

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Tina Hilding
Sub-committee Chair

Climate Action Working Group
Sub-committee

Kelli Cooper
Staff Liaison

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~Meeting Minutes~

April 3, 2023

208.883.7122

<http://www.ci.moscow.id.us/commissions/Pages/sustainable-environment.aspx>

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tina Hilding, Al Poplawsky, Jeff Hicki, Nancy Chaney, Mary DuPree; Sophie Gilbert

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Kelli Cooper, Staff Liaison; Mac Cantrell; Elizabeth Stevens; Ian Schlater; Mike Ray

1. Planning Division presentation

Mike Ray will present on what the City has done regarding code changes that have climate change impacts.

ACTION: Receive the report and provide feedback.

Presentation attached.

2. Outreach efforts

Tina Hilding will lead discussion on opportunities to talk to the public about climate change planning

ACTION: Receive the report and provide feedback.

The group talked about promoting the Avista audit program.

Citizen Climate Lobby focusing on benefits of Inflation Reduction Act. Would like to produce a handout to distribute to local contractors. Would have a booth at a Moscow Building Supply event, booth at the Farmers Market, City Facebook page and contacting contractors directly

3. Avista's future planning efforts.

Tina Hilding, and others who attended, will report on Avista's future planning as presented in a recent community forum held by Avista.

ACTION: Receive the report and provide feedback.

Al says during the meeting it sounded like Avista wasn't sure they would meet the clean energy goal by 2045.

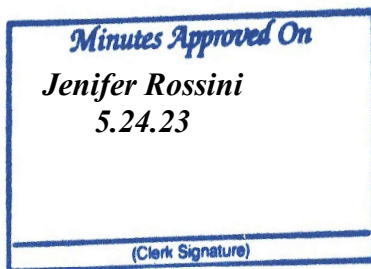
Mac mentioned that in the plan Avista has plans to reduce emissions in Oregon and Washington by 2045 because it will be a requirement from the state. Idaho will be last for reduction in emissions due to cost, reliability and it not being required.

4. Announcements/Other Business

Kelli says Avista already has an energy audit program. The tests are free unless you choose the audit where they perform a blower test, that audit is around \$150. The wait list for the audits is currently 5 months out.

Earth Day Awards is April 17th, downtown cleanup is the 21st.

Adjourn



Tina Hilding, Chair (or stamped by Deputy City Clerk)



City of Moscow Planning Department Presentation for the Climate Action Working Group

April 3, 2023

Community Development

- Responsible for the administration of land development, construction activities, engineering design, grant administration and economic development within the City
- Includes five divisions
 - ▶ Planning
 - ▶ Building Safety
 - ▶ Engineering
 - ▶ Grants
 - ▶ Economic Development/Urban Renewal

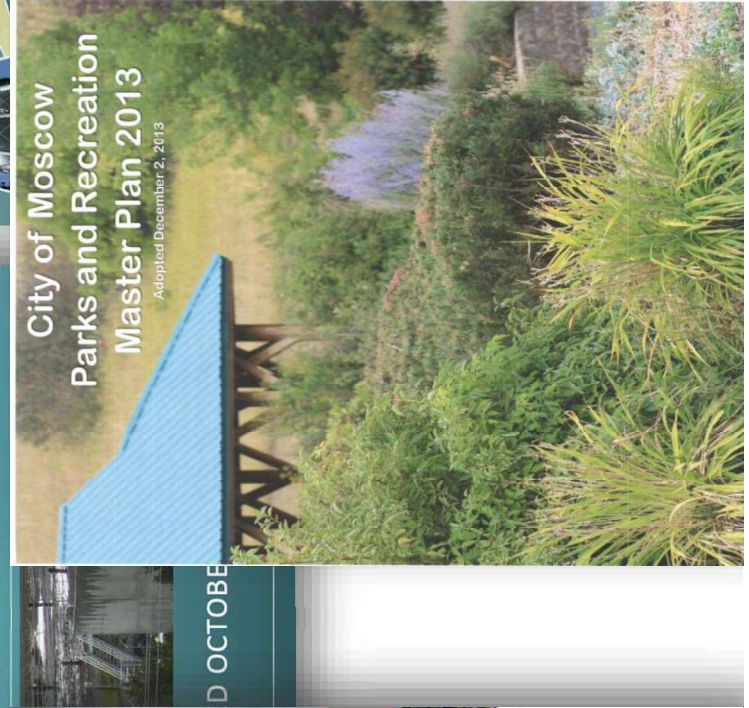
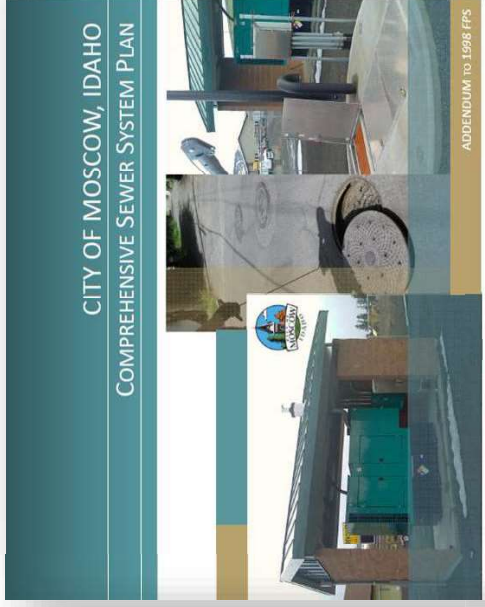
Planning Division

