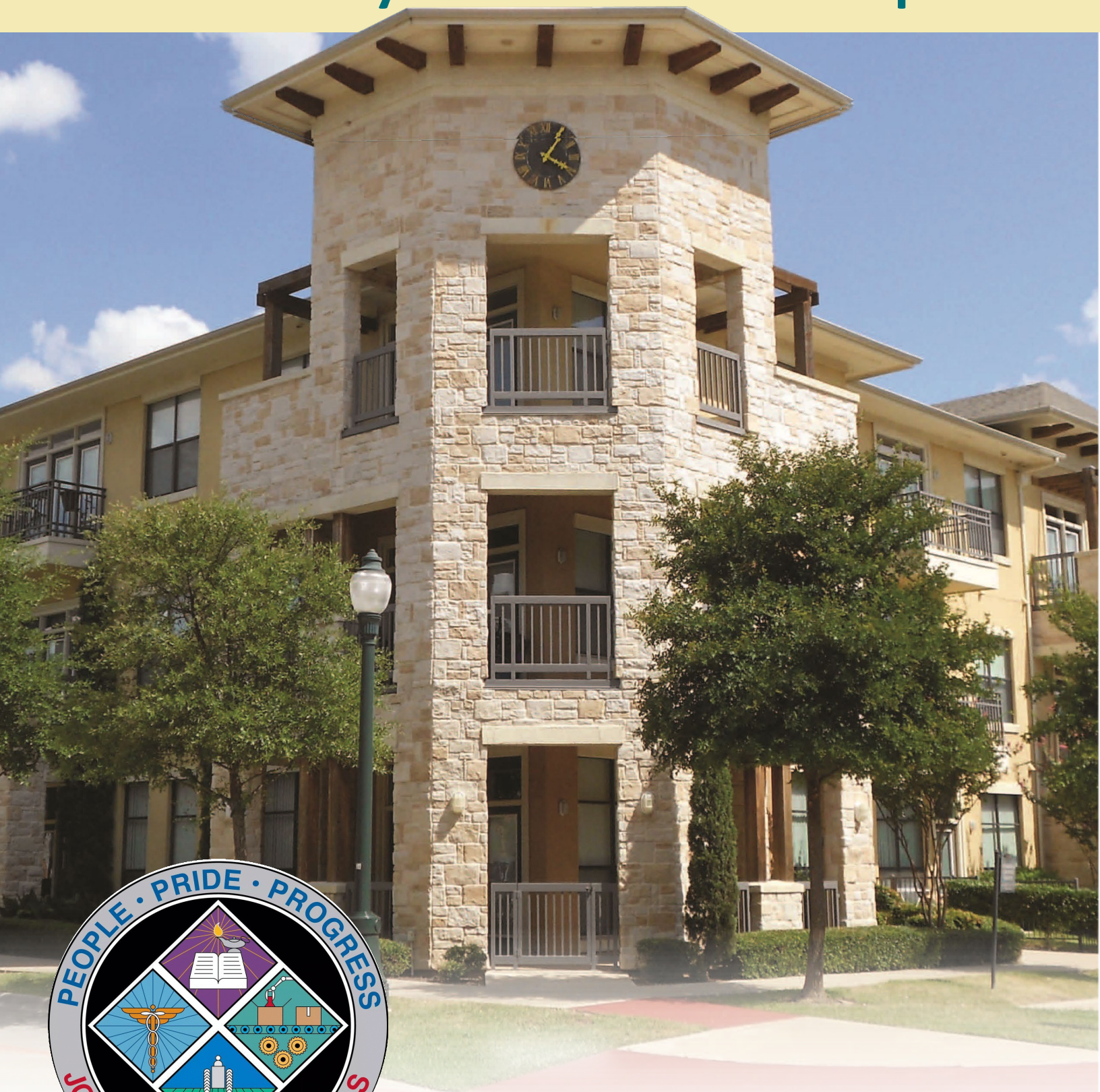


# Design Guidelines for Multi-Family Residential Development



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# Purpose



This document articulates the design principles for multi-family residential development. It assist the City Council, City Staff, architects, and project planners by identifying the City's design criteria. The intent is to achieve well-designed projects that enhance the community's overall value and appearance.



