City of Fort Worth

School Site Development Guide











REVISION SUMMARY TABLE

Rev No.	Rev. Date	Ref. Section	Description
0	7/31/21	ALL	Initial Issue
1	4/26/23	Urban Forestry; Development Review Timelines; Development Process; Water and Sewer; FAQ's Contacts;	Clarified canopy coverage within the Urban forestry section, added details to the transportation management and changed it to "traffic management plan", updated the development review timelines, development process overview (edited variances & special exceptions bubble to say board of adjustment; added field ops and miscellaneous projects within the water review process), added explanation to the different water review teams, added miscellaneous projects FAQs, updated City Staff contacts and telephone service provider names.
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Purpose of the Guide

The purpose of this guide is to help create and sustain a partnership between school districts, private schools, charter schools, and the City of Fort Worth, in order to develop school sites that meet City standards, the needs of the neighborhood, and the school calendar year.

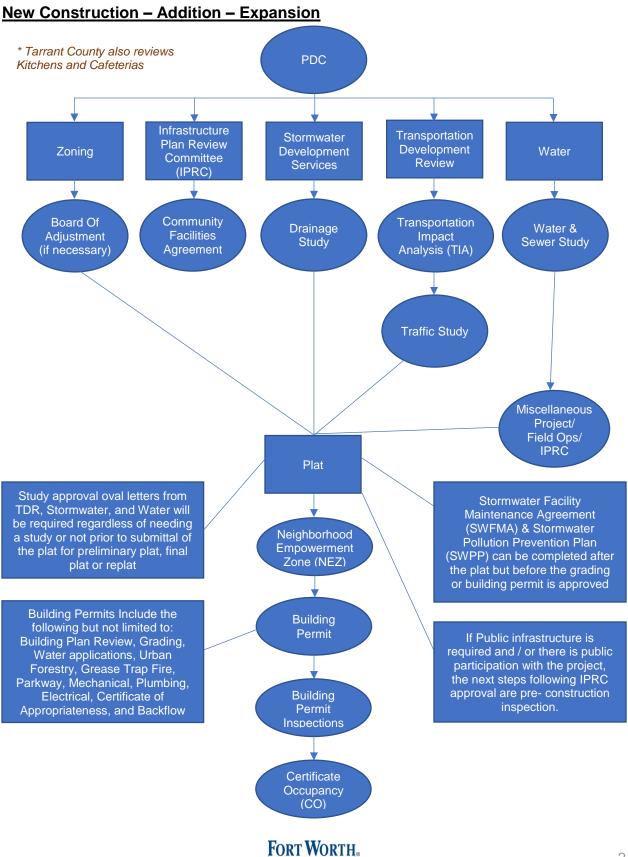
The policies and procedures mentioned in this guide will provide clarity when dealing with activities of critical importance concerning the health, safety, legal liabilities, and regulatory requirements to develop the selected school site. This guide should be used as a reference tool for schools, consultants, engineers, and design teams to better understand the City's practices, and the role of every department involved in each step of the development process.

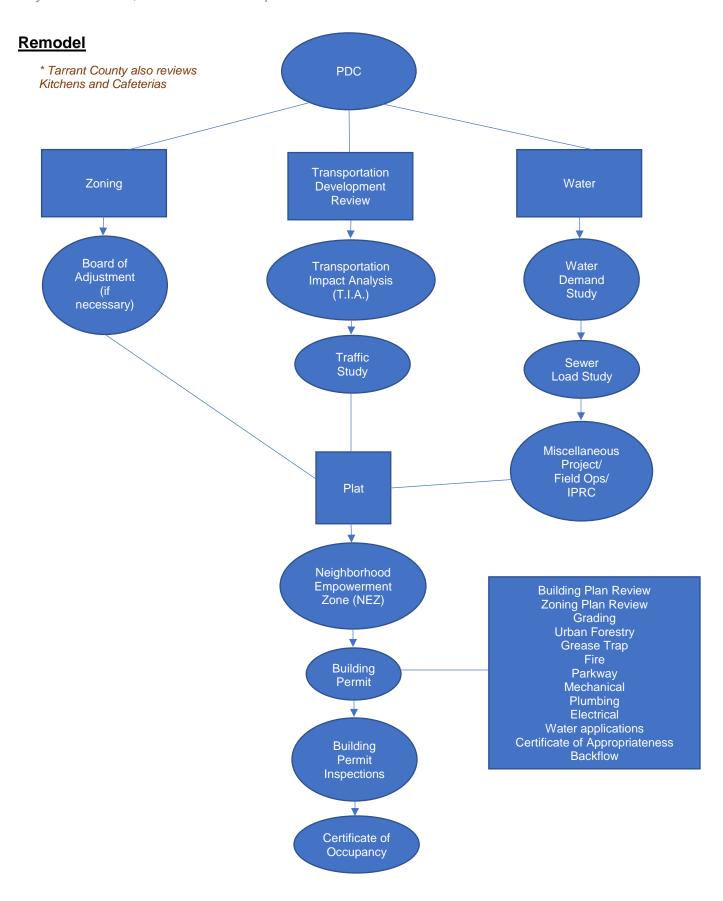
As such, the school districts and/or designated representatives will make reasonable efforts to begin preliminary discussions with the City regarding site selections and permit applications. The City will reciprocate such actions by making reasonable efforts to adjust staffing as needed, to address significant bond programs.

The City of Fort Worth considers itself a partner with the schools and understands that all school sites are not the same, however, this guide will provide a baseline to follow. Additionally, this guide will not only shed light on the development process and requirements for school districts, private and charter schools, but for the development community that will be responsible for new school construction, addition, expansion, and remodel.



Development Process Overview







Development Timeframes

Below are the approximate timelines customers can expect to receive staff's initial comments, referred to as <u>first review comments</u>. Please note that some reviews can be accomplished parallel to other reviews within the City's development process.

Pre-Development Conference (PDC)

4-6 weeks from receipt of all required application materials

Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ) Certification

14-21 business days from receipt of a complete application

Urban Forestry

7 business days

Land Use and Zoning Reviews

- Zoning Change
 - o 3 months from the monthly application deadline
- Zoning Variance
 - o 1.5 months to process, depending on when the application is submitted
- Downtown Design Review Board (DDRB)
 - o Administrative Review: Less than 10 days
 - Board Review: 21 calendar days, or more, depending on when application is submitted
- Preservation and Design Review
 - Administrative Review: Less than 5 days
 - o **Board/Commission Review:** 21 calendar days, or more, depending on when application is submitted

Plat Related Reviews

- **Drainage Study:** 10 business days or less for First review (10 business days or less for each subsequent review due to requested study corrections)
- Water and/or Sewer Study Comprehensive: 20 business days or less for First review (15 business days or less for each subsequent review due to requested study corrections). Study type consists of modeling, vertical facility, water transmission and sewer collector pipeline infrastructure
- Water and/or Sewer Study: 10 business days or less for First review (10 business days or less for each subsequent review due to requested study corrections). Study type includes modeling but does not need vertical facility, water transmission and sewer collector pipeline infrastructure
- Water Demand and/or Sewer Loading Full: 10 business days or less for First review (5 business days or less for each subsequent review due to requested study corrections). Study type consists of adjacent infrastructure not up to current standards as well as proposed increase in density
- Water Demand and/or Sewer Loading Reduced: 5 business days or less for First review (3 business days or less for each subsequent review due to requested study corrections). Study type consists of adjacent up to current standards. (Example) infill of previous accepted master planned areas



- Water Utility No Study: 3 business days or less for First review (3 business days or less for each subsequent review due to requested study corrections). Category includes phased developments within previously accepted comprehensive studies
- Traffic Impact Study: 10 business days or less for First review (10 business days or less for each subsequent review due to requested study corrections)
- **Floodplain Study:** 15 business days or less for First review (15 business days or less for each subsequent review due to requested study corrections)
- Floodplain Development Permit: 15 business days or less for First review (15 business days or less for each subsequent review due to requested study corrections)
 - **CLOMR/LOMR:** 270 calendar days; City review is 15 business days
- Corridor Development Certificate: Varies, dependent on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Platting

• Plat Application: 21 calendar days or less for First review (7 calendar days or less for each subsequent review due to requested application corrections)

Infrastructure Plan Review Center (IPRC)

- Pre-Submittal Conference Requests: 7 days after the submission date
- 30-Day Shot Clock Reviews: 16 days after filing application date
- 15-Day Shot Clock Reviews: 8 days after filing application date
- **Post-Submittal Meetings:** Requests are accepted any time after the project has gone through the City Plan Commission hearing

Note: Construction Plan Reviews will no longer be heard by the City Plan Commission. That authority has been delegated to the Director's Designee for Construction Plan Approval with the exception of Subdivision Ordinance Waivers. All Subdivision Ordinance Waivers will still need to be heard by the City Plan Commission.

Community Facilities Agreements (CFA)

- Application Processing
 - 5 days to be accepted; Dependent upon receipt of all application items.
- CFA without City Participation
 - o 2 to 4 weeks for processing. CFA's without City participation are referred to as either *Standard* or *Express* CFA agreements, and completion is dependent on how quickly comments are addressed and revisions submitted
- CFA with City Participation Funds:
 - o **Administrative Approval:** 4-6 weeks; If under \$100,000, this can be done as an administrative approval, removing the need for City Council approval
 - o **City Council Approval:** 45-60 days; If over \$100,000, council approval is required when City participation funds are involved in the construction. Additional days dependent upon council dates

Building Permits

Commercial: 7 business daysResidential: 7 business days

Grading Permits

10 business days



Fire Permits

• Above Ground Fuel Tank: 3-5 business days

Access Control: 3-5 business days
 Fire Sprinkler: 3-5 business days
 Alarm Permit: 3-5 business days

Hazardous Materials Facility Permit: 3-5 business days
 Kitchen Hood Fire Suppression Permit: 3-5 business days

• Smoke Control/Exhaust Permit: 3-5 business days

• Standpipe Permit: 3-5 business days

• Flammable & Combustible Liquids Construction Permit: 3-5 business days

All Inspections: 2-5 business days

Sign Permits

• **Sign:** 5 business days

• Unified Sign Agreement Plan Review: 7-10 business days. Once all comments have been resolved, the agreement will be executed within 3 weeks

Plan Review: 7 business days

• **Inspections:** Inspection requests received by 5 a.m. will be placed on that day's inspection list. Any inspections that didn't get done, will be first on the following day's list. Those received after 5 a.m. will be placed on the next day's list.

