

17.04.400 – Planned Unit Developments – Purpose and requirements

Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) are intended to accommodate projects that incorporate a single use or mix of uses, which are planned and developed, or redeveloped, as a unit. PUD review encompasses zoning regulations for development of private facilities as well as subdivision and other land development regulations for development of public facilities. Therefore, the standards to be considered in reviewing PUD's have a wider scope than for other types of applications in this Title. PUD's should provide amenities not otherwise required, and the PUD process should not be employed solely as a means of intensifying the use of the land. The proposed Planned Unit Development shall be under single ownership or unified control at the time of filing an application for approval of a PUD, or the applicant shall provide written evidence of his/her ability to gain ownership or unified control of the property if the PUD is approved.

1. Purpose

The purposes of the PUD Process are:

1. To promote a creative approach to site improvements and building design that results in a distinctive, attractive development that has a strong sense of place, yet becomes an integral part of the community.
2. To create places oriented to the pedestrian that promote physical activity and social interaction, including but not limited to walkable neighborhoods, usable open space and recreational facilities for the enjoyment of all.
3. To encourage a harmonious mix of land uses and a variety of housing types and prices.
4. To preserve native vegetation, topographic and geological features, and environmentally sensitive areas.
5. To promote the economical development and efficient use of land, utilities, street improvements, drainage facilities, structures and other facilities.
6. To encourage redevelopment of sites containing obsolete or inappropriate buildings or uses.
7. To encourage a collaborative process among developers, neighboring property owners and residents, governmental bodies, and the community.

2. Conformance with Codes

Unless otherwise approved in accordance with this Chapter, development within a PUD shall conform to the requirements applicable to the underlying zoning district or districts in which the PUD is located, and all Land Improvements shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the provisions of Title 16, Subdivisions and Land Improvement, of the St. Charles Municipal Code. PUD's, however, may allow for relief from the minimum requirements applicable to the underlying zoning district and subdivision ordinance in situations where the City Council finds that:

- a) Conforming to the requirements would inhibit creative design that serves community goals, or
- b) Conforming to the requirements would be impractical and the proposed PUD will provide benefits that outweigh those that would have been realized by conforming to the applicable requirements.

Factors to be considered in this determination shall include, but are not limited to the following:

1. The PUD will provide community amenities beyond those required by ordinance, such as recreational facilities, public plazas, gardens, public art, pedestrian and transit facilities.
2. The PUD will preserve open space, natural beauty and critical environmental areas in excess of what is required by ordinance or other regulation.
3. The PUD will provide superior landscaping, buffering or screening.
4. The buildings within the PUD offer high quality architectural design.
5. The PUD provides for energy efficient building and site design.
6. The PUD provides for the use of innovative stormwater management techniques.
7. The PUD provides accessible dwelling units in numbers or with features beyond what is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or other applicable codes.
8. The PUD provides affordable dwelling units in conformance with, or in excess of, City policies and ordinances.
9. The PUD preserves historic buildings, sites or neighborhoods.

(2013-Z-3 : § 2; 2016-Z-4 : §2; 2008-Z-32 : § 17)