- 3 Staff Members
- Current Planning
 - Processing of land use and development applications rezones, subdivision plats, conditional and special use permits, variances, annexations, planned unit developments, Floodplain development permits and code administration
- Long-Range Planning
 - Comprehensive plan, economic development plans, downtown revitalization efforts, special area plans
- Commission Support
 - Planning and Zoning, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Historic Preservation Commission, Fair and Affordable Housing Commission, Transportation Commission

Comprehensive Plan

- ▶ Comprehensive Plan
 - ▶ State mandated planning document
 - ▶ Articulation of community values, vision and general policies
 - ▶ Provides the goals for the land use regulations to implement
 - ▶ Land use regulations must be generally consistent and supported by the community's comprehensive plan
- ▶ Last updated in 2019

Supporting Planning Documents



PREPARED BY
City of Moscow Community
Development Department

IN COLLABORATION WITH
City of Moscow Art Department
and Arts Commission

JUNE 1, 2015



1.3.3 Local Response to Changing Global Climate Conditions

According to the American Planning Association, over the past decade, planners have long focused on smart growth and sustainability, although they have not always directly connected them to climate change. Mitigation measures such as combating urban sprawl and fewer vehicle-miles traveled in turn can result in reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Addressing the symptoms of climate change such as stormwater management and precipitation changes are adaptation measures. Many cities are working to significantly lower GHG emissions among a variety of actions, including higher density development, encouraging green building materials, and incorporating alternative energy sources. "By promoting the synergy between smart growth, sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation, planners can effect positive outcomes through a so-called 'no regrets' approach, whereby actions taken to adapt to or mitigate climate change are ones that should be taken anyway for other reasons related to smart growth and sustainability." (American Planning Association, Policy Guide on Planning and Climate Change)

The Guide identifies five primary hazard types linked to climate change: Heat waves, strong storms, flooding, drought, and wildfires. It further references areas of local concern. It is generally expected that the specific climate change impacts to the Pacific Northwest Region will include increases in annual average temperatures between 5°F and 8.5 °F by the year 2080 with potentially slight increases in annual precipitation. With the warmer temperatures it is anticipated that annual snowpack will decline, stressing water resources, and increasing the risk of wildfires from rising temperatures and drier summer conditions. Additionally, climate changes may result in population migration as people seek lesser adversely impacted areas. The Guide states that, "Rapid population growth may strain infrastructure, exacerbate NIMBYism, negatively impact community character, and create significant social services capacity issues." Among their recommendations are: to protect and enhance green spaces; reduce GHG emissions; promote public awareness and incentive programs; focus on public construction specifications, requirements, and retrofitting; and encourage locally produced food.

Palouse Prairie

"The Palouse Prairie comprises moderately to strongly dissected loess-covered basalt plains, hills with large steptoes, undulating plateaus, and



Local Response to Changing Global Climate Conditions

- ▶ Water
- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Energy Usage
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Infrastructure and Environmental Impacts
- ▶ Climate Migration
- ▶ Food Security

CAP - Transportation Sector

- ▶ ACTION: Reduce vehicle trips
- ▶ Greenhouse gas emissions in the Transportation Sector are tied directly to vehicle miles traveled within the City. Reducing vehicles traveling on our streets will decrease emissions. Increased access to public transit (through expansion of available service), transportation incentives, increasing walkability, promotion of infill and mixed-use development to reduce vehicle dependence, and citizen outreach are all potential actions to be taken. Reducing urban sprawl through changes to zoning code (i.e. smaller lot sizes, eliminating parking minimums) may also prove effective.

