

Article 07

Business Districts

Section 07.01 Intent

- (a) **B1 Neighborhood Commercial District.** The B1 Neighborhood Commercial District is established to provide for small-scale neighborhood commercial nodes. This district is intended to meet the day-to-day convenience shopping and service needs of persons residing in adjacent residential areas. B1 District designations are located within close proximity to residential neighborhoods and are intended to serve the immediate vicinity so as not to draw additional traffic from other areas of the county or cities. In order to promote business development compatible with nearby residential, the size and scale of uses is limited and uses that would create hazards, loud noises, odors, truck traffic or late hours of operation are not allowed. This district will apply to neighborhood shopping nodes along major corridors within the cities and convenience commercial nodes in unincorporated areas of the county.
- (b) **B2 General Commercial District.** The B2 General Commercial District is established to serve a larger population than is serviced by a B1 District. The district is generally characterized by an integrated cluster of establishments serviced by a common parking area and generating a large volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The intent of this district is also to encourage the concentration of regional business areas to the mutual advantage of both the consumers and merchants and thereby to promote the best use of land at certain strategic locations and avoid encouraging marginal strip business development along major streets. Special attention must be given to site layout, building design, vehicular and pedestrian circulation and coordination of site features between adjoining sites.
- (c) **B3 Highway Commercial District.** The uses in the B3 Highway Commercial District will be more automotive oriented and serve a market that includes the traveling public. The permitted uses would be located near highway interchanges and are generally not appropriate immediately adjacent to residential zoning districts. Special attention must be given to site layout, vehicular circulation, building design and buffering from other nearby uses.
- (d) **O1 Office Service District.** O1 Office District is intended to accommodate uses such as offices for professional and business services, planned office developments, medical centers, as well as appropriately located ancillary services and uses. The O1 District is further intended to provide a buffer or zone of transition between residential and commercial districts and between residential districts and major streets.

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Section 07.02 Uses

Use and development of land and buildings shall only be for the following specified uses, unless otherwise provided for in this Ordinance. Uses are grouped into major categories and only those uses listed under each category are permitted. Land and/or buildings in the districts indicated at the top of the Table may be used for the purposes denoted by the following abbreviations:

- P: Permitted Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for the purposes listed by right, subject to any use limitations set forth in this ordinance.
- S: Special Exception Use.** Land and/or buildings in this District may be used for this purpose by obtaining Special Exception approval when all applicable standards cited in Article 24 Special Exception Review Requirements and Procedures are met, subject to any use limitations set forth in this ordinance.
- : Not Permitted.** The use is not permitted in the district. Uses not listed in the table are also not permitted. Uses that are not listed in any district of the zoning ordinance, as shown in Appendix A, may be allowed based upon a similar use determination in accordance with section 02.06.

Table 07.02
Schedule of Permitted Uses

Use	B1	B2	B3	O1	Use Requirements
Residential limited to the following:					
Multiple-family dwellings	P	-	-	-	
Dwellings in mixed-use buildings	P	-	-	-	
Dwelling units for watchmen and operating personnel and their families	P	P	P	-	
Fraternity, sorority or student cooperatives	S	S	-	S	
Agriculture and animal-related uses limited to the following:					
Farm implement dealers	-	P	-	-	
Kennels	-	S	-	-	
Plant nursery and commercial greenhouses	P	P	-	-	
Roadside stands	P	-	-	-	14.02(d)
Veterinary hospital for large animals	S	P	-	S	
Veterinary hospital for small animals	S	P	-	S	
Retail trade limited to the following:					
Retail uses up to 40,000 square feet gross floor area, except where otherwise listed	P	P	P	-	
Any retail use between 40,000 and 60,000 square feet gross floor area	S	P	-	-	14.03(a)
Any retail use over 60,000 square feet gross floor area	-	P	-	-	14.03(a)
Retail uses with accessory drive through service	S	P	P	-	14.03(b)
Art and school supply stores	P	P	-	P	
Bait shops	P	P	-	-	
Bakeries, retail sales only	P	P	-	-	
Business machine sales and service	P	P	-	P	
Computer sales	P	P	-	P	
Convenience stores	P	P	P	P	
Convenience stores with gasoline sales	-	S	S	-	
Feed stores	-	P	-	-	
Grocery stores/super markets	P	P	-	-	
Furnace/air conditioner sales/service	-	P	-	-	
Lawn & garden supply, greenhouse, and retail nurseries without outdoor sales	-	P	-	-	
Lawn & garden supply, greenhouse, and retail nurseries with outdoor sales	-	P	-	-	
Gift, souvenir handicraft stores	P	P	P	-	
Glass sales & service	-	P	-	-	

