

Memorandum



To: Planning Commission Members

From: Chris Solberg, City Planner

Date: 8/12/2013

Re: Public Hearing regarding text amendments to Section 5.17 - Gateway Corridor District (Overlay District) and the Gateway Corridor District, Design Guideline Booklet

The current Gateway Corridor District, Design Guideline Booklet is well over a decade old and has not been updated since its incorporation into the zoning ordinance. Over the past year, city staff and BCDM Architecture have worked to extensively refine the existing booklet. The resulting is a guideline provides much more clarity than its predecessor. These changes, combined with amendments to the application form, are designed to streamline the design review process.

Verbiage throughout Section 5.17 of the zoning ordinance has also been updated for to reflect some of the modifications to the Gateway Corridor District, Design Guideline Booklet.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the text amendments to Section 5.17 of the zoning ordinance and the Gateway Corridor District, Design Guideline Booklet.

Section 5.17 GATEWAY CORRIDOR DISTRICT (OVERLAY DISTRICT)

5.17.01 Intent:

The City of La Vista has established basic site and building development criteria to be implemented within the boundaries of this overlay district *for all multi-family, industrial, and commercial building projects*. The Gateway Corridor District has been established in order to implement the policies developed in the Future Land Use Plan portion of the Comprehensive Development Plan. These criteria include, but are not limited to the following: landscaping, building material selection, lighting, and interior street development. The purpose for regulating these issues is to provide for cohesive and properly developed entrances into the City corridor. Guiding development in this manner promotes the general health, safety and welfare of the residents within the zoning jurisdiction of the City, by providing quality design and construction which will also aid in the protection of past and future investment in the corridor. (*Ordinance No. 1172, 3-20-12*)

Within the Gateway Corridor Overlay District there is a sub-area secondary overlay centered on the intersection of 96th and Giles Road (see Official Zoning map). The purpose of this secondary overlay evolves around a partnership between the City of La Vista and Metropolitan Community College which have made a significant investment in the community with the new La Vista Public Library / MCC Sarpy Center. The City's desire is that this district be the standard of quality for all *multi-family, industrial, and commercial building projects* within this *geographically defined area*. See Section 5.17.06 for special design criteria for this sub-area. (*Ordinance No. 1048, 10-2-07*)

5.17.02 Purpose:

The purpose of these criteria is to establish a checklist of those items that affect the physical aspect of La Vista's environment. Pertinent to appearance is the design of the site, building and structures, planting, signs, street hardware, and miscellaneous other objects that are observed by the public.

The criteria contained herein are not intended to restrict imagination, innovation or variety, but rather to assist in focusing on design principles that can result in creative solutions that will develop a satisfactory visual appearance within the city, preserve taxable values, and promote the public health, safety and welfare.

5.17.03 Geographic Area:

For a geographically defined area of the Gateway Corridor Overlay District, see the Official Zoning Map. If a site is partially covered by said overlay district, then the entire site is to be covered by these regulations. (*Ordinance No. 1048, 10-2-07*) (*Ordinance No. 1172, 3-20-12*)

The sub-area secondary overlay -area occurs within all developments that front on the 96th Street and Giles Road corridors including:

- Giles Road Corridor – from 90th Street to 108th Street.
- 96th Street Corridor – from Harrison Street to *Portal* Road

If a site is partially covered by said sub-area secondary overlay district, then the entire portion of the site facing 96th and/or Giles Road is to be covered by these regulations. See Section 5.17.06 for special design criteria for this geographic area. *For a geographically defined area, see the Official Zoning Map.* (*Ordinance No. 1048, 10-2-07*)

5.17.04 Criteria for Application:

5.17.04.01 New construction and modification of existing buildings, including the structure and the surrounding property, are required to have compliance reviewed through the design review process. All developments consisting of more than one principal building, mixed uses, multiple pad development and/or similar shall be required to meet the zoning requirements for a Planned Unit Development (PUD). The PUD process and rezoning shall be in conjunction with Preliminary and Final Plat review and approval.

5.17.04.02 Exceptions:
Conformance to this Building Criteria shall not apply if the project consists of one of the following:
1. Construction or modification of a single-family residence or duplex.

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2. Structural Modification which will not be visible from outside the structure.

3. Modification of a property which:

a. The modification constitutes less than 25% of the existing building's main façade; or

b. The modification constitutes less than 25% of the building's overall elevations; or

c. Building improvements are estimated to cost under \$25,000; or

d. Site improvements are estimated to cost under \$10,000

5.17.04.02 All developments consisting of one principal building with single or mixed uses shall comply with the design criteria of this section.

5.17.04.03 All substantial redevelopment of existing buildings shall comply with the design criteria of this section. Substantial redevelopment shall mean any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the start of the redevelopment. Multi-family structures damaged by fire or other environmental event may be reconstructed without adherence to the Gateway Corridor Overlay District regulations, provided that reconstruction activities involve less than 50% of the complex's structures.

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5.17.05 Criteria for Appearance

5.17.05.01 Relationship of Buildings to Site.

The site shall be planned to accomplish a desirable transition with the streetscape and to provide for adequate planting, safe pedestrian movement, and parking areas.

1. Site planning in which setbacks and yards are in excess of standard commercial zoning restrictions is encouraged to provide an interesting relationship between buildings.

1-2. Building and site designs shall relate to and promote pedestrian scale.

2-3. Parking areas shall be treated with decorative elements, building wall extensions, plantings, berms, or other innovative means so as to screen parking areas from view from public ways and adjacent properties.

3-4. Without restricting the permissible limits of the applicable zoning district, the height and scale of each building shall be compatible with its site and existing (or anticipated) adjoining buildings. Multi-story facades shall be divided providing pedestrian scale.

4-5. Newly installed utility services, and service revisions necessitated by exterior alterations, shall be underground.

5.17.05.02 Relationship of Buildings and Site to Adjoining Area (Outside Of Subdivision).

1. Adjacent buildings of different architectural styles shall be made compatible by such means as screens, sight breaks, and materials.

