

# ARTICLE 6: DEVELOPMENT REVIEW STANDARDS

*Introduction: This Article of the Burlington Comprehensive Development Ordinance provides a comprehensive set of development principles and design standards that are intended to apply to all types of development throughout the city. The “Development Principles” are drawn from community goals as defined in adopted city plans, while the “Design Standards” provide more specific direction regarding design methods or strategies that may be used to achieve the development principles. Divided into three sections, these standards address issues regarding the creation of new lots and streets, site plans for individual properties, and the characteristics of individual buildings.*

**ARTICLE 6: DEVELOPMENT REVIEW STANDARDS.....1**  
 Sec. 6.0.1 Intent and Citywide Development Principles.....1

**PART 1: LAND DIVISION DESIGN STANDARDS.....3**  
 Sec. 6.1.1 Applicability.....3  
 Sec. 6.1.2 Review Standards .....3

**PART 2: SITE PLAN DESIGN STANDARDS .....4**  
 Sec. 6.2.1 Applicability.....4  
 Sec. 6.2.2 Review Standards .....4

**PART 3: ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STANDARDS.....12**  
 Sec. 6.3.1 Applicability.....12  
 Sec. 6.3.2 Review Standards .....12

## **Sec. 6.0.1 Intent and Citywide Development Principles**

This Article is intended to provide specific direction in the planning, design, and subsequent review of development in Burlington with the objective of ensuring that all proposed development furthers Burlington’s vision for a dynamic, vibrant, sustainable city amidst a scenic, natural setting. Burlington’s built environment must protect the city’s rich collection of historical, architectural, and natural features, while enhancing the urban experience and livability of neighborhoods by ensuring that development is sensitive to the scale, detailing, and intensity appropriate to each district and allowable use.

Burlington is a leader in advancing the goal of creating a sustainable community. In order to reach this goal, all development in the city shall address the following development principles as applicable:

*Development in Burlington shall:*

- (a) *Complement its context and environment – both natural and built, and enhance the community with creative design, durable materials, and quality construction.*

- (b) Retain and preserve important natural features by incorporating them into site plans and landscape designs.*
- (c) Emphasize function - natural, aesthetic, social, and recreational – in its landscape design.*
- (d) Promote effective and efficient transportation systems to mitigate the adverse impacts of vehicles such as by maintaining and perpetuating the urban street grid, supporting multiple and integrated modes, giving pedestrian the priority, reducing curb cuts, integrating parking and circulation into architectural and landscape designs, and minimizing the presence of service areas.*
- (e) Promote personal safety and accessibility for those with disabilities in the design of publicly accessible outdoor and indoor spaces.*
- (f) Complement Burlington’s architectural and cultural heritage by conserving and/or reflecting dominant design elements and characteristics of neighborhoods, and maintaining neighborhood proportions of scale and mass.*
- (g) Incorporate climate sensitive and environmentally-conscious design considerations to create healthier, more productive, and more sustainable places to live and work.*
- (h) Ensure that public buildings, structures, and spaces, be designed and constructed to the highest standards in order to reflect community values, inspire future development, foster civic pride, and serve as a model to others.*

Given their more dynamic and complex nature, the following development principles shall also apply as applicable within any mixed-use zoning district as defined in

**Article 4:**

- (i) Contribute to Burlington’s moderately scaled urban form, and emphasize a more efficient pattern of development.*
- (j) Ensure the scale, massing, and dominant architectural elements contribute to the overall composition and developing character of the surrounding area.*
- (k) Complement Burlington’s natural setting and conserve scenic public views and view corridors.*
- (l) Enhance the city’s skyline and promote visual interest with a variety of roof forms and architectural elements.*
- (m) Unify architectural elements, details, and materials of a building, such that all components appear integral to the whole.*
- (n) Compose the massing of the building to create a transition of height, bulk, and scale to less intensively developed neighboring properties.*
- (o) Compose building facades at and near the street level with human-scaled elements and details that promote pedestrian interest, comfort, and safety.*
- (p) Facilitate pedestrian movement, and provide access to the lakeshore and other natural and cultural amenities.*

(q) *Orient advertising features to the pedestrian, and compliment the architecture of the building.*

The role of these development principles, and the design standards found later in this Article, are as follows:

- Development Principles are drawn from established community goals as defined in adopted city plans, and serve as the highest order of importance in cases where individual standards appear to conflict and greater discretion on the part of the DRB is required.
- Design Standards provide more specific direction regarding design methods or strategies that may be used to achieve the development principles. Design standards include both required (“shall”) and flexible (“should”) components. It is understood that many of the standards presented are not the only options available, and creativity is encouraged to achieve the desired result.

