# ZONING CODE Chapter 18

#### 18. City Center District

Intent and Purpose. The City Center District is intended to help implement the goals and policies of the Vadnais Heights Comprehensive Plan, the Vadnais City Center Plan including the goals and objectives of the 2006 update of that plan and the Vadnais City Center Land Use Plan. District regulations are designed to provide flexibility for development that assure the ability to require that development plans meet the spirit of the Vadnais City Center Plan and Vadnais Heights Comprehensive Plan. It is the intent of these regulations to provide a framework for creative development, uses and relationships and to encourage innovative and unique places. The zoning district regulations are used in combination with the goals and objectives of the Vadnais City Center Plan.

## 18.020 <u>Uses in the City Center District</u>.

- (1) Permitted Uses: None.
- (2) Special Uses: The following uses may be allowed by Special Use Permit subject to the Site Plan review process and conformance with the regulations in this Chapter and the policies of the Vadnais City Center Plan, and allowed by the Vadnais City Center Land Use Plan. Drive-through windows are discouraged unless they are an integral part of a larger site plan.
  - (a) Retail businesses having no outdoor storage of goods or materials and emphasizing a pedestrian scale environment.
  - (b) The following service businesses:
    - (i) Animal hospitals/\_domestic animal boarding with applicable licenses and facilities without outside pens.
    - (ii) Athletic clubs and health clubs.
    - (iii) Banking, insurance, real estate and finance.
    - (iv) Banquet and meeting facilities.
    - (v) Bowling, Electronic Simulators and other commercial recreation.
    - (vi) Catering.
    - (vii) Club and lodge halls.
    - (viii) Day care facilities (as licensed by the State).
    - (ix) Drive-through windows as an accessory use.
    - (x) Dry cleaning and laundering services.
    - (xi) Electronic repair.
    - (xii) Liquor establishment as an accessory use to a restaurant or entertainment center.
    - (xiii) Medical, technical, and supporting laboratories.
    - (xiv) Physicians, Dentists, Chiropractors, Nursing Homes and other health professionals.
    - (xv) Professional services including accountants, architects, attorneys, brokers consultants, engineers, financial planners, landscape architects, and planners.
    - (xvi) Restaurants, including convenience food.
    - (xvii) Schools and educational facilities.
    - (xviii)Tailors.
    - (xix) Theaters; movie, theatrical, musical, and dinner with the following conditions:

- (1) Reasonable hours of operation and staggered show times to allow for good traffic management shall be incorporated into the conditions of approval;
- (2) A security plan, subject to annual review and modification, shall be adopted;
- (3) Any video games or arcade-like games shall be located so as to be available only to paying theater patrons.
- (xx) Travel Bureaus.
- (xxi) Weight loss centers, tanning studios, spas, and therapeutic massage.
- (c) Hotels which at a minimum serve a continental breakfast, or have an attached or detached adjacent restaurant and conference room.
- (d) Offices.
- (e) Office-showrooms.
- (f) Civic and cultural institutions, park and recreation facilities.
- (g) Public buildings and facilities.
- (h) Senior housing according to the same regulations as established in the R-3 Zoning District.
- (i) Mixed use housing where retail/service or office is located on the first floor and housing on the second floor and above. Mixed use housing must be located in areas designated for such use on the Vadnais City Center Land Use Plan.
- (j) Transit stations and transportation centers.
- (k) Microbreweries and Microdistilleries, in compliance with Chapter 20.220 of the Zoning Code.
- (3) Accessory uses: Accessory uses must be subordinate to and compatible with the principal use and comply with architectural and landscape standards and be part of the approved special use permit. Allowable accessory uses include:
  - (a) Landscaped surface parking areas.
  - (b) Screened loading areas.
  - (c) Pedestrian pick-up shelters and benches without advertising.
  - (d) Pedestrian plazas.
  - (e) Outdoor dining.
  - (f) Structured parking as part of an approved principal use special use permit subject to the architectural guidelines in 18.032.
  - (g) Limited outdoor products at gas stations as provided in Section 20.040.
  - (h) Temporary banner signs limited to two events per year and no more than 15 days per event.
  - (i) Drive thru windows that are an integral part of a larger site development plan.
- (4) Temporary Uses: Seasonal garden centers and outdoor special event sales as a temporary use to an adjacent retail business, under the following conditions:
  - (a) All temporary uses shall obtain a permit approved administratively by the City Administrator, upon recommendation of the City Planner, City Engineer, and Fire Marshal as a temporary use to an existing principal use.
  - (b) All temporary uses shall cover no more than 1,000 square feet except that a seasonal garden center may cover no more than 6,000 square feet of ground area, of which no more than 2,000 square feet may be covered.
  - (c) All temporary uses must be located in a portion of the site that will not disrupt typical parking needs, required service or vehicular movement, emergency access, or other site requirements, as determined by the City Administrator in consultation with the City Planner, Fire Marshal and City Engineer.
  - (d) A temporary use may be permitted for no more than 21 days except that A seasonal garden center may be permitted for no more than 90 days in a calendar year, in the

