OVERARCHING POLICIES

These policies are designed for all Character Areas throughout Norman, as applicable.

GENERAL

- Based upon the recommendations of the most recent Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP), improve stormwater management for all development projects.
  - *Improve stormwater and floodplain management with all infill development.*
- Based on the most recent Transportation Plan and Complete Streets Policy, City projects and new development should establish a network of complete streets (see glossary).
- Appropriately regulate development within the floodplains and Stream Planning Corridors via the Floodplain and Water Quality Protection Zones (WQPZ) ordinances.
- Create and uphold quality build and site design standards to bolster community identity and pride.
- Where feasible, new streets and internal streets should follow a grid pattern of small blocks for a more condensed form of development.
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, especially between public transit stops and destinations with new projects, redevelopments, or reconfiguration of existing development.
- Amenities such as, but not limited to, seating, public art, natural green space, fountains and other outdoor landscape elements should be included within each development. These amenities should be conscious and considerate of impacts on the natural environment.
- Develop buildings that meet or exceed Universal Design principles.
- Promote building principles such as energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, indoor environmental quality, water conservation, and minimizing impacts on wildlife through space and material optimization and building with resilient design.
- Coordinate all capital improvement projects between all necessary City departments (e.g. transportation, water, wastewater, stormwater, parks).
- Strengthen programming for disseminating information on the City's Fertilizer Ordinance and other pollution prevention initiatives.

RESIDENTIAL

- New residential development should blend with existing housing, incorporating tools such as buffering requirements and right-sized public spaces as defined in land use categories.
- Accommodate a variety of housing styles, sizes, densities, and price points to suit diverse housing needs.
- New residential development should use a variety of techniques to avoid the appearance of identical homes, increasing vibrancy and diversity in the built environment.

NON-RESIDENTIAL

- New non-residential development should use high quality building materials such as glass, brick, stone, wood or cementitious siding.
- Require that loading areas be located to the rear and sides of buildings and screened from view.
- Ensure that all sides of a parking garage that are visible from public view are architecturally consistent with the buildings it serves.
- Buildings in a corporate campus setting should have an internal pedestrian network between buildings.

CORE NEIGHBORHOOD AREAS

CHARACTERISTICS & INTENT

The Core Neighborhood is a focal point of the city, the traditional central business district, with a concentration of activities such as general retail, service commercial, professional office, mixed-density housing, mixed-use spaces, and appropriate public and open space easily accessible by pedestrians. This area frames the University of Oklahoma campus.

The Core Neighborhood encompasses all historic districts and some existing neighborhood planning areas. One notable aspect of this area is the reinvestment that has been occurring over the past decade.

The Core Neighborhood is defined by smaller, traditionally platted lots and older homes. Most streets within this Character Area are designed on a grid pattern, radiating from the BNSF rail line, and are highly connected to one another. Alleys are prominent and, although often used by local traffic, are in disrepair and in need of maintenance. Towards the commercial centers of this Character Area, taller buildings are more common, with the overarching height of residential structures being three stories or less.