It is recognized that the application of these principles and standards involves value-based design and decision-making requiring a balancing of complex factors, interests, and needs. In applying these city-wide development principles and design standards, particular attention shall be given to the context of the development proposal and achieving conformance with the purpose of the district(s) in which the project is located.

The intent of Article 14, the planBTV Downtown Code, also embodies these same principles and standards through an emphasis on the intended physical form, character of place, and compatibility of uses of new development in the city’s downtown and waterfront area through a more objective and prescriptive set of development and urban design standards. As such, all applications subject to the planBTV Downtown Code shall not also be subject to the requirements of this Article 6.

## **PART 1: LAND DIVISION DESIGN STANDARDS**

### **Sec. 6.1.1 Applicability.**

These standards are enacted to apply to all development subject to the provisions of this ordinance found in **Art. 10 – Subdivisions** or **Art. 11 – Planned Development** involving the subdivision of land, or an adjustment or reconfiguration of lot lines.

### **Sec. 6.1.2 Review Standards**

#### **(a) Protection of important natural features:**

The arrangement of blocks and lots shall preserve watercourses, wetlands, steep slopes, flood-prone areas, rock outcroppings, wildlife habitat and travel corridors,

specimen trees and contiguous stands of forest, and other sensitive ecological and geological areas to the extent practicable.

**(b) Block Size and Arrangement:**

The size and arrangement of new blocks shall maintain the size and arrangement of existing neighborhood blocks within the zoning district, and support the pattern of interconnected streets throughout the city.

**(c) Arrangement of lots:**

The size and arrangement of new lots shall reflect and perpetuate the existing development pattern of the surrounding neighborhood. Lots shall be created in such a way as to enable their development pursuant to the requirements of this ordinance, and ensure a clear transfer of title.

Interior lot lines extending from a street should be perpendicular or radial to the street right-of-way line to the greatest extent feasible. Flag lots and through lots are discouraged, and shall be allowed only to the extent where topography and existing block and lot arrangement allow no suitable alternative. In such cases, a minimum frontage for access of 20-feet shall be required.

**(d) Connectivity of streets within the city street grid:**

The established grid of interconnected streets shall be maintained and extended to the extent practicable. All streets shall be in conformance with applicable street design & construction details as provided by the department of public works, and shall be dedicated to the city.

**(e) Connectivity of sidewalks, trails, and natural systems:**

The established sidewalk network shall be maintained and extended to the extent possible. Trail networks and uninterrupted corridors of greenspace outside of the established street grid should be maintained and extended wherever possible. All sidewalks shall be in conformance with applicable street design & construction details as provided by the department of public works, and shall be dedicated to the city.

## **PART 2: SITE PLAN DESIGN STANDARDS**

### **Sec. 6.2.1 Applicability.**

These standards shall be satisfied for the approval of all development subject to the provisions of this ordinance found in [Article 3, Section 3.4.2\(1\) – Site Plan Review](#).

### **Sec. 6.2.2 Review Standards**

**(a) Protection of Important Natural Features:**

The landscape, existing terrain and any significant trees and vegetation shall be preserved in their natural state insofar as practicable in keeping with the objectives of the underlying zoning district. Development and site disturbance shall preserve watercourses, wetlands, steep slopes, flood-prone areas, rock outcroppings, wildlife habitat and travel corridors, specimen trees and contiguous stands of forest, and other sensitive ecological and geological areas insofar as practicable in keeping with the objectives of the underlying zoning district. Site plans shall provide suitable buffers from any proposed site improvements, and maintain continuity and contiguousness of greenspace while allowing reasonable development in support of the overall intent of the zoning district. Where any natural features are proposed to be removed or the topography altered, special attention shall be given to replace or mitigate the loss of such features. Any development occurring on parcels containing significant natural areas identified in the city's *Open Space Protection Plan* shall avoid disturbance to these natural areas and establish appropriate buffers that protect their natural functions.

**(b) Topographical Alterations:**

Alteration to the natural contour of the site shall minimize grading, cut, and fill, and shall take necessary measures to protect against erosion and future instability. Any grade changes shall be in keeping with the general appearance of neighboring developed areas. In areas where more intense levels of development are encouraged, development should seek to take advantage of topographical changes to hide and/or blend new construction into the landscape. Proposed design and construction details for any cut and fill, or retaining walls over 3-feet in height, or any height along the lakeshore, shall be subject to review and approval by the city engineer before receiving approval of the site plan.