The intent of this manual is to encourage unique architectural expression and diverse design, not limit building styles. It is understood that modern buildings can still meet these design principles; however, exceptions may be provided when the specific design circumstances justify the exception.



# Design Objectives

This manual establishes design principles for new multi-family projects. It promotes good design and development of residential apartment and condominium buildings in the city of Jonesboro. This manual shall direct and encourage efficient processes and decision making while defining the level of quality in the built environment expected by the City Council. It provides the “how to” of designing better-built outcomes. The principles contained herein are intended to promote and protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of the community by carrying out the



- Ensure community longevity by designing projects and neighborhoods that will endure over time.
- Incorporate environmentally sustainable features into project design.
- Consider and respond to the relationship and context of adjacent projects.



following design objectives:

- Foster project designs that create and enhance a sense of community and neighborhood.
- Create and promote usable public spaces.
- Being respectful of and creating designs that reinforce the relationship between public and private space.
- Creating neighborhoods of superior architectural and visual interest.
- Creating project designs that are transit and pedestrian friendly.



# Building Design Guidelines

Architecture creates visual interest, character, and identity for the project while maintaining a relationship to the human scale and the natural environment.

## A. Architectural Design Concept

**A-1** The overall character of the development shall be defined through the use of a consistent design concept and shall incorporate the architectural embellishments commonly associated with that style.

**A-2** Architectural design concepts of neighboring projects shall be considered by staff when reviewing design plans. The project shall adopt a consistent or contrasting approach.



Variation in roofline, wall plane, and materials creates an engaging



## B. Form and Massing

### B-1 Variation of wall planes, rooflines and building form shall be used to create visually engaging designs.

- Architectural elements such as varied roof forms, articulation of the facade, breaks in the roof, walls with texture materials and ornamental details, and landscaping shall be incorporated to add visual interest.
- Balconies and small decks with landscaping shall be incorporated into 2-story or higher buildings to reduce the visual impact of tall structures.
- Architectural elements such as fenestrations and recessed planes shall be incorporated into façade design. Large areas of flat, blank wall and lack of treatment are not allowed.
- Semi-private areas such as covered front porches and/or courtyards are highly encouraged.
- Roof height, pitch, ridgelines and roof materials shall be varied to create visual interest and avoid repetition. Architectural style shall be considered when designing the roof plan.
- Stairs and other entry access requirements such as wheelchair ramps and elevators shall be integrated into the overall project design.



**B-2 Proportional relationship between adjacent buildings and between the building and the street shall be maintained.**

- Building layout ensures the gradual transition of building height and mass.
- Pedestrian scaled entry shall be a prominent feature of the front elevation.
- Building entry zones shall be clearly defined through the use, or combined use, of elements such as accent paving, accent planting, colored pots, and bollards.
- Architectural detail such as windows, awnings, trellises, balconies, patios, landscape planters, and material changes at the street level shall be used to soften the edge of the building and enhance pedestrian scale.

**B-3 Placement and configuration of parking areas, garages and carports shall be considered by staff during the development review process.**



**C. Exterior Building Materials and Color**

**C-1 Variation in color and materials shall be considered to create visually engaging designs.**

- High quality and durable materials, such as stone, brick and cementitious siding, are required. The development must be a 100% brick, stone, or cementitious siding.
- Creative use of plaster and stucco finishes that add visual depth and texture where it enhances the building design.
- Creative and appropriate use of color is required.
- Use of color shall be consistent with the overall architectural style or theme of the project.
- Variation in exterior treatment of adjacent buildings is encouraged.

