Parking & Driveways

9.1 PURPOSE AND INTENT

Parking lots and similar facilities are necessary elements in the urban environment. However, the provision of parking facilities must be regulated in order to avoid negative impacts such as:

- Increased storm water volume and velocity,
- Increased surface pollutants,
- Increased surface level heat and glare,
- Reduction in the efficiency of the connecting street system, and
- Reduction in the operations of the surrounding pedestrian and bicycle network.

The purpose of this chapter is to ensure the adequate provision of parking in Wake Forest without degrading the urban or natural environment.

9.2 APPLICABILITY

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all new and expanded development, as well as any changes in use. The notable exception shall be any Planned Unit Development District, which is intended to create its own parking standards through the PUD Concept Plan.

9.3 PERMITTED PARKING LOCATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Civic/Institutional</th>
<th>Detached House</th>
<th>Townhouse</th>
<th>Apartment</th>
<th>Commercial</th>
<th>Mixed-Use</th>
<th>All Other Bldgs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RD</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>–</td>
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<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>GR3 &amp; GR5</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GR10</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>–</td>
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<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NB</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICD</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LI</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HI</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UR</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMX</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMX &amp; RA-HC</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMX</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Permitted Parking Configurations*
(Also see diagrams below)

Location A – Parking permitted in 3rd Layer only
Location B – Parking permitted in 2nd and 3rd Layers only
Location C – Parking permitted in 2nd and 3rd Layers. Parking in 1st Layer restricted to one drive aisle with 2 bays.
Location D – Parking permitted in 2nd and 3rd Layers. Parking in 1st Layer restricted to a driveway or paved surface not to exceed 40% of the lot width.
U – Unrestricted

* These requirements are intended to be applied from the principal frontage of the lot as determined by the Administrator. Parking configurations may have additional restrictions specified in the tables of district standards in Sections 2.2.3 and 2.2.5, and in Chapter 5 – Building Design Standards, and, if located in the Special Highway Overlay District, in Section 2.4.3. The Administrator may waive or alter parking configuration requirements to accommodate unique constraints, such as severe topography, on a site-by-site basis.
**PERMITTED PARKING CONFIGURATION DIAGRAMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| A        | Parking permitted in 3rd Layer only.  
1st Layer – distance from right-of-way to front of building.  
2nd Layer – 20 feet.  
3rd Layer – remainder of lot. |
| B        | Parking permitted in 2nd and 3rd Layers only.  
1st Layer – distance from right-of-way to front of building.  
2nd Layer – 20 feet.  
3rd Layer – remainder of lot. |
| C        | Parking permitted in 2nd and 3rd Layers.  
Parking in 1st Layer restricted to one drive aisle with 2 bays.  
1st Layer – distance from right-of-way to front of building.  
2nd Layer – 20 feet.  
3rd Layer – remainder of lot. |
| D        | Parking permitted in 2nd and 3rd Layers.  
Parking in 1st Layer restricted to a driveway or paved surface not to exceed 40% of the lot width.  
1st Layer – distance from right-of-way to front of building.  
2nd Layer – 20 feet.  
3rd Layer – remainder of lot. |
| U        | Unrestricted.  
1st Layer – distance from right-of-way to front of building.  
2nd Layer – 20 feet.  
3rd Layer – remainder of lot. |
### 9.4 PARKING REQUIREMENTS