2. Attractive landscape transitions shall be designed to be compatible to adjoining properties.

3. Harmony in texture, lines, and masses is required. Monotony shall be avoided.

5.17.05.03 Landscape and Site Treatment.

Landscape elements included in these criteria consist of all forms of planting and vegetation, ground forms, rock groupings, water patterns, and all visible construction except buildings and utilitarian structures.

1. Where natural or existing topographic patterns contribute to beauty and utility of a development, they shall be preserved and developed. Modification to topography will be permitted where it contributes to good site design and development. All modifications to topography shall be designed to provide varied and more natural grading practices. Consistent, even topography that provides an engineered feel is not acceptable.

2. Grades of walks, parking spaces, terraces, and other paved areas shall provide an inviting and stable appearance for walking and, if seating is provided, for sitting.

3. Landscape treatments shall be provided to enhance architectural features, strengthen vistas and important axis, and provide shade. Spectacular effects shall be reserved for special locations only.
4. Unity of design shall be achieved by repetition of certain plant varieties and other materials and by correlation with adjacent developments. All projects need to use a minimum of the following listed plant varieties of the plants listed in Appendix A of the Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline Booklet.
 - A minimum of two species listed under the deciduous tree category
 - A minimum of one species listed under the coniferous tree category
 - A minimum of one species listed under the deciduous shrubs category
 - 4. • A minimum of one species listed under the coniferous shrubs category
5. Plant material shall be selected for interest in its structure, texture, and color and for its ultimate growth. Plants that are indigenous to the area and others that will be hardy, harmonious to the design, and of good appearance shall be used.
6. The landscape plan shall be designed to provide natural undulating landscape forms. Avoid consistent strait line pairings.
- ~~5.7.~~ Irrigation of all landscape elements as defined above and turf area is required. Provide specification or information showing compliance in the design submittal.
- ~~6.8.~~ Parking areas and traffic ways shall be enhanced with landscaped spaces containing trees or tree groupings.
- ~~7.9.~~ Screening of service yards and other places that tend to be unsightly shall be accomplished by use of walls, fencing, planting, or combinations of those. Screening shall be equally effective in winter and summer.
10. Exterior lighting, when used, shall enhance the building design and the adjoining landscape. Lighting standards and fixtures for the parking areas and drives within the building area shall be similar in appearance and quality level as the light fixtures identified in Appendix B of the Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline Booklet. Building fixtures shall be of a design and size compatible with the building and adjacent areas. Lighting shall be restrained in design and excessive brightness avoided. Lighting shall be designed to a standard that does not impact adjoining properties, especially residential areas. Wall Pack lighting and exterior lighting with visible lamps is not permitted. Lighting shall be Dark Sky compliant and limit wash onto abutting properties. Exceptions to Dark Sky compliance may be made for specific emergency lighting situations. Fixture, poles, and/or other support cut sheets are required in the design submittal for all exterior lighting fixtures to be utilized.
11. Storm water management shall be integrated into the design of the site and landscaping. Storm water management criteria are found in the following reference materials:
 - Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership Storm Water Management Policies
 - Storm Water Management Regulations, Chapter 154 of the City of La Vista Municipal Code
 - City of La Vista Subdivision Regulations, 2003 edition and latest ammendments.
 - Omaha Regional Storm Water Design Manual, Draft Revision of Chapter 8 dated June 2012, or latest edition.
 - Nebraska Bioretention and Rain Garden Plants Guide, 2010 or latest edition as published by the UNL Extension Office
- ~~8.~~ Plant selection shall take into consideration the depth and duration of storm water ponding in water quality detention areas and shall take into consideration long term operation and maintenance requirements to remove accumulated pollutants and/or to replace amended soils.
- ~~9.~~ All fencing within this Overlay shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.
- ~~10.~~ Fencing within the District and as part of an Industrial Development may be required to be a solid fence.

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5.17.05.04

Building Design.

1. Architectural ~~design and style are~~ style is not restricted; however, architectural style should be consistent throughout the subdivision. See Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline Booklet for examples of developments considered meeting this concept. **Evaluation of the appearance of a project shall be based on the quality of its design and relationship to surroundings and provide a comfortable pedestrian experience.**
2. Buildings shall have good scale and be in harmonious conformance with permanent neighboring development.
- ~~2-3.~~ All buildings are to be designed from a four-sided (360 degree) structure perspective, thus requiring the same caliber of finishes and design attention on all facades of the building. Large areas of blank exterior are to be avoided and are grounds for non-compliance.
- ~~3-4.~~ Building Materials: (i) The primary building material of all portions of the building shall be brick (clay or stone) with its color selected for harmony of the building with adjoining buildings within its subdivision. The La Vista staff and design review architect may allow other primary building material of good architectural character, such as integral colored split faced concrete block for industrial buildings or portions of the building not visible from public view (i.e. facades that back up to the landscape buffer between commercial and residential buildings). Other secondary building materials shall have good architectural character and shall be selected for harmony of the building with adjoining buildings. Prefinished metal is acceptable for upper levels of multi-story buildings. (ii) Materials shall be selected for suitability to the type of buildings and the design in which they are used. Buildings shall have the same materials, or those that are architecturally harmonious, used for all building walls and other exterior building components wholly or partly visible from public ways. (iii) Materials shall be of durable quality such as (PDF needs to be edited here). Any material requiring a field-applied finish shall have a long life, i.e. coatings such as "TNEMEC" or equal. Product data shall be submitted for review. (iv) In any design in which the structural frame is exposed to view, the structural materials shall be compatible within themselves and harmonious with their surroundings. The primary building material of all portions of the structures shall be negotiated with the City, however, sample materials shall include but not be limited to materials of high quality, such as brick (clay), stucco, wood, glass, split faced concrete masonry units (CMU) with integrated color pigmentation and stone material native to Eastern Nebraska. The materials shall be similar and compatible throughout the entire development. The La Vista staff and design review architect may allow other primary building designs (of good architectural character i.e. CMU, poured in-place concrete) for portions of the building not visible from public areas. Other secondary building materials shall have good architectural character and shall be selected for harmony of the building with adjoining buildings.
4. ~~Materials shall be selected for suitability to the type of buildings and the design in which they are used. Buildings shall have the same materials, or those that are architecturally harmonious, used for all building walls and other exterior building components wholly or partly visible from public ways.~~
5. ~~Materials shall be of durable quality.~~
6. ~~In any design in which the structural frame is exposed to view, the structural materials shall be compatible within themselves and harmonious with their surroundings.~~
- ~~7-5.~~ Building components, such as windows, doors, eaves and parapets, shall have good proportions and relationships to one another.
- ~~8-6.~~ Colors shall be harmonious and shall use include only compatible accents.
9. ~~Colors shall be of "low reflectance, subtle, neutral, or earth tones" and shall not be of high intensity or metallic colors unless the colors are true to the materials beings used.~~