- spring and summer months. The temporary use must be removed and the site cleaned and restored to its original condition within the permitted time period.
- (e) Only merchandise sold regularly or seasonally by the principal use may be sold or displayed as a temporary use.
- (f) Seasonal garden centers shall:
  - (i) Only sell or display plants, flowers, and associated gardening.
  - (ii) Limit the covered portion of a seasonal garden center to a temporary structure no more than 15 feet in height, professionally designed and constructed, and maintained in a neat and attractive manner. Such a structure must be predominantly a single color that is compatible with surrounding development. Colors, stripes or patterns may be permitted on no more than eight percent (8%) of the surface area of the sides and roof of the temporary structure.
  - (iii) Maintain the outdoor portion of a seasonal garden center in a neat and attractive manner, surrounded by a fence no more than 4 feet in height, except at entrance openings. Plants and merchandise may not be displayed more than 6 feet above the ground. Boxes, cartons, bins or other similar storage devices are not permitted in the outdoor portion of the garden center.
  - (iv) Limit signage to no more than 32 square feet of attached signage on each of 3 sides of the temporary structure.
- 18.030 <u>Architectural Guidelines and Requirements.</u> The overall appearance and compatibility of individual buildings to other site elements or to surrounding development will be given primary consideration in the site plan approval process.
  - (1) All exterior wall finishes on any building shall be one or a combination of the following:
    - (a) face brick and brick accents.
    - (b) glass, when used in combinations with one or more of the other materials listed herein.
    - (c) natural stone.
    - (d) stucco and similar types of exterior finish systems.
    - (e) architectural-quality pre-finished metal panels when used as a secondary feature in combination with one or more of the other materials listed above.
    - (f) "rock-face" or "split-face" concrete block only when used as a secondary, accent material in combination with one or more of the materials listed above.
  - (2) Buildings throughout the City Center District shall reflect compatible and complementary colors and materials. This includes brick materials and earthtone colors for building treatments and earthtone or green roofs.
  - (3) Building rooflines should be articulated, through the use of arches or other appropriate detail
  - (4) All ground mounted or roof mounted HVAC, utility meters and other such equipment shall be well-screened from eye level view from adjacent streets, parking lots and entrances of adjacent buildings.
  - (5) All subsequent additions, exterior alterations, and accessory buildings constructed after the erection of an original building or buildings shall be constructed of the same materials as the original building and shall be designed in a manner conforming to the original architectural design and general appearance, to the extent that such design and construction is compatible with the City Center standards.
  - (6) Any exterior building wall adjacent to or visible from a public street, public open space, or abutting property may not exceed sixty (60) feet in length without significant visual relief consisting of one or more of the following:

- (a) the façade shall be divided architecturally by means of significantly different materials or textures, or:
- (b) horizontal offsets of at least four 4) feet in depth, or;
- (c) vertical offsets in the roof line of at least four (4) feet, or;
- (d) windows at the first floor level which is either recessed or extending horizontally at least one (1) foot from the facade.
- (7) No outdoor storage of goods or merchandise shall be permitted except as provided in 18.020(3)(4).
- (8) Retail/service uses shall incorporate pedestrian amenities and design features to establish a village type environment.
- (9) No single purpose retail facility shall be constructed after September 1, 2006 that is in excess of 50,000 ground floor area square feet unless it is a multi-story building. Single purpose retail shall mean that retail sale of goods and incidental services is the principal function of the facility. The City Council may increase these limits based on an overall comprehensive site development plan containing a special pedestrian scale building plan, architectural façade treatment and relief, connections to other retail and service uses and surrounding development, imaginative pedestrian outdoor space design and harmonizing, scale reducing parking area appearance treatment.
- 18.031 <u>Landscape Guidelines and Requirements.</u> In satisfying the landscaping requirement of this Code, landscape plans within the City Center District will be required to adhere to the following, in addition to the requirements of Chapter 20:
  - (1) Landscaping shall be maintained by the property owners to retain the quality approved in the landscape plan as part of the special use permit.
  - (2) Planters or planter boxes shall be compatible with the architectural integrity, colors and material of the principal building and of the site.
  - (3) The major or overstory trees required on site by this code shall be 1/3 conifers, 2/3 deciduous and of the species indicated in Table 18-1.
    - (a) The specific species of major overstory trees shall be planted at major site entries, along street frontages, in interior open space areas, and around the site perimeter. It is the intent to create corridors of significant vegetation to reduce the scale of surface areas, provide shade, and to announce major connections.
    - (b) The minimum size of the coniferous trees planted to satisfy the requirements of this ordinance shall be six (6) feet for one half of the required trees and ten (10) feet for one half of the required trees.
    - (c) The minimum size of replacement trees shall be six (6) feet for coniferous trees and 2-1/2 caliper for deciduous trees.
    - (d) All identical plants placed in a grouping shall be of similar size unless specifically approved otherwise by the City Council.
  - (4) Supplemental plantings shall be grouped and massed rather small, scattered planting sites.

*Table 18-1* 

SPECIES	TOLERANCE: Spray/Salt
Evergreen Trees (Size: 6-12 feet in height)	F-uj/wuit
Fir, White (Abies concolor)	
Spruce, Norway (Picea abies)	Sensitive Spray/Soil Salt
Spruce, Black Hills (Picea glauca 'densata')	Tolerant Spray/Soil Salt
Pine, Eastern White (Pinus strobus)	Sensitive Spray/Soil Salt
Pine, Ponderosa (Pinus ponderosa)	Intermediate Spray/Soil Salt Tolerances
Pine, Austrian (Pinus nigra)	Tolerant Spray/Soil Salt
Canopy Trees (Size: minimum 2-1/2 inch caliper)	
Aspen, Big-toothed (Populus grandidentata)	Tolerant Spray/Soil Salt
Aspen, Quaking (Populus tremuloides)	Tolerant Spray/Soil Salt
Birch, Yellow (Betula alleghaniensis)	Intermediate Spray/Soil Salt Tolerances
Birch, Paper (Betula papyrifera)	Intermediate Spray/Soil Salt Tolerances
Maple, Red (Acer rubrum)	Intermediate Salt Spray/Sensitive Soil Salt
Maple, Sugar (Acer saccharum)	Intermediate Salt Spray/Sensitive Soil Salt
Basswood (Tilia americana)	Intermediate Salt Spray/Sensitive Soil Salt
Oak, White (Quercus alba)	Sensitive Salt Spray/Tolerant Soil Salt
Oak, Swamp White (Quercus bicolor)	
Oak, Bur (Quercus macrocarpa)	Intermediate Salt Spray/Tolerant Soil Salt
Oak, Northern Pin (Quercus ellipsoidalis)	Sensitive Salt Spray
Oak, Northern Red (Quercus rubra)	Sensitive Salt Spray/Tolerant Soil Salt
Subcanopy Trees (Size: minimum 1 ½ inch caliper)	
Serviceberry (Amelanchier spp.)	Tolerant Salt Spray/Sensitive Soil Salt
American Hornbeam (Carpinus caroliniana)	
Pagoda Dogwood (Cornus alternifolia)	Sensitive Salt Spray
Ironwood (Ostrya virginiana)	
Shrub Layer (Size: minimum 18-inch height)	
Juneberries (Amelanchier spp.)	
Black Chokeberry (Aronia melanocarpa)	
Dogwoods (Cornus sp.)	
American Hazelnut (Corylus americana)	
Common Winterberry (Ilex verticillata)	
Common Juniper (Juniperus communis)	
Common Ninebark (Physocarpus opulifolius)	
Chokecherry (Prunus virginiana)	
Prickly Gooseberry (Ribes cynosbati)	
Smooth Sumac (Rhus glabra)	
Staghorn Sumac (Rhus typhina)	
Nannybery (Viburnum lentago)	
American Cranberry Bush (Viburnum trilobum)	