GOALS

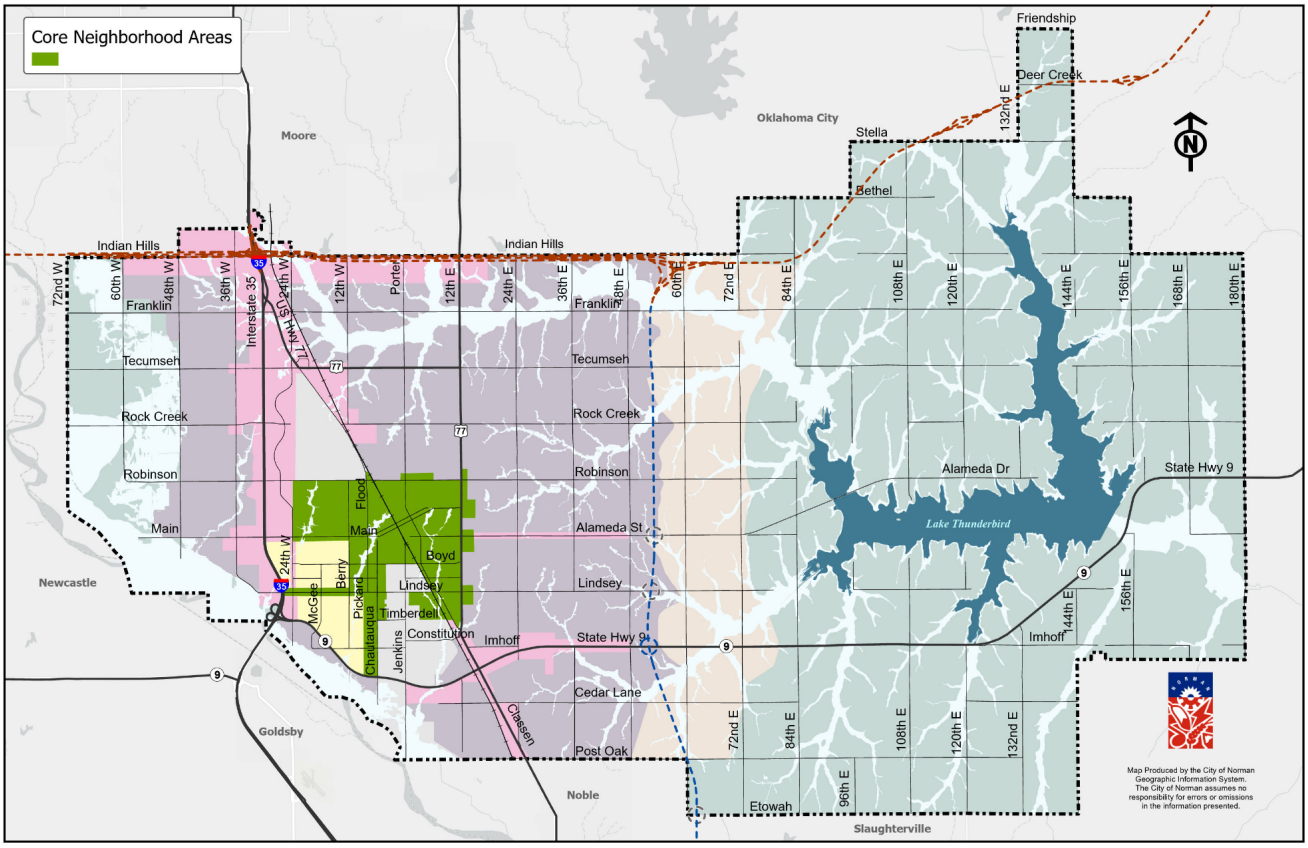
- Balance reinvestment and affordability for housing by promoting rehabilitation and renovation, while allowing for density increases, where appropriate.
  - *ADUs continue to be an appropriate housing typology in this Character Area.*
- Cultivate an accessible, pedestrian-centric environment that's enjoyable for live, work, and play including transitions from other, more auto-centric, character areas.
- Promote local business growth and encourage employment opportunities within the Core, catering to residents, students, and visitors.

OPPORTUNITIES

- High access to alternative modes of transportation, including public transit, walking, and bicycling.
- Rehabilitation and redevelopment opportunities for residential and commercial projects.
- Strong historic ties and active attention from existing community efforts.

CHALLENGES

- Undersized, aging infrastructure, including lack of stormwater infrastructure, that requires frequent maintenance.
- Balancing reinvestment with affordability options.
- Under used areas.
- Cost of infill development.



LAND USE CATEGORY

Urban High (UH)

DESCRIPTION & CONTEXT

Highly compact, walkable pattern of urban development prioritizing alternative means of transportation. Low to no building spacing and separation of uses. This area is intended to create opportunities for economic activities attracting a city-wide audience, and place residents closer to services and jobs.

- High-intensity areas strive for more residential than non-residential uses with frequent master-planned mixed-use development nodes. Non-residential uses may be more common in UH than in UM or UL due to higher concentrations of population.
- Gross densities in any single development should be greater than 12 units per acre.

