety standards and design criteria, while creating a signature character for this district
- Explore a range of options for streetscape improvements including special pavements, interesting concrete tinting or scoring patterns, additional plantings, ornamental fencing and other features (note, however, that simpler is better and too much clutter is a negative)

The COR includes a network of bicycle/pedestrian trails and walkways (both on and off-street) that connect adjacent sub-districts to the Mixed Use Core. As you approach the core, these connections tend to become part of the shared right of way along the major streets, or become part of the urban park spaces. Bicycle riders may choose to share the street with vehicular traffic, or dismount and walk their bicycles along with the other pedestrians using the sidewalks. Providing and maintaining these bicycle and pedestrian connections should be a key component for all development projects in the core.



Guideline Recommendations

The proposed street and block pattern reflects a compact urban character, including the following:

- Bike racks interspersed throughout The COR to encourage cycling as an alternative mode of transportation.
- Benches on the public sidewalks to encourage people to linger in The COR
- Trees and planters along the streets to create an inviting space
- Wide sidewalks and both on- and off-street bicycle trails
- Kiosks and other way finding tools for visitors and residents in The COR
- Outdoor dining is encouraged on the street side of buildings within all districts
- Public plaza space is strongly encouraged to be located adjacent to the streets



Objectives

Creative design solutions for streetscape improvements should include:

- Streetscape improvements that provide traffic calming, particularly along Destination and Downtown streets
- Inviting streets that draw you into and through The COR
- A marriage of building design and streetscape design that encourages active spaces near the streets



Street Lights

Street lights are owned and installed by Connexus Energy. The streetlight design was developed in conjunction with the City of Ramsey and Connexus.

The standard street lights are designed to accommodate banner arms should banner signage be desired. The banner arms should be the manufacturer's standard break-away banner arms to ensure safety and minimize maintenance costs. Connexus provides street light maintenance for the City. Connexus bills the City of Ramsey for the cost of installation and maintenance.

The choice of street light was intended to emphasize the pedestrian scale of The COR. Light poles within the public right-of-way should be planned to accommodate banners, flowers, hanging artwork and electrical outlets.

There are three different streetlight types within The COR:

- 24-foot high poles at intersections
- 14-foot high poles at mid-block
- 12-foot high poles at The Draw

The City will ensure that the appropriate streetlights are installed on all public streets as described by the Design Framework. Private developers shall provide parking lot or other project lighting that retains these design objectives. All lighting shall comply with City Code performance standards for lighting. All lighting shall be reviewed by City staff to ensure compliance with the Design Framework and City Code standards described above.

Overall Framework - Parking

Overview

Balancing the realities of car-related necessities (streets, parking and so on) with future transit service and the desired character of The COR is a significant challenge. The goal is to provide adequate parking; both quantity and location, while promoting new strategies that support the overall needs of The COR. Parking will be provided through a combination of on street spaces, off-street surface lots, underground lots and structured ramps to support the mix of uses at the core.

Parking structures should contribute to the overall character and image of The COR. Ramp design should include elements, colors and materials that reflect, or complement surrounding buildings. Liner stores or other street level uses should be integrated into ramp design along important street frontages.

Guideline Recommendations

Parking guidelines encourage the following:

- Locate off-street surface parking lots away from the major streets, either behind or to the side of primary buildings
- Provide a combination of fencing, landscaping and landform to screen parking areas from major streets and important views
- Create strategies for shared parking between adjacent uses, taking advantage of peak and off-peak cycles, business hours, nighttime activities, special events and other needs
- Provide alternative surfaces for secondary (less frequently used) parking areas including porous pavements, green pavements and so on
- Provide facilities or services that respond to and connect with future transit to reduce required parking, including shuttle/circulator bus, bicycle lockers
- Provide flexibility including hours for on-street parking, security and enforcement practices, permit or metering
- Provide parallel parking on both public and private streets throughout The COR, to add parking and create a traffic calming, pedestrian buffer
- Explore options to integrate stormwater management requirements into parking area design
- Explore various landscape approaches to soften parking area edges, provide shade, integrate native plantings, offset islands and other ideas to reduce to 'sea of parking' image

Objectives

The primary objective is to provide a balance of surface lots, on-street and structured parking, with ample quantities and close proximity to serve the mix of uses in The COR. In addition to providing adequate space, excellent design is a major factor as well. The framework for The COR encourages creativity, innovation, quality and attention to detail in every aspect of project development, including parking solutions. Photographs throughout the Design Framework suggest some of the many possibilities.



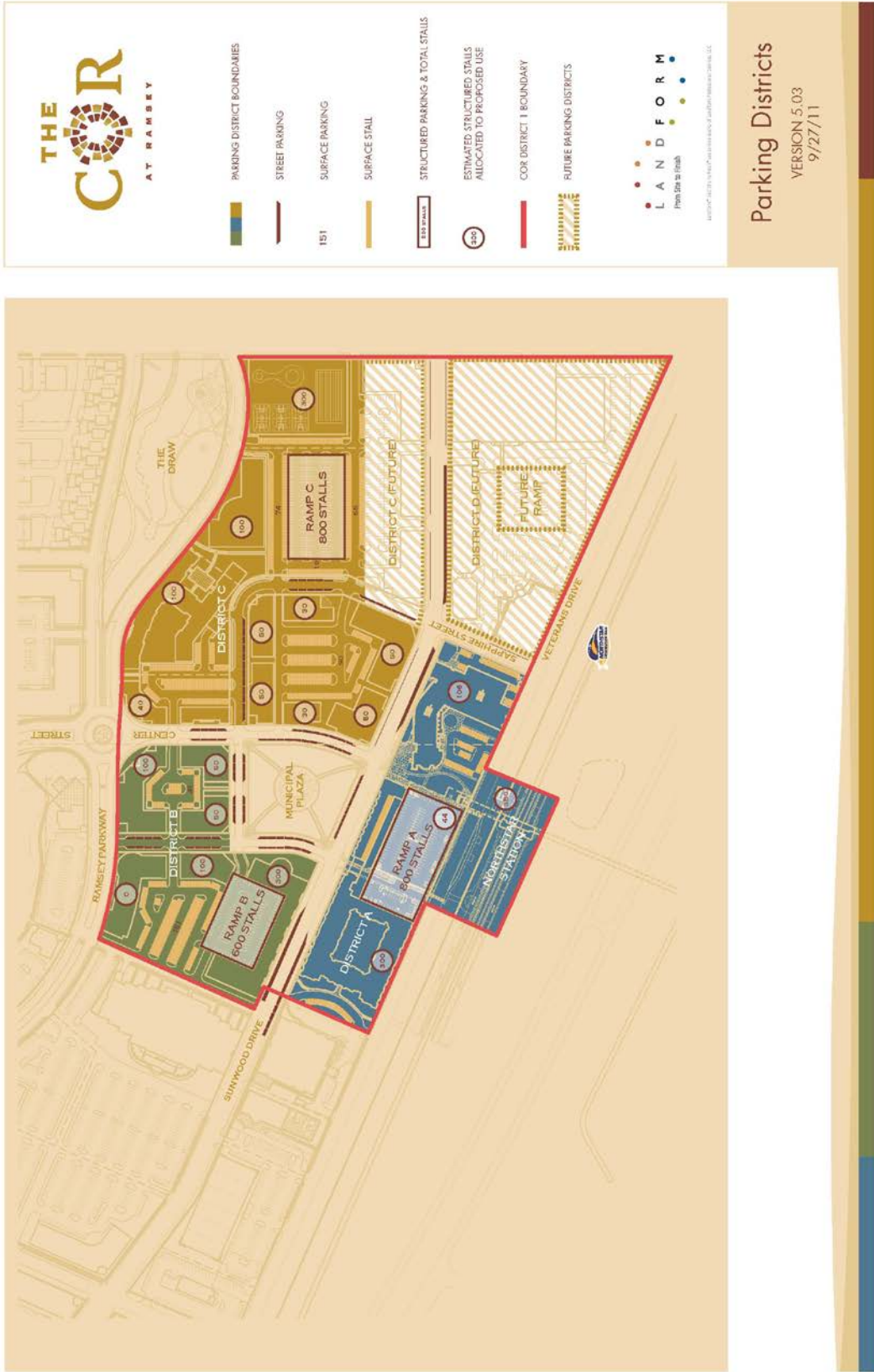
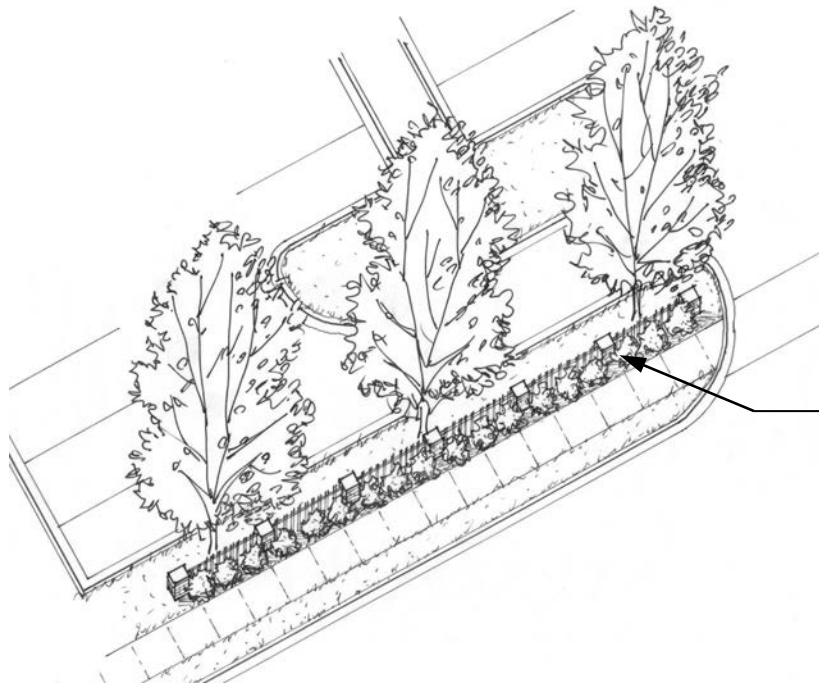


Figure 3: Parking District Map

Minimum Standards

Parking in The COR is intended to be shared to the greatest extent practicable in all mixed-use areas. The parking standards are intended to provide a practical basis for providing adequate parking within the COR District through a careful analysis of uses, shared parking arrangements, use of public street parking and reduction allowances for the proximity to the transit station. A parking plan has been prepared to identify the planned number, location, sharing arrangements and public use (see Figure 3). The parking plan provides information that can be used to help address longer term parking arrangements where the possibility of use conversion or building expansion exists. Parking shall be provided under any of the following arrangements:

- A. No parking shall be located between the front of the principal structure and the front lot line on parcels abutting Destination and Downtown streets.
- B. Not more than 50 percent of the parking shall be located in front of the principal structure and the front lot line on parcels abutting Arterial, Parkway, Connector and Local streets.
- C. Wherever a surface parking area faces a street frontage, such frontage shall be screened with a decorative wall, railing, hedge, or a combination of these elements, to a minimum height of three feet (3') and a maximum height of four and one-half feet ($4\frac{1}{2}'$) above the level of the parking lot, at the build-to line required for the property. The amount of required screening may vary by sub-district and street frontage.