- 18.032 <u>Additional Guidelines and Requirements for Special Uses.</u> In addition to specific use, architectural requirements, landscape standards, and signage standards, the following policy criteria shall be considered in any special use permit application.
  - (1) Land Use and Site Plans.
    - (a) The proposed use shall be in conformance with the Vadnais Heights
      Comprehensive Plan, the Vadnais City Center Plan and the Vadnais City Center
      Land Use Plan.
    - (b) Designs are encouraged which create mixed-use developments in which retail, service and office activities or office and office-showroom activities are combined on one site. Residential and non-residential mixed-use projects will be considered if a sufficiently high quality of site design and architecture are provided and located in accord with the Vadnais City Center Land Use Plan.
    - (c) Site plans and building architecture shall integrate the overall urban design so the City Center District appears unified, internally compatible, and aesthetically pleasing, while maintaining the distinct function and design of the individual quadrants.
    - (d) Site plans or subdivisions shall not be compromised by buildings which interfere with traffic access or break parcels into less that optimal sizes or shapes or interfere with implementation of the roadway and pathway plan.
    - (e) Site plans shall be compatible with adjacent developments in terms of access, internal circulation, parking, landscaping, building orientation and massing, and signs. Shared access and parking are encouraged.
    - (f) Housing site plans shall include building arrangement (entrances, orientation, parking, lighting and siting along with appropriate buffering.
  - (2) Design and Architecture.
    - (a) Developments shall be a high design quality, reflect a high level of investment, and provide a relatively high number of jobs so that the use of the land is maximized and the final result may be a source of pride and recognized as the economic, visual, and psychological center of Vadnais Heights, the City's "downtown". Retail buildings should project a timeless, smaller scale village like image utilizing design treatments for facades to create a pedestrian atmosphere. Building, landscaping and interiors should use quality materials reflective of Vadnais City Center goals and objectives.
    - (b) Developments adjacent to the interstate highway should use building height and massing to announce their presence to motorists on the freeway.
    - (c) Housing will receive density bonuses for locating on upper levels of business and retail uses, including balconies and providing parking under the building or in adjacent structures.
  - (3) Transportation and Parking.
    - (a) New or enlarged public roadways shall be developed and dedicated according to the general alignments, roadway widths, number of lanes, and turning lanes shown by the Vadnais Heights Comprehensive Plan and the Vadnais City Center Plan.
    - (b) Parking structures shall be complimentary to associated uses and design, provide exterior treatment that screens vehicles and creates visual interest and provides pedestrian connections and spaces that are part of the overall site development plan.
    - (c) Parking areas shall emphasize pedestrian amenities and provide for storage of bicycles and other personal travel vehicles.
  - (4) Storage.