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7. Portions of low slope roofs of less than 1/12 may be allowed. They may be either adhered or ballasted. If adhered, the membrane shall be in the lighter color ranges, such as white, to be more energy conscious and less absorptive. An SRI of 29 or greater is required.
- ~~10.8.~~ Equipment Screening: Mechanical equipment or other utility hardware on roof, ground, or buildings shall be screened from public view with materials harmonious with the building, or they shall be so located as not to be visible from the elevation view and all angles associated with any public view. A section view shall be provided demonstrating appropriate screening. Mechanical screening shall match building elements and materials, any public ways.
9. Exterior lighting shall be part of the architectural concept. Fixtures, standards, and all exposed accessories shall be harmonious with building design. Use of more energy conscious lamps, such as LEDs or similar, is encouraged.
- ~~11.10.~~ If used, fencing and site furniture (optional), including waste cans, directories, ash urns, bike racks, guard rails or railing enclosures, shall be similar to those as shown in Appendix C of the Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline Booklet. The color of the site furnishings shall blend with the colors of the rest of the building/site.
11. Refuse and waste removal areas, service yards, storage yards, and exterior work areas shall be screened from view from public ways, using materials as stated in criteria for equipment screening. Doors for access shall remain closed except when personnel are present. Designers may consider convenient alternate access for daily pedestrian use such as a side door with closer.
12. All landscaping shall be in compliance with the Landscaping Requirements from the City of La Vista Zoning Ordinance.
13. Monotony of design in single or multiple building projects shall be avoided. Variation of detail, form, and siting shall be used to provide visual interest. In multiple building projects, variable siting of individual buildings may be used to prevent a monotonous appearance.
- ~~13.14.~~ Exterior ladders are not allowed within the Gateway Corridor District.
- ~~14.~~ Building orientation shall be toward an arterial street, unless it is demonstrated that this would not be feasible.
15. Exterior bracing of parapets or other features shall be screened from elevation views. Screening shall match building elements and materials.
16. Drive-through locations. Transaction location at a drive through shall not be on an arterial street frontage. Exceptions may be granted by City Staff due to site restraints.

5.17.05.05 Signs.

1. Every sign shall have good scale and proportion in its design and in its visual relationship to the buildings and surroundings.
2. Every sign shall be designed as an integral architectural element of the building and site to which it principally relates.
3. The colors, materials, and lighting of every sign shall be restrained and harmonious with the building and sit to which it principally relates.
4. The number of graphic elements on a sign shall be held to the minimum needed to convey the sign's major message and shall be composed in proportion to the area of the sign face.
5. Each sign shall be compatible with signs on adjoining premises and shall not compete for attention.
6. Identification signs of a prototype design and corporation logos shall conform to the criteria for all other signs.
7. Menu Boards shall be incorporated as a site element and not be post mounted. No exposed utilities or conduit is allowed. Locate signs to minimize view from public ways and they ~~shall~~ are required to be screened with landscaping or by other means.

5.17.05.06 Maintenance – Planning and Design Factors.

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1. Continued good appearance depends upon the extent and quality of maintenance. The choice of materials and their use, together with the types of finishes and other protective measures, must be conducive to easy maintenance and upkeep.
2. Materials and finishes shall be selected for their durability and wear as well as for their beauty. Proper measures and devices shall be incorporated into the design for protection against the elements, neglect, damage, and abuse.
3. ~~If~~ prefinished metal is allowed, TNEMEC coated metal, or approved equal are required.

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5.17.06 Sub-area Secondary Overlay

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- 5.17.06.01 Special Criteria For Sub-area.
The criteria found in this section are intended to be supplemental to the design standards stated in previous sections of this Article. See section 5.17.02 and 5.17.03 for purpose and geographic area of the Sub-area.
- 5.17.06.02 Landscape And Site Treatment.
1. Unity of design shall be achieved by repetition of certain plant varieties and other materials and by correlation with adjacent developments. All projects need to use a minimum of the following listed plant varieties of the plants used at the La Vista Public Library / MCC Sarpy Center. See Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline Booklet for a listing of those plant materials.
 - A. A minimum of two (2) species listed under the deciduous tree category.
 - B. A minimum of one (1) species listed under the coniferous tree category.
 - C. A minimum of one (1) species listed under the deciduous shrub category.
 - D. A minimum of one (1) species listed under the coniferous shrub category.
 2. Exterior lighting, when used, shall enhance the building design and the adjoining landscape. Lighting standards and fixtures for the parking areas and drives within the commercial building area shall be similar in appearance and quality level as the light fixtures used at the La Vista Public Library / MCC Sarpy Center. See Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline Booklet for information on the required light fixture style. Building fixtures shall be of a design and size compatible with the building and adjacent areas. Lighting shall be restrained in design and excessive brightness avoided.
- 5.17.06.03 Building Design.
The primary building material of all portions of the building shall be brick (clay) with its color selected for harmony of the building with adjoining buildings within its subdivision. The La Vista staff and design review architect may allow other primary building designs (of good architectural character i.e. split faced concrete block) for portions of the building not visible from public areas (i.e. facades that back up to landscape buffer between commercial buildings and residential). Other secondary building materials shall have good architectural character and shall be selected for harmony of the building with adjoining buildings.