**(c) Protection of Important Public Views:**

Distant terminal views of Lake Champlain and the mountains to the east and west, and important public and cultural landmarks, framed by public rights-of-way or viewed from public spaces shall be maintained through sensitive siting and design to the extent practicable. This shall not be construed to include views from exclusively private property.

**(d) Protection of Important Cultural Resources:**

Burlington's architectural and cultural heritage shall be protected through sensitive and respectful redevelopment, rehabilitation, and infill. Archeological sites likely to yield information important to the city's or the region's pre-history or history shall be evaluated, documented, and avoided whenever feasible. Where the proposed development involves sites listed or eligible for listing on a state or national register of historic places, the applicant shall meet the applicable development and design standards pursuant to *Sec. 5.4.8(b)*.

**(e) Supporting the Use of Renewable Energy Resources:**

Where feasible, the site plan should be so designed as to take advantage of the site's inherent potential to utilize sources of renewable energy including direct sunlight, wind, or running water. The site plan should also incorporate site

planning and landscaping decisions intended to minimize energy demand such as siting buildings to maximize solar access or the use of deciduous and coniferous trees to create shade and windbreak.

Buildings should, where appropriate within the context of the neighborhood development pattern, maximize their solar exposure by being oriented to maximize natural light and heat gain during winter months, and to minimize casting shadows into ground floor living space of a building on an adjacent property.

**(f) Brownfield Sites:**

Where a proposed development involves a known or suspected brownfield, the site plan shall indicate areas of known or suspected contamination, and the applicant shall identify completed or planned remediation necessary to support the intended use(s).

**(g) Provide for nature's events:**

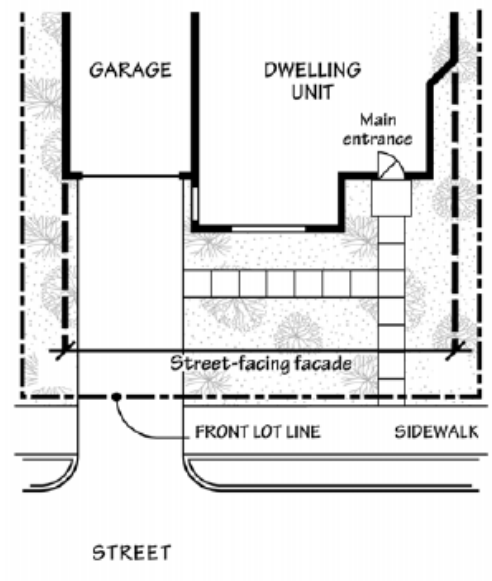
Special attention shall be accorded to stormwater runoff so that neighboring properties and/or the public stormwater drainage system are not adversely affected. All development and site disturbance shall follow applicable city and state erosion and stormwater management guidelines in accordance with the requirements of **Art 5, Sec 5.5.3**.

Design features which address the effects of rain, snow, and ice at building entrances, and to provisions for snow and ice removal or storage from circulation areas shall also be incorporated.

**(h) Building Location and Orientation:**

The introduction of new buildings and additions shall maintain the existing development pattern and rhythm of structures along the existing streetscape. New buildings and additions should be aligned with the front façade of neighboring buildings to reinforce the existing “street-edge,” or where necessary, located in such a way that complements existing natural features and landscapes. Buildings placed in mixed-use areas where high volumes of pedestrian traffic are desired should seek to provide sufficient space (optimally 12-15 feet) between the curbline and the building face to facilitate the flow of pedestrian traffic. In such areas, architectural recesses and articulations at the street-level are particularly important, and can be used as an alternative to a complete building setback in order to maintain the existing street wall.

