

Sec. 117-XXX Neighborhood Business District

- (a) Intent. The intent of the Neighborhood Business District is to provide a commercial area for office space, daycare uses and other similar uses, which are compatible with the neighboring residential properties.
- (b) Permitted uses. The following are permitted uses, subject to general requirements and performance standards as specified by this chapter:
 - (1) Restaurants and cafes.
 - (2) Administrative and business offices.
 - (3) Personal and professional services.
 - (4) Day care centers.
- (c) Conditional uses.
 - (1) Expansion or enlargement of lawful nonconforming uses.
 - (2) Animal Clinics.
 - (3) Medical Clinics.
- (d) Accessory uses.
 - (1) Off-street parking as regulated and required by this chapter.
 - (2) Off-street loading as regulated and required by this chapter.
 - (3) Signing as regulated by article II, division 8 of this chapter.
- (e) Prohibited Uses.
 - (1) Motor vehicle sales or repair.
 - (2) Retail operations with drive-through.
 - (3) Gas stations.
 - (4) On- and off-sale liquor.
 - (5) Adult uses - principal and adult uses - accessory.
- (e) Standards. (Also refer to article II, division 6 of this chapter for general performance standards.)
 - (1) Bulk standards.

Standard	Requirement
Minimum lot area	$\frac{1}{2}$ acre 1 acre without municipal water and sewer
Minimum lot width	100 feet 200 feet without municipal water and sewer
Minimum lot depth	150 feet

Maximum building height	35 feet
Maximum structure area	35% of lot area
Minimum building setbacks	
Front yard	35 feet
Side yard	10 feet
Side yard on corner lot	20 feet
Rear yard	35 feet
Major and minor arterials and state and county roads	60 feet from centerline of road right-of-way plus the local applicable setback
Public/private service road	25 feet
Off-street parking and pavement (includes maneuvering areas) setback from street right-of-way	20
Setbacks from residential districts:	35 feet
Structure setback from property boundary line	
Off-street parking, driveways and outside sales and display areas	

- (2) All exterior wall finishes on any building shall be:
- a. Face brick;
 - b. Stucco;
 - c. Glass;
 - d. Wood;
 - e. Natural stone;
 - f. Specifically designed pre-cast concrete units whose surfaces have been integrally treated with an applied decorative material or texture;

g. Other material as may be approved by the city.

Combinations of such materials shall be permitted.

- (3) Vehicular access points shall be limited, shall create a minimum of conflict with through traffic movements, and shall be subject to the approval of the city engineer.
- (4) The entire site shall have a drainage system which is subject to the approval of the city engineer.
- (5) All signing and information or visual communication devices shall be in compliance with the applicable provisions of this Code.
- (6) All magazinging or stacking space for vehicles shall be off-street and shall be constructed to a size that will accommodate that number of vehicles which can be serviced during a maximum 30 minute period and shall be subject to the approval of the city engineer.
- (7) Parking or car magazine storage space shall be screened from view of abutting residential districts.
- (8) Provisions are made to control and reduce noise.
- (9) A concrete curb not less than six inches above grade shall separate the public sidewalk from motor vehicle service areas.
- (10) Off-street parking areas, loading areas, driveways, and traffic maneuvering areas shall be surfaced with concrete or blacktop and finished with continuous concrete curbing as recommended by the city engineer and reflected on an approved site plan. Any site proposing to install any of the above named site improvements is subject to the site plan review process established in section 117-52.
- (11) All conditions pertaining to a specific site are subject to change when the council, upon investigation in relation to a formal request, finds that the general welfare and public betterment can be served as well or better by modifying the conditions.
- (12) Lighting. Any lighting used to illuminate an off-street parking area, sign or structure, shall be arranged to deflect light away from adjoining residential properties and/or public street. Bulbs emitting in excess of 3,000 lumens (150 watts) shall be so directed that the bulb is not visible from off of the property where such light source is located.
- (13) Landscaping and buffering.
 - a. Site landscaping.
 1. Minimum landscaping requirements. All open space areas of a lot which are not used or improved for required parking areas, drives or storage shall be landscaped with a combination of overstory trees, ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers, ground cover, decorative walks, or other similar site design materials in a quantity and placement suitable for the site. A reasonable attempt should be made to preserve as many existing trees as is practicable and to incorporate them into the development. For each existing significant tree retained one overstory tree can be deducted from the minimum requirements.
 2. Number of plantings. The minimum number of overstory trees on any given site shall be as indicated below. These are minimum requirements that are typically supplemented with other understory trees, shrubs, flowers and ground covers deemed appropriate for a complete quality landscape treatment of a site.