5.17.07 Factors For Evaluation

The following factors and characteristics, which affect the appearance of a development, will govern the evaluation of a design submission:

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- 5.17.07.01 Conformance to ordinances and the ~~Design Guideline Building Design Criteria.~~

- 5.17.07.02 Logic of design.
- 5.17.07.03 Exterior space utilization.
- 5.17.07.04 Architectural character.
- 5.17.07.05 Attractiveness of material selection.
- 5.17.07.06 Harmony and compatibility.
- 5.17.07.07 Circulation-vehicular and pedestrian.
- ~~5.17.07.08 Maintenance aspects.~~
- ~~5.17.07.09 Pedestrian Scale~~

~~5.17.07.08~~

5.17.09 Resubmittal Requirements

After the initial submittal, digital submissions are acceptable, with the exception of material and color samples. A final hard copy submittal in 11" x 17" format shall be required after final approval.

5.17.08 Approval of Changes After Design Acceptance

It is the owner's responsibility to point out and submit any exterior modifications that occur between design acceptance and completion of construction to assure timely issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

5.17.09 Resubmittal Requirements

After the initial submittal, digital submissions are acceptable, with the exception of material and color samples. A final hard copy submittal in 11" x 17" format shall be required after final approval.

5.17.1008

Process.

- 5.17.1008.01 Pre-application Conference (**Optional**):
A pre-application conference with city staff to give the applicant an opportunity to discuss plans before a great deal of time or money is expended. If a certain design is inappropriate, the applicant will know beforehand. Although this step is optional, it is highly recommended.
- 5.17.1008.02 Application for Design Review:
The applicant needs to fill out the "Application for **Certificate of Approval** Design Review" and submit it along with the required submittals. See Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline Booklet for a listing of required submittals. A listing of required submittals is included as part of the application form. The application fee required for this submittal shall be in accordance with La Vista's Master Fee Schedule.
- 5.17.1008.03 Design Review:
The City of La Vista staff in association with the city design review architect will review the submittal documents for compliance with the Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline Booklet.

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5.17.10.04 Schedule of Reviews

A completed application will take approximately three weeks to review. Incomplete applications may cause a delay. Additional reviews will be necessary for all revised submittals until a Certificate of Approval is issued.

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5.17.1008.054

Certificate of Approval:

Upon a successful review the City of La Vista will issue to the applicant a Certificate of Approval. A copy of this will need to be included with the Building Permit documents in order to receive a Building Permit.

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5.17.1008.065

Appeals:

In the event where the ~~Applicant~~applicant, City staff and City design review architect cannot come to an agreement within 180 days of initial application submission, the applicant request a meeting with the City Administrator regarding an appeal to the City Council. (*Ordinance No. 1172, 3-20-12*)

5.17.1008.076

Certificate of Occupancy:

After the building permit is issued, all design requirements must be completed as approved in order for a Certificate of Occupancy to be issued ~~for the building.~~

5.17.1008.087

Maintenance of Design Requirements:

The ~~Applicant~~applicant needs to maintain the design requirements for the life of the project. In the event that they fail to do so the City may revoke the Occupancy Permit.

5.17.1008.098

Fees:

Fees may apply to each individual step as established in the Master Fee Schedule.

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GATEWAY CORRIDOR DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINE

City of La Vista, Nebraska



**La Vista City Hall
8116 Park View Boulevard
La Vista, Nebraska
17 September 2013**



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1. INTRODUCTION

The City of La Vista, in partnership with Metropolitan Community College, has made a significant investment in the community with the 1999 completion of the new La Vista Public Library/MCC Sarpy Center. The City's desire is that this project be the standard of quality for all Commercial Building Projects within the City of La Vista. Consequently, the City of La Vista has developed the *Gateway Corridor District Design Guideline* that deals with the design of the site, building and structures, planting, signs, street hardware, and miscellaneous other objects that are observed by the public.

The criteria contained herein are not intended to restrict imagination, innovation, or variety, but rather to assist in focusing on design principles that can result in creative solutions that will develop a satisfactory visual appearance within the city, preserve taxable values, and promote the public health, safety, and welfare.

The Guidelines as detailed in this document were incorporated into the City of La Vista Zoning Ordinance – Section 5.17.

2. GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND CRITERIA

It is the intent of the City for this Building Criteria to apply to all property within the Gateway Corridor District (Overlay District) as shown on the City's official zoning map.

New construction and modifications to existing buildings, including the structure and the surrounding property, are required to have compliance reviewed through the design review process.

Exceptions:

Conformance to this Building Criteria shall not apply if the project consists of one of the following:

- 1) Construction or modification of a single-family residence or duplex.
- 2) Structural modification which will not be visible from outside the structure.
- 3) Modification of a property in which:
 - a. The modification constitutes less than 25% of the existing building's main façade; or
 - b. The modification constitutes less than 25% of the building's overall elevations; or
 - c. Building improvements are estimated to cost under \$25,000; or
 - d. Site improvements are estimated to cost under \$10,000.

3. DEFINITIONS

Appearance. The outward aspect visible to the public.

Appropriate. Sympathetic, or fitting, to the context of the site and the whole community.

Appurtenances. The visible, functional objects accessory to and part of buildings.

Architectural concept. The basic aesthetic idea of a building, or group of buildings or structures, including the site and landscape development, that produces the architectural character.

Architectural feature. A prominent or significant part or element of a building, structure, or site.

Architectural style. The characteristic form and detail, as of buildings of a particular historic period.

Attractive. Having qualities that arouse interest or pleasure in the observer.

Berm. A raised form of earth to provide screening or to improve the aesthetic character.

City. City of La Vista

Code. The Municipal Code of the City of La Vista.

Cohesiveness. Unity of composition between design elements of a building or a group of buildings and the landscape development.

Compatibility. Harmony in the appearance of two or more external design features in the same vicinity.

