



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 20, 2025

To: Luke Winchester, Chairman
and Planning Commission

From: Jon Baughman, City Planner
Jill Johnson, Planner I

Re: Zoning Ordinance Amendment
Section 5-104.4 Development Standards for Single
Family Residential
Playground Amenities

Overview: This zoning ordinance will add the requirement for playground amenities in single family residential subdivisions. The additional text is highlighted yellow within the section below and adds to single family residential districts the requirement for subdivisions to include playground areas and playground equipment as part of the amenity package.

5-104.4 Development standards for single-family residential.

1. The front façade and any other façade shall contain 100 percent brick and/or stone. All percentages are calculated based on the wall surface area and do not include areas used for windows, doors, and fascias. In enforcing this requirement, the Regional Planning Commission may permit any other construction materials allowed under state law. In determining whether to allow such materials, the City may consider whether the material is proposed as an accent, as a portion of a corporate motif, as well as whether the design is in line with general aesthetic goals of the City of Mt. Juliet as set forth herein, and any other factors deemed relevant by the applicant.
2. Trim, eaves, and soffits may incorporate the use of vinyl, aluminum and other materials approved by the International Residential Code as adopted.
3. Approved roof materials include: concrete or terra cotta tile, asphalt shingles, and standing seam metal roofing. Shingles shall be fungus resistant.
4. No tract home or custom home may be built adjacent to or across from a home with the identical elevation. Dwellings constructed next to or across from another dwelling shall include a variety of architectural elements that can include the following: differences in roof lines, the shape, design and size of windows and doors (including garage doors), shutters, materials, colors, and porches. Tract home builders/developments shall provide a minimum of four floor plans with a minimum of three elevations each.
5. A minimum of 22 feet of driveway depth shall be provided between a garage door and a sidewalk or public path.
6. No wall or window mounted air conditioning or heating units may be installed or placed in a front or street facing façade (excluding alleys). Such units may be located in a side or rear façade not adjacent to a street.

7. Covered front porches are recommended for dwellings, and where provided, a minimum depth of six feet and area of 120 [square feet] is recommended.
8. Rear porches or patios are recommended for dwellings, and where provided, a minimum of 200 square feet is recommended. These areas, whether proposed to be covered or not, shall be planned so as to comply with rear setback requirements.
9. Mechanical equipment shall not be roof-mounted, but may be on the ground, within attic space or other location screened from public view.
10. All homes shall contain a minimum of a two-car garage. Side, rear or alley-loaded garages are recommended.
 - a. *Arterials and Collectors*: When fronting an arterial or collector street, garages and driveways shall be restricted to alleys, side-streets, or other approved combined access drives. In no case shall a garage be street-facing other than to the side street.
 - b. *Access Streets*: When fronting an access street, garages and driveways shall be restricted to side-, rear-, or alley-loaded. In no case shall a garage be street-facing other than to the side-street.
 - c. *Access Lanes*: Street-facing garages will only be acceptable on access lanes if they incorporate the following features: Ten feet minimum set back from the front of the home including the front porch if applicable and two garage doors separated by a two-foot minimum brick or stone column.
11. Street-facing garages shall include a double-wide driveway (minimum 18 feet wide). Driveway approaches connecting to side loaded garages may be less than 18 feet wide if proper maneuvering space is provided. The interior width of a two-car garage shall contain a minimum clear space of 20 feet and contain a minimum of 440 square feet. No stairs, water heaters or other fixed items may encroach into this space.
12. Alley-loaded garages shall be located so that parked vehicles do not encroach into the alley. The garage shall be a minimum of 20 feet from the edge of the alley pavement, or five feet from the edge of the alley pavement with a ten feet by 20 feet parking pad adjacent to the garage.
13. For narrow lot developments, which are defined as those subdivisions having an average lot width less than or equal to 60 feet, the following shall apply.
 - a. Rear loaded garages should be considered to avoid a "snout house" appearance.
 - b. Street facing garage façades (excluding the wall frame) shall not exceed 40 percent of the area of the front wall façade of the first floor.
 - c. The 40 percent requirement only applies to the doors of the garage and does not apply to the two feet column separating multiple garage doors as mentioned above in item 10.
14. A plan for the planting and/or the preservation of trees shall be required for all new subdivisions. Said plan shall accompany a request for preliminary plat approval and address the following items. The plan shall be approved by the Regional Planning Commission prior to, or with preliminary plat approval.
 - a. A minimum of one tree shall be planted or preserved per lot and may be planted or preserved in the front yard of each lot, within the private or public right-of-way as a street tree, or elsewhere as approved by the Regional Planning Commission.
 - b. The City of Mt. Juliet encourages the preservation of existing trees as a means of compliance with the requirements of paragraph "a" above.
 - c. The planting species and location for new vegetation shall be selected to avoid conflicts with vehicle and pedestrian movements. More than one species shall be used to avoid adverse impacts from disease or pests.