Permanent Encroachment Agreement

- Administrative: 5 business days for first plan review comments. The entire contract agreement will be executed within 2-3 weeks
- **Council Approval:** 6-8-week process. First review comments within 5 business days. Once all comments have been addressed, a Mayor and Council report will be drafted and routed for approval by the council

Temporary Encroachment Permits (roadway and street closures)

• 3-5 business days from receipt of application. Subject to thorough review from Transportation and Public Works (TPW) Department



Pre-Development Conferences



Pre-Development Conferences (PDCs) are designed to bring representatives from various City departments together, with the developer and/or their consultants to discuss possible issues and ask questions regarding new developments, or redevelopment projects. The PDC is a discovery meeting designed to discuss the proposed project's general plans, needs, constraints and goals.

The goals of a PDC are to:

- Create a common understanding between the developer and City of the expectations and requirements for the proposed development
- Minimize code and permitting surprises
- Save the developer time and frustration

City of Fort Worth PDC's are held (as the schedule permits) each Monday from 1 pm to 2 pm, Tuesdays from 3 pm to 4 pm, and Thursdays from 9 am to 12 pm. A PDC request form must be completed and submitted via email along with a proposed site plan. Conferences are scheduled on a first-come, first-scheduled basis.

The PDC request form can be found at the following link: PDC Request Form

For more information contact (817) 392-1732, or via email at: projects@fortworthtexas.gov



Tarrant County Plan Review



Tarrant County Public Health reviews cafeteria and kitchen plans for all schools. The plan review applies to new construction, remodels, demolition (full or partial), closures and re-openings of school cafeterias and kitchens.

Before any construction begins, plan review approval must be granted. Tarrant County reviews normally take up to 10 business days. Because the review can take up to 10 business days or more, it is recommended to start this process before submitting building permit plans to the City of Fort Worth, or run concurrently with the City's development process to avoid delays in the project.

The Tarrant County Public Health Plan Review Application can be found on their website, www.tarrantcounty.com or at the following link: Tarrant County Food Establishment Plan Review

Tarrant County Public Health contact information:

Tarrant County Public Health 1101 S. Main St., Room 2300 Fort Worth, TX 76104 817-321-4960 (Main Line)

Primary Contacts:

Raj Chauhan, Environmental Consumer Health Manager 817-321-4970

RKChauhan@TarrantCounty.com

Carol Bennett, Environmental Specialist 817-321-4967
CGBennett@TarrantCounty.com



Development Incentives



Neighborhood Empowerment Zones

The Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ) program was created and adopted by the Fort Worth City Council in 2001 to encourage development and redevelopment in Fort Worth's Central City. NEZ Areas promote the creation and rehabilitation of affordable housing and economic development, and improve the quality of social services, education, or public safety to residents of the NEZ. Incentives include multiple fee waivers such as building permit fees, impact fee waivers and the release of eligible City liens, and municipal property tax abatements.

If a school development site is located within a NEZ and there is interest in taking advantage of the benefits, an application for NEZ certification must be approved prior to platting (if necessary) or applying for a building permit. The certification processing for Basic NEZ Incentives is approximately 14-21 business days. If this is a program that the school would like to take advantage of, please apply as soon as possible so that the full fee waiver benefits can be taken advantage of. There will be a delay in the issuance and review of the building permits if the applicant decides to apply for the NEZ.

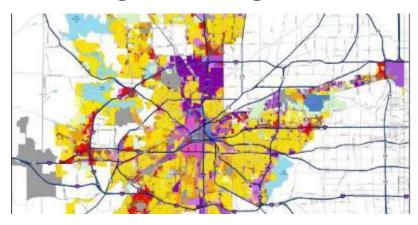
However, if a proposed project is in a NEZ Area, and a property owner does not wish to participate, the property owner will be required to sign a NEZ Opt-Out form acknowledging that they were informed about the program but declined to participate. A property owner or person authorized to sign may give an agent permission/authority to opt out. However, signed documentation is required along with a copy of both parties' driver's license. All submittal documents are required to be included with the application, as we do not accept incomplete applications. Appointments are available to submit your application or you may apply online.

Contact the Neighborhood Services Office at 817-392-7744 or 817-392-7316 or via email at: nez_ns@fortworthtexas.gov

For additional information about the NEZ program, visit: Neighborhood Empowerment Zones



Zoning and Design Review



<u>Zoning</u>

Zoning is the city's tool to implement the Land Use component of the city's Comprehensive Plan. Through the use of the district classifications, zoning helps regulate land use, promote orderly growth, and protect existing property owners by ensuring a convenient, attractive, and functional community. The City Council along with several city boards and commissions, especially the Zoning Commission, make decisions on land uses, compatibility, and other zoning matters.

All property in the city limits is subject to zoning district regulations. To learn about zoning requirements, review the Zoning Ordinance at the following link: Fort Worth Zoning

Throughout the City of Fort Worth, there are various design and form-based code districts in which design is regulated through standards and guidelines. Below you will find a list of the Urban Design Districts and Overlays that are in place.

Berry/University Form-Based Code

Panther Island

Camp Bowie District, Inc.

Panther Island Peripheral Zones

Downtown Urban Design District

Stockyards Historic and Form-Based Code District

I-35 Design Overlay

Stop Six Overlay

Near Southside

Trinity Lakes

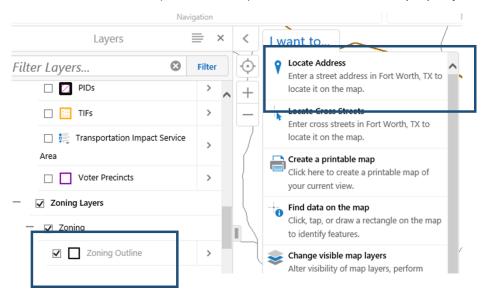
For more information about specific design districts and overlay requirements, visit: <u>Preservation</u> & <u>Urban Design</u>

In the City of Fort Worth, schools are permitted in any Zoning District. The Zoning District determines setbacks, height, required parking, sign regulations, etc. Depending on the Zoning requirements of adjacent properties, it may require additional requirements such as supplemental building setbacks, buffer yards, compliance with projected front yards, etc. School campus projects must comply with 6.300, 6.301, and 6.302 in the Zoning Ordinance for Landscape, Buffer yard, and Urban Forestry requirements. If an existing campus adds or expands buildings or adds parking spaces, it will require an update to an existing, or an application for a new Urban Forestry Permit for verification of required tree canopy coverage. The chart below provides a quick look at the minimum parking requirements based on the type of school use.



Parking Requirements						
Use	Requirement					
School: Elementary and Junior High (public or private)	2.5 spaces per classroom					
School: High (public or private)	1 space per 2 students plus 1 space per 5 stadium seats (may be double counted)					

To determine zoning on a property, click on one of the following links: <u>One Address</u> or <u>Zoning Map GIS Viewer</u>. Select "Zoning Outline" on the left menu, click "I want to" then "locate address" and proceed to enter the address of the property. The filter layers provide additional information if selected; i.e., aerials (Orthos_2020) to see the aerial of the property.



To review a summary of zoning categories, visit: Fort Worth Zoning Districts

Reference:

Chapter 6, Article 2: Parking and Loading Requirements

Chapter 6, Article 3: Landscaping, Buffers, and Urban Forestry

Chapter 6, Article 4: Signs

Zoning Change and Variances

While schools are allowed in any zoning district in the city, there are certain limitations. Each zoning district has property development standards such as building setbacks (front, side, and rear), height, and signage that could be challenging to the overall design concept of the campus. A zoning change of the property to obtain the desired design of the campus is an option.

If the agency decides to move forward with proposing a zoning change of the property, the proposal must be presented to the Zoning Commission and approved by City Council, with a total of two public hearings. To initiate this process, an application and appropriate fee are filed with the Development Services Department via Accela, the online permitting system.

Below are the steps for filing for a zoning change.



- 1. Meet/confer with staff as needed to evaluate proposed rezoning. A Pre-Development Conference is available to discuss all aspects of a project including, but not limited to zoning.
- 2. Submit a complete application with all required information and attachments by the deadline. Please find the application and the Commission calendar on the right side of this page under "Helpful Links."
- 3. Zoning staff sends courtesy notices to all neighborhood organizations registered with the City that are located within ½ mile of the subject area.
- 4. If you are in a neighborhood that does not have an organization or your organization is not registered, contact the Community Engagement Office.
- 5. Zoning staff sends notices to landowners within 300 feet of property to be rezoned. If you are affected by a zoning case and choose to comment, please return notification forms at least one day before the meeting.
- 6. A public hearing is held at the Zoning Commission (ZC) meeting. The Zoning Commission votes to recommend or not recommend the rezoning to Council.
- 7. City Council holds a public hearing and one reading. The final vote is held at this meeting. Rezoning is adopted upon reading and a majority of votes of Council.

If the proposed school structure does not comply with zoning development standards, such as height or setback, then a zoning variance may be requested from the Board of Adjustment. If granted, it permits the owner to use the land in a manner not otherwise permitted by the zoning ordinance. It is not a change in the zoning law. Instead, it is a specific waiver to the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Ordinance establishes five evaluation criteria for consideration by the Board when reviewing and deciding upon requested variances to the Zoning Ordinance:

- 1. Will enforcement of the ordinance result in a hardship or practical difficulty?
- 2. Is the "hardship" self-imposed?
- 3. Is the condition unique to the property, or is it common to other properties within the area?
- 4. Will the requested variance injure the adjacent property?
- 5. Will the requested variance be contrary to orderly development in the area?

All decisions by the Board of Adjustment are final, subject only to review by the county or district courts. If this process is something the agency is interested, please visit: Zoning Variance

Process & Information

Design Districts and Certificate of Appropriateness

There are zoning districts in the City that have additional **design requirements** referenced in the Zoning Ordinance. The following districts require zoning plan review and approval outside of the traditional zoning process.