Landscaped edge that combines fence with trees, low shrubs and ground cover for parking lot screening and buffering along sidewalk

- D. No parking spaces shall be located on corner lots at the point of street intersections.

- E. Shared parking in COR1 will be accomplished through a Parking Use and Maintenance Agreement (PUMA).
- F. Off-street parking in the COR2 and COR3 sub-districts shall be secured for public use through parking easements and other appropriate conveyances. Shared parking arrangements between nearby uses are encouraged in both sub-districts.
- G. On-street parking adjacent to buildings may be used for the purposes of calculating parking requirements for street level, non-residential uses in all districts. A reduction of one parking space may be deducted from the minimum required off-street spaces for each on street parking space provided at the lot frontage on a public street.
- H. Within the COR-4 sub-district, parking on individual parcels serving individual uses may be provided if designated and approved as part of the master plan.
- I. Within all sub-districts, a minimum driveway length of 25 feet is required to limit conflicts between vehicles parked in the driveway and street or sidewalk users.
- J. In order to ensure the pedestrian orientation of the COR Districts, minimum/maximum on-site parking standards are set based on the following:

Use	Minimum number of parking stalls	Maximum number of parking stalls*
Retail	2 per 1,000 sq. ft.	4 per 1,000 sq. ft.
Restaurants	3 per 1,000 sq. ft.	5 per 1,000 sq. ft.
Offices	2 per 1,000 sq. ft.	3 per 1,000 sq. ft.
Medical offices, clinics	2 per 1,000 sq. ft.	4 per 1,000 sq. ft.
Health clubs	3 per 1,000 sq. ft.	5 per 1,000 sq. ft.
Theaters, places of assembly	1 per 5 seats	1 per 3 seats
Residential		
Attached or detached	1 per unit	2 per unit
Multifamily units	1 per unit	2 per unit

*If a parking structure is provided on site, maximum parking stalls do not apply.

- K. Use of required parking spaces. Required parking spaces must be available for the use of residents, customers or employees of the use. Fees may be charged for the use of required parking spaces. Required parking spaces may not be assigned in any way to a use on another site, except for joint parking situations. Also, required parking spaces may not be used for the parking of equipment or storage of goods or inoperable vehicles.
- L. Transit Service. The minimum number of parking stalls required on site may be reduced by 10% for any parcel located within ¼ mile of a transit stop. To qualify for this reduction, the transit stop must provide regular service on all days of the week and direct pedestrian access must be provided between the building and the transit stop.

- M. Increase to Maximum Required Parking. If additional parking is sought to exceed these maximum requirements, a conditional use permit can be sought to increase maximums up to 25 percent. In the COR-2 sub-district, an increase of 25% in the maximum number of parking stalls is permitted without the issuance of a conditional use permit if approved as part of the site plan.
- N. In the COR1 sub-district, a PUMA (Parking Use and Maintenance Agreement) shall be applied to all development as follows:
1. It is the City's intent to maximize development on individual lots. In order to help landowners accomplish this goal, the City will develop public parking ramps, which will be available for public parking within The COR. In order to minimize the amount of the site required for parking, the landowner may choose to enter into the PUMA for utilization of the public parking ramps to meet all or a portion of their minimum parking requirements.
 2. In order to ensure that the shared parking within The COR is adequately financed and maintained, the City may require payment of an amount equal to the value of the required parking on a per-stall price basis for ramp parking through the PUMA. Funds collected by the City shall be deposited in a special fund used only to acquire and/or develop off-street parking facilities for the COR. The City will determine the appropriate contribution.
 3. Each development shall be subject to a PUMA that specifies that each property in the COR shall be financially responsible for its proportionate share of a shared parking facility. The proportionate share shall be determined on the basis of the property's off-street parking needs, as determined by the parking requirements of Item J above. Financial responsibility shall cover the construction and continuing maintenance of the parking facility. The parking facility may be constructed and maintained by the City or by a private management entity acceptable to the City.

Private Streets

Private streets may be allowed within residential subdivisions, subject to the standards in Section 117-112 (e)3.b. of the Zoning Ordinance.

Loading Areas

- A. Loading areas and docks shall be limited to the rear of the building.
- B. Loading areas shall be fully screened from public streets, public parks and residential areas through landscaping and building design measures.



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Overall Framework – Building Design

Overview

The COR Master Plan identifies the preferred mix and approximate location of a variety of land use types. Together with the Zoning Code, this Design Framework focuses on the following overall objectives:

- Promote vertical and horizontal mixed use (within a building, within a block, within a district)
- Provide a variety of housing types, styles, pricing
- Encourage increased density in and around the central core area
- Promote an interesting mix of building styles, scales and massing for each sub-district
- Support creative, innovative, high quality design solutions as the benchmark for success
- Integrate mix of uses with public green space within each district
- Provide a variety of commercial types
- Mix residential and commercial uses to promote street-level activity throughout the day

Guideline Recommendations

The mix of land uses in The COR will encourage activity during the day and into the evening and nighttime hours. As a focus of commerce, employment, recreation and housing, The COR resembles a small to medium size Midwestern downtown in scale and character. Land uses are intentionally mixed, to bring shoppers and workers into the area during the day and attract new residents and visitors to entertainment venues in the evening.

The civic component of The COR, anchored by City Hall, Police Station and variety of public spaces and squares, adds an important element to the land use mix and brings a level of authenticity to the district.

Objectives

- Encourage vertical mixed-use in the core with housing and office space over retail uses along the street, particularly in the center of the district.
- In residential districts, particularly closer to the core, a limited amount of retail uses will be encouraged to service residents and provide nearby places to gather.
- Promote innovative models for housing that include a mix of townhomes, flats and lofts within single buildings or on the same block.
- Accommodate larger, ‘big box’ retailing within the COR2 sub-district and only if innovative design approaches are used including two story buildings, use of liner stores facing the street, minimal blank walls, creative parking strategies, etc.
- Where similar uses create a ‘family’ or campus of buildings (e.g. medical campus), buildings should reinforce the street edge and parking should be set within the core of the block.
- Uses shall promote pedestrian friendly streets, contributing to street level activities and overall visual character of each district.
- All uses should reinforce the street edge.

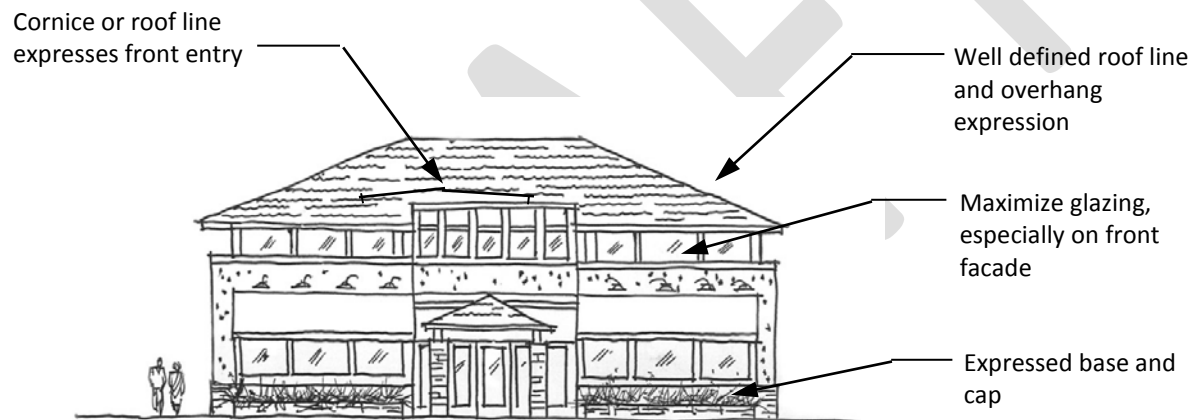
Architectural Overview

High quality architecture is an essential component in fulfilling the objectives of the Master Plan. Rather than prescribing a particular style, these architectural guidelines are intended to encourage an integration of both traditional and contemporary design. Architectural designs should provide a consistent quality, measured, to a great degree, by the pedestrian experience along the street and by an architectural expression that provides character without being thematic, obtrusive, or artificial. Architectural character should strive to be authentic and varied, but not 'thematic'.

Architecture Recommendations

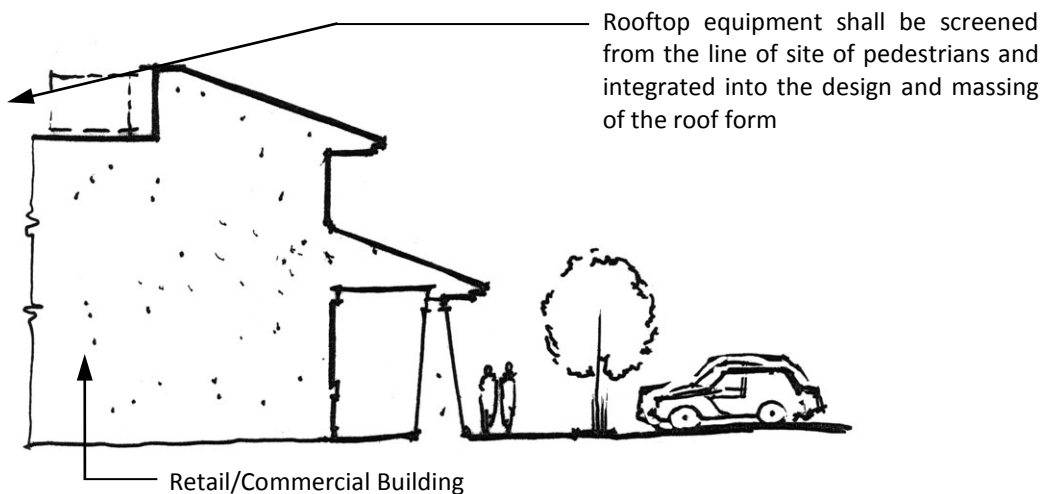
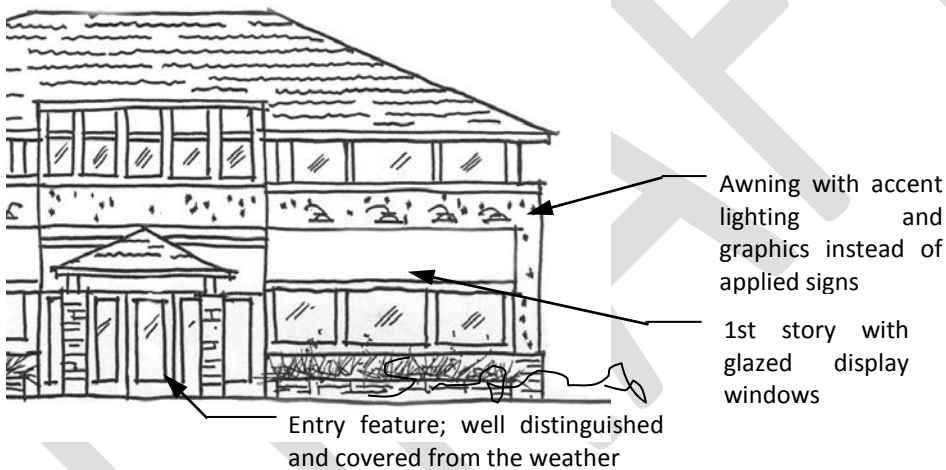
Of all the layers that combine to form The COR Master Plan, architecture will typically be the most prominent development component. Both visually and physically, architecture will play a major role in defining the overall design character and mix of uses for The COR. It is crucial that the design and location of buildings address these architectural guidelines, with specific emphasis on the following:

- Promote an animated street presence with a mix of street-level uses, interesting building façades, many doors and windows on the street, careful design of lighting, awnings, signage and other elements that animate the pedestrian experience

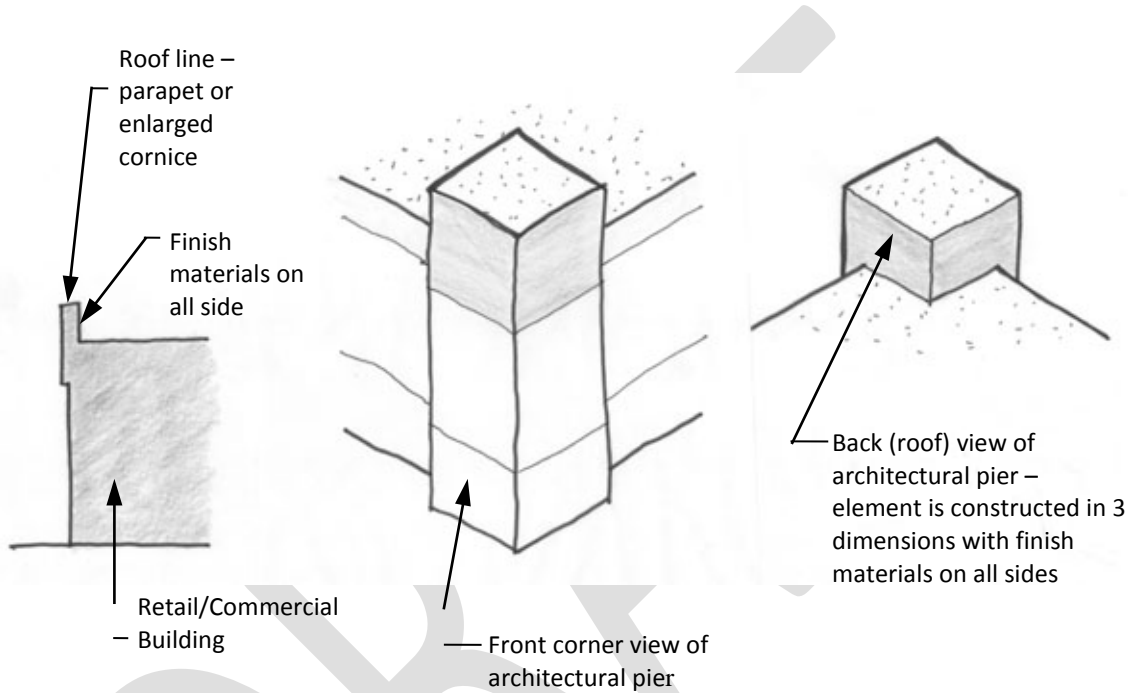


- Promote variety in building design, character and expression; not one theme or building style, but a thoughtful integration of many design solutions
- Promote a variety of building types including a range of height, scale and proportion, that support an integrated mix of housing options, shopping destinations, entertainment venues, civic structures and other COR uses
- Encourage the use of high quality materials, suggesting a preference toward native materials and masonry elements, with respect for local building techniques
- Building location is as important as building style; special architectural elements, character, transparency and a higher level of materials and detailing should be used to highlight key streets and important crossroads throughout The COR
- Buildings should always be located at all four corners of intersections. In the COR2 sub-district, if the City finds that there are unique circumstances where buildings cannot be located on the corner, the City may approve the use of fences, walls or other design elements to create that "street edge"

- Encourage both vertical mixed use (within each building) and horizontal mixed use (within each block) throughout this district
- Include a mix of housing, civic, retail, restaurant, entertainment, performance and other uses that encourage a variety of activities throughout the day.
- Generally, buildings should be located at the street right-of-way line (zero setback), but also allow recessed space for outdoor dining and other street level activities providing some minor deviation for variety
- Greater emphasis should be given to architectural elements, materials and other design features for buildings located at primary intersections, or where streets intersect with parks, such as the streets that front on or end near the Municipal Plaza. These locations can often be seen from several directions, perhaps terminate a view from a distance down the street or sit at a prominent node; They will likely become future landmarks or helpful orientation/wayfinding icons as The COR develops
- Minimize openings between buildings, although limited driveway access and some provision for pedestrian connections through blocks are encouraged – gaps between buildings to accommodate surface parking lots, greater building setbacks or other purposes are discouraged
- Encourage recessed entries and windows to create street-level interest, variety and enhance pedestrian scale along street frontage



- Equipment, mechanical systems, transformers, etc. must be screened from view in a way that is integral to the architecture of the building. Screening should be accomplished with materials similar to or compatible with materials used on the main structure; metal fencing or mechanical vent screens alone are not sufficient.
- Roof lines and cornice details shall be completed in a 3-dimensional manner so that the back of roof features or similar unfinished areas are not visible.



- Provide parking spaces for typical daily use, satisfying both quantity and location needs through a mix of on street, small surface lot, underground and ramped parking solutions
- Provide options for additional/overflow parking to support holiday traffic and special events including porous pavements, turf parking areas (Netlon and other soil amendments) or shuttle service from nearby parking areas
- Encourage shared parking solutions that target around the clock shifts in destination, audience or take advantage of peak/off-peak hours of operation for various uses within the core area
- Promote municipal parking ramps as the primary facility to meet public parking needs within the core area
- Minimize surface parking lots in favor of other solutions including underground parking to serve residential buildings, on-street parking to serve retail shops and parking ramps



- Locate surface parking lots away from the major streets, either behind or to the side of primary buildings; surface parking lots along major street frontage are not allowed in the core area
- Discourage driveway access to parking facilities along Arterial, Destination and Parkway streets, in favor of side streets.

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Overall Framework - Signage

Overview

Signage within The COR should provide a system for clear wayfinding for all modes of transportation and should ensure successful business operation while maintaining the design aesthetic of this unique project. These sign standards are intended to allow flexibility and creativity while maintaining the design concepts of The COR. Due to the distinctive nature of The COR, the sign standards from the City Code are not applicable and signage shall be allowed as prescribed by the Design Framework. A Master Sign Plan identifies the location of key sign locations (see Figure 4).

Guideline Recommendations

The COR development manager shall prepare a Master Sign Plan for the public elements of the project, which are in compliance with the design framework and will be adopted by reference. The Master Sign Plan will specifically address public signs including:

- The three off-site community signs
- Banner signs on light poles
- Signage for public parks
- Signage for public parking ramps
- Signage for public buildings
- Community kiosks

Objectives

Signage should be used as a tool to help identify businesses and neighborhoods with The COR and should have elements that are focused on the pedestrian nature of The COR as well as the signage needs for businesses.

- Signage and lighting which is integrated into the design of the building is encouraged.

Definitions

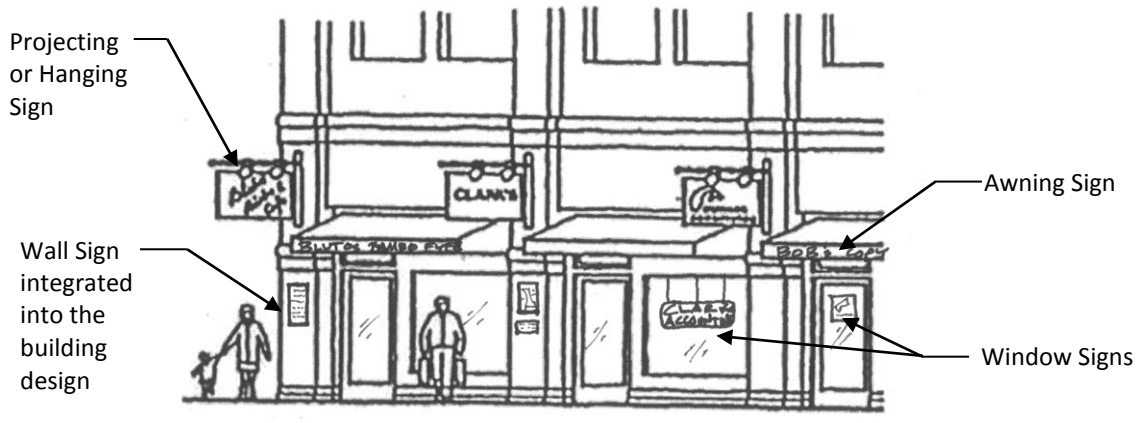
All signage definitions shall have the meaning in Section 117-1 (Definitions) of the Zoning Ordinance except for those specific definitions provided below:

Awning Sign means a sign incorporated into or attached to an awning.

Community sign means an off-site sign identifying the development name and key tenants. Community signs may also include public information. Reader boards are allowed to be incorporated into community signs within The COR.

Project sign means a freestanding area identification sign which identifies a single-family or multifamily residential subdivision, a commercial development or an industrial park or office park and which is located on the same parcel as the development it identifies.

Public Realm/Streetscape sign means any sign erected and maintained by public officials or public agencies, or approved and authorized for use by state or local governmental authorities.