Principal buildings shall have their main entrance facing and clearly identifiable from the public street. The development of corner lots shall be subject to review by the city engineer regarding the adequacy of sight distances along the approaches to the intersection. To the extent practicable, development of corner lots in non-residential areas should try to place the building mass near the

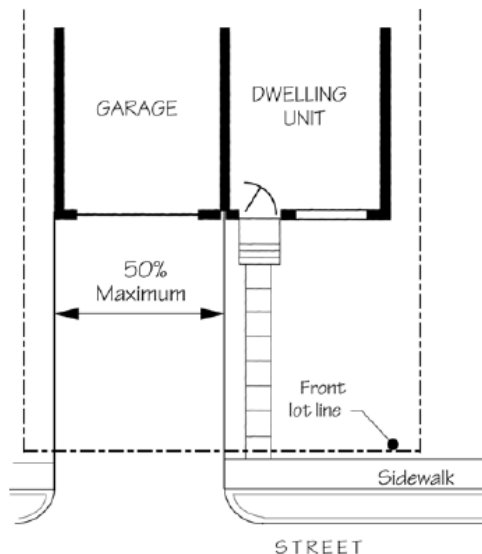


intersection and parallel to the street to help anchor the corner and take advantage of the high visibility location.

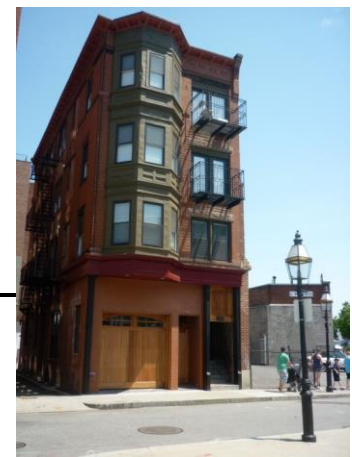
In residential areas, accessory buildings shall be located in such a way so as to be secondary and subordinate in scale and design to the principal structure. A parking structure – either attached or detached – shall be setback from the longest street-facing wall of the principal structure and be deferential yet consistent in character and design. Where a front yard setback is required, any street-facing garage wall containing garage doors shall be set back a minimum of 25’ from the front property line to prevent parked vehicles from blocking the public sidewalk. Where a garage is not oriented towards the street (i.e. the garage doors face the rear or side yard), the street-facing garage wall shall have windows or doors or other features that break-up the mass into smaller elements, and be blended with the character of the residential portion of the structure.

Where a garage is attached to a principal single-family or duplex residential structure and oriented to the street (i.e. the garage doors face the street) the following standards shall apply:

1. Except as provided in subsections 3, 4 and 5 below, a street-facing garage wall shall constitute no more than 50% of the width of the street-facing façade of the entire structure (including the garage portion), and shall not exceed 24-feet. In cases where a street-facing garage wall constitutes between 30%-50% of the street-facing façade, living space is encouraged above to integrate the garage more closely into the design and mass of the overall structure. In cases where the street-facing garage wall constitutes more than 50% of the width of the street-facing façade, living space above is required.



2. Each bay of the garage shall have a separate entrance door of no more than 10-feet in width.
3. Where the width of the street-facing façade of the residential portion of the structure is less than 14 feet,





the street-facing garage portion may be allowed up to but not exceeding 14 feet in order to allow for a single garage bay.

4. Where a garage entrance is within a single roofline and wholly integrated into the overall design the front façade of the structure, it may constitute more than 50% of the width of the street-facing façade provided there is interior living space above, and the primary pedestrian entrance offers a clear and welcoming entrance from the street.
5. Enclosed space originally designed and constructed as a garage for vehicular parking but converted to living space may be converted back to enclosed vehicular parking provided there is no expansion of the building footprint necessary to complete the conversion.

**(i) Vehicular Access:**

Curb cuts shall be arranged and limited in number to reduce congestion and improve traffic safety. A secondary access point from side roads is encouraged where possible to improve traffic flow and safety along major streets. The width and radius of curb cuts should be kept to the minimum width necessary, and sight triangles and sufficient turnarounds for vehicles shall be provided to reduce the potential for accidents at points of egress.

Residential driveways shall be a minimum of 7 feet in width or consist of two 2' driveway strips made of pavement or pervious pavement. The maximum width for single or shared access driveways shall be 18'. In a residential district, driveways and parking areas shall be set back a minimum of 5' from side and rear property lines. Driveways that have a slope of 5% or greater (towards the right of way) shall be made of a solid surface including conventional pavement, pavers or pervious pavement.

Driveways for commercial properties may require a traffic study to identify the impacts of the movement of traffic to and from the property, and design for safe access. Access for service and loading areas should be located behind buildings or otherwise screened from streets or public ways with landscaping or other barriers. Whether commercial or residential, shared driveways are encouraged, where possible and appropriate.