	Business Districts
Deciduous/coniferous trees	1 per 50 lineal feet of site perimeter, or 1 tree per 1,000 square feet of building footprint, whichever is greater. For expansions to buildings, 1 additional tree is required for each 1,000 square feet of additional building footprint area.
Shrubs	1 per 30 feet of site perimeter or 1 per 300 square feet of building footprint area, whichever is greater.

3. Minimum size of plantings. Landscaping material shall be of the following minimum planting size:

Landscape Material	Size
Deciduous trees	2.5 inches diameter as measured three feet above ground
Coniferous trees	6 feet in height
Deciduous shrubs	2 feet in height
Evergreen shrubs	2 feet in height or 2 feet in width, whichever applies
Ornamental trees	1.5 inches diameter as measured three feet above ground **None required in R1

4. Planting types.

- (i) Acceptable plantings shall be determined by the City of Ramsey Tree Book.
 - (ii) The compliment of trees fulfilling the landscaping requirements shall be not less than 25 percent deciduous and not less than 25 percent coniferous. No more than 25 percent of the required plantings shall consist of ornamental trees.
 - (iii) For every 35 feet of public road frontage, one overstory tree shall be planted on the private property adjacent to the public road right-of-way.
- b. Topsoil. All exposed ground areas of a site not occupied by building, parking or storage, excluding natural areas that are left undisturbed, shall be covered with four inches of topsoil, as defined in section 117-1, or an approved alternative as referenced in section 117-348.
 - c. Sodding and ground cover. All areas not otherwise improved in accordance with approved site plans shall be finished with sod up to the edge of improved streets. Any alternative to the sod requirement shall require city council approval.

- d. Irrigation.
 - 1. All landscaping areas required under this section shall include underground irrigation systems.
 - 2. Exceptions include natural areas that are left undisturbed.
- e. Parking lot landscaping. All parking lots are required to provide internal overstory tree plantings in an effort to shade parking surfaces and provide visual relief. Plantings are required at the following minimum schedule. The planting schedule is established to provide an acceptable number of plantings that may be planted in regular symmetrical patterns or irregular clusters or groupings.
 - 1. 1 tree per every ten parking spaces.
 - 2. Every overstory tree planting shall be provided with a planting area of 162 square feet.
 - 3. Acceptable ground cover materials include sod, mulch, and other natural ground cover. Landscaping rock and plastic underlayment is not allowed.
 - 4. All parking lot planting areas shall include underground irrigation systems.
- f. Bufferyards. This section is intended to be minimum requirements to achieve screening between differing uses with varied intensities and impacts that are not always complementary when adjacent to one another. When a bufferyard is required under this section, the yard space and planting requirements are not to be reduced for other purposes such as future parking and driveways, building expansions, or other activities that are not in keeping with the purposes of buffering and screening.
 - 1. Bufferyards are intended to provide additional screening of businesses that are adjacent to residential areas. The following table details the width of the bufferyard along the common adjacent property line. An additional increase of landscape plantings would be required in the bufferyard. That increase is expressed in the table below as a percentage of the total required site landscaping:

		Existing Adjacent Development		
		R-1	R-2	R-3
Proposed Development	NBD Bufferyard width	40 ft.	30 ft.	20 ft.
	% increase in plantings required	25%	20%	20%
	NBD Bufferyard width	50 ft.	40 ft.	30 ft.
	% increase in plantings required	30%	25%	20%

- 2. As an alternative method for screening, fences that are 100 percent opaque may be used to mitigate the impacts of businesses that are adjacent to residential areas. Fences shall be subject to the provisions found in all applicable ordinances. When a fence is used for screening purposes, the bufferyard planting requirements may be reduced by ten percent from the stated minimum requirement.

(Code 1978, § 9.20.21; Ord. No. 80-04, 5-25-1980; Ord. No. 86-2, 8-25-1986; Ord. No. 93-01, 3-1-1993; Ord. No. 93-05, 4-23-1993; Ord. No. 96-12, 7-29-1996; Ord. No. 03-21, 8-25-2003; Ord. No. 04-20, 6-1-2004; Ord. No. 09-06, § 2, 4-28-2009; Ord. No. 09-12, § 2, 9-8-2009; Ord. No. 10-04, § 2, 4-13-2010; Ord. No. 11-09, § 2, 6-28-2011; Ord. No. 14-01, § 2, 2-11-2014)