Pedestrian-Oriented Tenant Signs

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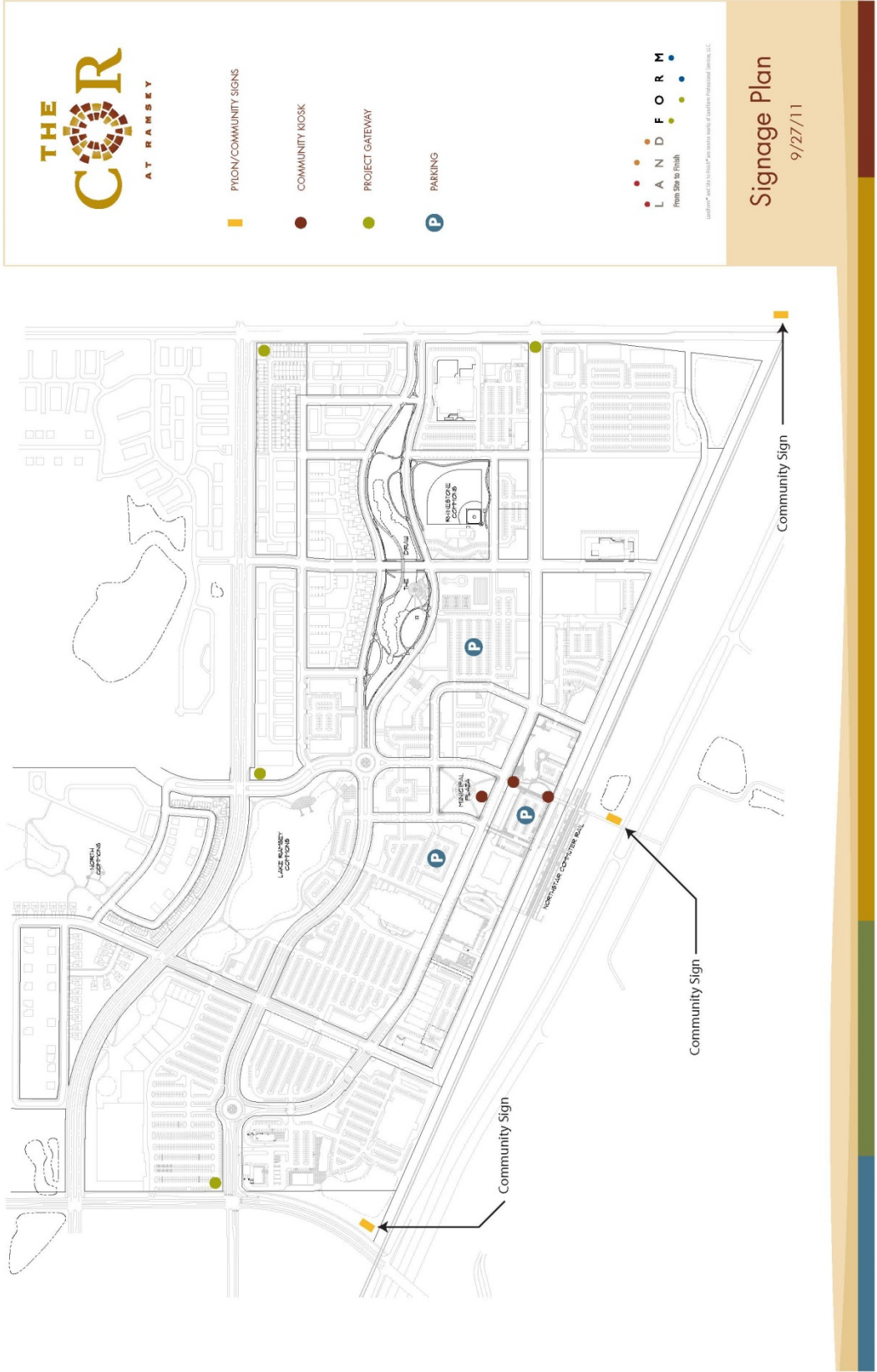


Figure 4: Signage Plan

Standards

Public Realm/Streetscape Signs

The pedestrian oriented nature of The COR requires unique signage that will build on the design concepts for The COR. These types of signs include banner signs on the streetlights, kiosks, street signs, wayfinding signs, signage for public parking ramps, etc. As the design concept for The COR has been refined, so has the signage plan. The COR development manager shall develop standards for these public realm signs as part of the Master Sign Plan. The Master Sign Plan shall be incorporated by reference and may be updated from time to time. Such signage shall be allowed on public spaces as needed to provide information and wayfinding. No advertising shall be allowed on Public Realm/Streetscape Signs except for community events.

Community signs

Community signs include are planned to include three signs on Highway 10, as shown on the Signage Plan (see Figure 4). The signs include the existing Community Sign near the future transit plaza, the sign at the northwest corner of Highway 10 and Ramsey Boulevard and the planned sign at the northwest corner of Highway 10 and Armstrong Boulevard.

These off-site signs are allowed as shown on the signage plan and shall have consistent materials and colors. The Master Sign Plan shall detail the materials, colors and standards for these three community signs. The Master Sign Plan shall include standards for which tenants shall be allowed on the community signs.



Desirable signs are designed to be architecturally compatible with buildings within the development and other signage within the development

Project Signs

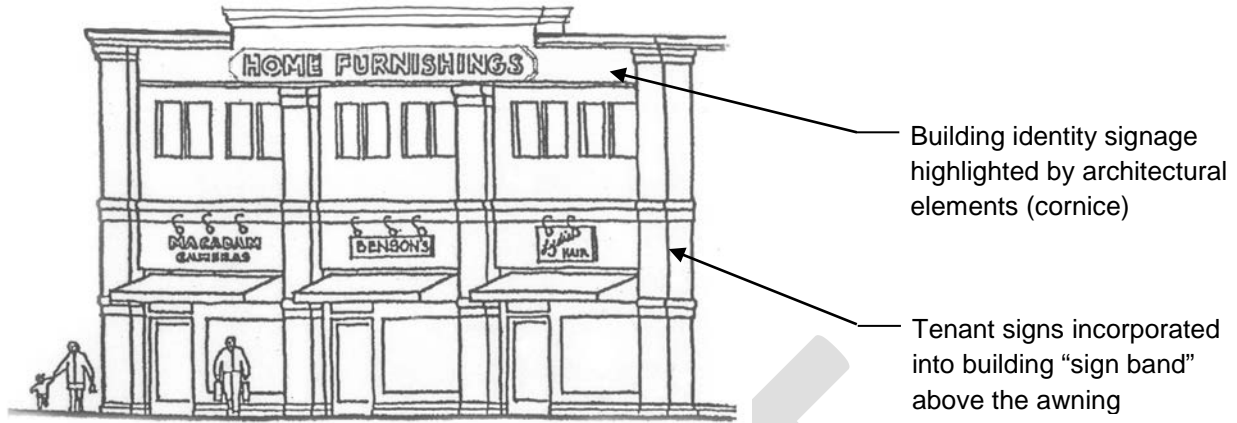
One freestanding sign is allowed per building, provided that the following standards are met:

- A. The building in which the advertising business is located, shall be set back a minimum of six feet from a public street right-of-way.
- B. The area of each face of the signboard shall not exceed six square feet and the signboard shall not have more than two readable faces. In the COR2 district, project signs shall not exceed 100 square feet.
- C. The height of the top of the signboard, or of any posts, brackets, or other supporting elements shall not exceed six feet from the ground.

- D. The signboard shall be constructed of wood, acrylic, aluminum or metal and shall be architecturally compatible with the style, composition, materials, colors and details of the building.
- E. No part of the sign shall encroach on the right-of-way and its location shall not interfere with pedestrian or vehicular circulation.
- F. Limited to one sign per building and shall not be in addition to wall-mounted, applied letter or projecting signs.
- G. The readable faces of the sign shall be perpendicular to the adjacent street.

In the COR2 District, the following signage shall be allowed:

- A. Ground sign. There shall not be more than one ground sign for each parcel. The gross surface area of a ground sign shall not exceed 100 square feet for each exposed face nor exceed an aggregate gross surface area of 200 square feet.
- B. Menu board. One on-site menu board per drive-up or walk-up lane of a drive-in restaurant up to a maximum of 32 square feet each. Menu boards are allowed a message on one side only and cannot contain an advertising message.
- C. Directional signs.
 - 1. Directional or instructional signs are permitted in accordance with section 117-463(I).
 - 2. Parking lot directional signs designating parking area entrances and exits are limited to one sign for each entrance and/or exit and shall not exceed four square feet for each exposed face. Parking lot directional signs shall not project higher than five feet in height, as measured from the established grade of the parking area to which such signs are accessory.
 - 3. Parking lot instructional signs designating the conditions of use or identification parking areas shall not exceed eight square feet and shall not project higher than ten feet in height for wall signs and seven feet in height for ground signs, as measured from the established grade of the parking area to which such signs are accessory.
- D. Window signs are restricted to 30 percent of the area of the window in which the sign is to be displayed.



Wall Signs

Wall signs are permitted within all COR sub-districts.

Wall signs shall be permitted on one wall, except that lots with frontage on more than one street may have signage on one wall per street frontage.

Within the COR1, COR3, COR4 and COR5 districts, the following standards apply:

- A. Wall-mounted or painted signs, provided the following standards are met:
 1. The sign shall be affixed to the front facade of the building, and shall project outward from the wall to which it is attached no more than six inches.
 2. Single Tenant Buildings. Each building shall be allowed one wall sign per street frontage. Signage must be located on the street elevation. The area of the sign shall not exceed five percent of the ground floor building facade area or 50 square feet, whichever is less.
 3. Multi-Tenant Buildings.
 - a. Each building shall be allowed wall signage on the street frontage elevation. For buildings with multiple street frontages, the allowable signage is per street frontage. Signage must be located on the street elevation.
 - b. Each building is allowed wall signage that shall not exceed 5% of the wall area of the building façade adjacent to the street or 50 square feet, whichever is less.
 - c. Tenant signage must be located on the tenant lease space.
 - d. At least 50% of the allowed signage must be allocated to ground floor tenants and located on the ground floor.
 - e. Signage is limited to a maximum of one sign per business/tenant, except that tenants with frontage on multiple streets may be permitted to have signage on each street frontage.
 - f. Multi-tenant buildings must have wall signs of similar design. Sign permits for tenants in multi-tenant buildings shall only be permitted by the City after the building owner has submitted a comprehensive sign plan approved by the Zoning

Administrator. The comprehensive sign plan for the building shall include similar design standards including sign material, color, style, spacing and size.

4. Signs for buildings facing Highway 10. Single or multi-tenant buildings that have frontage on Highway 10 or are separated from Highway 10 only by other public right-of-way, shall be allowed to have signage on that street elevation that is up to 5% of the wall area of that building façade with no maximum square footage.
- B. Wall-mounted building directory signs identifying the occupants of a commercial building, including upper story business uses, provided the following standards are met:
1. The sign is located next to the entrance.
 2. The sign shall project outward from the wall to which it is attached no more than six inches.
 3. The sign shall not extend above the parapet, eave, or building facade.
 4. The area of the signboard shall not exceed three square feet, with each tenant limited to one square foot.
 5. The height of the lettering, numbers, or graphics shall not exceed four inches.
 6. One such sign is allowed per public building entrance and is allowed in addition to other permitted wall signage.
- C. Applied letters may substitute for wall-mounted signs, if constructed of painted wood, painted cast metal, bronze, brass, acrylic or black anodized aluminum. The height of applied letters shall not exceed 12 inches.
- D. Logos area considered signs and shall be included in the maximum allowable sign area.
- E. Window or door signs, provided that the following standards are met:
1. The sign shall not exceed ten percent of the window or door area or four square feet, whichever is less.
 2. The sign shall be silk screened, hand painted, applied letters/graphics, neon tubing or other sign technologies that meet these standards.
 3. Limited to one sign per business, applied on either the window or the door, but not on both.
 4. The sign shall not have an opaque backing of any type although smoked glass is allowed.
 5. Window signage (includes graphics) shall be permitted on the same building walls that have, or are allowed to have, wall signage pursuant to Item A above. Window signage

shall be deducted from the allowable wall signage area.