**C-2 Architectural treatment shall be applied to all elevations of a building and shall include elements such as color, materials, or form drawn from the design of the primary frontage.**

- Rear and side elevations of units/buildings facing a major street shall be given particular emphasis.
- Side and back walls of units/buildings on corners shall include treatment on walls facing the street, and shall incorporate design features such as pop-outs, variation in building mass, and window placement.



**C-3 Architectural features that enhance the façade or building form shall be used.**

- Architectural features such as decorative moldings, windows, shutters, dormers, chimneys, balconies and railings, and landscaped elements such as lattices that add detail to a facade shall be used.



# Site Design Guidelines

Site planning respects and enhances the natural environment, connects the project to its surroundings, promotes walkability, ensures effective access and circulation, includes green-design features, and provides for services and storage.

## A. Site Planning and Building Siting

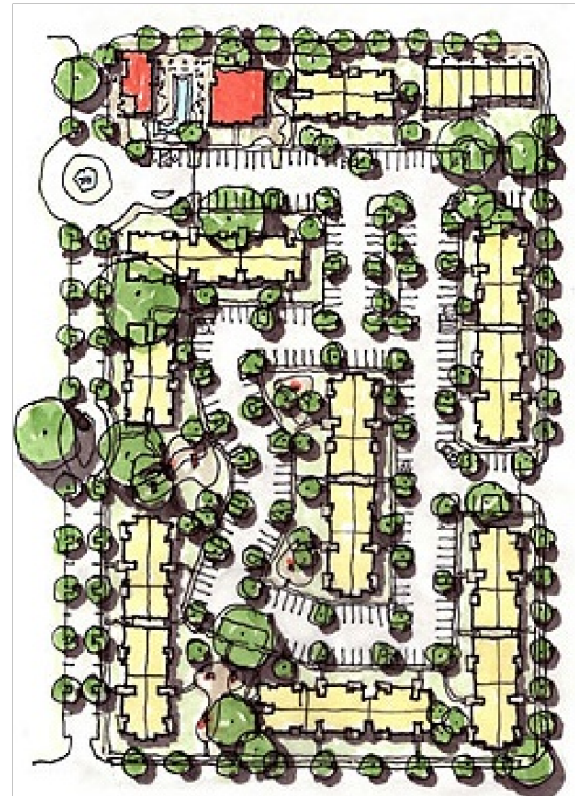
**A-1 Units shall be clustered to define public open spaces and activity areas.**

**A-2 Parks and open space shall be integrated into the overall design of the project.**

- Open space and recreational areas shall be designed as an integral part of the project, not as an afterthought.
- Open space areas shall be planned as a community amenity.
- Greater visual, pedestrian, and bicycle connectivity use and access shall be encouraged.

**A-3 Buildings shall be placed to create a street presence and enhance neighborhood character.**

- Building setbacks shall be varied to break building mass facing the street and provide additional landscape opportunities. When adjacent to single-family residences, side and rear setbacks shall allow for a sufficient planter area to buffer impacts and screen undesirable views.
- When necessary, setbacks shall be used to provide sound attenuation by creating space for the placement of sound barriers.



## B. Edge and Boundary Treatment

**B-1 Major intersections and corners shall be treated as neighborhood/project entryways.**

- Unit/building configuration shall maintain visual and physical connections.
- Landscaping, public spaces and/or “gateway features” shall be used to define the entryways into the project.

**B-2 Entryway features reflect the overall architectural identity or character of the development.**

**B-3 Pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle linkages shall be provided to adjacent developments and uses.**



Enhanced paving, landscaping, and monument signage create an attractive project entry.