15. Except for temporary purposes, motor vehicles shall be parked on paved surfaces. No more than 50 percent of any front yard may be paved or used for motor vehicle parking except that courtyard style garages and associated driveways will not count toward this 50 percent.
16. Regarding foundations, the finished floor elevation at the front façade shall be located above grade in accordance with the following standards:

- a. For setbacks of ten feet or more, the finished floor elevation of the front façade shall be a minimum of 18 inches above grade; and
- b. For setbacks of less than ten feet, the finished floor elevation of the front façade shall be a minimum of 24 inches above grade.
- c. Exposed foundation walls or piers shall be clad in face brick or stone. Exposed smooth-faced standard concrete block is prohibited.

Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the use of slab foundations, provided:

- d. The outer edge of the slab is clad in the materials required in this subsection;
- e. It extends to the minimum height above grade, except that this provision may be waived for age restricted developments serving a senior adult population of age 55 and over.

17. Outdoor decorative trash receptacles. Outdoor trash receptacles shall be required for all amenity centers and/or club houses within single family residential developments, with the exception of those developments that have received approval prior to the enactment of this ordinance.

In addition, outdoor trash receptacles shall comply with the criteria listed, as follows:

- a. Locations.
 - i. A minimum of one decorative trash receptacle shall be located at each entrance and exit of all amenity centers and/or club houses, a minimum of one within the location of a swimming pool (if proposed), and a minimum of one at all grilling/picnic locations.
 - ii. The location of all trash receptacles shall not interfere with accessible paths of travel or accessible parking as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended or emergency exits.
- b. Design.

All multi-family site plans shall show the proposed design, size, typical elevation and location for each decorative trash receptacle on the plan.

The design of the trash receptacle shall be made of black powdered coated steel, have a minimum capacity of a 36 (thirty-six) gallon container and shall be of a strap-type design. (A typical design is shown in illustration [5.2](#) below for example only).

18. Regarding certain streetscape elements, all traffic poles and traffic sign posts shall be black or dark green in color. All street signs shall be erected with a decorative sign post, a decorative base and a decorative finial that extends beyond the top of the standard sign. All traffic signs shall be of pedestrian-scale ornamental design. Exposed metal poles are strictly prohibited unless entirely enclosed with a brick or stone veneer.

19. Play lots and/or playgrounds shall be provided, in single family residential subdivisions, per the following, based on the number of homes in the subdivision and overall area of the subdivision:

- a. Up to 100 homes and/or up to 100 acres in subdivision area: 3,200sqft
- b. 101 to 200 homes and/or between 101 and 200 acres in subdivision area: 6,400sqft total over two locations (3,200sqft each)
- c. 201 to 400 homes and/or between 201 and 400 acres in subdivision area: 9,600sqft total over two locations (4,800sqft each)

- d. More than 400 homes and/or more than 400 acres in subdivision area: 12,800sqft total over three locations (4,267sqft each)

These areas shall be provided with playground equipment sufficient to meet the needs of children expected to reside within the complex. Individual pieces of playground equipment shall be specified on the final master development plan and/or preliminary plat. All recreational equipment provided shall be durable commercial grade equipment which shall meet all Consumer Product Safety Commission safety guidelines as well as the ASTM F1487-93, public use playground standard. The playground shall be served by paved, 5' wide minimum, pedestrian connections to the subdivision sidewalk and/or trail network. When the development is planned for occupancy only by ages 55+, these regulations do not apply.

Recommendation: Staff recommends forwarding this zoning ordinance amendment to section 5-104.4, Development Standards for Single Family Residential, to the Board of Commissioners with a positive recommendation.