Within the COR2 district, where more conventional suburban development is expected, rather than the neo-traditional development planned for the other COR sub-districts, the following standards apply:

- A. Wall, canopy or marquee sign. Total sign area may not exceed 15 percent of the front building facade. At least 50 percent of the signage area must be placed on the measured wall with remaining signage area, if desired, distributed on any other wall. Sign height shall not exceed the top of the parapet wall or, if no parapet wall, sign height shall not exceed the height of the eaves. The gross surface area of a wall, canopy or marquee sign may be increased by ten percent if such wall sign:
 1. Consists only of individual, outlined alphabetic, numeric and/or symbolic characters without background except that provided by the building surface to which the sign is to be affixed;
 2. Illumination, if any, is achieved through shielded illumination, shielded silhouette lighting, or shielded spot lighting but not any lighting where the light source is visible or exposed on the face or sides of the characters; and
 3. A wall, canopy or marquee sign may be located on the outermost wall of any principle building but shall not project more than 16 inches from the wall to which the sign is to be affixed. A wall sign shall not project higher than the parapet line of the wall to which the sign is to be affixed.

In all COR sub-districts, restaurants and cafes shall be permitted one wall-mounted display featuring the actual menu as used at the dining table, to be contained within a shallow wood or metal case and clearly visible through a glass front. The display case shall be attached to the building wall, next to the main entrance, at a height of approximately five feet, shall not exceed a total area of two square feet, and may be lighted. This signage is allowed in addition to other permitted wall signage.

Projecting Signs

Projecting signs, including graphics or icon signs, mounted perpendicular to the building wall, are encouraged in all sub-districts, provided the following standards are met:

- A. The sign area shall not exceed six square feet.
- B. The distance from the ground to the lower edge of the signboard shall be ten feet or greater.
- C. The height of the top edge of the signboard shall not exceed the height of the wall from which the sign projects, if attached to a single story building, or the height of the sill or bottom of any second story window, if attached to a multistory building.
- D. The distance from the building wall to the signboard shall not exceed six inches.

- E. The width of the signboard shall not exceed three feet.
- F. Limited to one sign per business. Projecting sign area shall be deducted from the allowable wall signage area.
- G. Granted to ground floor commercial uses only.

Awning Signs

Awning signs are allowed in all COR sub-districts. Awning signs are allowed for ground floor uses only, provided that the following standards are met:

- A. If acting as the main business sign, it shall not exceed 24 square feet in area, and the height of the lettering, numbers, or graphics shall not exceed 12 inches.
- B. If acting as an auxiliary business sign, it shall be located on the valance only, shall not exceed four square feet in area, and the height of the lettering, numbers, or graphics shall not exceed four inches.
- C. Limited to two such signs per business.
- D. If acting as the main business sign, it shall not be in addition to a wall-mounted or applied letter sign.

Sign Standards					
Development Standard	COR1	COR2	COR3	COR4	COR5
Project Signs					
Number of signs allowed	1*	1*	1*	1*	1*
Size of Sign (maximum)	6 sq. ft./6 feet high	100 sq. ft./6 feet high	6 sq. ft./6 feet high	6 sq. ft./6 feet high	6 sq. ft./6 feet high
Menu Board**	N/A	1 per drive-through/36 sq. ft. max.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Directional Sign	N/A	Per 117-463(l)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wall Sign					
Number of signs allowed	1*	1*	1*	1*	1*
Size of Sign					
Single Tenant Building	50 sq. ft. or 5% of the ground floor façade area, whichever is less	15% of façade area	50 sq. ft. or 5% of the ground floor façade area, whichever is less	50 sq. ft. or 5% of the ground floor façade area, whichever is less	50 sq. ft. or 5% of the ground floor façade area, whichever is less
Multi-Tenant Buildings	50 sq. ft. or 5% of the façade area, whichever is less	15% of façade area	50 sq. ft. or 5% of the façade area, whichever is less	50 sq. ft. or 5% of the façade area, whichever is less	50 sq. ft. or 5% of the façade area, whichever is less
Building Facing Highway 10	5% of the façade area	15% of façade area	5% of the façade area	5% of the façade area	5% of the façade area
Window Sign					
Number of signs allowed	1	1	1	1	1
Size of Sign	10% of area of window or 4 sq. ft., whichever is less. Deducted from allowable wall sign area.	30% of area of window. Deducted from allowable wall sign area.	10% of area of window or 4 sq. ft., whichever is less. Deducted from allowable wall sign area.	10% of area of window or 4 sq. ft., whichever is less. Deducted from allowable wall sign area.	10% of area of window or 4 sq. ft., whichever is less. Deducted from allowable wall sign area.
Directory Sign					
Number of signs allowed	1 per building entrance	1 per building entrance	1 per building entrance	1 per building entrance	1 per building entrance
Size of Sign	3 sq. ft. maximum	3 sq. ft. maximum	3 sq. ft. maximum	3 sq. ft. maximum	3 sq. ft. maximum
Projecting Sign					
Number of signs allowed	1*	1*	1*	1*	1*
Size of Sign	6 sq. ft./3 feet wide	6 sq. ft./3 feet wide	6 sq. ft./3 feet wide	6 sq. ft./3 feet wide	6 sq. ft./3 feet wide
Awning Sign					
Number of signs allowed	2 per business	2 per business	2 per business	2 per business	2 per business
Size of Sign	24 sq. ft./max. letter height 12-inches for main business sign or 4 sq. ft./max letter height 4-inches if auxiliary. Area is deducted from allowable wall sign area.	24 sq. ft./max. letter height 12-inches for main business sign or 4 sq. ft./max letter height 4-inches if auxiliary. Area is deducted from allowable wall sign area.	24 sq. ft./max. letter height 12-inches for main business sign or 4 sq. ft./max letter height 4-inches if auxiliary. Area is deducted from allowable wall sign area.	24 sq. ft./max. letter height 12-inches for main business sign or 4 sq. ft./max letter height 4-inches if auxiliary. Area is deducted from allowable wall sign area.	24 sq. ft./max. letter height 12-inches for main business sign or 4 sq. ft./max letter height 4-inches if auxiliary. Area is deducted from allowable wall sign area.

*One sign is allowed per street frontage (either wall or project)

**Restaurants and cafes in all districts are allowed one wall mounted menu board not to exceed 2 sq. ft. in addition to other permitted wall signage.

Off-Site Signs

Off-site signs are prohibited except for wayfinding and community signage specifically allowed by the Design Framework.

Additional standards

- A. Businesses with frontage on more than one public street are allowed the permitted signs for each street frontage.
- B. Businesses with service entrances may identify these with one wall-mounted or applied letter sign not exceeding two square feet.
- C. One directional sign, facing a rear parking lot. This sign may be any type of permitted sign other than a freestanding sign, but shall be limited to three square feet in area.

Creative Sign Standards

- A. *Purpose.* This section establishes standards and procedures for the design, review, and approval of creative signs. The purposes of this creative sign program are to:
 - 1. Encourage signs of unique design, and that exhibit a high degree of thoughtfulness, imagination, inventiveness, and spirit; and
 - 2. Provide a process for the application of sign regulations in ways that will allow creatively designed signs that make a positive visual contribution to the overall image of the city, while mitigating the impacts of large or unusually designed signs.
- B. *Applicability.* An applicant may request approval of a sign permit for a creative sign to authorize onsite signs that employ standards that differ from the other provisions of this chapter but comply with the provisions of this section.
- C. *Application Requirements.* A sign permit application for a creative sign shall include all information and materials required by the City.
- D. *Procedure.* A sign permit application for a creative sign shall be subject to review and approval by the City as part of the Site Plan review process. When the creative sign is proposed after site plan review is complete, a creative sign may be approved by the Zoning Administrator when the proposed sign is fifty square feet or less, and shall be approved by the City Council when the sign is larger than fifty square feet.
- E. *Design Criteria.* In approving an application for a creative sign, the review authority shall ensure that a proposed sign meets the following design criteria:
 - 1. Design Quality. The sign shall:
 - a. Constitute a substantial aesthetic improvement to the site and shall have a positive visual impact on the surrounding area;
 - b. Be of unique design, and exhibit a high degree of thoughtfulness, imagination, inventiveness, and spirit; and
 - c. Provide strong graphic character through the imaginative use of graphics, color, texture, quality materials, scale, and proportion.
 - 2. Contextual Criteria. The sign shall contain at least one of the following elements:

- a. Classic historic design style;
 - b. Creative image reflecting current or historic character of the City;
 - c. Inventive representation of the use, name, or logo of the structure or business.
3. Architectural Criteria. The sign shall:
 - a. Utilize or enhance the architectural elements of the building; and
 - b. Be placed in a logical location in relation to the overall composition of the building's façade and not cover any key architectural features and details of the façade.
 4. Neighborhood Impacts. The sign shall be located and designed not to cause light and glare impacts on neighboring residential uses.

Prohibited signs

The following signs are prohibited:

- A. Box signs or cabinet signs, whether on a wall, projecting or on canopies are prohibited except for logo signs permitted as part of an overall sign plan.
- B. Signs employing mercury vapor, low pressure and high pressure sodium and metal halide lighting; plastic panel rear-lighted signs.
- C. Signs on roofs, dormers, and balconies.
- D. Billboards.
- E. Signs painted or mounted upon the exterior side or rear walls on any principle or accessory building or structure, except as otherwise permitted hereunder.
- F. Free standing pylon signs over six feet in height, except community signs.
- G. Back-lit awnings.
- H. Interchangeable letter boards or panels.
- I. Flashing signs.
- J. Off-premises signs, except community signs.

Real Estate Signs

Real estate signs advertising that a particular property is for sale, rent, or lease are limited to one sign per property.

Temporary Signs

Temporary signs are allowed per Section 117-465 (Temporary signs) of the Zoning Ordinance.

Overall Framework – Stormwater Management

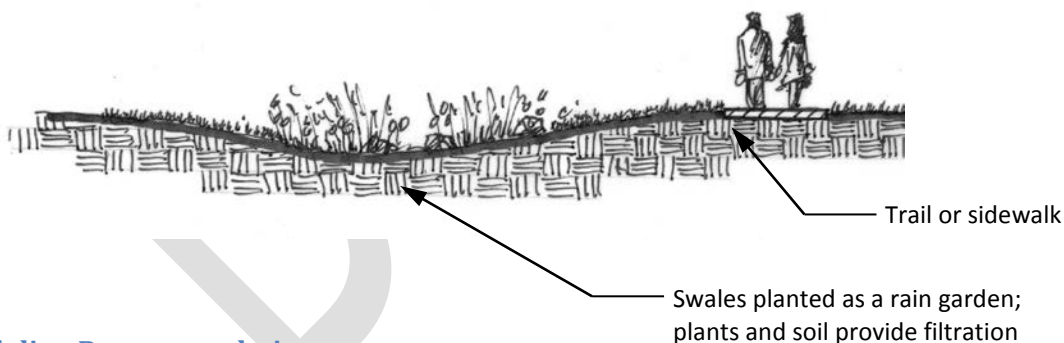
Overview

Water features and drainage systems are essential components of The COR Master Plan. The mix of ponds, streams, fountains and other water elements will provide focal amenities and year round activities within the framework of an environmentally responsible, visually pleasing strategy to manage stormwater. Because the Mississippi River is a restricted discharge water of the state, and because we are creating a new discharge from this development, each sub-district and each site has a responsibility to utilize ‘best management practices’ (BMP) to pretreat run-off, reduce erosion and encourage infiltration. Water elements are not intended to be separate stand-alone features, but instead should be integrated with the variety of parks, trails and public open space proposed for The COR. Water and landscape should be designed and utilized within multipurpose areas that accommodate both active and passive recreational use.