Urban Design District (Form-Based & Mixed-Use), *link:* <u>Urban Design Districts and Overlays</u>



The regulations and guidelines of the Urban Design Districts intend to promote the health, safety, economic, cultural, and general welfare of the public by encouraging the revitalization and enhancement of the urban environment.

If a school site is located in this district, plans are subject to the review and approval of the Urban Design Commission (UDC) or Design Review Staff. The UDC enforces the design standards and guidelines for new construction and renovations by hearing and deciding on applications for Certificates of Appropriateness.

Downtown Urban Design District, link: Downtown Urban Design District

The guidelines in the Downtown Urban Design District are meant to improve and protect the appearance, value, and function of downtown properties. The standards and guidelines allow for creativity and variety within a framework of basic design parameters that reinforce the best attributes of downtown.

If a school site is located in this district, plans are subject to the review and approval of the Downtown Design Review Board (DDRB) or Design Review Staff. The DDRB is charged with handling hearings and determinations of applications for certificates of appropriateness for a building permit for construction of a new structure, expansion or remodeling, or other alterations of the first and/or second floor of an existing structure, signage, and construction of a surface parking lot.

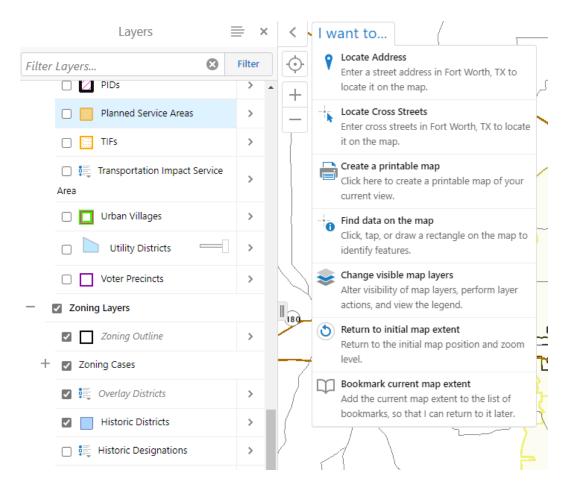
Historic District or Individual Designation, link: <u>Historic Preservation</u>

A historic designation is a type of overlay zoning. A historic designation can either be a historic district, which is a defined area or neighborhood with a common theme based on architectural style, historical development patterns, cultural identity, or social and economic historical patterns. A historic designation can also be applied to an individual structure. The purpose of a historic designation is to conserve the character and identity of a resource or an area to help guide compatible development into the future. Design guidelines apply to a property with a Historic Designation.

If a school site is locally designated as Historic and Cultural (HC) or Highly Significant/Endangered (HSE), any exterior work will require approval by the Historic and Cultural Landmarks Commission (HCLC). The HCLC is charged with handling hearings and determinations of applications for certificates of appropriateness prior to a building permit for alterations, additions, or any exterior work undertaken on designated structures.

To determine if the property is located in a design district or individually designated, visit our <u>Interactive Zoning Map</u>. Select Overlay Districts, Historic Districts and Historic Designations in the left menu then click "I want to" then "locate address" and proceed to enter the address of the property to determine if the overlay zoning applies to the property.





Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)

In order to obtain a permit for a site located in an Urban Design District (Form Based and Design Overlays), Downtown Urban District, or Historic District, a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required. The COA is either issued administratively by staff or by the designated board and commission (UDC, DDRB, or HCLC). Without the authorization, a COA, prior to submitting for a building permit project delays will occur and the project will not be able to move forward until this process has been completed.

To obtain applications and view the schedules for the Urban Design Commission, the Downtown District Review Board, the Historic and Cultural Landmarks Commission and COA, visit: Fort Worth Preservation & Urban Design.



Platting



Before land can be developed, it must be properly platted. A plat is a map of a piece of land identifying the location and boundaries of street rights-of-way, individual lots and blocks, and other site information. The plat shows features such as lot lines, utility easements, setback lines, land dedicated for public use (e.g. streets and parks), ownership, and metes and bounds (boundary dimensions). Plats must be prepared by surveyors registered with the State of Texas and must be signed by the property owner. Plats are recorded and maintained at the pertinent county courthouse. A recorded plat is required to obtain a building permit for land within the City.

On September 1, 2019, House Bill 3167 (H.B. 3167) nicknamed the "shot clock bill" became effective. H.B. 3167 essentially requires all Texas cities and counties to decide on plat applications and public infrastructure construction plans in 30 days. Additionally, the law requires staff to respond to subsequent plans within 15 days. If a city or county does not comply with the designated 30 or 15 day period, plats and plans are considered approved.

A plat application will not be considered filed with the City pursuant to H.B. 3167 until all required documents and fees have been submitted and all of the terms and conditions of the subdivision ordinance, including all necessary studies, plans, and supporting information are accepted and approved by the reviewing department. Once a plat meets the requirements to be considered submitted pursuant to H.B. 3167, the application will be placed on the Development Review Committee (DRC) agenda and the City Plan Commission (CPC) agenda for consideration under the time requirements set out in H.B. 3167 only if it requires waivers from the Subdivision Ordinance. A decision for approval or disapproval must be made within 30 days from the filing of the application. Plat applications that do not meet these requirements will be rejected.



Plat Checklist							
	CP	PP	FP	FS			
Water and Sewer acceptance letter form							
Traffic Impact Assessment or Traffic Study or Form							
Drainage Study or Form							
ETJ Plat (Authorization for Water Well/ Septic from County Authority)							
ETJ Plat (Annexation if eligible)							
TxDOT Conditional Approval (if access is required)							
Other Entity Approval (i.e. TCEQ, Railroad, Public Utility)							
Community Facility Agreement filed or Miscellaneous Project application filed							
IPRC Approval of Construction Plans							
Right-of-Way Vacations, Approved Ordinance No.							
Board of Adjustment							
Concept Plan / Preliminary Plat / Masterplan							
Zoning Change Application							
Master Thoroughfare Flan (MTP) Amendment							
Development Agreement (if applicable)							
KEY: Accepted/ Approved =		File	ed App. =				

Plats with conditions or waivers, or those recommended for denial, will be posted on the commission agenda, and staff will send notices to property owners with 300 feet and registered neighborhood organizations within ½ mile. For information on what items will be required and included with your plat application submittal, please schedule a Pre-Development Conference. The Pre-Development Conference (PDC) will allow you to communicate with the various city departments that oversee infrastructure in the city. Additionally, there will be a representative from the platting and annexation team and a at the PDC to advise what type of plat (preliminary plat, final plat, final short plat, replat, etc.) the project requires. There is also an option to schedule a **plat pre-submittal meeting** to discuss in detail the intricacies of the project and the platting requirement and process as it relates specifically to the proposed site. Applicants requesting a Plat pre-submittal meeting must sign the Consultant Pre-Submittal Waiver Form agreeing that the meeting does not constitute a formal application submittal.

Typically, the platting process will apply to ISDs, Charter, and Private schools that are new construction. New construction typically involves but is not limited to land dedicated for public use (e.g. streets and parks), identifying the location and boundaries of street rights-of-way, individual lots or parcels, and other site information. Additionally, the platting process involves infrastructure and utility easement dedication or vacation such as street and drainage as well as the dedication or vacation of public access easement.

If the school site is located in the City of Fort Worth ETJ, the city is the authority over development standards through the Subdivision Ordinance. If the site is located in an area that is contiguous to the City of Fort Worth boundaries, then the property is eligible for annexation. In order to receive city water and sewer services, the property must be located in the Fort Worth city limits. For school sites that are located in the ETJ, or within an established Municipal Utility District



(MUD), building permits, plumbing backflow, and grease trap permits will need to be issued by the City of Fort Worth. For additional information related to development within the ETJ or Special Utility Districts, visit the following link: Extraterritorial Jurisdiction & Special Utility District Information.

The minimal department acknowledgments required to be included with the application submittal before it's deemed complete are Stormwater, Transportation Development Review, and the Water Department, contact the following departments for all necessary studies and forms:

- Drainage Study/Flood Study form
 - SDS@fortworthtexas.gov
- Water and Sewer Acceptance letter forms
 - o WPD@fortworthtexas.gov
- Traffic Impact Assessment Study form
 - o <u>TIA@fortworthtexas.gov</u>

If public infrastructure is needed or required to be constructed as a part of the site, the construction plans must be approved either administratively or through the City Plan Commission before a final plat application is submitted. Most school development is private requiring a grading permit so IPRC is often limited to public water/sewer. If any public streets, stormwater systems, lights, sidewalks, water/sewer, street signs, and or curbs/gutters are needed or required to be constructed as a part of the site, then a Community Facilities Agreement (CFA) will be required. A final plat will be approved after the CFA is executed. Additionally, if the site will require a Stormwater Facility Maintenance Agreement (SWFMA) as a result of the drainage study, the SWFMA should be recorded with the county as soon as the study is accepted. Please see the Stormwater Management section for more information on the SWFMA.

A recorded plat is required to obtain a building permit for land within the City. Once the plat is approved either administratively or by the City Plan Commission the applicant can record the plat with the designated County. If the property is located in Tarrant County, there is the option to elect to have the City record the plat.

If the applicant elects to have the City record the plat. Signatures are done by Fire on Wednesdays and City Plan Commission signatures are done on Fridays. Plats are dropped off on Fridays at Tarrant County and picked up on the following Monday. The following items are required:

- 4 executed copies
- Tax certificates showing all property taxes have been paid
- Blank check for the county (Checks are not made out to the City of Fort Worth)**
- CAD file for addressing purposes. (AutoCAD files in version 2010 or earlier)
- Email the CAD file to: platbox2@fortworthtexas.gov

**If you want to fill out the check on your own here are the fees we assess:

24"x36" is \$64 plus \$4 for each additional plat sheet, legal, and letter size page.

18"x24" is \$49 plus \$4 for each additional plat sheet, legal, and letter size page.