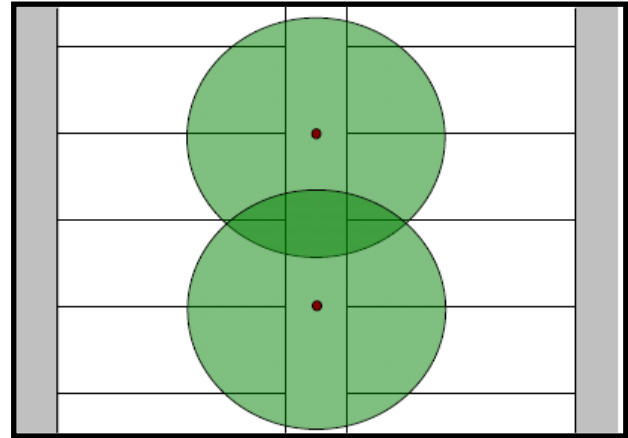
**(j) Pedestrian Access:**

Pedestrians shall be provided one or more direct and unobstructed paths between a public sidewalk and the primary building entrance. Well defined pedestrian routes shall be provided through parking areas to primary building access points and be designed to provide a physical separation between vehicles and pedestrians in a manner that minimizes conflicts and improves safety. Where sidewalks and driveways meet, the sidewalk shall be clearly marked by differentiated ground materials and/or pavement markings.

**(k) Accessibility for the Handicapped:**



Special attention shall be given to the location and integration of accessible routes, parking spaces, and ramps for the disabled. Special attention shall also be given to identifying accessible access points between buildings and parking areas, public streets and sidewalks. The federal **Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines** (ADAAG) shall be used as a guide in determining the adequacy of the proposed development in addressing the needs of the disabled.



**(I) Parking and Circulation:**

To the extent possible, parking should be placed at the side or rear of the lot and screened from view from surrounding properties and adjacent public rights of ways. Any off-street parking occupying street level frontage in a Downtown Mixed Use District shall be setback from the edge of the front property line in order to provide space for active pedestrian-oriented uses. Where street-level parking is provided within an existing structure, the cars shall be screened from the sidewalk and the area shall be activated with landscaping, public art, or other design amenities. Parking areas of more than 20 spaces should be broken into smaller areas separated by landscaping.

Attempts to link adjacent parking lots or provide shared parking areas which can serve neighboring properties simultaneously shall be strongly encouraged.

Parking shall be laid out to provide ease in maneuvering of vehicles and so that vehicles do not have to back out onto city streets. Dimensions of spaces shall at a minimum meet the requirements as provided in **Article 8**. The perimeter of all parking areas shall be designed with anchored curb stops, landscaping, or other such physical barriers to prevent vehicles from encroaching into adjacent green spaces.

Surface parking and maneuvering areas should be shaded in an effort to reduce their effect on the local microclimate, air quality, and stormwater runoff with an objective of shading at least 30% of the parking lot. Shading should be distributed throughout the parking area to the greatest extent practical, including within the interior depending on the configuration. New or substantially improved parking areas with 15 or more parking spaces shall include a minimum of 1 shade tree per 5 parking spaces with a minimum caliper size of 2.5"-3" at planting. Up to a 30% waiver of the tree planting requirement may be granted by the development review board if it is found that the standard requirement would prove impractical given physical site constraints and required compliance with minimum parking requirements. All new shade trees shall be: of a species appropriate for such planting environments, expected to provide a mature canopy of no less than 25-foot in diameter, and selected from an approved list maintained by the city

arborist. Existing trees retained within 25-feet of the perimeter of the parking area (including public street trees), and with a minimum caliper size greater than 3-inches, may be counted towards the new tree planting requirement.

All parking areas shall provide a physical separation between moving and parked vehicles and pedestrians in a manner that minimizes conflicts and gives pedestrians a safe and unobstructed route to building entrance(s) or a public sidewalk.

Where bicycle parking is provided, access shall be provided along vehicular driveways or separate paths, with clearly marked signs indicating the location of parking areas. Where bicycle parking is located proximate to a building entrance, all shared walkways shall be of sufficient width to separate bicycles and pedestrians, and be clearly marked to avoid conflicts. All bicycle parking areas shall link directly to a pedestrian route to a building entrance. All bicycle parking shall be in conformance with applicable design & construction details as provided by the dept. of public works.

**(m) Landscaping, Fences and Retaining Walls:**

Landscaping shall be used to beautify the development site and to provide specific functions and benefits to the uses and buildings on the site. These include but are not limited to stormwater retention and erosion control, winter windbreaks and summer shade, recreational and habitat corridors, buffers and screening of parking areas, and creating privacy for and from adjacent property.