Objectives

Integration of water and landscape, design creativity, use of high quality materials and safety concerns are the critical objectives to be met – the following examples illustrate only a few of many possibilities:

- Innovative new products, such as special soil systems (Netlon, structural soils), pervious pavements for parking areas, storm ceptors, underground storage and other creative techniques should be used to BMP standards
- ‘Green architecture’, expressed through green roofs, gray water recycling and other techniques should be included to reduce the impact of new development on stormwater systems
- Water feature design should include both formal elements (such as reflecting pools or fountains) and natural/informal forms (such as ponds, streams, waterfalls) and should explore creative ways to integrate wetland/rain garden landscapes with active, urban spaces.



Guideline Recommendations

Park/Public Space framework not only defines the overall role and character of public space, but also encourages each development parcel to address the following:

- **Create** signature water features (ponds, pools, fountains, waterfalls, etc.) as major visual amenities throughout The COR
- **Promote** high quality, creative and appealing aesthetics for all system elements
- **Integrate** stormwater management components (meeting both water quality and quantity requirements)

A great deal of time and effort has gone into the calculation and design of a ‘watershed-based’ stormwater management plan to support COR development. While this overall strategy addresses the

water quantity issue for the entire COR by providing storage and conveyance facilities for storm events, individual development projects (block-by-block) have an equal responsibility to meet water quality standards as a primary goal. Each project should integrate a variety of techniques, materials and methods to promote multiple use, maximum flexibility, improved aesthetics for parking areas, park spaces, drainage swales and other site features.

DRAFT

Overall Framework – Parks/Public Spaces

Overview

The overall design framework of The COR is based on a system of linked parks, trails and open space. The City of Ramsey, Anoka County, and to some extent, the State of Minnesota all play a role in local and regional parks programming, design review, construction sequencing, implementation and ultimately maintenance and operation of key public spaces within this framework. The goal is to link existing and proposed parks and trails defined in regional park plans with proposed new parks and trails within The COR. Of equal importance is the contribution from each block and each development project to this network of green, adding a variety of private, semi-private, and perhaps some additional public space throughout The COR. Private development will share the responsibility to provide inviting, innovative and useable green space as integral parts of individual parcel site design.

Guideline Recommendations

The Design Framework encourages the following:

- Work with the City to create an integrated, comprehensive open space system that links with existing city and county trails and open space networks
- Encourage private development (block-by-block) to share in the responsibility to provide inviting, innovative and useable green space as integral parts of each development project
- Integrate stormwater management components (meeting water quality and quantity requirements) within both public / private park and open space improvements

Together, the system of public and semi-public green space will result in a welcoming public realm throughout the new community.

Objectives

Based on the Development Master Plan for The COR, a variety of public and private green space is proposed including:

- Each block and each project will provide intentional, creative, innovative, useable green areas as integral components of site development and building design.
- At the individual block scale, small squares and greens will provide places for gathering and relaxation, especially targeted to meet the demands of adjacent, or nearby buildings. Elements such as gardens, gazebos and fountains should characterize these more intimate public spaces.
- At the neighborhood scale, parks will provide space for more active recreation, and should be flexible enough to accommodate a variety of recreational activities.
- Playgrounds, game fields and park buildings are suggested park amenities and will target a wider user demand from the surrounding community.
- At The COR, the Municipal Plaza will connect with all other parks and open space elements, providing a focal point for activity and a sense of place. Gardens, public pavilions and shelters, play lots and open play fields are suggested amenities that will provide built-in flexibility to meet the demands of both the local population and regional visitors to The COR.

Part Two: Sub-district Framework

Overview

The Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance identify five distinct sub-districts within The COR. Each of these sub-districts (outlined on the plan below) is defined by a unique mix of uses, specific site development patterns and perhaps a distinctive character or image. The sub-districts complement one another as part of the overall plan. The sub-districts are shown on the attached Sub-district Map (Figure 5). They include:

- **COR1 Mixed Use Core** – provides the broadest variety, highest density and greatest intensity of development, encouraging both vertical and horizontal mixed use
- **COR2 Commercial** – provides a location for larger scale retail and other auto-orientated commercial uses
- **COR3 Workplace** – provides a location for uses with high concentrations of employees, such as medical/technology related office, and other corporate or institutional uses
- **COR4 Neighborhood** – provides opportunities for a range of housing types from small lot single family to townhouse, to high density senior or rental apartment
- **COR5 Park and Open Space** – preserves environmental features and provides neighborhood/community amenities throughout The COR

Development plans must respond to the overall COR Design Framework described in Part One of this document, but also must address the following detailed framework for each sub-district. To further clarify and illustrate proposed features in the Master Plan, these sub-district guidelines are organized under the following categories:

- Public Realm / Streetscape Framework
- Site Design Framework
- Architectural Framework

In all cases, the sub-district framework must be applied in harmony with the overall COR framework and with other existing city, county, state codes, design criteria, plans and studies that support broader goals for regional growth and development. However, within each district, development standards shall be based, in part, on the street hierarchy established in The COR.

Public Realm/Streetscape

- A. The developer shall be responsible for construction of all streetscape improvements along adjacent streets. These improvements include all hardscape improvements, such as trails, sidewalks, street trees, benches, bike racks, etc.

Plazas

- A. All properties with principal buildings in excess shall be required to have a public plaza space.
- B. The public plaza space shall include benches, trash receptacles, lighting fixtures and other amenities to create a welcoming space for tenants of the building and members of the public.
- C. These plazas spaces should be visible from the public street.

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

BOUNDARY LABELS

L A N D F O R M
From Site to Finish

Sub-District Map

Version 5.03



Figure 2: Sub-District Map

Architecture

These architectural framework standards suggest an important balance between design continuity, desirable variety and the notion that buildings should complement, and perhaps contrast, but not compete with one another. The lasting appeal of the final outcome must be grounded in the authenticity of the design and the acceptable level of ‘messiness’ that comes with creating a real downtown over time; ‘faux’ second floors, stage set or themed solutions, and large faceless buildings are not acceptable.

Figure xx
Auto Versus Human Design



Providing rear alleys enables the home to present itself to the street, which promotes sociability and walkability.

Minimum Standards

Definitions

Build to line: The line at which construction of a building facade is to occur on a lot. The build to line provides a maximum setback for all building facades from the right-of-way or inside edge of the sidewalk, whichever is greater. The build to line applies to all facades abutting a street right of way. Build to line standards are based on the sub-district the parcel is located and the street in which the building is located upon.

Setback: The minimum required distance between a parking lot or the vertical wall of a building and a lot line. Setbacks are typically more flexible than build to lines and allow a building to be set further back from the lot line and street right-of-way.

Requirements:

- A. Development standards shall be defined within each sub-district.
- B. Residential development should provide variety within the subdivision to avoid monotony. Developers are encouraged to include front porches and windows that face all streets. Corner units are encouraged to have more than one window per side of building to help create a sense of place in the community and promote safety on the street.
- C. Buildings should be articulated to break up the building façade on all elevations. Rooflines and building elevations should be articulated to break up the mass of buildings. Buildings must be

broken at a minimum of every 50 feet. This variation can be accomplished through one or more of the following:

1. Wall face variations (minimum depth of 2 feet)
2. Pilasters or columns (minimum depth of 2 feet)
3. Upper wall break in color and/or materials (minimum of 2/3 up the height of the wall)
4. Wainscot (minimum of 4 feet high)
5. Canopies (minimum 4 foot width)
6. Corner and demising wall or building separations



More Desirable

- D. Each application must list building materials, roofing materials and building colors on the plans. Building articulation, mechanical screening by architectural elements and design elements on all building elevations must be identified on the plans. The plans shall be subject to City review and approval to ensure that the design intent of the Framework has been met.



Less Desirable

- E. Garage forward or “snout houses” are highly discouraged on all residential development as they dominate the view from the street and sidewalk.

The following standards shall apply to all development in The COR:

- A. All sides of buildings shall have an equal finish in terms of materials and general design.
- B. The main entrance of each principal building must face the street. On corner lots, the main entrance may face either of the streets or be oriented to the corner. With buildings that have more than one main entrance, only one entrance must meet this requirement.
- C. Building massing shall be oriented parallel to the street frontage of the lot.
- D. Trash and recycling areas shall be designed internal to the building.
- E. Buildings elevations shall be articulated to reduce the mass of the building. Large blank exterior walls shall be prohibited. Windows are encouraged to be used to break up the mass of the building.
- F. Provide recessed entries wherever possible.
- G. Buildings shall have a base and top to the architecture.
- H. Building materials shall be high-quality durable materials, such as glass, stone, brick, windows, canvas awnings, etc.
 1. Use local sources if available
 2. Siding is not allowed (vinyl, metal, wood) except as a complimentary use

3. Use clear or lightly tinted glass for all windows and doors – mirrored, reflective or highly tinted glazing is not acceptable
 4. Metal and wood components are acceptable as a complimentary, not primary, building material
 5. COR1 sub-district buildings shall be primarily brick or a comparable alternative and shall comprise a minimum of 50% of the non-glazed wall area
- I. Promote multiple stories as the norm in this sub-district, but occasional single story buildings are acceptable; single story buildings should not dominate any street frontage and should be a minimum of 20 feet to the roofline.
 - J. Maximize glass openings for all ground level, street front façades – especially for retail, restaurant and other commercial uses – recommend 50% minimum of total ground level façade, or demonstrate great design through other means.
 - K. Provide real window openings for all street facing façades above ground level – a minimum of 40% of total façade is recommended.
 - L. Provide a diverse mix of materials, applied in a variety of proportions, exposures and detailing within a block, or along a street.

Residential uses in COR4 and COR 5 must comply with the following:

- A. *Location of main entrance*
 1. A building must include a front porch or stoop at all main entrances that face a street. The porch or stoop shall adjoin the main entrance and the main entrance shall be accessible from the porch.
 2. The main entrance of each principal building must face the street. On corner lots, the main entrance may face either of the streets or be oriented to the corner. With buildings that have more than one main entrance, only one entrance must meet this requirement.
- B. *Porches:* Porches used to satisfy the design criteria shall comply with the following:
 1. Porches shall be covered by a solid roof. The roof shall not be located more than 12 feet above the floor of the porch. If the roof of a required porch is developed as a deck or balcony, it may be flat.
 2. The porch shall have minimum dimensions of 6 feet by 6 feet. For single-family detached dwelling units, the covered area provided by the porch must be at least 48 square feet and a minimum of 8 feet wide. If the main entrance is for more than one dwelling unit, the covered area provided by the porch must be at least 63 square feet and a minimum of 9 feet wide.
- C. *Covered balconies:* The covered area provided by the balcony must be at least 48 square feet, a minimum of 8 feet wide, and no more than 15 feet above grade. The covered balcony must be accessible from the interior living space of the house.