If the applicant elects to record the plat themselves with the County. Signatures are done by Fire on Wednesdays and City Plan Commission signatures are done on Fridays. The following items are required:

- Bring 4 executed copies for signature
- Return 1 of the recorded plats and copy of the receipt showing plat has been paid

If the plat is located in the ETJ. Signatures are done by Fire on Wednesdays and City Plan Commission signatures are done on Fridays and the plat may pick up with completed signatures for recording on Fridays by 2 p.m. to record. The following items are required:

- Bring 4 executed copies for signature
- Return 1 of the recorded plats and copy of the receipt showing plat has been paid

For information on platting types and requirements, visit: Fort Worth Platting Information

The City's Subdivision Ordinance regulations apply to land that is being divided into two or more parts for development. To view the Subdivision Ordinance, visit: Fort Worth Subdivision Ordinance

Ordinance

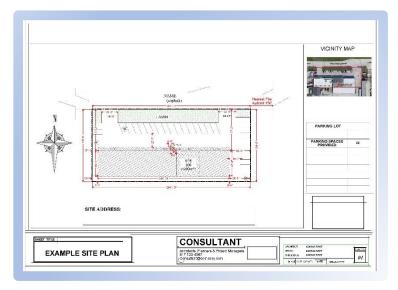
To view the City Plan Commission docket, visit: Fort Worth City Plan Commission

For annexation information and requirements, visit: Fort Worth Annexation



Infrastructure Plan Review Center (IPRC)

During the plat review process, the City's IPRC may require the construction of public infrastructure to service the planned subdivision as a condition of the plat's approval. The engineering design for those required public improvements must be reviewed through the Infrastructure Plan Review Center. IPRC provides an interdepartmental and utility coordination function, allowing a single point of contact to minimize and coordinate



conflicts during plan review and construction.

IPRC is responsible for the project management of all new public infrastructure improvements associated with residential, commercial, and industrial development. This role includes preliminary and final plan review, contract specification review, easement document review, plan approval, and coordination with the developer's engineer during the construction phase of the project.

Developers/consultants are encouraged to schedule a Pre-Development Conference (PDC) to discuss possible issues, and ask questions, relative to the new development project. Projects that have had a PDC should schedule a pre-submittal conference meeting with IPRC.

Pre-Submittal Conferences

Pre-submittal conferences are optional. These conferences provide an opportunity for construction plans to be reviewed and discussed by staff before submitting a formal 30-Day Shot Clock application. Construction Plan applications will no longer be heard at City Plan Commission (CPC) meetings. That authority has been delegated to the Director's Designee for Construction Plan Approval, with the exception of Subdivision Ordinance Waivers. All Subdivision Ordinance Waivers will still need to be heard by the City Plan Commission.

Post-Submittal Meetings

IPRC offers post-submittal meetings as well, following disapproval or conditional approval of construction plans. Applicants requesting a pre-submittal or post-submittal meeting must sign the Consultant Pre-Submittal Waiver Form agreeing that the meeting does not constitute a formal application submittal. IPRC application submittal filing dates for CPC follow the same calendar as the Plat applications.



The City of Fort Worth adopted two policies under the revised CFA Ordinance. A "Phased CFA" allows the Community Facilities to be constructed by a developer that will connect to public infrastructure being constructed in a Parent Project by the same Developer. A Parent Project is a public infrastructure project being constructed pursuant to a CFA that some or all of the public infrastructure constructed in a Phased CFA will directly connect to and is dependent upon. A Concurrent CFA is a CFA in which one or more of the Community Facilities being constructed by a developer is dependent upon connecting to Community Facilities being constructed by a different Developer pursuant to a separate CFA. For additional information related to the acceptance of construction projects under these two policies, please refer § 9-313 and § 9-314 of the CFA Ordinance

For more information about forms, procedures, and requirements, please visit the City's <u>Infrastructure Plan Review Center</u> website.



Community Facilities Agreements (CFA)



A Community Facility Agreement (CFA) is a contract between the city and the property owner and is executed following preliminary plat approval and prior to final plat approval, and may require City Council approval. A CFA is required when public infrastructure is constructed by a private developer. Public infrastructure components include street improvements, traffic signals, street lights, street name signs, storm drains, water lines, sewer lines, and park facilities. The City will not typically participate in the construction of streets, water, sewer, or storm facilities required due to the school development, however there are times where the City may participate for oversizing and other reasons. It will be the school district's or school representative's responsibility to ensure that the required public infrastructure is constructed in accordance to City standards.

Once a project receives an Infrastructure Plan Review Center (IPRC) project number, the project is eligible to start the CFA application process and submit preliminary documents while the project is awaiting IPRC review and City Plan Commission (CPC) approval. IPRC is responsible for managing the design and construction of Community Facilities on behalf of the City. Once the civil/construction plans for public improvements have been reviewed and approved by IPRC and CPC, a CFA must be executed to guarantee the construction and ensure they are constructed in accordance with city standards. A statement of Appropriated Funding must be provided prior to the routing of the contract for execution, however, charter schools may require different routing procedures, please contact staff for additional details. An executed bid proposal along with final CFA exhibits must be submitted in order to execute the CFA contract. There is a document review prior to the CFA being executed to ensure that all required documentation is included in the CFA.

The Community Facility Agreements are facilitated through the Development Services Department – Development Coordination Division in the Contract Management Section, and is located on the Ground Floor of City Hall in the southeast corner of the building.

For a program and process overview, pertinent documents, and answers to frequently asked questions, visit: Community Facilities Agreement (CFA)

To view the CFA Ordinance and administrative guidelines, visit: CFA Ordinance



Transportation Development Review



The Transportation Development Review Section in the Development Services Department is responsible for review of all private development Traffic studies. This section is also responsible for the permitting, inspection and acceptance of all parkway permits. Parkway permits typically involve driveways and sidewalk construction. For all schools (public, private, charter), upon platting, they are required to install and/or upgrade school zone signs, flashing beacons, and pedestrian markings to the latest standards for the City and per the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Device (MUTCD).

Traffic Impact Analysis

As Fort Worth continues to develop and grow, more vehicle traffic utilizes the city's roadway and traffic concerns become more prevalent. A Traffic Impact Analysis (T.I.A.) will be required for all schools (public, private, charter), detailing the project's contribution to current traffic conditions in a defined study area. Additionally, the T.I.A. will also verify whether or not the project will generate traffic that would warrant improvements. The department will request the submittal of a T.I.A. worksheet to verify the amount of traffic the project may generate.

Traffic Management Plan

School-related congestions cause overcrowding and blocking of streets on or near school property associated with car transportation of students to and from school. School-related traffic congestion pose risks to the safety of students, parents, residents, and motorists in and around the school location. The biggest cause of congestions around schools is vehicles of parents' dropping off and picking up students from school combined with school bus traffic. New school sites and exiting school sites that increase the number of children in school attendance are required to submit a Traffic Management Plan to mitigate traffic problems and provide short and long-term improvements to ensure the safety and well-being of students, parents, and residents. All existing or new schools (public, charter, and private) are required to update their Traffic Management Plan every two years at the request of the City Traffic Engineer or their designee.



Transportation Impact Fee

Transportation Impact Fees are charges assessed by local governments on new development projects to help fund transportation capacity improvements that will be needed as development occurs in Fort Worth. The fee is paid at the time of the building permit. Fort Worth is divided into 28 service areas, and the fees vary across each service area. Much of the central city within Loop 820 is in a no-fee service area.

Per Section 30-195 of city code, open-enrollment charter schools and private schools as defined in the Texas Education Code, serving students in kindergarten through the 12th grade, are not required to pay impact fees imposed under this chapter unless the governing board of the school consents to the payment of the fees entering into a contract with the City of Fort Worth. The contract may contain terms the governing board considers advisable to provide for the payment of the fees.

To determine your fee area, visit: One Address

Once the address is located, on the left-hand side under Reference you will locate the Transportation Impact Service Area.

To estimate the impact fee and locate pertinent documents, visit: <u>Transportation Impact Fees</u> The fee estimator tool is located on the middle of the webpage under "Fee Estimator".

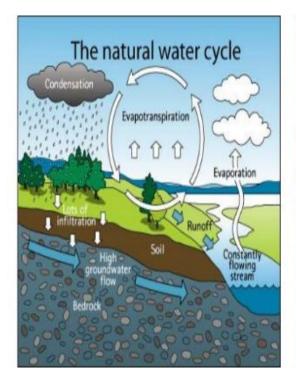
To view the transportation impact fee ordinance, visit: Transportation Impact Fee Ordinance

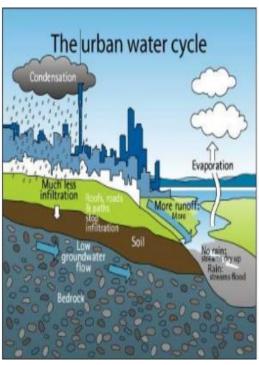
Exactions (Rough Proportionality)

Exactions are assessed by local governments on new development projects to ensure that improvements are "reasonably related" and "roughly proportionate" to the estimated impact of new development. This assessment may be required to provide or fund localized transportation improvements in order to mitigate impacts to adjacent right of ways or the overall transportation system. Exactions must meet the nexus and rough proportionality requirements in state and federal law.



Stormwater Management





When rain hits any hard surface, such as a roof or driveway, it can't soak into the ground so it runs off the property. Uncontrolled runoff can lead to flooding, erosion, and pollution problems. It is the City's job to help control this runoff through stormwater management.

On September 1, 2019, House Bill 3167 (H.B. 3167) nicknamed the "shot clock bill" became effective. H.B. 3167 requires all Texas cities and counties to approve plat applications and public infrastructure construction plans (either associated with the subdivision plat or not) in 30 days. As of result, the City of Fort Worth requires a Stormwater Drainage Study to support development applications for Concept Plans, Preliminary Plat, Final Plat, IPRC or Grading Permits.

The City of Fort Worth 2015 Stormwater Criteria Manual has been prepared to provide guidance so that new development does not contribute to flooding, erosion, and water pollution problems. For additional information, please visit the City's <u>Stormwater Criteria Manual</u>.

A Stormwater Drainage Study must be accepted before the submittal of a concept plan, Preliminary Plan, Final Plat, Infrastructure Plans to IPRC, or Commercial Grading Permit.

Please visit Stormwater Management for additional information.