Table 07.02
Schedule of Permitted Uses

Use	B1	B2	B3	O1	Use Requirements
Hardware, electrical, plumbing, paint and floor covering sales without open storage	P	P	-	-	
Home improvement, building material sales and lumber with open storage	-	S	-	-	
Lawn mower sales/service	P	P	-	-	
Liquor stores	P	P	-	-	
Machinery and equipment sales	-	S	-	-	
Mail order business	-	P	-	-	
Marine accessory shops	-	P	-	-	
Mobile homes and trailer sales/rental	-	S	-	-	
Monument establishments--including accessory open sales lots	-	P	-	-	
Newsstands	P	P	-	P	
Office supply stores	P	P	-	P	
Open air markets and outdoor sales	-	S	-	-	
Pet shops, dog grooming and day care (not including overnight boarding)	P	P	-	-	
Petroleum products sales	-	S	-	-	
Pharmacies	P	P	-	S	
Produce markets	P	P	-	-	
Secondhand stores and rummage shops	-	P	-	-	
Services limited to the following:					
Barber/beauty shops	P	P	-	P	
Cleaning services	-	P	-	-	
Dry cleaners, pick-up	P	P	-	P	
Dry cleaning plants/commercial laundries	-	S	-	-	
Interior decorating shops	P	P	-	P	
Laundries	P	P	-	-	
Locksmith shops	P	P	-	-	
Office service centers	P	P	-	P	
Pawnshops	-	S	-	-	14.04(a)
Pest control services	-	S	-	-	
Photographic studios	P	P	-	P	
Repair shops, nonautomotive	-	P	-	-	
Shoe repair shops	P	P	-	P	
Tailor shops	P	P	-	P	
Tattoo establishment	-	S	-	-	14.02(b)
Taxidermists	P	P	-	-	
Tool and equipment rental	-	P	-	-	
Video rental store	P	P	-	-	
Motor vehicle dealers and service limited to the following:					
Automobile rental	S	P	P	S	
Automobile sales (new/used)	-	S	P	-	
Automobile washes	-	S	S	-	14.05(b)
Minor automobile service and repair	-	S	S	-	14.05(a)
Major automobile service, body repair and painting	-	S	-	-	14.05(a)
Motorcycle, snowmobile and ATV sales/service	-	P	P	-	14.05(a)
Parts stores	S	P	P	-	
Truck rental	-	S	S	-	
Truck sales (new/used)	-	S	S	-	
Truck stops	-	-	S	-	14.05(c)
Vehicle service stations	-	S	S	-	14.05(c)
Vehicle auctions	-	S	-	-	

Table 07.02
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Use	B1	B2	B3	O1	Use Requirements
Accommodation and food services limited to the following:					
Banquet halls	P	P	P	P	
Bed & breakfasts	P	P	P	-	
Cafeterias (as an accessory use)	P	P	P	P	
Candy and ice cream shops	P	P	P	-	
Catering services	P	P	P	-	
Delicatessens	P	P	P	P	
Exhibition halls	-	P	P	P	
Hotel-miniums	-	-	P	-	
Hotels/motels	-	P	P	P	
Restaurants, carryout	P	P	P	P	
Restaurants, standard not including drive-thru/in	P	P	P	P	
Restaurant, drive-thru/in	-	S	S	-	14.06(b)
Restaurant and taverns with outdoor seating	S	P	P	S	
Taverns and bars	P	P	P	P	
Finance, insurance, real estate, professional, scientific, and technical limited to the following:					
Banks & financial institutions	P	P	P	P	14.07(a)
Blueprinting and photostating establishments	-	P	-	P	
Newspaper offices including printing	P	P	-	P	
Offices, general and professional with accessory research and testing	P	P	P	P	
Printing and publishing establishments	P	P	-	P	
Radio, television and recording studios	-	P	-	P	
Research & development laboratories	-	-	P	P	
Travel agencies	P	P	P	P	
Health care and social assistance limited to the following:					
Day care centers, commercial/preschools	P	P	P	P	14.08(a)
Day care homes, residential	P	P	-	-	14.08(a)
Foster care homes	-	-	-	-	
Funeral homes/mortuaries	P	P	-	P	14.08(b)
Hospital-related uses	-	P	-	P	
Hospitals	-	S	-	S	
Medical and dental clinics	P	P	P	P	
Medical laboratories	-	P	-	P	
Nursing homes and senior assisted living	P	-	-	P	14.08(c)
Optical sales	P	P	-	P	
Orthopedic and medical appliance sales	P	P	-	P	
Philanthropic and eleemosynary institutions	-	S	-	S	
Entertainment and recreation limited to the following:					
Amusement/arcade establishments	-	S	-	-	
Amusement parks	-	S	S	-	
Boat clubs	S	S	-	-	
Boat harbors / public marinas, including service, storage, and fuel sales	-	S	-	-	
Boat sales, including service	-	S	S	-	
Bowling alleys	-	P	-	-	
Canoe rental	-	P	-	-	
Commercial outdoor recreation facilities such as batting cages, driving ranges and putt-putt golf	-	S	S	-	14.09(d)
Campgrounds	-	S	P	-	
Dance schools	P	P	-	P	