Conservation. The protection and care that prevent destruction or deterioration of historical or otherwise significant structures, buildings, or natural resources.

Cornice. A horizontal molded projection that crowns or completes a building or wall.

Eclectic. Choosing what appears to be the best from diverse sources, systems, or styles.

Exterior building component. An essential and visible part of the exterior of a building.

External design feature. The general arrangement of any portion of a building, sign, landscaping, or structure and including the kind, color, and texture of the materials of such portion, and the types of roof, windows, doors, lights, attached or ground signs, or other fixtures appurtenant to such portions as will be open to public view from any street, place, or way.

Graphic element. A letter, illustration, symbol, figure, insignia, or other device employed to express and illustrate a message or part thereof.

Harmony. A quality that represents an appropriate and congruent arrangement of parts, as in an arrangement of varied architectural and landscape elements.

Landscape. Plant materials, topography, and other natural physical elements combined in relation to one another and to man-made structures.

Logic of design. Accepted principles and criteria of validity in the solution of the problem of design.

Mechanical equipment. Equipment, devices, and accessories, the use of which relates to water supply, drainage, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and similar purposes.

Miscellaneous structures. Structures, other than buildings, visible from public ways. Examples are: antennas, water tanks and towers, sheds, shelters, fences and walls, transformers, drive-up facilities.

Plant materials. Trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, grass, perennials, annuals, and bulbs.

Proportion. Balanced relationship of parts of a building, landscape, structures, or buildings to each other and to the whole.

Scale. Proportional relationship of the size of parts to one another and to the human figure.

Screening. Structure of planting that conceals from view from public ways the area behind such structure or planting.

Shrub. A multi-stemmed woody plant other than a tree.

Site break. A structural or landscape device to interrupt long vistas and create visual interest in a site development.

Street hardware. Man-made objects other than buildings that are part of the streetscape. Examples are: lamp posts, utility poles, traffic signs, benches, litter containers, planting containers, mail boxes.

Streetscape. The scene as may be observed along a public street or way composed of natural or man-made components, including buildings, paving, planting, street hardware, and miscellaneous structures.

Structure. Anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires permanent or temporary location on or in the ground.

Utilitarian structure. A structure or enclosure relating to mechanical or electrical services to a building or development.

Utility hardware. Devices such as poles, crossarms, transformers and vaults, gas pressure regulating assemblies, hydrants, and buffalo boxes that are used for water, gas, oil, sewer, and electrical services to a building or a project.

Utility service. Any device, including wire, pipe, and conduit, which carries gas, water, electricity, oil and communications into a building or development

4. CRITERIA FOR APPEARANCE

I. RELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING TO SITE

- A.** The site shall be planned to accomplish a desirable transition with the streetscape and to provide for adequate planting, safe pedestrian movement, and parking areas.
- B.** Site planning is encouraged to provide an interesting relationship between buildings.
- C.** Building and site designs shall relate to and promote a pedestrian scale.
- D.** Parking areas shall be treated with decorative elements, building wall extensions, plantings, berms, or other innovative means so as to screen parking areas continuously from view from public ways and adjacent properties.
- E.** Without restricting the permissible limits of the applicable zoning district, the height and scale of each building shall be compatible with its site and existing (or anticipated) adjoining buildings. Multi-story facades shall be divided providing a pedestrian scale.
- F.** Newly installed utility services, and service revisions necessitated by exterior alterations, shall be underground.

II. RELATIONSHIP OF BUILDINGS AND SITE TO ADJOINING AREA (OUTSIDE OF SUBDIVISION)

- A.** Adjacent buildings of different architectural styles shall be made compatible by such means as screens, sight breaks, and materials.
- B.** Attractive landscape transition to adjoining properties shall be provided.
- C.** Harmony in texture, lines, and masses is required. Monotony shall be avoided.

III. LANDSCAPE AND SITE TREATMENT

Landscape elements included in these criteria consist of all forms of planting and vegetation, ground forms, rock groupings, water patterns, and all visible construction except buildings and utilitarian structures.

- A.** Where natural or existing topographic patterns contribute to beauty and utility of a development, they shall be preserved and developed. Modification to topography will be permitted where it contributes to good appearance. All modifications to topography shall be designed to provide varied and more natural grading practices. Consistent, even topography that provides an engineered feel is not acceptable.
- B.** Grades of walks, parking spaces, terraces, and other paved areas shall provide an inviting and stable appearance for walking and, if seating is provided, for sitting.
- C.** Landscape treatment shall be provided to enhance architectural features, strengthen vistas and important axes, and provide shade. Spectacular effects shall be reserved for special locations only.

- D.** Unity of the design shall be achieved by repetition of certain plant varieties and other materials and by correlation with adjacent developments. All projects are required to use the minimum number of species under each category from the variety list in Appendix A.
 - 1.** A minimum of two species listed under the deciduous tree category
 - 2.** A minimum of one species listed under the coniferous tree category
 - 3.** A minimum of one species listed under the deciduous shrubs category
 - 4.** A minimum of one species listed under the coniferous shrubs category
- E.** Plant material shall be selected for interest in its structure, texture, and color and for its ultimate growth. Plants that are indigenous to the area and others that will be hardy, harmonious to the design, and of good appearance shall be used.
- F.** Landscape plan shall be designed to provide natural undulating landscape forms. Avoid consistent straight line plantings.
- G.** Irrigation of all landscape elements as defined above and turf area is required. Provide specification or information showing compliance in design submittal.
- H.** Parking areas and traffic ways shall be enhanced with landscaped spaces containing trees or tree groupings.
- I.** Screening of service yards, mechanical, electrical, phone equipment and pedestals and other places that tend to be unsightly shall be accomplished by use of walls, fencing, planting, or combinations of those. Screening shall be equally effective in winter and summer.
- J.** Exterior lighting, when used, shall enhance the building design and the adjoining landscape. Lighting standards and fixtures for the parking areas and drives within the building area shall be similar in appearance and quality level as the light fixtures identified in Appendix B. Building fixtures shall be of a design and size compatible with the building and adjacent areas. Lighting shall be restrained in design and excessive brightness avoided. Wall Pack and exterior lighting with visible lamps are not permitted. Lighting shall be Dark Sky compliant, and limit wash onto abutting properties. Exceptions to Dark Sky compliance may be made for specific emergency lighting situations. Fixture, poles and/or other support cut sheets are required in the design submittal for all exterior lighting fixtures to be utilized.
- K.** Storm water management shall be integrated into the design of the site and landscaping. Storm water management criteria are found in the following reference materials:
 - 1.** Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership Storm Water Management Policies
 - 2.** Storm Water Management Regulations, Chapter 154 of the City of La Vista Municipal Code
 - 3.** City of La Vista Subdivision Regulations, 2003 Edition and latest amendments
 - 4.** Omaha Regional Storm Water Design Manual, Draft Revision of Chapter 8 dated June, 2012 or latest edition.