Development in Floodplain

Under the City's Floodplain Ordinance, the staff manages the FEMA floodplains and reviews development applications for compliance with applicable FEMA and NFIP regulations. The zoning ordinance, Floodplain Provisions Ordinance, and the International Building Codes have



special provisions regulating construction and other developments within floodplains. Land disturbance in the floodplain will require local and state permits. A Flood Study is often required before a floodplain development permit application can be reviewed. Contact the City of Fort Worth's Development Services Department at sde@fortworthtexas.gov or (817) 392-2222 for advice before you build, fill, or develop in a floodplain. To learn more, visit: Development In The Floodplain

Stormwater Facilities Maintenance Agreement (SWFMA)

If the Stormwater drainage study conducted by the civil engineer of record determines that a detention facility is required to mitigate stormwater impacts resulting from the land disturbance or project development, then an SWFMA must be executed before the department will approve any grading or building associated with the project.

Grading Permits

The City Council adopted a Grading Ordinance on June 5, 2012, after a series of reviews with stakeholders. Major features include:

- o Land disturbance of 1.0 acre or more will require an approved Grading Permit.
- Single-family and residential building permit applicants will be required to provide lot grading patterns. Non-standard (other than HUD) patterns will be subject to review. No fee will be charged for this requirement.

A grading permit is required before any earthmoving or land-disturbing activities. A completed application signed, and sealed plan sheets (site, grading, and utility plans), Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and \$50 administrative for processing fee are required for the grading permit. The grading permit is reviewed by six different teams across four different departments. SDS can provide a guidance document for grading permit submittals on request.

Grading Permits can be applied for online, please visit: Online Permitting

For additional information about grading permits, please visit: **Grading Permit Process**

To obtain the grading permit application and checklist please visit: <u>Grading Permit Application</u> and <u>Checklist</u>



Environment Quality: Erosion and Pollution Control



Environmental Quality is a division within the Code Compliance Department that provides city residents with programs, services, and technical guidance to protect public health, properties, and natural resources. The Environmental Quality team is committed to promoting active environmental stewardship practices and behaviors through compliance, pollution preventions, and sustainability.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has developed requirements for construction sites that disturb one or more acre of land or a common plan of development that will disturb one or more acre of land. These regulations require construction sites to comply with the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Construction General Permit. These sites are also required to get a grading permit through the City of Fort Worth.

- A Storm Water Permit issued by TCEQ is required when a construction site is greater than one acre or more.
- If the site qualifies for a TCEQ Storm Water Permit, then a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) must be developed for the construction site prior to the commencement of earth disturbing activities.
- If the site is greater than 5 acres or part of a common land plan of development, a Notice of Intent (NOI) must be completed with TCEQ and a copy sent to Environmental Quality prior to the commencement of earth disturbing activities.

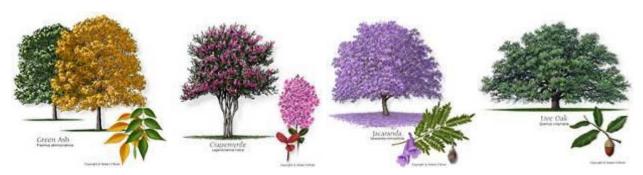


 Environmental Quality will perform periodic inspections of the construction site for compliance with the SWPPP, per TCEQ and City ordinance requirements.

A completed SWPPP and appropriate permits are required prior to grading permit approval by Environmental Quality. For more information about Environmental Quality, checklists, and documents, please email the department at constructionstormwater@fortworthtexas.gov or visit our webpage here: Fort Worth Environmental Quality and Construction



Urban Forestry



The Urban Forestry Ordinance was adopted to regulate the removal of tree canopy, promote a multi-aged urban forest, and to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Fort Worth. To accomplish these objectives, the ordinance requires both preservation of existing tree canopy and planting of new trees. Incentives are provided for the preservation of healthy mature trees due to the ecological, environmental, and aesthetic benefits these trees provide. New tree plantings are essential to ensure continuity and provide future benefits to the citizens of Fort Worth.

Urban Forestry permits are required for new construction and building expansions or additions. Permits are also required for clearing, grading, and paving, including construction or reconstruction of parking lots. An Urban Forestry permit is required for remodel permits if the project includes additional parking or other pavement. Additionally, an Urban Forestry permit is required prior to removal of any tree 6" or larger in diameter (See Section 6.302-Applicability).

In accordance with the ordinance, schools are required to provide 30% overall canopy, inclusive of at least 25% preservation of existing tree canopy. In addition to the overall canopy is the mitigation required for significant trees when proposed for removal.

Trees on City-owned property, including street rights-of-way, alleys, and adjacent properties such as parks, are managed by the Park & Recreation Department (PARD) under Chapter 33 of the Code of Ordinances. City-owned trees must be protected from development activities in accordance with PARD regulations. **Pruning, removal, or planting of trees on City-owned property requires a permit from the PARD City Forester.** Projects on or affecting adjacent parkland including, but not limited to, drainage, parking, storing, or staging of materials and site accessibility should coordinate with PARD's Planning & Resource Management group.

In regard to schools, it is the intent that preserved and planted trees will serve to enhance the learning experience for students regarding air quality, ambient temperature, stormwater management, wildlife habitat, and related concepts.

To learn more about Urban Forestry, please visit: Fort Worth Urban Forestry Management

- Urban Forestry Ordinance: Urban Forestry Ordinance
- Urban Forestry Permit Application: <u>Urban Forestry Permit Application</u>
- Urban Forestry Tree Removal Application: Tree Removal Application
- PARD-Forestry Permits: <u>Park & Recreation Department Forestry Permits</u>



City of Fort Worth, School Site Development Guide



Water and Sewer



The Water Department is responsible for providing safe and reliable water and wastewater service with environmental integrity in the City of Fort Worth. The system serves more than 1.2 million people in Fort Worth and surrounding areas, which include 30 water wholesale customers, 23 wastewater wholesale wastewater customers, and three wholesale reclaimed water customers.

In order to connect the City's water, wastewater, or reclaim system the property must be platted, located within the City's limits, and be located within the current Certificates of Convenience and Necessity (CCN). The developer will have an engineer or architect prepare a site plan and evaluate existing utility availability. The Water Department will determine if extensions will be required from the existing system and if water or sewer studies will be required before submitting plat applications, new building permits, or documents for the IPRC and CFA processes. The construction of public water and sewer to serve the property could be subject to the previously described IPRC and CFA processes.

It is highly recommended to schedule a PDC or contact the Water Department, to discuss concerns regarding water and sewer services. The Water Department participates in the PDCs regularly and can provide an initial indication of requirements before moving forward with the project. Additionally, in May 2019, the Water Department adopted a new installation policy and design criteria for the City's public utility system. The manual will assist engineers with procedures and standards in preparing the design for the construction of schools.

It is important to understand that there are different review groups within the Water Department. Those groups and their specific subjects of review are delineated below:

IPRC Review

The City Engineers handle reviews and resubmittals of projects submitted for IPRC. To support IPRC review, two form types are required for all IPRC plan submittals, those being the Water/Sewer Acceptance Letter and the Alignment Walk Request Letter. It is encouraged to request a pre-submittal meeting in effort to resolve any alignment issues.



Water/Sewer Acceptance Letter

Provided by Water Planning: wpd@fortworthtexas.gov

When making the request, please include the following documents within the email:

- Consultation Meeting Waiver Form
- Horizontal Control Plan
- Water Sewer Construction Plan Sheets

Alignment Walk Request Letter

Provided by the Development Services Water Section (DSWS): dsws@fortworthtexas.gov

When making the request, please include "Alignment Walk Request- "project name" within the subject line

The overall review includes GIS, walk requirements and water/sewer exhibit to determine if the actual "walk" will be required. If the alignment meets the criteria for a walk visit, the study must be provided with the form. Studies must be approved before walk can be scheduled.

If no walk is required, DSWS signs and emails a letter back to the consultant. If a walk is required, DSWS typically schedules for Wednesday/Friday at 9:00 am.

After the walk is complete, the Project Manager will either sign off on the letter if alignment is acceptable. If the Alignment is not acceptable, a revision must be provided with new proposed alignment exhibit.

Platting Review

Development Services Water Section (DSWS) reviews platting for water and sewer accessibility, frontage and pro rata fees (Ordinance #23708-06-2019) of a property.

For plats, a Water/Sewer Acceptance study letter must be submitted

- **Preliminary Plats** –Requires Water Planning signature
 - Purpose of review
 - Water Planning confirms the proposed or existing water/sewer lines have capacity to serve proposed development.
- Final Plats- Requires Water Planning and Development Services Water Section DSWS signatures
 - Purpose of review
 - Water Planning confirms the proposed or existing water/sewer lines have capacity to serve proposed development.
 - DSWS team confirms the proposed or existing water/sewer lines are accessible to each proposed lot.



Water Applications Review

Water applications are responsible for reviewing grading permits and building permits. During their review, they are assessing the development and their proposed services.

Utility Site Installation

Once the developer's engineer or Water Department determines that the project requires line extensions or relocations, taps, manholes, the next step is to inform the Water Department who will be responsible for installation: The City or Customer. The City can install taps and lines via Ordinance (Field Ops) or Miscellaneous Project.

Utility Site Installation List									
	Ordinance	Miscellaneous Projects	CFA						
Water Tap Sizes (1", 1.5" or 2")									
Sanitary Sewer Tap Sizes and Manholes (4" or 6")*									
Water Tap Sizes 3" or Larger									
Sanitary Sewer Tap Sizes and Manholes (8" or Larger)									
Fire Line Connections ***									
Fire Hydrants (Public Hydrant)									
Line Extensions (600 linear feet or less)**									
Line Relocations (600 linear feet or less)									
Line Extensions (greater than 600 linear feet)**									
Line Relocations (greater than 600 linear feet)									
* If depth is less than 8', City forces can install the tap ** Any connection in excess of 55' is considered an extension project ***No size-on-size fire line connections allowed									

Ordinance taps are in-house city staff assigned to installing or removing taps in the right of way. Miscellaneous Projects is a contractual in-house process for the design and construction of water and sewer infrastructure. Extensions less than 600 linear feet for water and sewer can be made by City Miscellaneous Project (Reference Section 4.2.2.3 of the CFW Water Department Installation Policy and Design Criteria for full list of conditions for miscellaneous project eligibility). If a project is eligible and accepted by the Water Department's Miscellaneous Projects, the plans must be approved and signed off by the customer's engineer and all required fees must be paid before the project is put in the construction queue. The customer has the option to install the utilities via CFA (referenced in the above section).