Table 07.02
Schedule of Permitted Uses

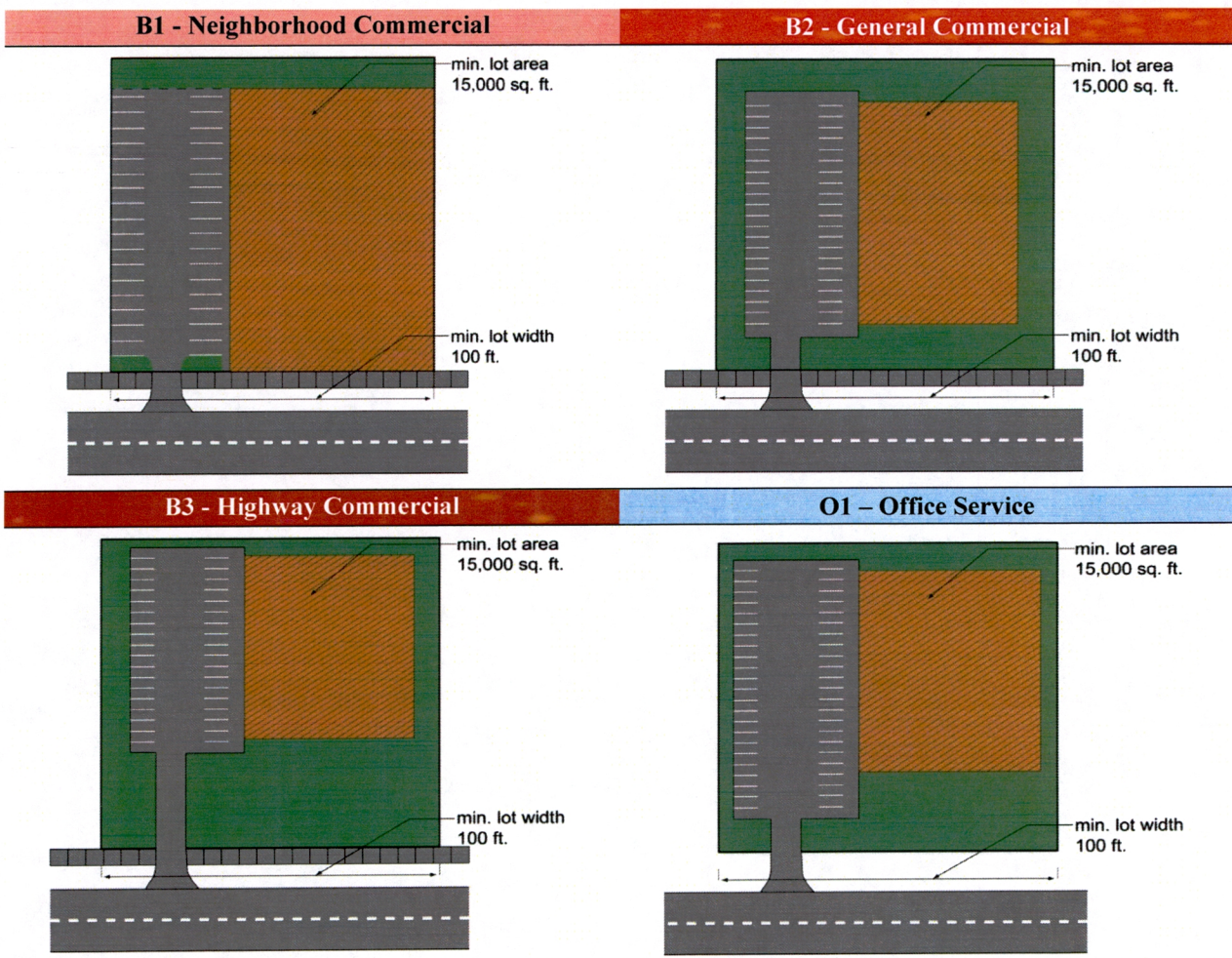
Use	B1	B2	B3	O1	Use Requirements
Forestry/wildlife preserve	P	P	P	-	
Golf course and country clubs	P	P	S	P	
Health and athletic clubs	P	P	P	P	
Ice skating rinks	-	P	P	-	
Massage establishments	P	P	-	P	14.09(a)
Parks/playgrounds	P	P	P	P	
Racetracks and go-cart tracks	-	-	S	-	14.09(d)
Sexual Oriented Business	-	P	-	-	14.09(a)
Shooting ranges, indoors	-	P	-	-	
Stadiums/arenas	-	S	-	-	
Theaters	-	S	-	-	
Civic, religious, social assistance organizations limited to the following:					
Cemeteries	-	P	-	-	14.10(a)
Churches, chapels, temples, synagogues and similar places of worship	P	P	-	P	14.10(b)
Clubs, lodges, union halls	P	P	-	P	
Community centers	P	P	-	P	
Conference and convention halls	-	P	P	P	
Convents, monasteries and seminaries	P	P	-	P	
Educational services limited to the following:					
Colleges, universities, and accessory uses, including housing for students	P	P	-	P	
Driving schools	-	P	-	-	
Libraries	P	P	-	P	
Schools, commercial and trade	P	P	-	P	
Schools, elementary, middle and high	P	P	-	P	
Training centers, engineering or sales	-	P	-	P	
Public administration limited to the following:					
Government buildings excluding correctional facilities	P	P	P	P	
Museums, civic buildings and landmarks preserved for public inspection	P	P	P	P	
Transportation and warehousing limited to the following:					
Bus and passenger rail terminals	P	P	P	-	
Parking structures as a principal use	P	P	P	P	
Self-storage facilities, indoor	-	S	-	-	14.13(b)
Taxicab dispatching	-	P	-	-	
Utilities limited to the following:					
Public utility buildings	P	P	P	P	
Telephone exchange buildings	P	P	P	P	
Transmission lines for gas, oil and electricity	P	P	P	P	
Utility substations	P	P	P	P	
Single accessory wind energy conversion systems	S	S	S	S	14.15(b)
Wireless communication facility - collocation	P	P	P	P	14.15(c)
Wireless communication facility tower	S	S	S	S	14.15(c)
Wireless communication facility on institutional site	S	S	S	S	14.15(c)
Construction limited to the following:					
Contractors' offices and shops (excluding outdoor storage)	-	P	-	-	
Landscaping services	-	S	-	-	14.16(a)
Mining limited to the following:					
Mineral extraction & general mining operations	-	S	S	-	14.18(a)