5. Nebraska Biotretention and Rain Garden Plants Guide, 2010 or latest edition as published by the UNL Extension Office

Plant selection shall take into consideration the depth and duration of storm water ponding in water quality detention areas and shall take into consideration long term operation and maintenance requirements to remove accumulated pollutants and/or to replace amended soils.

IV. BUILDING DESIGN

- A. Architectural style is not restricted; however architectural style should be consistent throughout the neighborhood. See Appendix C for photos of existing Gateway Corridor compliant buildings. **Evaluation of the appearance of the projects shall be based on the quality of its design and relationship to surroundings and provide a comfortable pedestrian scale experience.**
- B. Buildings shall have good scale and be harmonious with permanent neighboring development.
- C. All buildings are to be designed from a four-sided (360 degree) structure perspective, thus requiring the same caliber of finishes and design attention on all facades of the building. Large areas of blank exterior are to be avoided and are grounds for non-compliance.
- D. Building Materials: (i) The primary building material of all portions of the building shall be brick (clay or stone) with its color selected for harmony of the building with adjoining buildings within its subdivision. The La Vista staff and design review architect may allow other primary building material of good architectural character. (i.e. integral colored split faced concrete block) for industrial buildings or portions of the building not visible from public view (i.e. facades that back up to landscape buffer between commercial buildings and residential.) Other secondary building materials shall have good architectural character and shall be selected for harmony of the building with adjoining buildings. Prefinished metal is acceptable for upper levels of multi-story buildings.
(ii) Materials shall be selected for suitability to the type of buildings and the design in which they are used. Buildings shall have the same materials, or those that are architecturally harmonious, used for all building walls and other exterior building components wholly or partly visible from public ways.
(iii) Materials shall be of durable quality such as prefinished or integral color for long life with minimal maintenance. Any material requiring a field-applied finish shall have long life, i.e. coatings such as "TNEMEC" or equal. Product data shall be submitted for review.
(iv) In any design in which the structural frame is exposed to view, the structural materials shall be compatible within themselves and harmonious with their surroundings.
- E. Building components, such as windows, doors, eaves and parapets, shall have good proportions and relationships to one another.
- F. Colors shall be harmonious and shall include only compatible accents.

- G.** Portions of low slope roofs of less than 1/12 may be allowed. They may be either adhered or ballasted. If adhered, the membrane shall be in the lighter color ranges, such as white, to be more energy conscious and less absorptive. An SRI of 29 or greater is required.
- H.** Equipment Screening: Mechanical equipment or other utility hardware on roof, ground, or buildings shall be screened from public view with materials harmonious with the building or they shall be so located as not to be visible from the elevation view and all angles associated with any public view. A section view shall be provided demonstrating appropriate screening. Mechanical screening shall match building elements and materials.
- I.** Exterior lighting shall be part of the architectural concept. Fixtures, standards, and all exposed accessories shall be harmonious with building design. Use of more energy conscious lamps, such as LED's or similar is encouraged.
- J.** If used, fencing and site furniture, including waste cans, directories, ash urns, bike racks, guard rails or railing enclosures, shall be similar to those at existing locations and blend in with the Architectural styles as shown in **Appendix (C)**. The color of the site furnishings shall blend with the colors of the rest of the building/site. Provide selection documentation and color for review.
- K.** Refuse and waste removal areas, service yards, storage yards, and exterior work areas shall be screened from public view, using materials as stated in criteria for equipment screening. Doors for access shall remain closed except when personnel are present. Designers may consider convenient alternate access for daily pedestrian use such as a side door with closer.
- L.** All landscaping shall be in compliance with the Landscaping Requirements from the City of La Vista Zoning Ordinance.
- M.** Monotony of design in single or multiple building projects shall be avoided. Variation of detail, form, and siting shall be used to provide visual interest. In multiple building projects, variable siting or individual buildings may be used to prevent a monotonous appearance.
- N.** Exterior ladders are not allowed within the Gateway Corridor District.
- O.** Exterior bracing of parapets or other features shall be screened from elevation views. Screening shall match building elements and materials.
- P.** Drive-through locations. Transaction location at a drive-through shall not be on an arterial street frontage. Exceptions may be granted due to site restraints.

V. SIGNS

- A. Every sign shall have good scale and proportion in its design and in its visual relationship to the buildings and surroundings.
- B. Every sign shall be designed as an integral architectural element of the building and site to which it principally relates.
- C. The colors, materials, and lighting of every sign shall be restrained and harmonious with the building and site to which it principally relates.
- D. The number of graphic elements on a sign shall be held to the minimum needed to convey the sign's major message and shall be composed in proportion to the area of the sign face.
- E. Each sign shall be compatible with signs on adjoining premises and shall not compete for attention.
- F. Identification signs of a prototype design and corporation logos shall conform to the criteria for all other signs.
- G. Menu Boards shall be incorporated as a site element and not be post mounted. No exposed utilities or conduit is allowed. Locate signs to minimize view from public ways and they are required to be screened with landscaping or by other means.