D. *Openings between porch floor and ground:* Openings of more than 1 foot between the porch floor and the ground must be covered with a solid material or lattice.

E. *Roofs*

1. *Slope:* Principal structures must have a roof that is sloped, with a pitch that is no flatter than six units of horizontal run to 12 units of horizontal rise.
2. *Architectural features:* The roof of a principal structure shall include the following architectural details:
 - a. At least one dormer facing the street. If only one dormer is included, it shall be at least 5 feet wide and shall be centered horizontally between each end of the front elevation. If more than one dormer is provided, a dormer at least 4 feet wide must be provided on each side of the front elevation; or
 - b. A gabled end, or a gabled end of a roof projection, facing the street.
3. *Roof eaves:* Roof eaves must project from the building wall at least 12 inches, measured horizontally, on at least the front and side elevations.

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Sub-District Framework - COR1 Mixed Use Core

Public Realm / Streetscape

Public realm and streetscape improvements define the character of The COR and create a memorable signature for the Mixed Use Core sub-district. Great parks and great streets, encourage intensified levels of activity, support the proposed mix of uses, invite community gathering and accommodate special events throughout the year.

Insert Streetscape standards (to be provided by city staff):

- Sidewalk width
- Tree species and size (by block, by street)
- Tree spacing
- Hardscape requirements (planter boxes, benches, trash, etc.)
- Lighting
- Light banners

Site Development

Framework that address building location, organization of space and parking options tend to focus on what can be measured – dimensions, setbacks, number of spaces and so on. But in addition to these issues, site Design Framework must also describe the aesthetic qualities and design character of a preferred ‘urban form’ for the Mixed Use Core. The compact and higher density blocks that define this sub-district encourage a mix of uses, with a continuous built edge along street frontage. Innovative parking strategies support this mix, providing easy access to destination shopping, restaurant and entertainment venues. Together these elements will promote the core area as the center of activity – the place to see and be seen within The COR.

Architecture

Buildings in the Mixed Use Core will play a major role in defining the overall character of The COR. The proposed mix of uses for this signature destination suggests the potential for a variety of building types, demanding creativity and innovation to highlight unique architecture, while knitting the entire sub-district together as a coherent whole. Overall building design is an important consideration, but emphasis on first floor façade treatments is essential to encourage street-level activity and enhance the pedestrian experience. Architecture to be ‘4-sided’ at all locations visible to public areas. Emphasis to be on great design along public street frontage. Architecture framework standards include the following:

COR1 Development Standards

	Arterial Street	Destination Street	Parkway	Connector Street	Downtown Street	Local Street
Minimum lot size	None	None	None	None	None	None
Minimum lot width	20 feet	20 feet	20 feet	20 feet	20 feet	20 feet
Minimum lot depth	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet
Allowable residential density in dwelling units per acre ⁽¹⁾	>15 DU/AC	>15 DU/AC	>15 DU/AC	>15 DU/AC	>15 DU/AC	>15 DU/AC
Minimum floor area ratio (FAR) for nonresidential uses/vertically mixed buildings/sites	.75	.75	.75	.75	.75	.75
Build to Line						
Front yard	30 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	5 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	5 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	5 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	5 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	5 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)
Side yard	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.
Rear yard	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.
Driveway length (minimum)	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units
Building height (min. - max.)	2 - 5 stories.	2 - 5 stories.	2 - 5 stories.	2 - 5 stories.	2 - 5 stories.	2 - 5 stories.

1. Residential density is based on the net area of the parcel in question for parcels. In the event that public open space that is not dedicated to the City is developed independently of any particular residential project, the land area of the open space shall be divided equally among those abutting projects for purposes of density calculations.
 2. Build to line shall be measured from building front to edge of right-of-way, or edge of sidewalk easement as defined by the City and said sidewalk must be encumbered by a sidewalk easement recorded with the office of the Anoka County Recorder.
 3. The City may approve up to a 60-foot setback if it finds that topography or other factors require that a building be set back further to achieve acceptable grades or buffer between the street, the site entrance and the building.
- A. At least 60% of street frontage of any lot shall be occupied by building facades meeting this build-to-line. Lots with more than one street frontage, the build to line shall apply on each side fronting a street. An enclosed open area plaza space or outdoor seating with a decorative wall with a minimum height of three feet (3') and a maximum of four and one-half feet (4 ½') can be used to meet the 60% street frontage requirement.
 - B. Screening Of Parking Areas: Wherever a surface parking area faces a street frontage, such frontage shall be screened with a decorative wall, railing, hedge, or a combination of these elements, to a minimum height of three feet (3') and a maximum height of four and one-half feet (4½') above the level of the parking lot, at the build-to line. This screening may be broken into sections along the street edges provided it meets the 60% required.

Sub-District Framework - COR2 Commercial

Public Realm / Streetscape

While the Commercial Sub-district encourages a mix of large and small floor plates, accommodating auto-oriented uses, this suggests even greater attention be paid to public realm and streetscape improvements that not only accommodate vehicles, but also invite bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Surface parking lots provide convenient access to storefronts, but present an additional challenge to the overall visual character and aesthetic appeal of this area. While no large public parks are identified for this sub-district, small pocket parks, squares or other gathering spaces are encouraged. A consistent, attractive streetscape is also essential.

Insert Streetscape standards (to be provided by city staff):

- Sidewalk width
- Tree species and size (by block, by street)
- Tree spacing
- Hardscape requirements (planter boxes, benches, trash, etc.)
- Lighting
- Light banners

Site Development

Site Design Framework for this sub-district focus on a unique opportunity to recast typical commercial development patterns into a contemporary and innovative strategy that responds to overall objectives for The COR. Specifically this suggests that the majority of buildings front on the primary through streets, with parking and service areas on the side or in the back, away from view. However, the market realities suggest that the types of auto-oriented users in this district will have the potential for larger parking fields and drive-throughs that will make a true urban model challenging. However, the City will hold all users to this design vision while modifying the COR2 standards slightly to accommodate these types of more typical suburban land uses. A mix of uses within individual blocks, including retail, restaurant and residential, further enhances this model, addresses design character/aesthetics and promotes activity throughout much of the day and evening hours.

Architecture

Buildings in the Commercial Sub-district make a significant contribution to first impressions of The COR. Buildings form gateways at the major entries into the site, architectural elements and choice of materials convey a certain character and the scale or massing of structures begins to define the feel or experience of this place. These are not just 'commodity' buildings, but instead should raise the bar in terms of overall design and specific details that make The COR unique, inviting and memorable. Architecture to be '4-sided' at all locations visible to public areas. Emphasis to be on great design along public street frontage.

COR2 Development Standards

	Arterial Street	Destination Street	Parkway	Connector Street	Downtown Street	Local Street
Minimum lot size	None	None	None	None	None	None
Minimum lot width	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet
Minimum lot depth	100 feet	100 feet	100 feet	100 feet	100 feet	100 feet
Allowable residential density in dwelling units per acre ⁽¹⁾	>15 DU/AC	>15 DU/AC	>15 DU/AC	>15 DU/AC	>15 DU/AC	>15 DU/AC
Minimum floor area ratio (FAR) for nonresidential uses/vertically mixed buildings/sites	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25
Build to Line						
Front yard	30 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ (40% of front facade w/in max.)	15 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (40% of front facade w/in max.)	30 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ (40% of front facade w/in max.)	15 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (40% of front facade w/in max.)	15 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (40% of front facade w/in max.)	15 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (40% of front facade w/in max.)
Side yard	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.
Rear yard	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.
Driveway length (minimum)	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units
Building height (min. - max.)	1-4 stories.	1-4 stories.	1-4 stories.	1-4 stories.	1-4 stories.	1-4 stories.

1. Residential density is based on the net area of the parcel in question for parcels. In the event that public open space that is not dedicated to the City is developed independently of any particular residential project, the land area of the open space shall be divided equally among those abutting projects for purposes of density calculations.
 2. Build to line shall be measured from building front to edge of right-of-way, or edge of sidewalk easement as defined by the City and said sidewalk must be encumbered by a sidewalk easement recorded with the office of the Anoka County Recorder.
 3. The City may approve up to a 60-foot setback if it finds that topography or other factors require that a building be set back further to achieve acceptable grades or buffer between the street, the site entrance and the building
- A. At least 40% of street frontage of any lot shall be occupied by building facades meeting this build-to-line. Lots with more than one street frontage, the build to line shall apply only to one street frontage.
1. An enclosed open area plaza space or outdoor seating with a decorative wall with a minimum height of three feet (3') and a maximum of four and one-half feet (4 ½') can be used to meet the 40% street frontage requirement.
 2. The City may approve a variation from the required build to line if the applicant provides a street edge consisting of fencing, decorative wall and/or landscaping with a minimum height of three feet (3') and a maximum of four and one-half feet (4 ½') can be used to meet the 40% street frontage requirement.
- B. Screening Of Parking Areas: Wherever a surface parking area faces a street frontage, such frontage shall be screened with a decorative wall, railing, hedge, or a combination of these elements, to a minimum height of three feet (3') and a maximum height of four and one-half feet (4 ½') above the level of the parking lot, at the build-to line. This screening may be broken into sections along the street edges provided it meets the 40% required.

Sub-District Framework - COR3 Workplace

Public Realm/Streetscape

The Workplace Sub-district also encourages a mix of large and small floor plate buildings, but instead of commercial or entertainment, this area of The COR is dominated by office and institutional uses. With opportunities for corporate or medical campus development comes the attendant auto-related infrastructure – easy access, bigger streets and large surface parking lots. Once again, this suggests that equal attention be paid to public realm and streetscape improvements that not only accommodate vehicles, but also invite bicycle and pedestrian traffic. The Draw, an active, neighborhood scale, recreational play space has been proposed for this sub-district, but small pocket parks, squares or other gathering places are also encouraged. In addition, streetscape improvements provide an important public amenity and inviting pedestrian connection to adjacent sub-districts.

Insert Streetscape standards (to be provided by city staff):

- Sidewalk width
- Tree species and size (by block, by street)
- Tree spacing
- Hardscape requirements (planter boxes, benches, trash, etc.)
- Lighting
- Light banners

Site Development

The mix of medical, office, institutional and other uses in this sub-district suggest the potential for a campus-like arrangement of buildings on some blocks. These blocks would tend to be more internally oriented than in other districts, with driveways, parking lots, courtyards and walkway connections in the center, ringed by buildings around the outside. Buildings would still face adjacent streets, with both primary and secondary entries provided to animate these important façades, particularly along Ramsey Boulevard, Sunwood Drive and Rhinestone Street. While the Workplace sub-district also encourages mixed use, this desired development objective will likely occur mostly within blocks, not within individual buildings as seen in other districts.