- (a) There shall be no outside storage or display of goods or materials, supplies, products or equipment, except as provided for temporary sales by permit. As provided in the architectural requirements, all loading areas shall be screened and all trash receptacles be located inside the principal building or within enclosures which are compatible with the building materials.
- (5) Pedestrian, Pathways, Open Space and Landscaping (see also 18.031).
  - (a) Each development with the City Center District will be required to provide sidewalks from major building entries and adjacent public street frontages, and interconnecting to other sidewalks, pathways or trails abutting the property and to existing or planned open space corridors. Such sidewalks shall be at least six (6) feet in width within an open space corridor of at least ten (10) feet in width.
  - (b) In addition to roadway, building and safety lighting within the City Lighting Standards, pedestrian lighting shall be installed to reinforce and identify pedestrian connections. Large parking lots should also incorporate pedestrian level lighting.
  - (c) Landscaping shall be of the highest quality design and materials shall meet or exceed the landscaping standards in Section 20.020(2). Landscaping and pedestrian design elements shall blend with and complement the objectives and components of the Vadnais City Center streetscape plan.
  - (d) The wooded area in the southwest quadrant of the City Center District shall be preserved to the extent practical.
  - (e) The location of open space on a development parcel will be determined as part of the site plan review process for that development.
  - (f) In addition to the sidewalk open space corridors provided above, each development with the City Center District will be required to provide usable open space(s) equal to a least on percent (10%) of the overall site area, at least half of which shall be green area, the remainder may be paved. Such open space may not be roadways, driveways, parking or loading areas.
  - (g) Plazas, courts, amphitheaters and other pedestrian features shall be provided and connected to other uses and the pathway system. Landscaped areas when using planters should be of the highest design materials, reinforce major roadways, pathways and plaza areas. These features should consider the ability to support and reinforce visual, performing and fine arts. Consideration should be given to hanging baskets and provision for seasonal plantings and planters. Pedestrian areas should incorporate seating which encourages interaction. Paved open space areas may be of stone, brick, or articulated concrete paving.
  - (h) Such open space(s) shall be within or adjacent to the sidewalk corridors required above, shall each be at least fifteen (15) feet in width in either direction, and shall be easily accessible to the tenants or patrons of the building.
  - (i) In fronting a public street or major driveway, the open spaces shall be screened by a hedge, fence or railing that provides a sense of enclosure.
  - (j) For every five hundred (500) square feet of open space area there shall also be provided one bench or seat for at least three (3) persons and a trash receptacle of material and color compatible with the development.
- (6) Surface Water Management.
  - (a) Developments shall provide surface water ponding in conformance with City's comprehensive ponding plan. Building placement shall take advantage of the aesthetic qualities of such ponds and wetlands.

## 18.040 <u>Setback Requirements</u>. Setback requirements shall be as follows:

(1) For all public streets within the City Center District, the minimum building setback shall be forty (40) feet and the minimum parking or drive aisle setback shall be 25 feet. Where

- buildings have pedestrian access oriented to the streets, the City Council may reduce the setback consistent with adjacent development and public safety.
- (2) For public streets other than County Road E, LaBore Road and Arcade Street, the minimum building setback may be reduced to twenty-five (25) feet and the minimum parking or drive aisle setback may be reduced to fifteen (15) feet with City Council approval, and only if the same amount of green space that would have been provided by the setbacks per 18.040(1) is provided elsewhere on the site. Further setback reductions may be permitted based on the considerations in (1) above.
- (3) For all interior lot lines the minimum setback to structures shall be twenty (20) feet, and setback to parking or drive aisle shall be ten (10) feet, except residential structures for which the minimum setback shall be twenty (20) feet, or the height of the building, whichever is greater.
- (4) Through a Special Use Permit, reduced or eliminated setbacks in the side or rear yards between two adjacent properties, subject to the following conditions:
  - (a) The property owners involved agree in writing to the proposed development and to reasonable conditions included in a development agreement with the City;
  - (b) The proposed development is coordinated in terms of compatible land uses, vehicular and pedestrian circulation, building design, and building materials on both properties, as determined by the City Council;
  - (c) The total amount of green space or landscaped area on site is increased beyond the minimum required by this Code by an area equal to or greater than the area of the affected side or rear yard which in encroached on by buildings or parking. A supermajority of the City Council may reduce this requirement if there is a finding that the proposed project offers extraordinary design, building materials or other features; and any increased building density does not negatively impact the character of the area; and
  - (d) Any easements, public or private, affected by the proposed development are found to be unnecessary and are properly vacated by the granting party or parties before final development approval is given.
- 18.041 <u>Signage Requirements and Standards</u>. In satisfying the signage requirement of this Code, signs within the City Center District will be required to adhere to the following, in addition to the standards of Chapter 24:
  - (1) Freestanding signs will be limited to monument signs up to 12 feet in height except properties immediately abutting Interstate 35E where the C-2 signage standards shall apply; provided, however that in any event signage over 12 feet in height must be within 50 feet of Interstate 35E right-of-way.
    - (a) The use of freeway right-of-way signs will be encouraged to direct people into the City Center business.
  - (2) One off-premise freestanding ("pylon") sign may be allowed by Special Use Permit on private property along Interstate 35E for a shopping center or single building, either of which exceeds 100,000 square feet of floor area, that is located on a parcel in the City Center zoning district not abutting I-35E and on a land parcel within 300 feet of such sign. The maximum height of such sign shall be 65 feet and the maximum area per face shall be 200 square feet. No pylon sign shall be located within 300 feet of a property zoned for housing.
  - (3) Wall signage will be allowed only in a specified horizontal sign band no more than (3) three feet in height and eight (8) to fifteen (15) feet off the ground.
    - (a) Such sign bands may project no more than one (1) foot from the surface of the building to which it is attached.