**B-4 Cluster buildings to define, connect and activate pedestrian edges and public spaces and to locate convenient transit stops.**

**B-5 Projects shall provide fencing as appropriate between adjacent land uses.**

- Projects abutting single-family residential areas shall provide screening walls or approved fencing along the boundary except at pedestrian access points. The compatibility of adjacent land uses shall be considered in choosing appropriate fencing materials and design.
- Fencing between multi-family uses and open space is discouraged. When necessary, such fencing shall be an open type (such as wrought iron) to allow for continuous views to the open space.
- Solid wood fencing is not allowed
- Materials and finishes shall be durable and easily maintained, resistant to graffiti and water staining, and be able to withstand the local climatic variations.



## C. Topography and Grading

**C-1 Natural topography shall be integrated into site design to the extent feasible.**

- Retaining walls shall reflect the overall architectural identity or character of the development.
- Innovative wall designs such as keystone and integral color split-face CMU shall be used when appropriate within the overall design concept.
- Finished slopes shall taper or terrace to match the existing grades and the grades on adjacent streets.



**C-2 Grade changes and berming shall be used in conjunction with landscape to screen undesirable views.**

Innovative wall design and open-style fencing create an attractive interface to open space.

Detention pond screened from public view.





## **D. Access, Circulation, and Parking**

### **D-1 Adequate vehicular access to the site, internal circulation, and parking shall be provided.**

- Guest and handicap parking shall be evenly and conveniently distributed throughout the project.
- Shared access drives between adjacent parcels shall be used when possible to minimize curb cuts.
- Reciprocal access easements for vehicles and pedestrians, and shared parking facilities between compatible adjacent uses shall be used when feasible.
- Short-term parking shall be provided at the main entry to the leasing office and at building entries.



### **D-2 High-level of pedestrian and bicycle connections and networks shall be provided on site.**

- Sidewalks and/or green-belt connections for pedestrians and bicyclists shall be provided.

### **D-3 Paving material for driveways, drive aisles, and walkways shall be consistent with the architectural style of the units /buildings and shall incorporate similar accent elements.**

- Stamped and/or colored concrete or other decorative accent is encouraged to enhance design.

### **D-4 Site circulation shall allow for and facilitate emergency access to the site and all buildings.**

- Speed bumps are strongly discouraged as they impede emergency response.





Materials and colors used shall reflect the overall design



## E. Service and Storage

**E-1 Services and storage, including garbage collection, recycling, fire, and utilities shall be planned. Trash enclosure location, dimensions, and design shall comply with current City standards.**

- All refuse containers shall be placed within screened storage areas or enclosures.
- Refuse containers shall be conveniently located throughout the project, yet sufficiently buffered from project entries and main pedestrian paths.
- Enclosures shall be located to provide easy accessibility for users, adequate room for servicing by refuse trucks and shall not hinder visibility for vehicle circulation.
- Enclosure materials and colors shall be consistent with, and complimentary to, building materials and finishes.
- Landscaping shall be provided on all non-accessible sides of trash enclosures.

# Public Space Guidelines

The design of public spaces provides safe, active, and accessible gathering places in the community that encourage social interaction and a sense of community.



## A. Streetscape Design

**A-1 Safe and comfortable pedestrian environments shall be provided within the project.**

- Physical separation from streets shall be provided through landscaping to encourage walking.
- Pedestrian amenities such as appropriate signage, street furniture, landscaping and pedestrian-scale lighting shall be provided.
- Wider sidewalks shall be provided to allow for two persons to walk comfortably side-by-side.

**A-2 Pedestrian and bicycle friendly projects shall be designed to encourage walking and bicycling.**

- Traffic calming elements such as enhanced paving and bulb-outs at intersections shall be provided. Other traffic calming measures shall be explored.
- Parking bays and other on- and off-street parking shall be explored.