Permanent off-street parking (including on-street parking in accordance with the requirements below) is required subject to the table below. If required, parking shall be provided at the time of erection, alteration, enlargement, establishment or change of use of any building or open use of land which require additional off-street parking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use Category</th>
<th>Minimum Required Auto Spaces</th>
<th>Minimum Required Bicycle Parking Spaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwelling-Single Family &amp; Two Family</td>
<td>1 per unit, or 2 per unit if parking is provided in an enclosed garage</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwelling-Townhome &amp; Multifamily</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 per 40 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwelling-Accessory</td>
<td>1 per unit</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live-Work Units</td>
<td>1 per 600 sf</td>
<td>2 per 40 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Care Facilities</td>
<td>1 per 2 resident rooms</td>
<td>2 per 40 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Residential Uses</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster Mailbox Unit</td>
<td>2 spaces per location, one space must meet ADA accessibility requirements</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodging – All Lodging Uses</td>
<td>1 per room</td>
<td>2 per 50 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office/Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child/Adult Day Care Centers (More than 8 persons)</td>
<td>1 space per classroom</td>
<td>2 per 50 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Clinic</td>
<td>1 per Examination Room</td>
<td>2 per 50 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Office/Service Uses</td>
<td>1 per 600 sf</td>
<td>2 per 50 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurant</td>
<td>1 per 400 sf</td>
<td>2 per 50 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Commercial Uses</td>
<td>1 per 400 sf</td>
<td>2 per 40 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment/Recreation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amusements (Indoor)</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
<td>2 per 40 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amusements (Outdoor)</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
<td>2 per 40 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational Facility (Indoor)</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
<td>2 per 40 auto spaces (minimum of 4 racks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theater (Indoor &amp; Outdoor)</td>
<td>1 per 8 seats</td>
<td>2 per 40 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Entertainment/Recreation Indoor Uses</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
<td>2 per 40 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Entertainment/Recreation Outdoor Uses</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
<td>2 per 40 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic/Institutional</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Institution (RA-HC, NMX, UMX)</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
<td>2 per 50 seats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Institution (All Other Districts)</td>
<td>1 per 8 seats in the main assembly hall</td>
<td>2 per 50 seats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools – Elementary &amp; Secondary</td>
<td>1 per 8 seats in the main assembly hall or gymnasium*</td>
<td>2 per 50 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio – Art, dance, martial arts, music</td>
<td>1 per 400 sq ft</td>
<td>2 per 20 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Civic/Institutional Uses</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
<td>2 per 40 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing/Wholesale/Storage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage – Self-Service</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Manufacturing/Wholesale/Storage Uses</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
<td>2 per 50 auto spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural – All Agricultural Uses</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure – All Infrastructure Uses</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 9.4.2 MAXIMUM PARKING

The minimum parking requirements above have intentionally been set well below general market expectations as a means to mitigate against the negative aspects of paved surfaces on the environment such as excessive water runoff, water pollution, and urban heat island effect. To this end, there shall also be a maximum parking standard for large parking facilities as follows:
A. **Pervious Pavement Required**

1. If a parking lot exceeds 150 spaces and includes more than twice the minimum number of spaces established for a use, as outlined in Section 9.4.1 above, any parking spaces over twice the minimum required must be installed using pervious pavement systems only.

2. If there are no minimum parking requirements for the use given in Section 9.4.1 above, the maximum parking standard shall be 35% of the site area.

B. **Exception**: Where poorly draining soil types prevent the use of this technique, the Administrator may grant an exception to the maximum parking standard above upon sufficient justification from the applicant of the need for such extra parking facilities.

### 9.4.3 EXEMPTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS

A. **Exemptions**: Uses in the RA-HC District are exempt from the minimum parking requirements of this section.

B. **Tree Preservation**: The minimum number of parking spaces required may be adjusted by the Administrator when it has been determined that the reductions are necessary to preserve a healthy tree or trees (with a 12 inch or greater diameter at breast height) from being damaged or removed, and where the site plan provides for the retention of said tree or trees.

### 9.4.4 SATELLITE PARKING

A. If the off-street parking spaces required by this section cannot be reasonably provided on the same lot on which the principal use is located, such space may be provided on any land within 600 feet. Such measurement shall be taken from the edge of the parking area on the lot to the entryway of the remote parking area.

B. **Shared Satellite Parking**: Upon approval by the Administrator, satellite parking facilities may be shared by 2 or more uses which do not share normal operating hours.