Existing trees shall be retained and incorporated into a landscape plan to the extent possible, and existing trees to be retained shall be protected during construction in accordance with specifications provided by the city arborist. Contiguous green space, both within the site and with adjacent properties, should be provided on a site whenever possible and be designed to provide wildlife travel corridors and habitat preservation, as well as enabling recreational access. If open space is intended to be publicly accessible, it shall be designed to maximize accessibility for all individuals including the disabled, encourage social interaction, and facilitate ease of maintenance. Along the street edge, landscaping shall be used to provide a visual buffer into parking areas from the public street and reinforce the streetscape.

The selection of plant materials and planting sites should create a sustainable landscape, and consideration shall be given to factors such as hardiness, salt tolerance, disease resistance, invasiveness, root and canopy spread, underground and overhead utilities, soil conditions, and microclimates. The use of native plant materials is encouraged, and the use of plants considered invasive by VT Agency of Agriculture shall be prohibited. For more information on sustainable landscapes, applicants are encouraged to consult *Planting Sustainable Landscapes: A Guide for Plan Reviewers* prepared for the Vermont Department of Forests Parks and Recreation by the Vermont Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

New or replacement street trees shall be provided consistent with the city's **Street Tree Master Plan**. All proposed street trees shall be selected and planted in accordance with specifications provided by the city arborist.

Fences may be placed within the required setback along a property line, but shall be setback sufficiently to provide for the maintenance of both sides of the fence without entering onto the adjacent property and shall present a finished side to the adjoining property and public street. Fences placed within a clear sight triangle shall adhere to the standards of **Sec. 5.2.6 (c)**. Styles, materials, and dimensions of the proposed fence shall be compatible with the context of the neighborhood and the use of the property.

Retaining walls greater than 5 feet tall shall incorporate textured surfaces, terracing, and/or vegetation to avoid long monotonous unarticulated expanses and to minimize adverse visual impacts to neighboring properties. As with fences, retaining wall styles, materials, and dimensions shall be compatible with the context of the neighborhood and use of the property.

**(n) Public Plazas and Open Space:**

Where public open space is provided as an amenity to the site plan, it should be sited on the parcel to maximize solar exposure, with landscaping and hardscape (including fountains, sitting walls, public art, and street furniture) to encourage its use by the public in all seasons. Public plazas should be visually and physically accessible from public rights-of-ways and building entrances where appropriate and shall be designed to maximize accessibility for all individuals, including the disabled and encourage social interaction.

Public space should be coordinated with the surrounding buildings without compromising safety and visibility. Public spaces should be surrounded by active uses that generate pedestrian traffic, and connect the space to major activity centers, streets, or corridors.

New structures and additions to existing structures shall be shaped to reduce shadows on public plazas and other publicly accessible spaces. In determining the impact of shadows, the following factors shall be taken into account: the mass of area shaded, the duration of shading, and the importance of sunlight to the utility of the type of open space being shadowed. Proposed development shall be considered for solar impact based the sun angle during the Vernal and Autumnal equinox.

**(o) Outdoor Lighting:**

Where exterior lighting is proposed the applicant shall meet the lighting performance standards as per **Sec 5.5.2**.

**(p) Integrate infrastructure into the design:**

Exterior storage areas, machinery and equipment installations, service and loading areas, utility meters and structures, mailboxes, and similar accessory structures shall utilize setbacks, plantings, enclosures and other mitigation or screening methods to minimize their auditory and visual impact on the public street and neighboring properties to the extent practicable.

Utility and service enclosures and screening shall be coordinated with the design of the principal building, and should be grouped in a service court away from public view. On-site utilities shall be placed underground whenever practicable. Trash and recycling bins and dumpsters shall be located, within preferably, or behind buildings, enclosed on all four (4) sides to prevent blowing trash, and screened from public view.

Any development involving the installation of machinery or equipment which emits heat, vapor, fumes, vibration, or noise shall minimize, insofar as practicable, any adverse impact on neighboring properties and the environment pursuant to the requirements of **Article 5, Part 4 Performance Standards**.

## **PART 3: ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STANDARDS**

### **Sec. 6.3.1 Applicability.**

These standards are enacted and shall be satisfied for the approval of all development subject to the provisions of this ordinance found in **Article 3, Section 3.4.2(b) – Design Review**.