Architecture

Buildings in the Workplace Sub-district also make a significant contribution to first impressions as people enter The COR via Highway 10, Ramsey Boulevard and Sunwood Drive. Buildings form gateways at the major entries into the site, architectural elements and choice of materials convey quality and permanence, and the scale or massing of structures begins to define the feel and character of this place. The proposed mix of uses within this sub-district suggest a variety of potential building types – blending medical campus with small office, storefront and some housing demands design creativity and innovation to highlight unique architecture, and knit the entire sub-district together as a coherent whole. Architecture to be ‘4-sided’ at all locations visible to public areas. Emphasis to be on great design along public street frontage. Architecture guidelines include the following:

COR3 Development Standards						
	Arterial Street	Destination Street	Parkway	Connector Street	Downtown Street	Local Street
Minimum lot size	None	None	None	None	None	None
Minimum lot width	40 feet	40 feet	40 feet	40 feet	40 feet	40 feet
Minimum lot depth	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet
Allowable residential density in dwelling units per acre ⁽¹⁾	none	none	none	none	none	none
Minimum floor area ratio (FAR) for nonresidential uses/vertically mixed buildings/sites	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25
Build to Line						
Front yard	30 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	15 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	15 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	15 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	15 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	15 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)
Side yard	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.
Rear yard	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.
Driveway length (minimum)	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units
Building height (min. - max.)	2 - 4 stories.	2 - 4 stories.	2 - 4 stories.	2 - 4 stories.	2 - 4 stories.	2 - 4 stories.

1. Residential density is based on the net area of the parcel in question for parcels. In the event that public open space that is not dedicated to the City is developed independently of any particular residential project, the land area of the open space shall be divided equally among those abutting projects for purposes of density calculations.
 2. Build to line shall be measured from building front to edge of right-of-way, or edge of sidewalk easement as defined by the City and said sidewalk must be encumbered by a sidewalk easement recorded with the office of the Anoka County Recorder.
 3. The City may approve up to a 60-foot setback if it finds that topography or other factors require that a building be set back further to achieve acceptable grades or buffer between the street, the site entrance and the building.
- A. At least 60% of street frontage of any lot shall be occupied by building facades meeting this build-to-line. Lots with more than one street frontage, the build to line shall apply on each side fronting a street. An enclosed open area plaza space or outdoor seating with a decorative wall with a minimum height of three feet (3') and a maximum of four and one-half feet (4 ½') can be used to meet the 60% street frontage requirement.
 - B. Screening Of Parking Areas: Wherever a surface parking area faces a street frontage, such frontage shall be screened with a decorative wall, railing, hedge, or a combination of these elements, to a minimum height of three feet (3') and a maximum height of four and one-half feet (4½') above the level of the parking lot, at the build-to line. This screening may be broken into sections along the street edges provided it meets the 60% required.

Sub-District Framework - COR4 Neighborhood

Public Realm/Streetscape

Two prominent public parks supply much of the informal green space for The COR, and more specifically, provide the valuable park frontage and mix of amenities needed to support housing

development within the Neighborhood Sub-district. North Commons surrounds an existing wetland and provides open space for year-round activities including a proposed sledding hill. The sub-district is adjacent to The Draw, which is characterized by wetlands, ponds and a meandering stream channel surrounded by gently sloping hills. Other park features include active and passive recreation areas, natural and manicured landscapes, education and interpretation opportunities, pedestrian and bicycle trails and many other amenities. Tree-lined streets connect these parks to surrounding residential neighborhoods and to nearby parks and amenities throughout The COR.

Insert Streetscape standards (to be provided by city staff):

- Sidewalk width
- Tree species and size (by block, by street)
- Tree spacing
- Hardscape requirements (planter boxes, benches, trash, etc.)
- Lighting
- Light banners

Site Development

The Neighborhood Sub-district emphasizes residential development. To support the proposed mix of housing, a framework of streets and blocks, based on the traditional grid system, encourages compact development patterns with increasing densities closer to the heart of The COR. Typical blocks either front onto signature parks or include some private green space within the site; many blocks have both. The arterial streets that frame this property, including Ramsey, Armstrong and Bunker Lake Boulevards, provide an important 'face' for this sub-district. Residential front doors will connect with public walks along each of these streets promoting the urban character of The COR.

Architecture

The largest in terms of overall acreage, the Neighborhood Sub-district will define the character and quality of the entire northern half of The COR property. With prominent street frontage along most of the major thoroughfares that serve this site, the variety of choices for building type, architectural style and design detailing are crucial decisions that together will promote a safe and attractive residential neighborhood. Integrating contemporary and traditional styles is also an important consideration, central to the notion that a unique and creative model for housing development will be a signature for The COR. Architecture to be '4-sided' at all locations visible to public areas. Emphasis to be on great design along public street frontage. Architecture framework guidelines include the following:

COR4 Development Standards

	Arterial Street	Destination Street	Parkway	Connector Street	Downtown Street	Local Street
Minimum lot size	None	None	None	None	None	None
Minimum lot width	20 feet	20 feet	20 feet	20 feet	20 feet	20 feet
Minimum lot depth	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet	80 feet
Allowable residential density in dwelling units per acre ⁽¹⁾	4-15 DU/AC	4-15 DU/AC	4-15 DU/AC	4-15 DU/AC	4-15 DU/AC	4-15 DU/AC
Minimum floor area ratio (FAR) for nonresidential uses/vertically mixed buildings/sites	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25
Build to Line						
Front yard	30 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	20 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	20 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	20 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	20 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	20 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)
Side yard	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.
Rear yard	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.
Driveway length (minimum)	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units	25 feet for residential units
Building height (min. - max.)	1-4 stories.	1-4 stories.	1-4 stories.	1-4 stories.	1-4 stories.	1-4 stories.

1. Residential density is based on the net area of the parcel in question for parcels. In the event that public open space that is not dedicated to the City is developed independently of any particular residential project, the land area of the open space shall be divided equally among those abutting projects for purposes of density calculations.
 2. Build to line shall be measured from building front to edge of right-of-way, or edge of sidewalk easement as defined by the City and said sidewalk must be encumbered by a sidewalk easement recorded with the office of the Anoka County Recorder.
 3. The City may approve up to a 60-foot setback if it finds that topography or other factors require that a building be set back further to achieve acceptable grades or buffer between the street, the site entrance and the building.
- A. Screening Of Parking Areas: Wherever a surface parking area faces a street frontage, such frontage shall be screened with a decorative wall, railing, hedge, or a combination of these elements, to a minimum height of three feet (3') and a maximum height of four and one-half feet (4¹/₂') above the level of the parking lot, at the build-to line. This screening may be broken into sections along the street edges provided it meets the 60% required.

Sub-District Framework - COR5 Parks & Open Space

Public Realm/Streetscape

The overall structure of The COR is based on a system of linked parks, trails and open space. This includes existing and proposed parks and trails defined in city and regional parks plans, joined with new parks and trails within The COR. Of equal importance is the contribution from each block and each development project to this green structure, adding a variety of private, semi-private and perhaps some additional public space throughout each sub-district. Great strolling streets provide connections between commercial, workplace, entertainment and residential neighborhoods and encourage shared use for cars, pedestrians and bicycles.

Insert Streetscape standards (to be provided by city staff):

- Sidewalk width
- Tree species and size (by block, by street)
- Tree spacing
- Hardscape requirements (planter boxes, benches, trash, etc.)
- Lighting
- Light banners

Site Development

The COR Master Plan illustrates a strong framework of green space, including a mix of public parks, destination amenities, courtyards, commons and other features. As a key component of the overall plan, this integrated system of parks, trails and open space provides the framework around which all other land uses are organized. Placemaking and connectivity are important site development considerations, linking each block and each sub-district with major public spaces nearby and with many other amenities and attractions in The COR.

Architecture

There are numerous opportunities to include buildings and other structures as significant design features within the proposed parks, trails and open space system for The COR. These could range from simple picnic shelters and landscaped arbors to more complex park buildings that might contain meeting rooms, rest rooms, storage areas and other facilities. Design of these important buildings should respond to the specific setting and landscape features in each park, and complement the overall character and quality of buildings located within surrounding blocks. Additionally, limited retail is planned along the perimeter of the park. Architecture guidelines include the following:

COR5 Development Standards

	Arterial Street	Destination Street	Parkway	Connector Street	Downtown Street	Local Street
Minimum lot size	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Minimum lot width	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Minimum lot depth	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Allowable residential density in dwelling units per acre ⁽¹⁾	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Minimum floor area ratio (FAR) for nonresidential uses/vertically mixed buildings/sites	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Build to Line						
Front yard	30 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	10 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	10 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	10 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	10 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)	10 feet as measured from building front to right-of-way ⁽²⁾ (60% of front facade w/in max.)
Side yard	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.
Rear yard	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.	no req.
Driveway length (minimum)	25 feet	25 feet	25 feet	25 feet	25 feet	25 feet
Building height (min. - max.)	1-2 stories.	1-2 stories.	1-2 stories.	1-2 stories.	1-2 stories.	1-2 stories.

1. Residential density is based on the net area of the parcel in question for parcels. In the event that public open space that is not dedicated to the City is developed independently of any particular residential project, the land area of the open space shall be divided equally among those abutting projects for purposes of density calculations.
 2. Build to line shall be measured from building front to edge of right-of-way, or edge of sidewalk easement as defined by the City and said sidewalk must be encumbered by a sidewalk easement recorded with the office of the Anoka County Recorder
 3. The City may approve up to a 60-foot setback if it finds that topography or other factors require that a building be set back further to achieve acceptable grades or buffer between the street, the site entrance and the building.
- A. At least 60% of street frontage of any lot shall be occupied by building facades meeting this build-to-line. Lots with more than one street frontage, the build to line shall apply on each side fronting a street. An enclosed open area plaza space or outdoor seating with a decorative wall with a minimum height of three feet (3') and a maximum of four and one-half feet (4 ½') can be used to meet the 60% street frontage requirement.
- B. Screening Of Parking Areas: Wherever a surface parking area faces a street frontage, such frontage shall be screened with a decorative wall, railing, hedge, or a combination of these elements, to a minimum height of three feet (3') and a maximum height of four and one-half feet (4 ½') above the level of the parking lot, at the build-to line. This screening may be broken into sections along the street edges provided it meets the 60% required.

Implementation

Introduction

This framework recommends distinct strategies for guiding The COR's form and appearance. This framework's vision for the COR will take several years to implement. Successful implementation will require consistent application of the Design Framework by City staff. Zoning enforcement and design framework standards will not succeed without the cooperation and commitment of landowners, development interests, and the rest of the community.

Design Review

The Design Framework will be administered by staff as part of the development review process. Staff will incorporate design review to ensure compliance with the Design Framework as a standard step in the development review process.

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