3.11.6 Public Transit

Objective:

Promote the increased use and expansion of public transit services within the community and region as a desirable transportation alternative.

2.7.3 Housing

Objective:

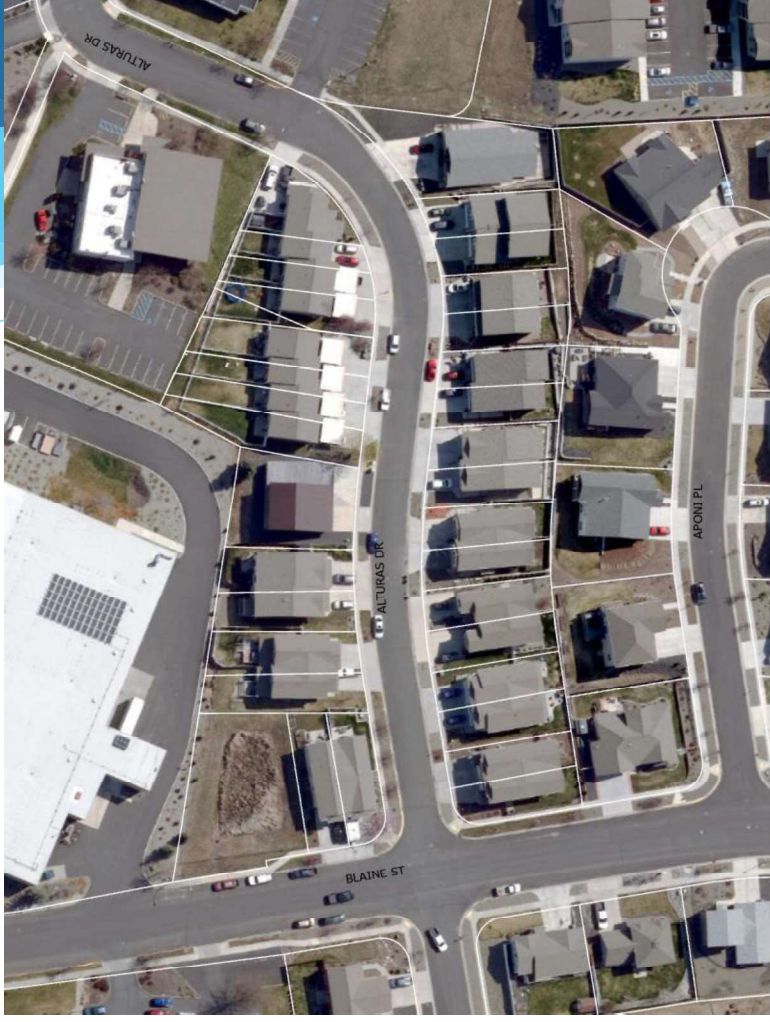
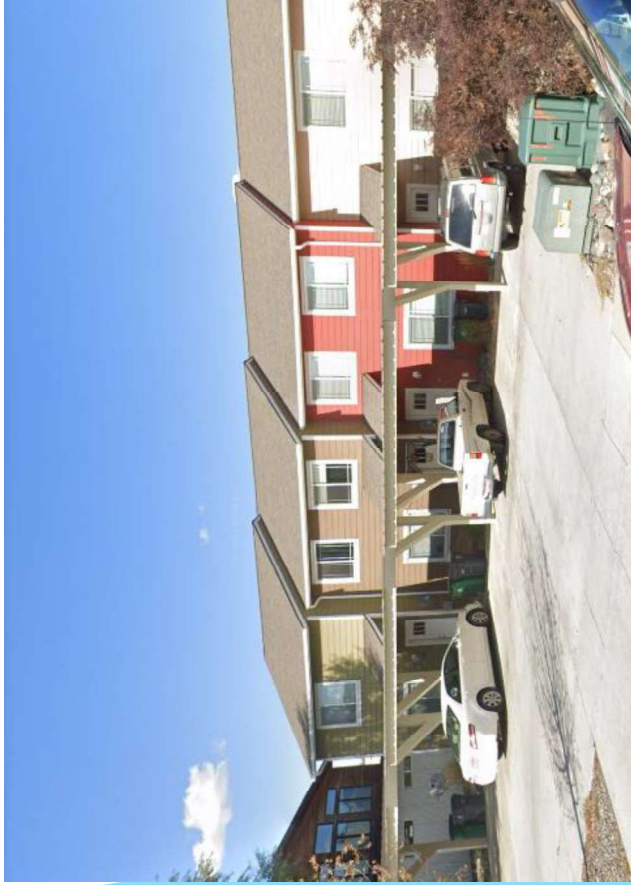
Provide a mix of housing that meets the economic and lifestyle needs of the diverse population of Moscow.