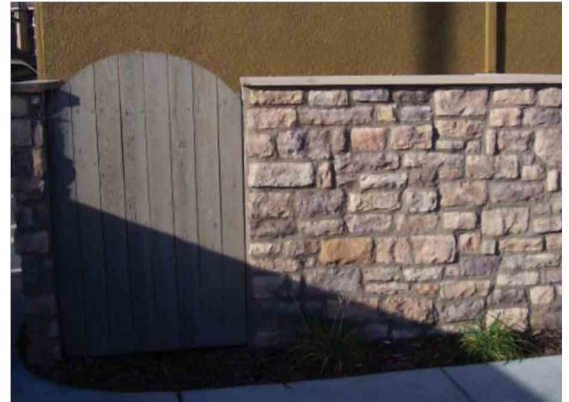
**A-3 Utilities be screened from public view.**

- HVAC units shall be located away from private outdoor space such as porches and patios, and screened from public view through landscaping and/or screen walls.
- Utility meters and other equipment shall be screened with landscaping or low screen walls.
- Public utility infrastructure and other utility components shall be oriented away from public view to the extent possible and screened with evergreen shrubs to the extent allowed by the Utilities.



**A-4 Loading, service, and storage areas shall be screened from public view through a combination of building design and/or layout, masonry walls, grade separations, and/or dense landscaping.**

- Ground or wall mounted equipment shall be located out of public view to the extent possible and screened or placed in an enclosure to the extent allowed by the utility companies.
- Screening for roof-mounted equipment shall be integrated into the building and roof design and use compatible materials, colors, and forms. Wood lattice or fence like coverings are inappropriate for roof screening.
- Roof mounted equipment, including but not limited to air conditioners, fans, vents, antennas and microwave dishes, shall be set back from the roof edge, placed behind a parapet or in a well, or painted to match their background, so that they are not visible to motorists or pedestrians on the adjacent streets.



**A-5 A combination of landscaping, berming and screen walls shall be used to screen views of parked cars adjacent to the streetscape.**



Painted to match building material.

Screened with landscaping.



## B. Public/Private Spaces and Separation

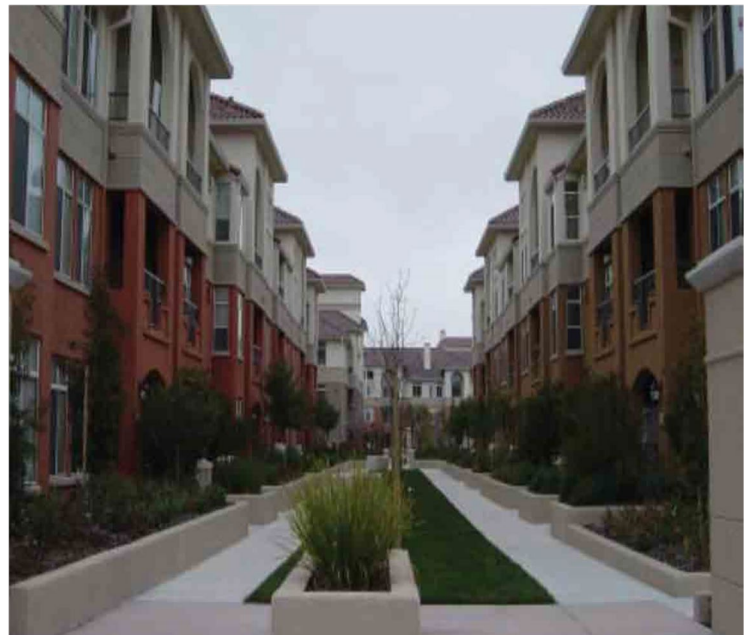
### B-1 Visual and physical connection between private and public space shall be maintained to encourage natural surveillance while creating separation between the street and living areas.

- Vertical grade separation shall be considered or product types with reduced setbacks or living area within close proximity to the sidewalk.
- Floor plans shall orient indoor activity areas toward the front of units to provide more “eyes on the street.”
- Clear definition of the semi-private space such as decks, patios and porches shall be maintained from the public space such as sidewalks and parks.



### B-2 Active use of outdoor spaces shall be encouraged.

- Relationship between indoor and outdoor spaces and uses shall be considered in unit designs.