### **Sec. 6.3.2 Review Standards**

**(a) Relate development to its environment:**

Proposed buildings and additions shall be appropriately scaled and proportioned for their function and with respect to their context. They shall integrate harmoniously into the topography, and to the use, scale, and architectural details of existing buildings in the vicinity.

The following shall be considered:

**1. Massing, Height and Scale:**

While architectural styles or materials may vary within a streetscape, proposed development shall maintain an overall scale similar to that of surrounding buildings, or provide a sensitive transition, where appropriate, to development of a dissimilar scale.

In low and medium density residential districts, the height and massing of existing residential buildings is the most important consideration when evaluating the compatibility of additions and infill development. Where the zoning encourages greater intensity and larger scale buildings in high density residential and non-residential zoning districts, buildings that are over 3-stories should provide a transition by employing design elements that reduce the apparent building mass from the street level. Taller buildings and elements are most appropriate where they provide a focal point of a terminal view, anchor a street corner, frame view corridors, or relate to larger scaled structures. The impacts at the street-level of increased or altered wind currents and downdrafts created by buildings over six (6) stories should be considered.

Buildings should maintain consistent massing and perceived building height at the street level, regardless of the overall bulk or height of the building. Buildings should maintain a relationship to the human scale through the use of architectural elements, variations of proportions and materials, and surface articulations. Large expanses of undifferentiated building wall along the public street or sidewalk shall be avoided. The apparent mass and scale of buildings shall be broken into smaller parts by articulating separate volumes reflecting existing patterns in the streetscape, and should be proportioned to appear more vertical than horizontal in order to avoid monotonous repetition. (See also *(d) Provide an active and inviting street edge* below.)

## **2. Roofs and Rooflines.**

New buildings should incorporate predominant roof forms and pitches within the existing neighborhood and appropriate to the context. Large expanses of undifferentiated roof forms shall be avoided. This can be achieved by incorporating dormers or some variation in the roof form to lessen the impact of the massing against the sky. While flat roofs can be a reasonable architectural solution, pitched roof forms and architectural elements that enhance the city's skyline are strongly encouraged. Roof eaves, parapets, and cornices should be articulated as an architectural detail. Roof-top mechanicals shall be screened from view from the public street, and should be incorporated into and hidden within the roof structure whenever possible.

Solar panels, light colored ballast or roof membranes, split roof clerestories, planted or "green" roof technologies (with a clearly articulated maintenance plan) and "gray water" collection are encouraged. Active rooftop uses are also encouraged to add to the visual complexity and activity of the city's skyline, and afford public access to otherwise unseen views of the city and surrounding landscape.

## **3. Building Openings**

Principal entrances shall be clearly defined and readily identifiable from a public street whether by a door, a canopy, porch, or other prominent architectural or landscape features. People with physical challenges should be able to use the same entrance as everyone-else and shall be provided an "accessible route" to the building. Attention shall also be accorded to design

features which provide protection from the affects of rain, snow, and ice at building entrances, and to provisions for snow and ice removal or storage.

Window openings shall maintain consistent patterns and proportions appropriate to the use. The window pattern should add variety and interest to the architecture, and be proportioned to appear more vertical than horizontal. Where awnings over windows or doors are used, the lowest edge of the awning shall be at least eight (8) feet above any pedestrian way, and shall not encroach into the public right-of-way without an encroachment permit issued by the dept. of public works.

Buildings placed on a side or rear property line where no setback is required shall contain neither doors nor windows along such façade so as not to restrict future development or re-development options of the adjacent property due to fire safety code restrictions. Otherwise they should be setback a minimum of 5-feet.

**(b) Protection of Important Architectural Resources:**

Burlington's architectural and cultural heritage shall be protected through sensitive and respectful redevelopment, rehabilitation, and infill. Where the proposed development involves buildings listed or eligible for listing on a state or national register of historic places, the applicant shall meet the applicable development and design standards pursuant to **Sec. 5.4.8**. The introduction of new buildings to a historic district listed on a state or national register of historic places shall make every effort to be compatible with nearby historic buildings.

**(c) Protection of Important Public Views:**

Development shall preserve distant terminal views of Lake Champlain and the Adirondack Mountains and important public and cultural landmarks from public places and along east-west public rights-of-way to the extent practicable. This shall not be construed to include similar views from exclusively private property.

Sensitivity shall be used in the massing of proposed development such that light and air is allowed to penetrate and some views may be preserved. Alternatives that extend access to such views by allowing public access into and through the proposed development are encouraged. In no case shall development be permitted to span across the public rights-of-way in such corridors.