Implementation Actions:

1. Provide residential zoning districts in sufficient quantity and location that allow for the creation of a variety of housing types to meet the diverse needs of the community. Zone for multifamily development close to the University and promote the Sixth Street corridor, between downtown and the University, for mixed-use residential-over-retail buildings.
2. Identify areas for infill residential development, including downtown multifamily and residential-over-retail opportunities. Identify barriers to redevelopment of these areas and take steps to eliminate the barriers and promote development and redevelopment.

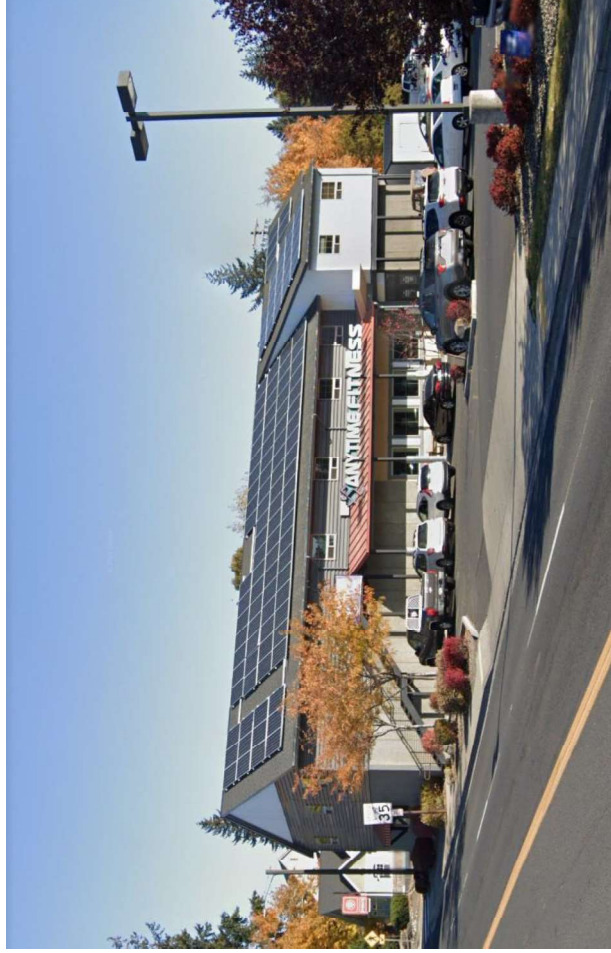
Ord. 2010-24 - Twinhomes and Townhouses

- ▶ Inserted the allowance of twinhomes and townhouses within certain zoning districts
- ▶ Townhouses subject to design standards