- (b) Attached wall signage shall consist of individual letters or script logos mounted on the building.
- (4) Projecting signs will be allowed in accordance with the following conditions:
  - (a) Projecting signs may project no more than four (4) feet from the front edge of the building and be no more than twelve (12) square feet in area.
  - (b) Projecting signs may not extend over a designated parking space or loading area.
  - (c) Projecting signs may extend from a building over the public right-of-way or public open space, provided that the sign is approved by the City Council on the recommendation of the City staff, and on finding that the sign placement will not compromise public health, safety, or welfare.
- (5) Temporary Grand Opening or Sales Event Banners: Temporary banners are allowed in the City Center district for up to 30 days per year per business. Such signs are allowed by permit only and a refundable deposit of \$50.00. Such banners must be firmly attached to the wall surface of the business and may cover no more than 5% of the wall surface area of any face of the building. Such banners must be of durable material that will not disintegrate with normal use and weather and must not interfere with the safe operation of windows, doors, sidewalks, parking areas, utilities or other necessary movements in and around the site.
- (6) Illuminated Message Board Signs: Are allowed subject to the conditions of Section 24.030.
- 18.050 Review and Approval Procedures. The administrative procedures for the municipal review of a Special Use Permit shall be as set forth in Section 6.070 of this Code, Procedure for Special Use Permit Approval and consideration of the factors necessary for special use permit approval shall also include the standards, guidelines and requirements of this chapter and the Vadnais City Center Plan.

### 18.060 <u>Establishment of Hours of Operation – Purpose</u>. The Council finds:

- (1) the City Center District is the retail hub of the City and its developed capacity will constitute in excess of 100 acres of various retail-community activity.
- (2) that 24-hour operation of retail stores in the City Center District would result in unacceptable nighttime traffic levels and visual glare which would have a deleterious effect on the surrounding residentially used property available for residential use, and would disturb residential tranquility during ordinary nighttime hours;
- (3) that such 24-hour operation is not necessary to the citizenry of Vadnais Heights and will adversely impact the health, welfare and safety of the citizenry of this City during the ordinary hours of repose;

### 18.061 Hours of Operation.

- (1) Any retail store having a business license within the City Center District and located within 750 feet of a residential structure, as measured in c) below, shall not be open to the public between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of each day.
- (2) The term "retail store" does not include grocery stores, gasoline filling stations, hotels and motels, and eating establishments.
- (3) The distance of 750 feet shall be measured from the nearest property line point of the retail store to the nearest property line point of the residential property.

#### 18.062 Extended Hours Permit.

(1) Any retail store prohibited from 24-hours operation through Section 18.062 may apply for a permit to be partially or entirely excluded from such prohibition through application on a form provided by the clerk.

- (2) In considering such extended hours permit, the Council will consider:
  - (a) Location of driveways and traffic patterns effecting residential areas.
  - (b) Deliveries to the facility.
  - (c) Light and glare.
  - (d) Amount of noise from traffic using the facility or from the facility itself.
  - (e) The size of the facility.
  - (f) Whether essential services are being provided.
  - (g) Proximity to residential use.
  - (h) Competitive necessity.
- (3) The application shall be heard by the City Council after mailed notice to the residential property owners within 750 feet of the subject structure.
- (4) If the extended hours permit is approved, the Council may grant the application in full, or grant such application only for certain hours or times of the year or days of the week.

(Source: Ord. 114; Ord. 154; Ord. 286; Ord. 318; Ord. 423; Ord. 437; Ord. 446; Ord. 462; Ord. 487; Ord. 489; Ord. 520; Ord. 524; Ord. 554; Ord. 557; Ord. 582, Ord. 634, Ord. 650, 10-17-12; Ord. 705, 1-4-17)