## C. Landscaping

**C-1 Landscaping shall be used extensively throughout the project for multiple objectives, such as:**

- Screening buildings and adding texture to walls.
- Screening undesirable views.
- Strengthening the pedestrian scale.
- Buffering pedestrian walkways from the street and buildings.
- Providing shade in public spaces and parking lots.
- Assisting in neighborhood wayfinding.
- Softening transitions between horizontal and vertical planes.
- Providing a visual and noise buffer.
- Breaking up hard surfaces.



Prior to any construction or development a Tree Preservation Plan must be submitted and approved by the City.

**C-2 Layered landscaping and a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees shall be incorporated in the landscape design. Plant palettes that emphasize massing and form rather than individual or small groupings of shrubs and trees.**

**C-3 Tree placement shall provide maximum shading of streets, sidewalks, and outdoor public spaces.**

**C-4 Native planting or compatible species of drought-tolerant plants shall be used as much as possible to reduce water consumption.**

- Limit turf to accent areas, activity areas, or in parkway areas between sidewalks and street curbs.
- Group plants according to water needs and irrigate accordingly.

**C-5 Visual surveillance of common open space, parking areas, or dwelling entries shall not be obscured through landscaping.**

- Trees and shrubs shall be selected and located to maintain safe sight line distances.

**C-6 Landscape designs shall consider and enhance adjacent site landscaping.**

**C-7 Plant materials shall be selected and located to avoid conflicts with the underground or above ground utilities.**

**C-8 Plant selection shall consider site geology and soil conditions. Soil shall be amended as necessary to ensure establishment.**

**C-9 All required landscaping improvements shall be continually preserved and maintained to professional maintenance industry standards.**

- Plant materials that have died or are in a visible state of decline shall be replaced to meet the requirements of the original landscape plan approval.

**C-10 Carports or trees shall provide shade to the paved parking areas.**



## D. Plazas, Parks, and Play Lots

- D-1 An adequate amount of site amenities, plazas and play areas shall be provided.
- D-2 Common outdoor gathering areas shall incorporate a mix of active and passive amenities.
- D-3 Recreational amenities such as playground equipment, shaded areas, picnic tables, barbecue, grills, exercise equipment and sports facilities shall be provided in common outdoor space to encourage community activity and use.



Play lots centrally and conveniently located to encourage use and foster interaction.



## E. Defensible Space

- E-1 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) best practices including, providing defensible space, opportunities for natural surveillance, territorial reinforcement, and access control shall be incorporated in unit/building design.
- E-2 The concept of private space and control of access points shall be reinforced through the use of low fences, walls, and landscaping, as appropriate.
- E-3 Window placement between units shall balance privacy and natural surveillance.



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Low walls and landscaping transition grades provide separation between public and semi-private space.

## F. Lighting

- F-1 Pedestrian-scale lighting shall be incorporated in outdoor areas such as pedestrian walkways, plazas, play lots, and parking areas.
- F-2 Pedestrian-scale lighting shall be integrated into building and landscape design. Light fixtures shall be compatible with the architectural style, materials, color, and scale of the project.
- F-3 Safety and security in the project and its immediate surroundings shall be enhanced through lighting design.
- F-4 Energy efficiency, color rendition and overall effect shall be considered by staff when reviewing lighting design.
- F-5 Exterior lighting shall reinforce the architectural features and blend into the landscape. Special lighting shall be used to highlight unique design elements or art features.

## G. Signage

- H-1 Thoughtfully integrated design themes and styles for project signage must conform to the Sign Ordinance.
- H-2 Sign type and locations shall be consistent throughout the project and the sign materials and graphics shall complement the project design.
- H-3 Building and site addressing shall comply with applicable City addressing policies.
- H-4 A lighted directory sign that shows building and apartment numbers shall be placed at each project entrance to direct visitors to their desired destination.