Acceptable examples:



Non-acceptable examples:



VI. MAINTENANCE—PLANNING AND DESIGN FACTORS

- A. Continued good appearance depends upon the extent and quality of maintenance. The choice of materials and their use, together with the types of finishes and other protective measures, must be conducive to easy maintenance and upkeep.
- B. Materials and finishes shall be selected for their durability and wear as well as for their beauty. Proper measures and devices shall be incorporated into the design for protection against the elements, neglect, damage, and abuse.
- C. If prefinished metal is allowed, TNEMEC coated metal, or approved equal is required.

VII. FACTORS FOR EVALUATION

The following factors and characteristics, which affect the appearance of the development, will govern the evaluation of a design submission:

- A. Conformance to ordinances and the Design Guideline
- B. Logic of design
- C. Exterior space utilization
- D. Architectural character
- E. Attractiveness
- F. Material selection
- G. Harmony and compatibility
- H. Circulation-vehicular and pedestrian
- I. Maintenance aspects
- J. Pedestrian scale

VIII. RESUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

After the initial submittal, digital submissions are acceptable, with the exception of material and color samples. A final hard copy submittal in 11" x 17" format shall be required after final approval.

IX. APPROVAL OF CHANGES AFTER DESIGN ACCEPTANCE

It is the owner's responsibility to point out and submit any exterior modifications that are proposed between design acceptance and completion of construction to assure timely issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

5. PROCESS

PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE (OPTIONAL):

A pre-application conference with city staff and/or a preliminary meeting with the city design review architect gives the applicant an opportunity to discuss plans before a great deal of time or money is expended. If a certain design is inappropriate, the applicant will know beforehand. Although this step is optional, **it is highly recommended.**

APPLICATION FOR DESIGN REVIEW:

The applicant needs to fill out the "Application for Design Review" and submit it along with the required submittals. A listing of required submittals is included as part of the application form. The application fee required for this submittal shall be in accordance with La Vista's Master Fee Schedule.

DESIGN REVIEW:

The City of La Vista staff in association with the city design review architect will review the submittal documents for compliance with the Gateway Corridor District Design Guidelines.

SCHEDULE OF REVIEWS:

A completed application will take approximately three weeks to review. Incomplete applications may cause a delay. Additional reviews will be necessary for all revised submittals until a Certificate of Approval is issued.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL:

Upon a successful review the City of La Vista will issue to the applicant a Certificate of Approval. A copy of this document will need to be included with the Building Permit documents in order to receive a Building Permit.

APPEALS:

In the event where the applicant, city staff and city design review architect cannot come to an agreement within 180 days of initial application submission, the applicant may request a meeting with the City Administrator regarding an appeal to the City Council.

OCCUPANCY PERMIT:

After the building permit is issued, all design requirements must be completed as approved in order for a Certificate of Occupancy to be issued for the building.

**MAINTENANCE OF DESIGN
REQUIREMENTS:**

The applicant needs to maintain the design requirements for the life of the project. In the event that they fail to do so, the City may revoke the Certificate of Occupancy.

Plant Materials

When selecting plant materials for areas adjacent to primary corridors, a majority of the specified materials must be from the species allowed by the Design Guidelines below. Plant material sizing as indicated is to ensure immediate impact on the quality and character of the overall project. Designs and planting details shall be provided by a Registered Landscape Architect and include 60 days of maintenance by the installer with a year warranty minimum.

DECIDUOUS TREES**Min. Size**
2" cal

Downy Serviceberry/*Amelanchier arborea* – clump form
Prairie Pride hackberry/*Celtis occidentalis* ‘Prairie Pride’
Freeman Maple “Marmo”/ *Acer saccharinum*
Burgundy Belle Red Maple/ *Acer rubrum*
Norway Maple/ *Acer platanoides*
Halka Honeylocust/ *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* “Halka”
Prairifire Crab/*Malus* ‘Prairifire’
Swamp White Oak/*Quercus bicolor*
Glenleven Littleleaf Linden/*Tilia x flavescens* ‘Glenleven’
River Birch/*Betula Nigra*
Heritage Oak/ *Quercus virginiana*
Chinquapin Oak/ *Quercus muehlenbergii*
Kentucky Coffee/ *Gymnocladus dioica* espresso
Adams Crab/ *Malus* ‘Adams’
Snowdrift Crab/ *Malus* ‘Snowdrift’
Greenspire/ *Tilia cordata*
Red Maple/ *Acer rubrum*

CONIFEROUS TREES

6 ‘ tall

Colorado Spruce/*Picea pungens*
Vanderwolf Pine/ *Pinus flexilis* ‘Vanderwolf’s’
Bosnian Pine/ *Pinus heldreichii*
Black Hills Spruce/ *Picea glauca*

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

5 gallon

Miniature Snowflake Mockorange/Philadelphus x 'Miniature Snowflake'
Gro-Low Fragrant Sumac/Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low'
Japanese White Spirea/Spirea albiflora
Anthony Waterer Spirea-Sapho/Spirea x bumalda 'Anthony Waterer'
Hancock Coralberry/Symphoricarpos x chenault 'Hancock'
Dwarf Lilac/ Syringa meyeri 'Palibin'
Alpine Currant/ Ribes alpinum
Burning Bush/ Euonymus alatus
Birchleaf Spirea
Dogwood/ firedance red twig
Blue muffin Viburnum

CONIFEROUS SHRUBS

5 gallon

Green Tam Juniper/ Juniperus Sabina 'Tamariscifolia'
Sea Green Juniper/ Juniperus chinensis 'Sea Green'

GROUNDCOVERS

1 gallon

Purple Winter Creeper/Euonymus fortunei var. 'Coloratus'
Vinca Minor

PERENNIALS/BULBS

1 gallon

Butterscotch Ruffles Daylily/Hemerocallis 'Butterscotch Ruffles'
Fairy Tale Pink Daylily/Hemerocallis 'Fairy Tale Pink'
Hyperion Daylily/Hemerocallis 'Hyperion'
Irish Elf Daylily/Hemerocallis 'Irish Elf'
Little Business Daylily/Hemerocallis 'Little Business'
Pardon Me Daylily/Hemerocallis 'Pardon Me'
Happy Returns Daylily/Hemerocallis 'Happy Returns'
Mount Hood Daffodil/Narcissus sp. 'Mount Hood'
May Night Salvia/ Salvia nemorosa 'May Night'

(Insert Fixture Cut)

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8. APPENDIX C

CASE STUDY: Existing Development



Overhang, colonnade and details divide building into smaller portions.



