

## 33.410 Buffer Zone

# 410

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### **33.410.010 Purpose**

The Buffer overlay zone requires additional buffering between nonresidential and residential zones. It is used when the base zone standards do not provide adequate separation between residential and nonresidential uses. The separation is achieved by restricting motor vehicle access, increasing setbacks, requiring additional landscaping, restricting signs, and in some cases by requiring additional information and proof of mitigation for uses that may cause off-site impacts and nuisances.

### **33.410.020 Map Symbol**

The Buffer zone is shown on the Official Zoning Maps with a letter "b" map symbol.

### **33.410.030 Applying the Buffer Zone**

The Buffer zone is to be applied primarily along the edge of a nonresidential zone abutting or located across a street from a residential zone. For industrial and employment zones, the street can be any classification of street, as classified by the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. For commercial zones, the street should be a Local Service Traffic Street.

### **33.410.040 Development Standards**

The following standards must be met in the Buffer Overlay zone.

#### **A. Setbacks and landscaping.**

1. C-zones. In the C zones, a 10-foot setback landscaped to at least the L3 standard is required along all lot lines that:
  - a. Are across a local service street or alley from R-zoned land; or
  - b. Abut the rear lot line of an R-zoned lot. See Figure 410-1.
2. E and I zones. In the E and I zones, a 20 foot setback landscaped to at least the L3 standard is required along all lots lines within the Buffer Overlay Zone that abut or are across the street from a residential zone. The setback must be landscaped to at least the L3 standard. The setback may be reduced to 10 feet if the setback is landscaped to at least the L4 standard. See Figure 410-2.

3. Exceptions for sites entirely in residential uses:
  - a. Landscaping. The landscape requirements of this subsection do not apply. However, landscaping requirements of the base zone, other overlay zone, and plan district must be met.
  - b. Fences. Fences up to 3-1/2 feet high are allowed in the buffer setback abutting a street lot line, and up to 8 feet high in other buffer setback areas.

**B. Structures and exterior activities.**

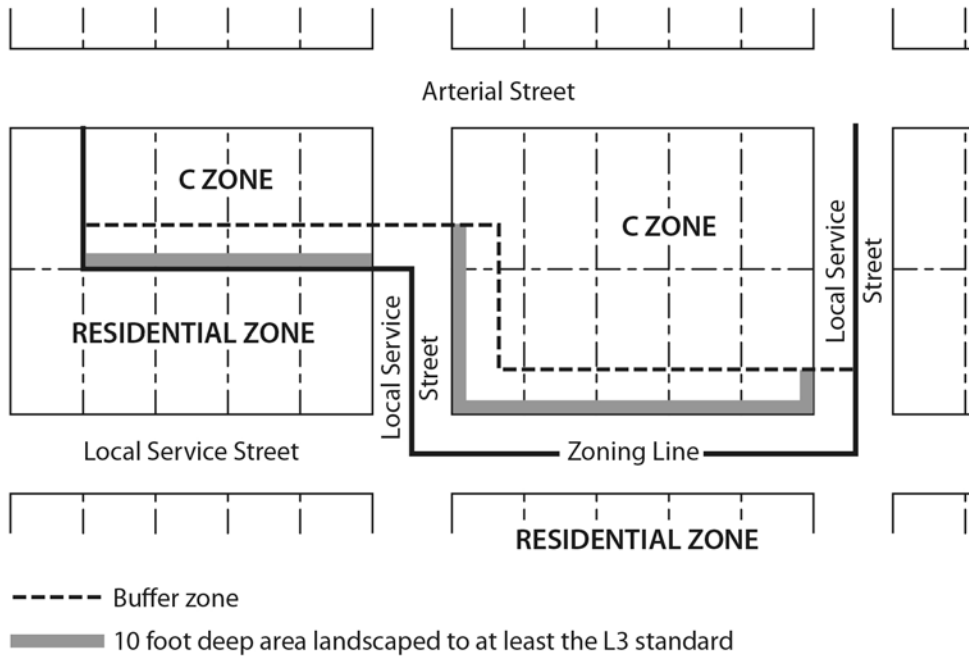
1. Structures, exterior storage, and exterior display are prohibited in the setbacks required by Subsection A.
2. Exterior work activities are prohibited in the Buffer Overlay Zone.