KEY: Approved to Work =



Tap and Service Fees

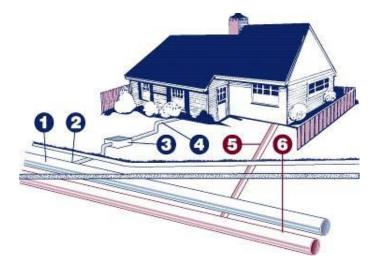
A tap fee is a service fee that is charged for connecting the public water or sewer main to the private plumbing that does not exceed 55' from the property line. All new connections incur both tap and an impact fee (no water/sewer impact fees assessed for ISD). Water taps also require a meter deposit for billing purposes. A licensed plumber must connect the tap at the property line to the homeowner's or businesses' private service lines. If the taps are proposed to be installed under a Community Facility Agreement project or City's Miscellaneous Project, then there is no separate tap fee.

Impact Fees

Impact fees are charged to new development and redevelopment areas requiring larger water meters. The charges offset the development's impact on existing water and wastewater facilities. Impact fees help pay the cost of building or expanding facilities to provide adequate service that a new development requires. These fees are updated every five years.

New schools can increase water consumption and wastewater volume significantly. The increased demand may require the creation of greater storage capacity, additional pumping capability, or expanded treatment facilities. Water and wastewater impact fees are determined by the size of the water meter installed. The size of the water tap and service line supplying the meter does not affect the amount of the impact fee charged. All fees must be paid prior to the issuance of a building permit.

- 1. Water Main
- 2. Water Tap
- 3. Water Meter
- 4. Private Plumbing (waterline)
- 5. Private Plumbing (wastewater line)
- 6. Wastewater Main



For more information about the process or fees, please visit: Fort Worth Water Department

Water Department Policy and Design Criteria: Water Department Installation Policy & Design Criteria



Fire Prevention and Addressing



The Bureau of Fire Prevention is tasked with overseeing Fire Code compliance to promote fire and life safety and property addressing. Property addressing is a fundamental component of government service delivery and must be assigned logically and consistently. Comprehensive addressing leads to efficient and effective government, commercial, and emergency services. The Bureau ensures all buildings whether new construction, additions, remodels or accessory structures adhere to the Fire Code regulations to safeguard all occupants of a building at all times.

Fire Department Addressing:

Submit a site plan with building location(s) on the parcel to confirm or request an assigned address for new building(s) to addressing@fortworthtexas.gov

Submit the following with your building permit (Relative to Buildings):

Submit a set of site plans for locations of fire hydrants and fire lanes

Submit the following to the Fire Department:

Fire protection system plans (shop drawings) must be deferred submitted by the licensed Fire Protection System Contractor. Fire protection system plans include fire sprinkler system plans, fire alarm plans, standpipe system plans, underground water mains supplying fire protection systems, etc. (The Fire Department does not approve the fireline tap that is in between the public water main and the property line. Please coordinate with the Water Department to install the fireline tap and backflow preventers.)

Note: The plan submittals listed above are made at different times and by different contractors. The fire protection system plans are submitted to the Fire Department directly from the fire protection system contractor later in the project schedule. All Fire Department permits are now online.



Fire Protection System Permits

 Issued only to a Fire Protection System contractor that is licensed by the State of Texas in accordance with the Texas Administrative Code.

Fire Sprinklers and Fire Alarm Systems (per Building and Fire Code Requirements)

- New Buildings Developers are strongly encouraged to install fire sprinklers and fire alarm systems in all new buildings. Fort Worth Codes have construction tradeoffs that are favorable for the installation of fire sprinklers.
- Building Additions or Renovations The Fire Department reviews the need for fire sprinklers and/or fire alarm systems with the Development Department on a case-by-case basis.
- Building Additions greater than 12,000sqft are required to be sprinkled and must be appropriately fire-separated from the non-sprinkled existing building, as per Building Code.
- New Buildings with an "E" occupancy load greater than 50 require a fire alarm to be installed.
- A Voice Evacuation system is required when the "E" occupancy load is greater than 100 for new buildings.
- o Fire alarm systems for additions/expansions are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Fire Department Access

- Fire Department reviews the fire hose lay requirements and locations of fire hydrants and fire lanes for new buildings, as well as, renovations and additions.
- Secondary Access is required for all E occupancy buildings separated by at least ½ of the diagonal dimension of the property in question.

Fuel Tanks

 All fuel tanks associated with emergency generators and on-site fleet fueling systems are required to be permitted separately through the Fire Department via Flammable and Combustible Liquids Permits available online on the city's permitting site.

Alternate Methods

The Fire Marshal evaluates alternate method requests to Fire Code requirements, but if an agreement is not possible, the Construction and Fire Prevention Board of Appeals may then consider an alternate method and variance requests of the City's adopted Fire Code.

For additional information regarding Fire Sprinklers, Fire Alarms, Fuel Systems, and Tanks, Site Plans Review, Addressing or Fire Code, please visit: Fort Worth Fire Department



Building Permits



Plan Review Process

A building permit is required to build a new structure, add an addition, undertake a major/minor remodeling project, or change the use of an existing building or space. The building site must have the appropriate zoning to allow the proposed use and site layout, and the property must be platted in order for a building permit to be issued. Additionally, there may be other permits that could be required in order to approve or issue the building permit such as but not limited to Urban Forestry, Commercial Grading, Grease Trap, Parkway, and Street Use. A **separate building permit** is required for **each structure** involved in the project including retaining walls, dumpster enclosures, signs, and certain fences. School projects are considered commercial in nature and below is a chart of commercial permit types and the required documents that need to be included with the building permit.



Requirements														
Commercial Permit Type	Application	Plat	Site Plan	Flor Plan	Elevation Drawings	Foundation Plans	Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing	Utility Site Plan	Energy Code Compliance Documents	Commercial Remodel Questionnaire	Use Verification Form	TABS Number	Identification Form	Moving Route Sheet
Commercial Building New		X	Χ	Χ	Х	Х	Х	X	Х		Х	Х		
Commercial Building Remodel				X	0	0	0		0	Х	Χ	Х		
Commercial Building Addition	uraged	Х	X	X	X	Х	Х		Х			Х		
Commercial Accessory New	encol	Χ	Χ	Χ	Х	Х	Х	Χ	Х		Χ	Х		
Commercial Accessory Remodel	Optional but encouraged			Х	0	0	0		0	Х	Х	Х		
Commercial Accessory Addition	Opti	Х	Х	Х	0	0	Х		Х			Х		
Commercial Moving			Х										Х	Х
Commercial Razing			Х							_			Х	

KEY:* = Engineered If Over 5,000 sq.ft.,

X=Required, O = If Applicable

How to submit

Building permits can be applied for online, please visit: Fort Worth Online Permitting

If you need assistance with how to apply for a permit online please visit the link below for videos and step by step PDF files for each permit type: Permitting & Application Resource Library

It is very important to follow the EDR (Electronic Document Review) Submittal Requirements when submitting the plan set. <u>ALL</u> documents must be submitted before staff can route the permit for review. If any documentation is missing an email will be sent out to the person listed under "Contact" as to why the permit is in "Incomplete status".

Note: A contractor will have to be registered with the City of Fort Worth in order for the permit to be issued. Please visit Fort Worth Contractor Registration to obtain a copy of the Contractor Registration Application. Once complete please email (Devcustomerservice@fortworthtexas.gov) the application with a legible copy of your Driver's License, any state Licenses, State Contractor License, and Insurance Certificates were application.



Trustee Account Letter (Applicable to FWISD Only)

When submitting the plat and building permit application, please include the Fort Worth ISD Permit Authorization Form with the submittal. This form authorizes the City of Fort Worth that any fees associated with the plans are to be rendered from the pre-established FWISD trustee fund account. If a plat or replat is required for the project, the trustee fund account will not be applicable and FWISD will be responsible for all county fees associated with the platting process.

Foundation Only Permits

A review and issuance of a foundation-only permit allow for the project foundation to be installed before the issuance of the building permit for the entire structure. The City of Fort Worth does allow for this option. The applicant will be required to provide all items required for a building permit minus the vertical structure and all associated application and building permit fees. An issued final grading permit is required for foundation-only permits. This will include a sealed foundation set, underground utilities, site plans, landscaping plans, plat, urban forestry approval, etc., and the permit will be circulated as a new construction plan submittal. Inspections will be limited to those necessary for foundations and will be finalled with the foundation permit. A new building permit will be issued when the vertical structure plans are submitted and all the items necessary for the building permit and all associated application and building permits will be based on the vertical structure.

Portable Classroom Buildings

These permits are considered new commercial buildings and the fee will be based on square footage. When permitting a new portable classroom building, the applicant will provide plans for the building and site plans showing the portable and how the building is situated with other classroom buildings on the campus. A foundation plan is required and can be used for all portable classroom buildings on the campus. The portable classroom may be subject to compliance with landscape and Urban Forestry requirements. Each site plan will be compared with the plat, reviewed by the Development Services Departments (Building, Zoning, and Urban Forestry), Fire Department, and Water Department.

Phasing Construction

The City of Fort Worth understands that building or remodeling a school can be a complex sequence of events. School phasing projects are reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis. If phasing is proposed, please coordinate with the Fire Department and the Building Code Administrator prior to building permit submittal for approval to ensure safety for occupants, on-site construction workers, and the ability to perform emergency operations.

Stormshelters

Storm shelters are only required with new construction (brand new schools).

Parkway & Street Use Permits

- Parkway permits are required for any work done in the City's right-of-way.
- o Parkway includes the driveway approach, sidewalk, curb, gutter, and handicap ramp.
- A contractor that is licensed and bonded with the City must obtain the permit.



 Individual property owners are not allowed to do the work themselves. They must hire a contractor to do the work.