C. **Parking for Permitted Uses Only**: If satellite parking is utilized to fulfill parking requirements, the owner or authorized agent for the land upon which such remote parking is located shall restrict the use of such parking area for parking only in connection with the use(s) or structure(s) for which such remote parking is provided. Such restriction shall be recorded through an easements plat properly filed with the Register of Deeds of Wake County, which may be released only by written consent of the town. Remote parking for a particular use shall not be established in any district that does not allow that use.

### 9.5 VEHICLE PARKING DESIGN STANDARDS

#### 9.5.1 PARKING AREA GENERAL DESIGN STANDARDS

A. Parking areas shall be located and designed to avoid undue interference with the use of public rights-of-way, driveways or pedestrian ways. Parking stalls shall not be located in areas that would require backing into access driveways or streets except where allowed for residences.
B. Parking design and location shall be in accordance with the Wake Forest Manual of Specifications, Standards and Design (MSSD).

C. Parking stalls shall be located a minimum of 10 feet from public rights-of-way and buildings to allow sufficient separation for sidewalks, landscaping and other site features except along the backs of buildings in areas designed for loading and unloading.

D. Parking shall not be located in landscaped, open space or tree save areas.

E. Parking areas shall be maintained to provide for vehicle access and shall be kept free of litter, debris, outdoor display and sales and material storage, including portable containers.

F. Parking for service vehicles shall be designated, located and screened to minimize the view from adjacent properties and rights-of-way, generally at the rear of buildings.

G. Vehicle storage or display areas shall be identified on the site plan distinct from customer and employee parking areas and shall comply with parking access, location and design requirements, except that striping of the display or storage area shall not be required. Vehicle storage or display areas shall not be located in a manner that interferes with vehicle or pedestrian access aisles or driveways.

H. Tractor trailers, cargo trucks, busses and other large commercial vehicles or heavy equipment parking and storage shall comply with parking access, location and design requirements except for stall size and aisle size which shall be as appropriate for the vehicles to be stored and shall be designated on a site plan.

I. Compact car spaces in accordance with the MSSD may be used for any parking provided above the minimum required parking which has been met with standard car spaces.

9.5.2 SURFACING

Off-street parking areas shall be properly graded, marked and located on improved lots or within parking structures. The material for surface parking spaces and corresponding access drives required by this section, except for single-family detached and duplex residences, shall consist of suitable material as set forth below.

A. Suitable Materials: Suitable paving materials for required parking areas include, but are not limited to, asphalt, porous asphalt, porous paving blocks, and concrete. Compacted stone (road bond) and gravel are permitted as paving materials in the 3rd Layer of a lot (as described in Section 9.3) or in loading and service areas.

B. Accessible Spaces: All accessible spaces and corresponding access paths shall consist of concrete or asphalt.

C. Gravel: When gravel is used it must be maintained on site with a concrete apron at the traveled way.

D. Pervious Surfaces: Porous paving blocks and pervious paving materials are permitted and encouraged as material for parking lots. The use of reinforced grass as a parking lot surface is permitted for satellite parking areas.

E. Parking Space Marking: The individual parking spaces in a lot shall be delineated in all parking lots except those utilizing road bond, gravel, grass or other vegetative surfacing.
9.5.3 CONNECTIVITY

A. Adjoining parking lots serving (or potentially serving) non-residential or multi-family uses shall be interconnected as follows: (See illustration below)

1. The parking lot under development has a minimum of 24 parking spaces or equivalent parking area.

2. At least 1 connection is provided at all lot lines that are coincident for at least 60 feet with another lot zoned for non-residential use.

3. The connection is at least 20 feet wide.

4. If applicable, the connection aligns with a connection that has been previously constructed on an adjacent property.

5. The connection has a slope of no greater than 15 percent.

6. The connection is not placed where a building on an adjacent property is within 50 feet of the lot line which would hamper traffic movements within the parking lot.