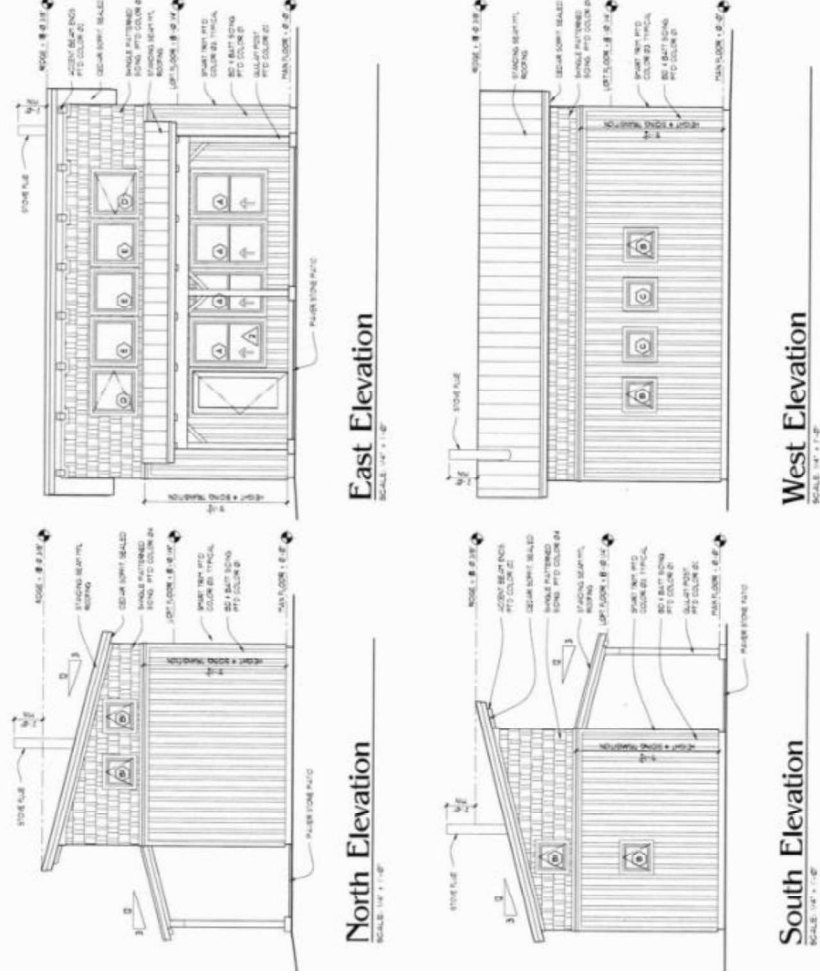
Ord. 2014-19 - Residential Uses in Commercial Zones

- ▶ Permitted the allowance of residential uses in most commercial zones, subject to location requirements
 - ▶ Generally behind or above a commercial use
 - ▶ Ground floor residential a CUP



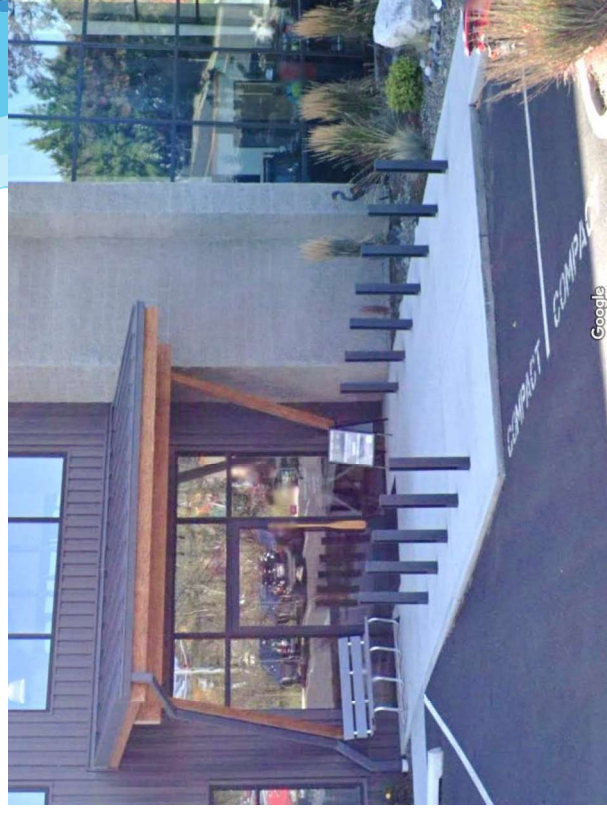
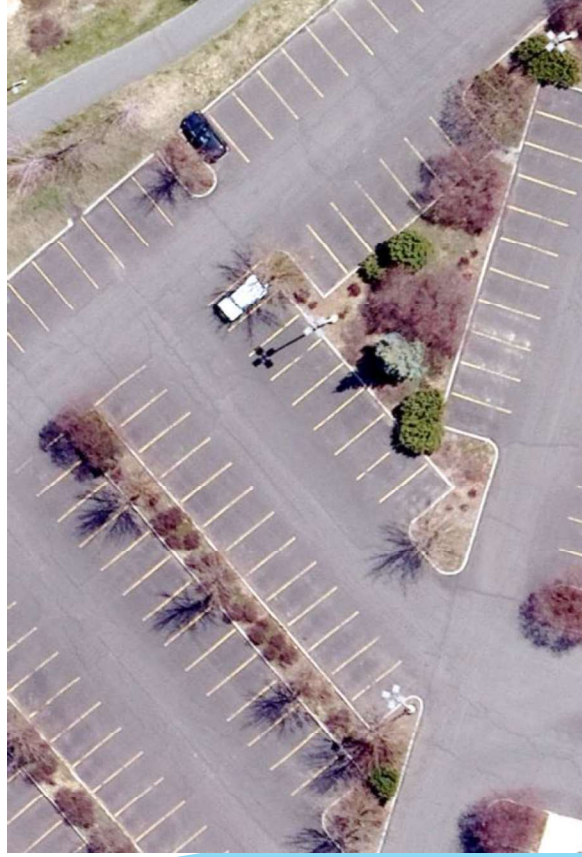
Ord 2015-06 - Accessory Dwelling Units