Parkway & Street Use permits can be applied for online Visit: Fort Worth Online Permitting

Expired Permits

- An email notification is sent out to the designated point of contact on the building permit(s)
 advising them that the building plan review or issued building permit is about to expire. It
 is the applicant's responsibility to maintain a current point of contact on all permits as not
 to cause a delay.
- Building permits in plan review that are not issued within 180 days will be considered expired. The applicant can request a one-time extension prior to the expiration date expiring. (Fort Worth Building Administrative Code, Section 105.3.2 Expiration of plan review).
- Building permits that are issued, will expire 180 days after the last approved inspection.
 The applicant can request a one-time extension, an additional fee will be assessed.

Encroachments

An encroachment is when any physical object projects into the City's right-of-way and/or City-owned easements. The physical object can include any portion of a building, including an awning or a fence for example. It can also include signs and conduits. The requirement to process an encroachment agreement could be determined and required at various permitting stages that include: new construction permits, remodeling permits, change-of-use permits, or as a response to a Code Compliance or other City Department's request.

The owner of the property (not the tenant) must complete the encroachment agreement. That document and more information about the process can be found here on our website:

Fort Worth Encroachment Information.

Failure to submit an executed and recorded encroachment or easement may cause a delay in the issuance of the building permit and plat approval.

Neighborhood Empowerment Zone

As previously mentioned, if the school development site is located within a NEZ Area and there is interest in taking advantage of the benefits, **the NEZ certification must be approved prior to platting or applying for a building permit.** The owner of the property must apply for NEZ incentives or opt-out prior to submitting for any permits. The application processing time for Basic NEZ Incentives certification is approximately 14-21 business days. There will be a delay in the issuance and review of the building permits if the applicant decides to apply for NEZ certification while the plans are under review unless the applicant wishes to place funds in an escrow account.

Please contact the Neighborhood Services Office at 817-392-7540 or via email at nez_ns@fortworthtexas.gov if there are additional questions.

For follow-up concerns and questions about the NEZ program, visit: Fort Worth Neighborhood Empowerment Zones



Please visit: <u>One Address</u> to verify if the project is located in a NEZ Area. Once an address is entered, the system will generate a page full of information, NEZ will be under Neighborhoods on the lower left-hand side.

Grease Trap

If the school site is proposing a new cafeteria or increasing the size of the cafeteria, a grease trap review will be required. All grease traps and grease interceptors shall be maintained for continuous, satisfactory, and effective operation at the expense of the property owner. If the Water Department requires the project to install grease traps, please review the City of Fort Worth's <u>Guidance Document for Sizing and Installation of Grease Traps and Interceptors</u>. Before installing a grease trap please contact each of the following City offices:

- o Pretreatment Services, Water Department: 817-392-8305
- Plumbing Inspection Section, Development Department: 817-392-7980
- If the facility is required to be permitted by the Code Compliance Department, contact the Consumer Health Services Division

Fort Worth ISD cafeteria projects will require an additional review with Tarrant County Public Health. For questions about the grease trap process, visit: Fort Worth Grease Trap Information

Backflow Permit

Water distribution systems are designed for one-way water flow, from the distribution system to the consumer. Backflow occurs when the pressure in the distribution system drops, siphoning water from the consumer's system into the distribution system. Backflow protections ensure that contaminants and pollutants from flowing into the drinking water. All new backflow assembly installations, relocations, replacements, or removals require a plumbing backflow permit. Fort Worth requires annual testing of all backflow protection assemblies on commercial property. School projects are considered commercial and can cause a delay in permit issuance if the campus has not regularly tested the backflow assembles. All auxiliary water sources and contractor meters must have a backflow protection assembly. Meters must be protected by backflow assembly or air gap and the assembly must be tested upon installation, repair, or relocations.

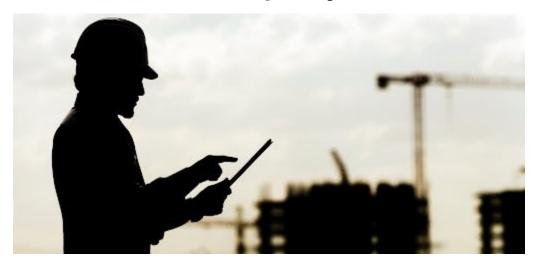
For additional information, please visit: Fort Worth Backflow & Cross Connection Control

New Technology, Equipment, and Materials

If the school is proposing new technology, equipment, or material for the building, please coordinate with the Fire Department and Building Code Administrator prior to submittal for approval.



Building Inspections and Certificate of Occupancy



Building Inspections

Inspections are required for all construction work for which a permit is required. Once site plans have been approved and permits have been issued, construction can begin. The construction work must be inspected throughout the course of a project.

- The approved set of plans with comments must remain available to inspectors at all times.
- A contractor must request an inspection from the city inspector at the proper stages of work.
- For fire protection systems, inspections cannot be scheduled prior to the approval of fire protection system plans. The Fire Protection System Contractor must schedule inspections.
- A final inspection is required.

For more info, visit: Fort Worth Inspections

Certificate of Occupancy

When all inspections have been made and a final inspection has been completed, a Certificate of Occupancy (C.O.) can be issued and the structure may be occupied.

- Certificates of Occupancy are issued to a party/business at a particular location
- A new C.O. must be obtained when the use of the building changes
- A new ordinance inspection must be obtained whenever the name of the responsible party changes on the electric, water, or gas bills
- After the inspection is completed, a new C.O. will be issued



FAQ's

Building Permit

Is a recorded plat required prior to the building permit review process?

A recorded plat is not required, however, you will need to provide a copy of the proposed plat to review the project. If the project is new construction, additions, or portable classrooms, the permit can't be approved until receipt of recorded plat.

When do I need to sprinkle the building?

If the School buildings exceed 12,000 sf, and assembly spaces exceed 300 occupants or have an assembly space above the first floor, then sprinklers are required. Additions and remodels at existing campuses should consult with a building and fire reviewer regarding special existing conditions.

Where can I check the status of my permit?

Permit statuses can be checked online at: Fort Worth Online Permitting

When do I need a storm shelter?

Storm shelters are required for all new school buildings. Additions and remodels do not require storm shelters.

Can I arrange a preliminary review of the occupant load and plumbing fixture requirements for my project with the Building Reviewer?

Yes, please contact the Plans Exam supervisors to set up a consultation. Additionally, the city's policy on plumbing fixture counts for schools is covered in (TB20-001)

Is a commercial grading permit required prior to the release of the building permit?

Yes. An issued final grading permit is required.

How long is the typical building permit review process?

Every project is different depending on the complexity of the building and any required revisions but we strive to have initial comments to applicants in 10 business days and respond to revisions within 3 business days

If there are multiple buildings on a site that are being renovated or added, when are separate building permit submittals required?

Building permits are separated into 3 categories. New, Remodel, and Addition.



- 1. Each new structure will require a separate permit.
- 2. Each structure that is remodeled will require a separate permit
- 3. Each building receiving an addition will require a separate permit but multiple additions to the same building do not require separate permits.
- 4. Buildings receiving additions also require remodel permits to prepare the existing building to receive the addition.

Can I arrange a preliminary review of the fire separation requirements for my project with the Building Reviewer?

Yes, please contact the Plans Exam supervisors to set up a consultation.

Communities Facilities Agreement (CFA)

Is the CFA contract a standard contract for ISD different from charter or private schools?

The only difference is the financial guarantee. Contracts for ISD schools enter into a interlocal agreement with the City. For a copy of the standard language please contact the Development Coordination Office.

Encroachment Agreements

What do I need to provide in order to start the Encroachment Agreement process?

The following list of items are to be provided to the Contract Management office in order to begin the review process:

- Encroachment Initiation Form
- Payment of \$700 administrative fee
- One set of exhibits specific to the encroachment type

Additional documents are required once your exhibits have been approved. The list of these items will be provided to you by the Contract management Office once your exhibits have been approved.

How much are Encroachments?

Easement Encroachments have a \$700 administrative fee. Right-of-Way Encroachments have a \$500 administrative fee and may be subject to a fee of \$2.00 per square foot that is collected annually.



What if I have a Right-of-Way and an Easement Encroachment?

You will submit one encroachment initiation form. Each encroachment type will require its own set of exhibits and the \$700 administrative fee. You will be provided with two permit numbers.

Fire Department

Which code should be followed to determine proposed fire lane routing?

Please be aware that the secondary fire department vehicle access is required for all schools per the 2015 International Fire Code, adopted with city amendments, which are available for review at Fire Code and Local Amendments.

Infrastructure Plan Review Center

Can I still schedule a pre-sub meeting?

Yes, on a first come first serve basis.

Can I schedule a post-sub meeting?

Yes, on a first come first serve basis. Slots are limited and preference is given to pre-sub meeting requests.

Miscellaneous Projects

What is an acceptable miscellaneous project request?

A miscellaneous project is the Water Department's in-house design option for developer's / customer's to use for small extensions, tap removals, fire hydrants, fire line taps, water taps larger than 2 inch's, sewer taps on sewer mains exceeding 8 feet in depth and as required by the City due to unusual circumstances.

What type of work <u>does not</u> qualify for miscellaneous project?

Projects that require extensions, tap removals or new taps on a TX Dot Right-of-Way (Street-not maintained by CFW), CFW streets that are under the 2 year warranty, crossings over railroad/franchise utilities or if other infrastructure is being constructed for this project by IPRC plans with a CFA contract.

Is there another option if my project does not qualify for miscellaneous project?

The City's Infrastructure Plan Review Center (IPRC) offers a CFA Express option through a Community Facilities Agreement (CFA) with the Contract Management Office.



Who can apply for a miscellaneous project?

Anyone with an Accela Citizen Access account. Click here to set up an account.

What documents are required to request a miscellaneous project?

The minimum document requirement is a utility site plan (see list of required information) and plat. Other documents maybe required such a grading plan, demo plan, water demand or sewer loading if necessary to complete review.

Can I get an estimate or ballpark figure of how much it will cost?

No. The cost for an extension or service depends on various factors and therefore staff cannot provide a cost estimate without actually designing the project.

Does an applicant need to provide an easement?