Section 07.03 Lot Area and Width Requirements

All lots shall meet the following minimum area and width requirements. No new lots shall be created or altered in a manner that does not comply with the following requirements.

Table 07.03
Lot Area And Width Requirements

District (a)	Min. lot size (b)(g)	
	Lot area(sq. ft.) (c)	Lot width(ft.)(d)(e)(f)
B1 - Neighborhood Commercial	15,000	100
B2 - General Commercial	15,000	100
B3 - Highway Commercial	15,000	100
O1 - Office Service	15,000	100



- (a) **Subdivision of Land.** All divisions to land shall be subject to the requirements set forth in the Subdivision Regulations of La Porte County, city of La Porte or city of Michigan City, as applicable.
- (b) **Lot Size Reduction.** The lot area and lot width may be reduced below the amounts indicated in Table 07.03 where driveway spacing requirements of Section 18.04 can be met and the lot has a recorded easement for a shared driveway, and cross circulation with parking lots on all adjacent lots zoned or planned for business use, meeting the requirements of Section 18.04.

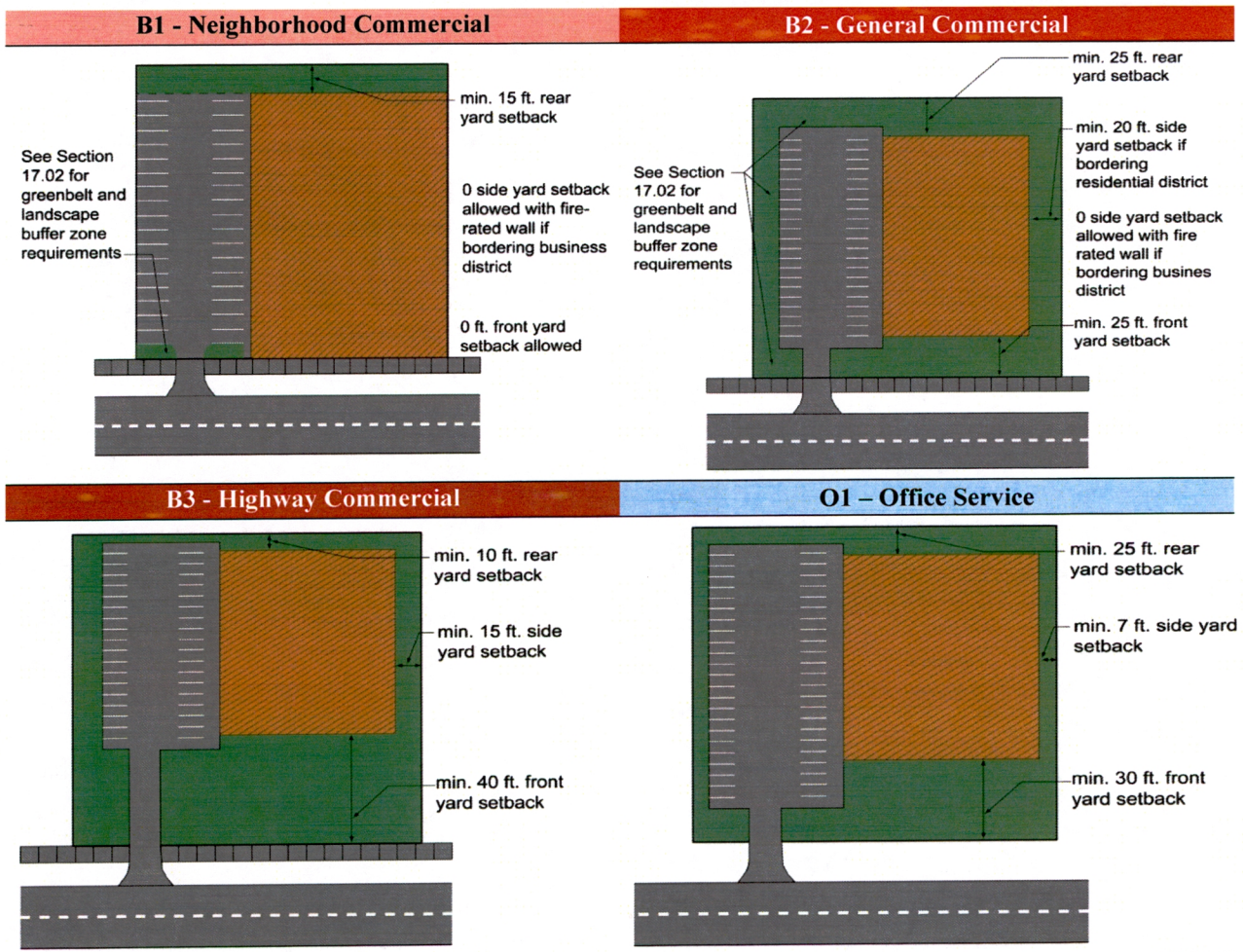
- (c) **Lot Area Calculation.** Lot area is calculated based upon the net area of the lot, measured in the horizontal plane, exclusive of any area that is part of a public road right-of-way, private road easement or submerged land beneath the ordinary high water mark of a lake, river or stream.
- (d) **Lot Width and Frontage.** Lot width shall be measured as a straight line between the side lot lines at the minimum front yard setback of the district. All lots shall have frontage along a public road or street. The width along the road shall be sufficient to meet the lot width requirement at the minimum front yard setback. This requirement shall not apply to individual lots that have access by a shared service drive system within a shopping center or shared access with adjacent uses.
- (e) **Dominant Parcel.** The dominant tract or parcel from which any newly created lot has been divided from must also maintain the required lot width.
- (f) **Depth to Width Ratio.** This provision shall not apply to the unincorporated areas of LaPorte County.
- (g) **Nonconforming Lots.** Lots of record that were in existence prior to the effective date of this ordinance may be used subject to the provisions of the nonconforming lot regulations of Section 29.03.
- (h) **Residential in B1.** Multiple family residential or dwelling units in mixed use buildings shall be permitted in the B1 district only where both public sewer and public water are available. The maximum density shall be 14 dwelling units per acre.