BUILDING TYPES

- Medium and Small-scale 3- to 5-story buildings are common. Within existing developed areas, buildings may go up to 2-stories higher than surrounding properties.
- Multi-unit structures are the priority, but a variety of housing types from townhomes to apartments are expected.
- Mixed-use buildings including retail, work-spaces, and residences are most common.
- Public and private spaces (i.e. balconies, recreational roof decks, outdoor dining, etc.) are clearly defined and cultivate a sense of place.
- New developments that are single-use developments or predominantly single-unit or garden apartments are not appropriate.

SITE DESIGN

- The scale and layout of the built environment are conducive to walking. Trails and pathways are integrated throughout developments to connect to parks, neighborhoods, and community destinations.
- Multi-unit developments without connections to neighboring properties and uses weakens the development pattern and should be limited or avoided altogether.
- Street trees should form a continuous urban canopy over public areas and rights-of-way.
- Stormwater to be addressed at the project level, but designed as part of a larger neighborhood or sub-basin system.
- Site layout should take every opportunity to maximize the public infrastructure available in this area.

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK, CIRCULATION & ACCESS

This area features a relatively dense grid of streets and sidewalks. A full street hierarchy provides a variety of connections and route choices to people moving to, through, and within the area. Parking is a secondary use and should be as small as possible due to character and value of land in the area. Most of these areas have, or will have, easy access to public transportation (less than one half-mile walk of a stop). Improving access for pedestrians and bicyclists will continue to be a priority, including modernizing multi-modal infrastructure.

UTILITY ACCESS

A full range of utilities should be available. If services are not already in place, they must be extended by the developer during the platting process to be suitable for development. If development occurs adjacent to existing facilities that are determined to be insufficient to meet the demands of the proposed development, the developer must upgrade the existing facilities to enhance the capacity of the utility systems.

PUBLIC SPACE TYPES

Consisting of appropriately scaled public spaces including small parks, plazas, parklets, regional trail connections, and walking paths. Pedestrian amenities should commonly integrated into public and private projects.

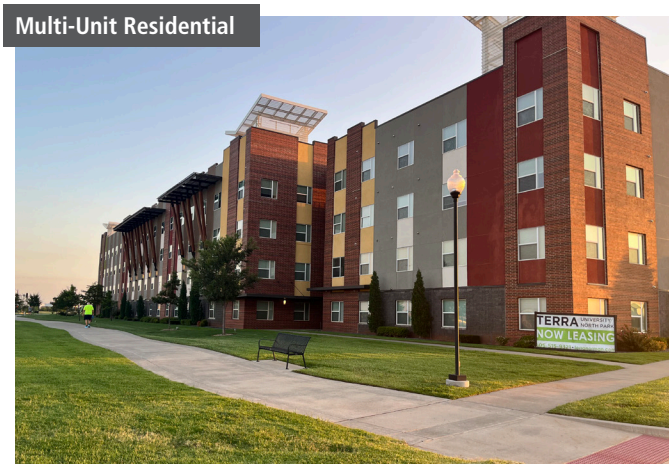
LOCATIONAL CRITERIA

- Large building footprints (>12,500 SF) compromise the development pattern and are not appropriate, except along arterials and at arterial intersections.
- Medium intensity residential uses should be discouraged along arterial streets and should be located behind higher intensity residential, commercial, or mixed-use developments along arterial streets.
- Medium intensity residential uses shall be adequately buffered or spaced from intensities posing adverse effects including noise, odors, air and light pollution, and heavy traffic.
- High Urban is most compatible adjacent to: UM, ULC, MX, IMX, CBD, LCC, C, JC, TOD, and OP.
- High Urban is least compatible adjacent to: AR and UR and requires additional buffering from uses that generate more noise, odors, air and light pollution, and heavy traffic.

ZONING DISTRICTS

RM-2	RM-6	R-3	RO	O-1	CO	C-1	C-2	C-3	MUD		
PUD	SPUD										
A-1	A-2	RE	R-1	R-1-A	R-2	RM-4	TC	CR	I-1	I-2	M-1

Multi-Unit Residential



Mixed-Use