Yes, if infrastructure or water/sewer services are within private property an easement is required. The City will provide you the easement template. Construction will not be scheduled until the easement is recorded.

Neighborhood Empowerment Zone

When can I apply for NEZ?

A project is eligible to apply for NEZ benefits once it's determined that the project is located within a NEZ. NEZ benefits include the waiving of certain development fees so, in order to receive the benefit, the NEZ must be approved prior to submitting plat and building permit applications. If the project is located in a NEZ designated area and is not interested in the NEZ, the owner must opt out.

Should the NEZ be applied for prior to the building permit review submittal?

Yes, NEZ benefits include the waiving of certain development fees so, in order to receive the benefit, the NEZ must be approved prior to submitting plat and building permit applications.

What items are required for the NEZ application submittal?

- Completed and signed application (including Zoning sign off)
- \$25.00 application fee
- Proof of ownership such as:
 - Warranty deed
 - Purchase agreement signed by both parties
 - o Affidavit of ownership
- Itemized constructions budget for all projects



- Plan no larger than 11X17 showing dimensions and square footage of the following
 - Site plan with the structure or proposed structure
 - Floor plan
 - Elevations
 - North, South, West & East for New Construction
 - Affected by the project for Rehabilitations

How long is the NEZ application review process?

The certification takes process takes 14 to 21 business days from the receipt of the complete application packet. The certification process includes checking taxes and liens and completing the public notification requirement.

Park & Recreation Department

Does the Park & Recreation Department review school permits and do fees apply?

Park& Recreation Department does not review school site projects and schools do not pay Park & Recreation fees. Pruning, removal, and/or planting of City-owned trees or trees do require a permit from the Park & Recreation Department's Forestry Section.

Platting Department

Can I submit for a building permit while my plat is under review?

Yes, a concurrent review of the building plan is permitted once the final plat has gone through its initial 21-day review. This is not a full building permit, but a building code review. There is an additional \$1000 fee for this review.

When does my plat have to go before the City Plan Commission?

Only when waivers from the Subdivision Ordinance are required or if a conditional approval is required for something that will take longer than the 30 days administrative process, for example, TXDOT approval for required access.

What items are required for the plat application?

See the checklist on the plat application: Plat Application Requirements & Checklist



Pre-Development Conferences (PDC)

What City departments will be represented in the PDC?

Staff attending PDC meetings includes those from Development Services Department (Zoning, Platting, Transportation Impact Fees, Stormwater Development Services and Transportation Development Review), Fire Department, and Water Department.

What is the cost to schedule a Pre-Development Conference with the City of Fort Worth?

30-minute PDC meetings are free of charge. We just ask that you submit a complete Pre-Development Conference request form and allow adequate time for scheduling. The city also offers one hour-long PDC meetings; the cost is \$250.00. The payment is required 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

How long are the meetings?

Meetings are generally scheduled in 30-minute blocks. As this is simply a discovery meeting to generally discuss your proposed project, these time allotments are usually sufficient.

What information should I provide for my PDC meeting?

Please submit a site plan or schematic as an attachment to the PDC request form. The more detailed the information you provide the City the better we are able to prepare for your PDC. Many developers will provide large detailed prints for everyone to view.

Who should attend the meeting?

The PDC meetings are informal "fact-finding" meetings between City Staff and developers. Please invite your Civil Engineer, Architect, or other consultants you believe would benefit from the meeting.

May I schedule more than one PDC for my project?

Yes, many developers take advantage of the PDC meetings by scheduling a PDC in the conceptual planning phase of the project and another prior to construction. Some departments may offer subject-specific PDCs for more in-depth conversion with regards to your project.

Stormwater & Floodplain

Can my Stormwater and Floodplain review run concurrently?

Yes, Drainage and Floodplain studies in support of a final plat or final construction plans (IPRC or grading permit) can be reviewed concurrently. Only an accepted drainage study is required for



SDS to accept conceptual or preliminary plats. Please inform your study reviewer of platting and permitting timelines to ensure your goals are met.

How long is the Drainage Study review process?

The review timeline varies based on project and applicant response. City Staff has 10 business days for drainage study and 15 business days for Floodplain study reviews. In cases where Drainage and Flood studies are being reviewed concurrently, and with notice to the applicant, Staff will typically return combined drainage and flood study comments within 15 days. On average, a study gains approval within 2-3 review cycles.

Who is the preferred point of contact for the study technical review responses?

The preferred point of contact for technical review responses is your assigned study reviewer. The contact information would be provided with the first review response, if not earlier in the process.

How do I schedule a meeting for Stormwater or Floodplain reviews?

Please contact SDS@fortworthtexas.gov to request a review meeting. We conduct Stormwater and Floodplain meetings on Tuesday afternoons between 1 pm and 3 pm, and Friday mornings between 10 am and 12 pm.

Will I need to provide onsite detention?

Schools are often placed in residential areas where storm drain capacity may be designed for a less intense land use. Plan to provide onsite detention unless your engineer has demonstrated that it will not be required both now and with future phases.

Stormwater Facility Maintenance Agreement (SWFMA)

How much are SWFMA's?

The processing fee for SWFMA's is \$635 and due at submission.

What documents are required to begin the SWFMA process?

- Completed SWFMA Initiation form
- Project Exhibits set forth and labeled in accordance with the language in the agreement
- Copy of legally recorded Warranty Deed
- Signature Authority Document stating the signer listed on the initiation form is allowed to sign and execute agreements on behalf of the Landowner/Developer/Assign
- · Articles of Incorporation



How long does it take to execute a SWFMA?

It takes 2-3 weeks to execute a SWFMA once all holds are approved.

<u>Transportation Development Review</u>

When is a parkway permit required?

A parkway permit is required when constructing ADA ramps, approaches, sidewalks, alleys, and/or stormwater tie-in at Stormwater inlets (all items are located in the city ROW).

Transportation Impact Fee

Are charter and private schools subject to Transportation Impact Fees?

Yes, charter and private schools are subject to Transportation Impact Fees.

Urban Forestry

When is an Urban Forestry permit required on remodel permits?

The only time a UFC permit would be required, is if the project is increasing building square footage (>30%) or adding parking spaces.

Is an Urban Forestry permit required prior to the submittal of the building permit review process?

Yes. A building permit will not be issued until an urban forestry permit has been supplied and/or approved. Grading permits cannot be approved without an approved Phase I urban forestry permit.

Can schools deduct their building square footage to determine the net site area?

No. Schools are not permitted to deduct their building square footage and the playing fields from the gross property area in determining the Net Urban Forestry Area (NUFA).

Water Department

What are common comments for school site development?

No water and sewer impact fees are assessed for ISDs



- Schools are responsible for tap fees
- Need to have minimum 12" water line available for typical 8" fire lines for school facility
- Need to install sampling station near the school domestic meter
- Recommend school to install dual meters and fire lines.
- Fireline and large domestic meter installation are eligible for CFA and miscellaneous project (Section 4.2.2.3 of Water Installation Policy and Design Criteria Manual)
- Backflow will need to be installed at the point of delivery within private property for domestic and irrigation meter
- RPZ may be needed if the facility has high hazard connections within the facility
- Double Detector Check Valve will have to be installed within private property at the point of delivery for fire lines
- A grease trap is needed for all school cafeterias
- Need to contact pre-treatment for schools that have laboratories

When is my project eligible for a miscellaneous project (Section 4.2.2.3 of Water Installation Policy and Design Criteria Manual)?

- Extensions 600 linear feet or less for water and sewer are eligible
- Fireline and large domestic meter installation are eligible

What is the process if the school site is located within a MUD?

There are a number of school sites that are located in a MUD. If your school site falls within a MUD, building permits, plumbing, backflow, and grease trap permits must be issued by the City of Fort Worth.

Zoning Team

Can I have a sign?

Yes, sign requirements are based on the site's Zoning District; reference 6.400 in the sign ordinance for "E-K, MU-1, & MU-2" Zoning Districts in the sign ordinance. For projects located in A, B, CR, C, CF, D, Zoning Districts, and Design Districts, refer to the individual District for Sign requirements.

Does the sign require a permit?

Signs will require a permit, with the exception of specific signs that meet the requirements in 6.403 Signs not requiring a permit: Fort Worth Code - Signs - Section 6.403



People Who Can Help

City Contact List

Development Services Contact Information can be found at the following link: Development Services Contacts

Counties Contacts

Tarrant County

Health Department 817-871-7511 Fax: 817-871-7283

Recorded Deeds and Plats 817-884-1195

 Transportation Services Department 817-844-1250 Fax: 817-884-1178

Denton County

Planning Department940-565-8624 Fax: 940-565-5657

Environmental Health Department
 940-565-8685 (Office Hours: 8-9 am & 1-2 pm)

Johnson County

Health Department 817-556-6380 Fax: 817-556-6391

Parker County

817-598-6175 Fax: 817-598-6177

Wise County

940-627-9332 Fax: 940-627-6171

State Contacts

<u>Texas Department of Transportation</u> (TxDOT)

 Fort Worth District (*Tarrant & Other Adjacent Counties*) 817-370-6532 or 817-370-6551

Utility Contacts

<u>CoServ Electric</u> (Formerly Denton County Electrical Co-Op)

• 940-321-6644 Fax: 940-321-6640

Johnson County Electric Co-Op



817-558-0010 Fax: 817-556-4039

TXU (Texas Utilities Electric Co. / Lone Star Gas)

- 817-215-6688 Fax: 817-215-6184
- 817-215-6254 Fax: 817-215-6316
- 817-215-6218 Fax: 817-215-6660

Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

■ 817-431-1541 or 817-379-4703 Fax: 817-431-9680

Telephone Service

AT&T

404-810-4556 Fax: 404-810-4404

Verizon

972-717-5828 Fax: 972-717-5834

OneSource Communications

817-379-3007 or 817-379-3007

AT&TSouthwestern Bell Telephone, Inc.

817-267-5752 Fax: 817-338-5106

Water Providers

Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN)

For areas not served by the City of Fort Worth, please contact the Utility Section of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC). To learn of the specific water provider (CCN) for the subject area, call: 512-239-6960

Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN)

For preliminary guidance, contact the City of Fort Worth Water Department

Development Division, call: 817-392-8428