- ▶ ADUs permitted in all residential zoning districts in the City, subject to certain development standards.
- ▶ Amended in 2019

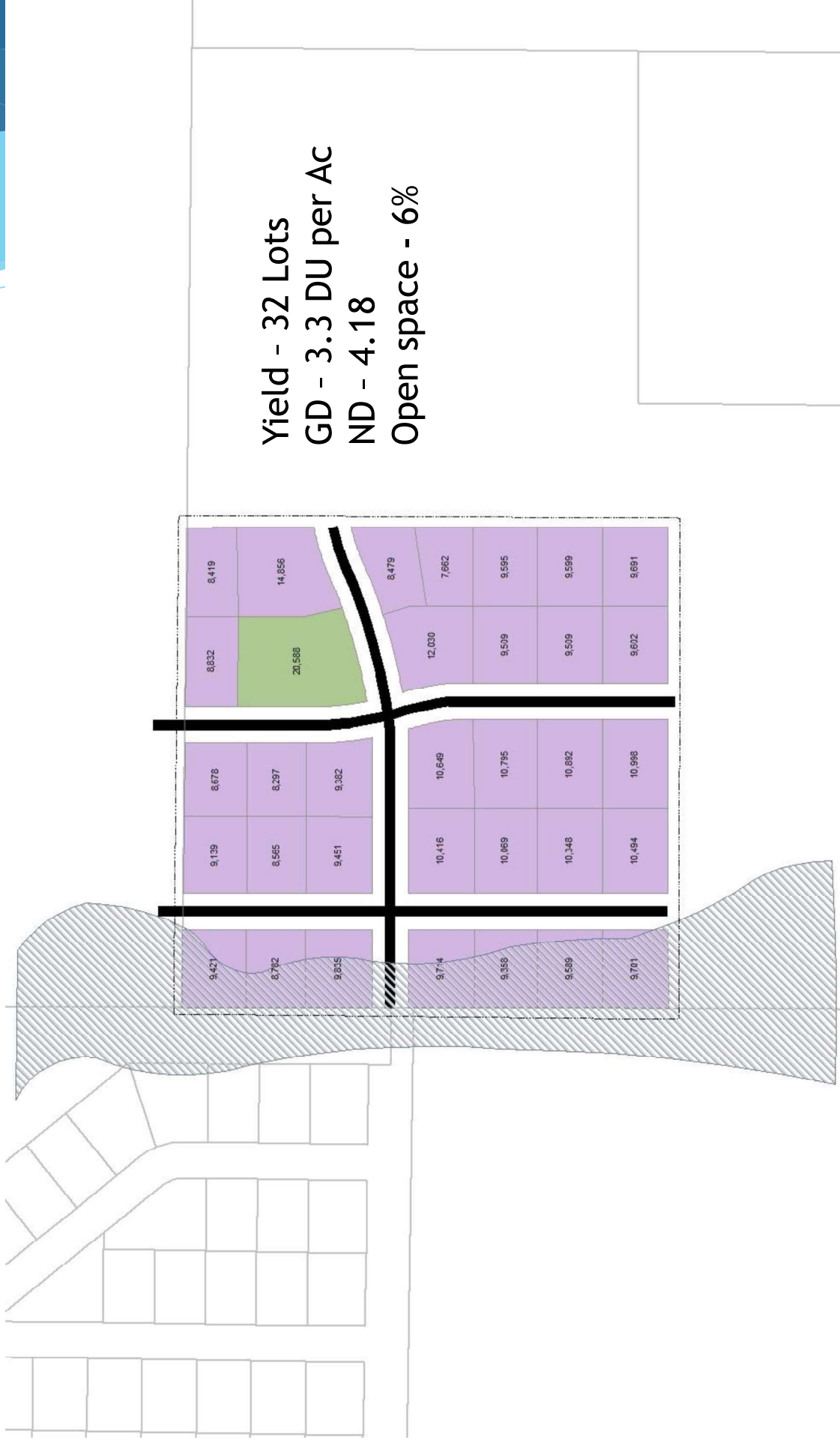


Ord. 2017-05 - Off-street parking section amendments

- ▶ Amended parking lot requirements to require less impervious surfaces and greater amounts of green space
- ▶ Permitted joint use and off-site parking within a certain distance by right
- ▶ Developed a bicycle parking incentive which allows a reduction in automobile parking spaces