7. The connection is placed in an area which will not require the removal of significant natural features such as wetlands or trees with a caliper of 6 inches or more.

8. In the event these conditions cannot be met without undue hardship, or if such connections would create undesirable traffic flow, the Administrator may waive the connection requirement.

B. Where a parking lot connection is required an easement for ingress and egress to adjacent lots shall be recorded by the property owner with the Wake County Register of Deeds in the form of an easement plat.

9.5.4 STRUCTURED PARKING

A. Screening Required: Where an above-ground parking structure fronts a public street, the ground level shall be screened in such a way that cars are not visible from the street (e.g., structure could be wrapped by retail, office or some other active use along the primary façade).

B. Materials: Along pedestrian oriented streets, parking structure façades shall be treated with high quality materials and given vertical articulation and emphasis compatible with the principle structure. The façade shall be designed to visually screen cars.

C. Entries: Pedestrian entries shall be clearly visible.

D. Bicycle Parking: Parking structures shall provide bicycle parking within the structure. It shall be located on the level closest to the street and/or a primary building entrance.

9.6 BICYCLE PARKING STANDARDS

Bicycle parking shall be provided by all non-residential, multi-family, recreation and industrial uses. Bicycle parking facilities required by this section shall be designed to provide convenient bicycle parking and to protect parked bicycles from damage. Acceptable rack elements, rack location and access, rack area
and site conditions such as protection from the elements and visibility shall conform to the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals Bicycle Parking Guidelines.

9.6.1 BICYCLE PARKING FACILITIES

Bicycle parking spaces shall be Class I, Class II, or Class III facilities. Racks which only support one wheel are not acceptable.

A. **Class I**: Bicycle lockers are generally rectangular enclosures, each holding one or 2 bicycles.

B. **Class II**: Bicycle parking racks which allow all 3 major components of the bicycle, back wheel, frame, and front wheel, to be locked, without removal of the front wheel.

C. **Class III**: Racks such as loop, post, rails, “A” and inverted “U” racks. Each rack provides 2 bicycle parking spaces. Common properties in a class III facility include its support of the bicycle with or without the front wheel removed and post or pipe dimensions which allow the lock to encompass the front tire and down post or the rear wheel and seat post. Class III facilities are recommended for short-term parking, although, in combination with shelter, they can be adequate for long-term storage.

9.6.2 GENERAL BICYCLE PARKING DESIGN STANDARDS

A. **Multi-Family Development**: Required bicycle parking spaces in multi-family development shall be provided in Class I facilities, or in Class II or III facilities if shelter is provided to accommodate long-term storage. If completely enclosed garages or accessory storage structures of at least 8 feet by 6 feet that may be locked or otherwise secured by individual tenants are provided for every unit in a multi-family development, no additional bicycle parking shall be required.

B. **Surfacing**: Bicycle parking shall be provided on a hard-surface, all-weather pavement of asphalt or concrete with curb ramps installed as appropriate.

C. **Signage**: Where not clearly visible from the access way, directional signage shall be provided to route bicyclists to the bicycle parking facility.

D. **Installation**: Installation shall be according to the manufacturers’ instructions.
E. **Placement:** Bicycle parking shall be:

1. Separated from automobile parking by a physical barrier or by at least 5 feet where automobile parking is prohibited and shall be located as close to public and employee entrances as possible without interfering with the flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

2. Conveniently located near entrances (where multiple entrances exist, the racks shall be dispersed among the entrances rather than located in large groupings)

3. Located so as not to interfere with pedestrian access.

### 9.7 TRANSPORTATION FACILITY PERMITS

A Transportation Facility (TF) is any surface parking lot of 1500 spaces or more, a combination of surface and structure parking of 1000 spaces of more, or any parking structure of 750 spaces. Transportation Facilities must comply with the regulations pertaining to the TF Program administered by the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, Division of Air Quality. Any existing facility that plans a modification that exceeds the above threshold is subject to the TF Program regulations.