Four sided building detail. Colonnade breaks two story face down to pedestrian scale.



Pedestrian scale – awnings, elevation relief, textures, shadow, color, display, sconces, brick



Multiple design elements and textures on all sides of the facility, including use of wall patterns, faux windows, elevation relief.



Pedestrian scale. Design has material diversity, shadow and detail design interests.



Four sided design. Multiple design elements tie sides of the building together.



Four sided building; minimize blank walls.



Detail variety provides pedestrian scale by dividing building into smaller proportions.



Detailed design continues on all sides, creating complimentary context on all facades.



Guard rail and retaining wall. Four-sided building details.

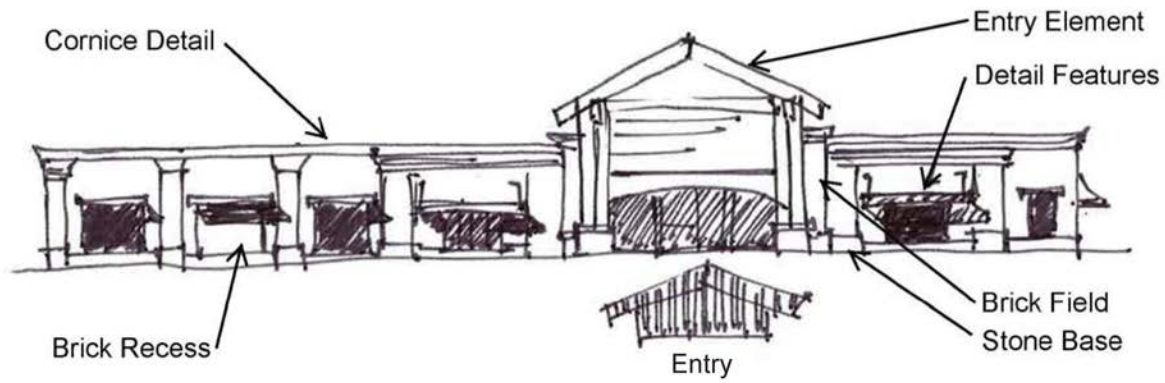




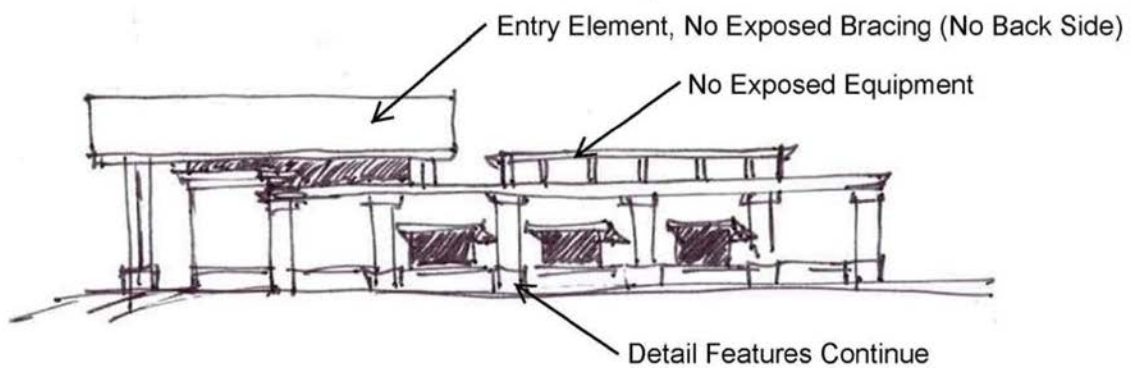


Complementary context is created on all facades through the use of detailed design, elevation changes, detail features which continue on all sides, use of wall sconce lighting, brick patterning, texture, etc.

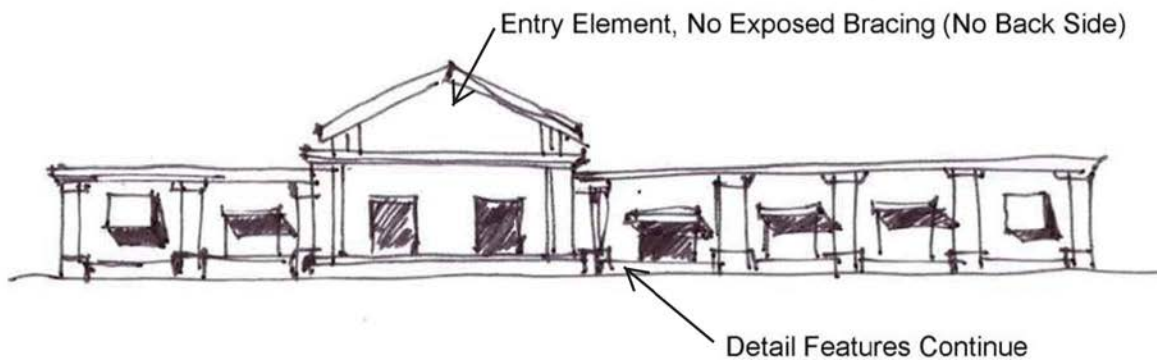




Front Wall Example



Side Wall Example



Rear Wall Example

** All buildings are to be designed from a four-sided (360 degree) structure perspective, thus requiring the same caliber of finishes and design attention on all facades of the building. Large areas of blank exterior are to be avoided and are grounds for non-compliance. Utilizing subdivision, rhythm, patterning and features such as windows, entrances, arcades, arbors, awnings, trellises, etc., that extend to all sides of the structure. Tall elements shall be designed as forms and shall not have exposed bracing.