**C. Access.**

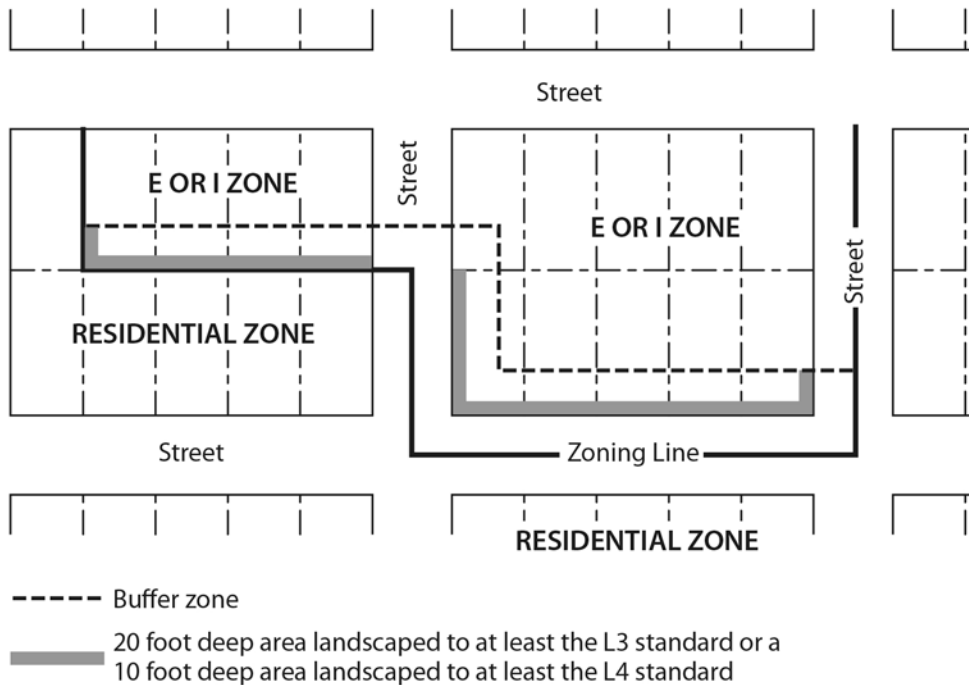
1. Generally. Except as specified in Paragraphs C.2 and C.3, access through the setbacks required by Subsection A is prohibited.
2. Pedestrian and bicycle access. Pedestrian and bicycle access is allowed through the setbacks, but may not be more than 6 feet wide.
3. Vehicle access for residential. Sites where any of the floor area is in Residential uses may have vehicle access through the setbacks. The width of the access may be a maximum of 20 percent of the site frontage or 20 feet, whichever is less. As an exception, a vehicle access at least 9 feet wide is allowed. The vehicle access may serve only the residential uses; access through the setbacks to vehicle areas serving non-residential uses on the site is prohibited.

**D. Radio Frequency Transmission Facilities.** Towers to support Radio Frequency Transmission Facilities are prohibited in the Buffer zone.

**Figure 410-1**  
**Buffer for C Zones**



**Figure 410-2**  
**Buffer in the E and I Zones**



**33.410.080 Off-Site Impacts**

All development in the Buffer zone is subject to the regulations of Chapter 33.262, Off-site Impacts. If the Director of BDS determines that the proposed use or development may not meet the off-site impact standards, the Director of BDS may require the applicant to document that the standards will be met, as stated in 33.262.100, Documentation in Advance.

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*(Amended by: Ord. No. 163697, effective 1/1/91; Ord. No. 170704, effective 1/1/97; Ord. No. 171589, effective 11/1/97; Ord. No. 171718, effective 11/29/97; Ord. No. 174263, effective 4/15/00; Ord. No. 175204, effective 3/1/01; Ord. No. 176469, effective 7/1/02; Ord. No. 177028, effective 12/14/02; Ord. No. 179980, effective 4/22/06; Ord. No. 186639, effective 7/11/14; Ord. No. 187216, effective 7/24/15; Ord. No. 188177, effective 5/24/18; Ord. No. 188958, effective 5/24/18.)*