### 9.8 DRIVEWAY ACCESS

#### 9.8.1 DRIVEWAY STANDARDS

Any use which requires lowered or cutaway curbs, for purposes of ingress or egress, shall be subject to the provisions below.

A. **Maximum Number of Driveways:** The maximum number of combined entrances and exits allowed on any parcel shall correspond to the frontage of that parcel on any one street as indicated in the following table, except that properties with frontage on major access corridors in the Special Highway Overlay Districts shall be subject to the driveway requirements of Section 2.4.3.E:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frontage Width</th>
<th>Maximum Permitted Driveways</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 50 feet</td>
<td>1 - For residential properties the requirements of Section 5.5.4 shall also apply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 feet to 200 feet</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 200 feet</td>
<td>2 - Additional entrances or exits shall be permitted after showing of actual requirements of convenience and necessity and upon approval of the Board of Commissioners.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. **Location:** Driveways shall be located at a point along the frontage where it is possible for drivers of vehicles entering the highway to see in both directions along the traveled way far enough to allow entering the roadway without creating a hazardous situation.
C. Minimum Separation

1. The distance between any 2 curb cuts on the same side of the street shall be not less than 15 feet. Said distance shall be measured between the points of tangency of the curb return radii and the established curb line of the abutting street.

2. At street intersections, no curb cut shall be located within 25 feet of the intersection of 2 curb lines or such lines extended, or within 15 feet of the intersection of 2 property boundaries, right-of-way lines, or such lines extended, whichever is least restrictive.

3. All driveways shall be constructed so as to be at least 5 feet from any property line at the right-of-way, except that a curb return may become tangent to a curb line at a point where said property line extended intersects said curb line.

D. Driveway Width: Required driveway width pertains to the measurement at the sidewalk. At other points in the driveway the width may vary.

1. Single Family Detached Residential Driveways: Driveways on detached single family residential properties shall have a maximum width of 12 feet.

2. All Other Driveways: The width, in feet, of a driveway approach shall be within the minimum and maximum limits as specified below.
   a. One-way drives shall have a minimum width of 12 feet and shall not exceed a maximum width of 30 feet.
   b. Two-way drives shall have a minimum width of 16 feet and shall not exceed a maximum width of 36 feet.

3. Public Service Driveways Exempt: Driveways for fire protection, law enforcement, and other public services shall be exempt from the driveway width requirements of this paragraph.

E. Joint Use Driveway

1. Wherever feasible, the Administrator shall require the establishment of a joint use driveway serving 2 abutting properties.

2. When a property is developed before an abutting property is developed, the site shall be designed to ensure that its driveway and circulation may be modified to
create a joint use driveway and interconnected parking with the abutting property at a later date.

F. **Utility Driveways:** A 10 foot wide curb depression shall be provided at all locations where utilities cross curb and gutter to run into off-site easements. The purpose for the depression is to provide equipment access to easements without “hopping” over the curb.

G. **Compliance with Local and State Requirements**

1. Any person or corporation desiring to construct a driveway or other connection within the right-of-way of the town or state shall, before beginning any construction, secure the appropriate permits from the authorizing agency, allowing such construction. Driveway connections to residences are normally excluded from this requirement, but may be included at the option of the authorizing agency.

2. Failure to secure a permit prior to construction may result in the removal of the driveways and/or denial of access at that location.

H. **Driveway Sight Triangles**

1. At all driveway approaches, a sight area shall be maintained. Within the sight area no fence, wall, sign, graded slope or embankment, parked vehicle, hedge, foliage, tree or other planting, and no other object or structure shall be placed, erected or maintained which will obstruct visibility at a height greater than 2.5 feet.

2. Sight triangles for driveways are formed by a 10 foot side measured along the edge of the driveway approach and a 15 foot side measured along the edge of the traveled way. For sight triangle distances related to other intersection types see Section 6.5.2.G.