Section 07.04 Building Dimensional Requirements

All structures shall be subject to the dimensional regulations of the following table.

Table 07.04
Building Dimensional Requirements (a)

District	Max. building height (b)		Min. setbacks (ft.) (c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j)				% Lot coverage (m)	
	Height (ft.)	Height (st.)	Front yard	Side yard	Rear yard	Waterway (k, l)	Building	Imper. surface
B1 - Neighborhood Commercial	30	2	0	0(n)	15	75	75%	85%
B2 - General Commercial	40	3	25	0(n)	25	75	65%	85%
B3 - Highway Commercial	60	5	40	15	10	75	65%	85%
O1 - Office Service	60	5	30	7	25	75	65%	85%



(a) **Accessory Structures.** Accessory structures shall be regulated under the requirements of Article 16.

- (b) **Height Exceptions.** No structure shall exceed the maximum height of the district except for the allowable exceptions to the height limits contained in Section 15.04.
- (c) **Projections into Yards.** All required yard spaces shall remain as landscaped open space, except for pavement, accessory structures and architectural features that are allowed to extend or project into required setbacks under Section 15.05.
- (d) **Yards Maintained as Landscaped Open Space.** Setback areas shall be provided with landscape greenbelts and buffer zones as required in Section 17.02.
- (e) **Outdoor Storage.** Outdoor storage shall be screened in accordance with sections 17.02 and 17.03. Storage areas shall meet the applicable building setback requirements from each lot line.
- (f) **Setback from Road.** The front yard setback shall be measured from the road right-of-way or private road easement. Detention/retention ponds shall be allowed at a safe distance from all adjacent property lines and not impact the adjacent property owner's existing natural ground.
- (g) **Corner Lots.** Corner lots shall provide the minimum front yard setback from both road frontages.
- (h) **Double Frontage Lots.** In all districts, where a double frontage lot backs-up to a roadway, the minimum required front or roadside setback shall be required from both road rights-of-way.
- (i) **Parking Setback.** All parking, loading, and vehicular circulation aisles shall provide sufficient setback to meet the frontage greenbelt and buffer zones required by section 17.02.
- (j) **Loading Areas.** All loading and unloading shall be provided off-street in the rear yard or interior side yard, and shall in no instance be permitted in a front yard. Where an alley exists or is provided at the rear of buildings, the rear building setback and loading requirements may be computed from the center of the alley. Loading and unloading areas located in a side yard shall be fully screened from view from a public street. No overhead doors shall be permitted in the front elevation of the building. All residential districts and uses must be screened from truck loading and unloading activities in accordance with section 17.03.
- (k) **Wetlands.** A minimum setback of 50 feet shall be maintained from all wetlands. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of natural resource preservation guidelines contained article 22.
- (l) **Waterway Setback.** The waterway setback shall be measured from the shoreline of the lake, river or stream. In no instance shall any structures other than docks, seawalls, retaining walls, sidewalks, boardwalks, and patios be permitted within the minimum waterway setback. The setback may be adjusted according to requirements of Natural Resource Preservation Guidelines.
- (m) **Maximum Lot Coverage.** The maximum lot coverage for buildings and impermeable surface shall be measured as follows:
 - (1) The building coverage shall be calculated as the ratio of the footprint of all buildings, including the principal building, garages and detached accessory buildings, to the net area of the lot.
 - (2) The total impermeable surface coverage shall be calculated as the ratio of the ground area covered by all buildings, accessory structures, decks, pools, pavement, parking, loading and storage areas, normal pool area of wet detention basins to the net lot area.
- (n) **Building Side Yard Setback.** The minimum side yard setback in B1 and B2 shall be zero (0) where the side lot line adjoins another lot that is zoned as a business district and the side wall is a fire rated wall with no windows. Where a lot borders on a residential district, there shall be provided a minimum 20-foot setback on the side bordering the residential district.

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