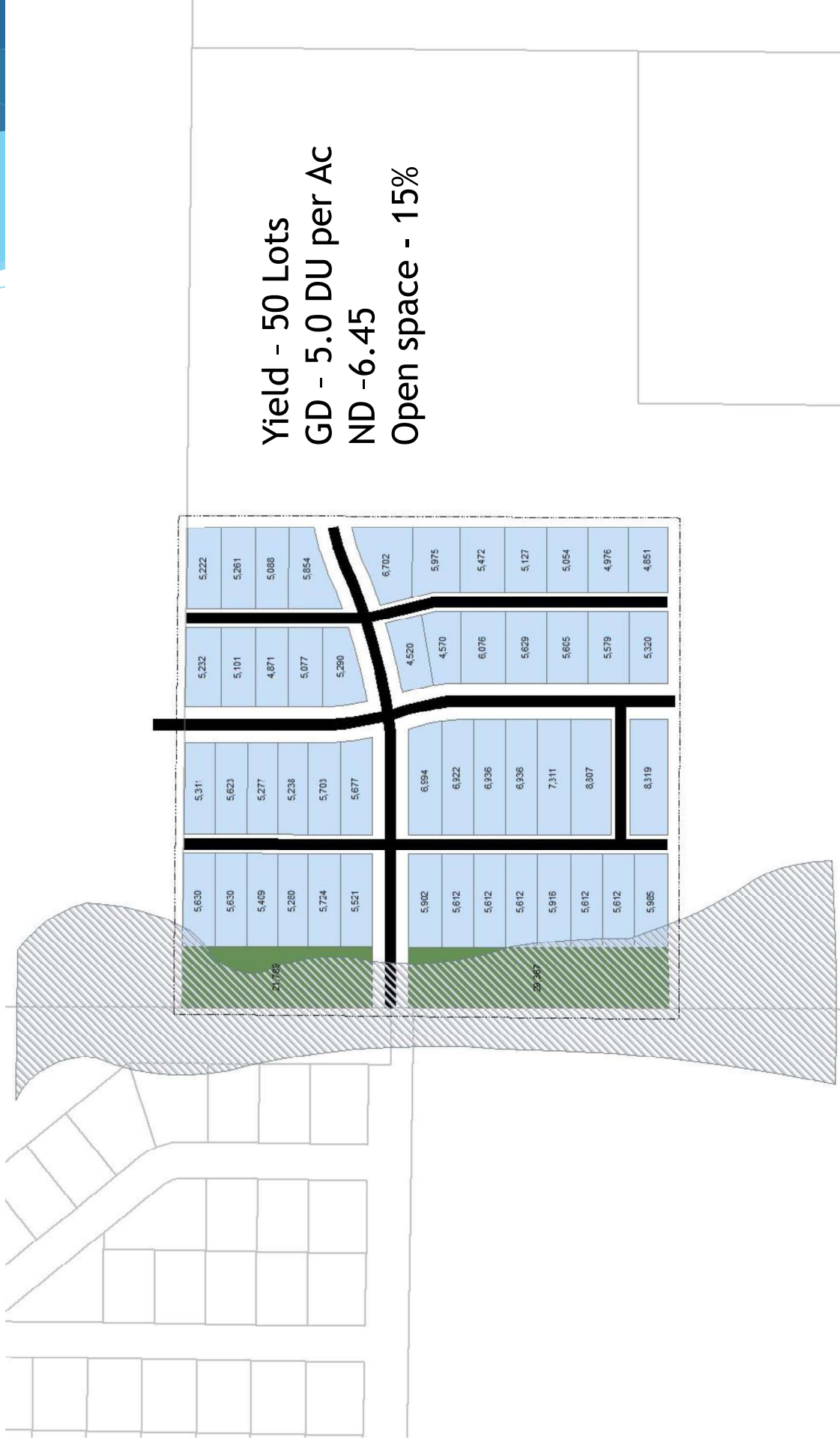
Conventional Subdivision



Conservation Subdivision



Traditional Subdivision



CAP - Sequestration

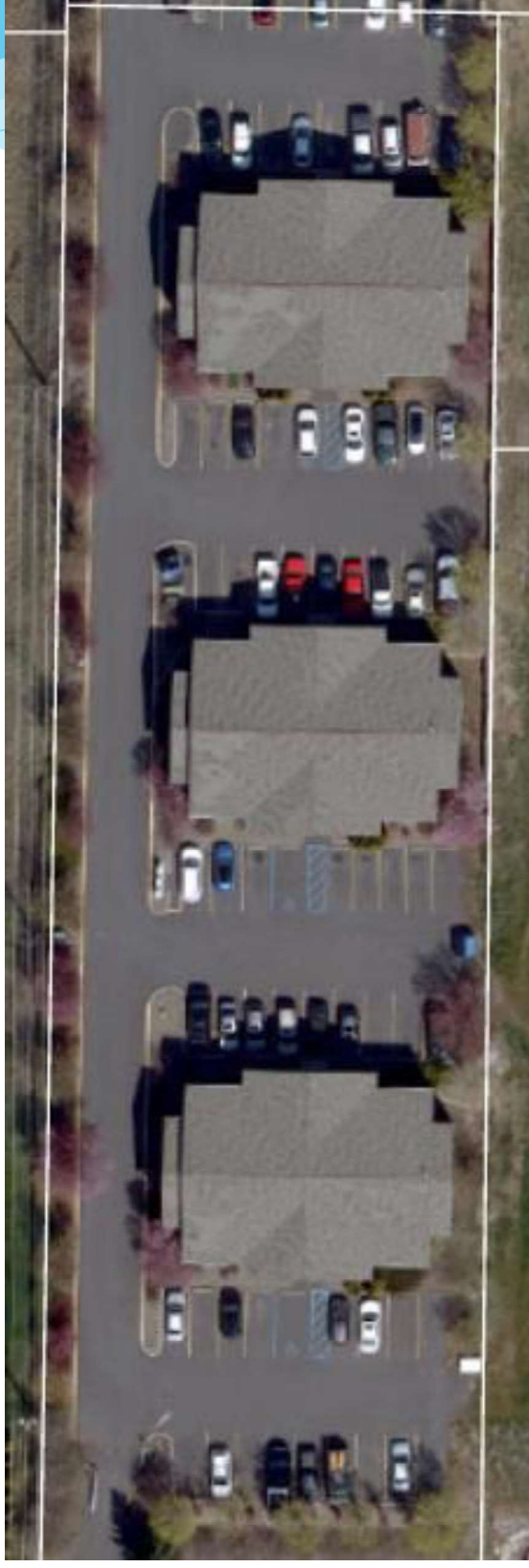
- ▶ ACTION: Develop a tree program
- ▶ Trees play a vital role in sequestering carbon in Moscow. Many older neighborhoods have extensive tree canopies. However, some of the larger trees may be approaching the end of life and may be more susceptible to disease. Newer neighborhoods lack good shade trees because the trees have not had a chance to grow. Current standards require developers to plant street trees in new developments. Developing a tree program that helps homeowners keep their trees healthy and replace any trees that need to be removed are some potential options to include in such a program.

Urban Forestry Amendments

- ▶ Ord. 2017-01 - Revised Street Tree Program
 - ▶ Previously a voluntary program with about 60% utilization rate
 - ▶ Program amended to require street trees to be planted prior to certificate of occupancy for a project
- ▶ Ord. 2017-05 - Off-street parking section amendments
 - ▶ Amended parking lot standards to require internal landscaping islands in addition to exterior landscaping for parking lots of a certain size

Residential Density

- ▶ Multiple Family Residential (R-4) Zone
 - ▶ 5,000 sf or 800 sf per dwelling unit
 - ▶ 54 du/acre permitted by code
 - ▶ 24 du/acre is average density of what is constructed
 - ▶ Parking requirements limit density



Case Study: Identity on Main



Identity on Main



- ▶ Planned Unit Development
 - ▶ 154 multi-family residential units (25.5 du/acre)
 - ▶ 3,000 square feet of commercial retail space
 - ▶ Achieved a density bonus for energy conservation, green building materials, and open space and landscaping
- ▶ Parking Mitigation Plan
 - ▶ 47% reduction in automobile parking
 - ▶ 258 bicycle parking spaces provided
 - ▶ 130 long-term secured and 128 short-term
 - ▶ 2 EV car shares located on-site