**(d) Provide an active and inviting street edge:**

Building facades shall be varied along the street edge by the integration of architectural features, building materials, or physical step-backs of the façade along its length. Large expanses of undifferentiated building wall shall be avoided. This may be accomplished by incorporating fenestration patterns, bays, horizontal and vertical façade articulations, the rhythm of openings and prominent architectural features such as porches, patios, bays, articulated bases, stepping back an elevation relative to surrounding structures, and other street level details. The use of traditional facade components such as parapet caps, cornices, storefronts, awnings, canopies, transoms, kick plates, and recessed entries are highly encouraged. In areas where high volumes of pedestrian traffic are desired,

the use of architectural recesses and articulations at the street-level are particularly important in order to facilitate the flow of pedestrian traffic.

Non-residential buildings should provide visual access into the interior of building at the street level through the use of large transparent windows and/or window displays in order to create a dynamic and engaging public streetscape. The use of mirrored, frosted, or tinted glass shall not be permitted along an active pedestrian street-level façade. In contrast, residential buildings may be slightly recessed and/or elevated from the street-level in order to provide privacy. In such cases, visual interest along the streetscape can be provided through the use of landscaping, porches, and other similar features that offer a transition between public and private space.

Buildings in downtown districts that provide open space by way of building setbacks at the ground level shall utilize landscaping, street furniture, public art, sitting walls, fountains, etc. to maintain a sense of the existing street wall, define a sense of entry for the building and create a space that enhances the pedestrian's experience. Urban "open" space shall maximize accessibility for all individuals including the disabled, and encourage social interaction.

**(e) Quality of materials:**

All development shall maximize the use of highly durable building materials that extend the life cycle of the building, and reduce maintenance, waste, and environmental impacts. Such materials are particularly important in certain highly trafficked locations such as along major streets, sidewalks, loading areas, and driveways. Efforts to incorporate the use of recycled content materials and building materials and products that are extracted and/or manufactured within the region are highly encouraged.

Owners of historic structures are encouraged to consult with an architectural historian in order to determine the most appropriate repair, restoration or replacement of historic building materials as outlined by the requirements of **Art 5, Sec. 5.4.8**.

**(f) Reduce energy utilization:**

New structures should incorporate the best available technologies and materials in order to maximize energy efficient design. All new construction shall meet the Guidelines for Energy Efficient Construction pursuant to the requirements of **Article VI. Energy Conservation, Section 8 of the City of Burlington Code of Ordinances**.

New structures should take advantage of solar access where available, and shall undertake efforts to reduce the impacts of shadows cast on adjacent buildings where practicable, in order to provide opportunities for the use of active and passive solar utilization.



**(g) Make advertising features complementary to the site:**

Where signs and other advertising features are proposed, the applicant shall meet the requirements as per **Article 7 - Signs**. The size, location, design, texture, lighting, and materials of all exterior signs and advertising features shall not detract from the use and enjoyment of proposed buildings or surrounding properties. National branding through signage and architecture shall be discouraged.

**(h) Integrate infrastructure into the building design:**

Exterior machinery and equipment installations, service and loading areas, utility meters and structures, mailboxes, and similar accessory features shall utilize setbacks, plantings, enclosures and other mitigation or screening methods to minimize their auditory and visual impact on the public street and neighboring properties.

Rooftop mechanicals, including heating and cooling devices and elevator equipment, should be incorporated into the structure's design, and shall be arranged to minimize their visibility from the street level. Such features, in excess of one foot in height, shall be either enclosed within the roof structure, outer building walls, or parapets, or designed so that they are integrated into the overall design and materials of the building. Where such rooftop features do not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total roof area, they may be considered "ornamental and symbolic features" pursuant to **Sec. 5.2.7** for the purposes of measuring building height.

Any development involving the installation of machinery or equipment which emits heat, vapor, fumes, vibration, or noise shall minimize any adverse impact on neighboring properties and the environment pursuant to the requirements of **Article 5, Part 5 Performance Standards**.

**(i) Make spaces secure and safe:**

Spaces shall be designed to facilitate building evacuation, accessibility by fire, police or other emergency personnel and equipment, and, to the extent feasible, provide for adequate and secure visibility for persons using and observing such spaces. Building entrances/entry points shall be visible and adequately lit, and intercom systems for multi-family housing should be incorporated where possible, to maximize personal safety.

This page has been intentionally left blank