
CHAPTER 11-5. SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

Sec. 11-5-1. General provisions.

- (A) This Chapter, as amended from time to time may be cited and referred to as the City's subdivision regulations.
- (B) The purposes of these subdivision regulations are to:
 - (1) Promote and protect public health, safety and welfare;
 - (2) Encourage the harmonious, orderly and progressive development of land;
 - (3) Ensure the development of economically sound and compatible neighborhoods;
 - (4) Require the construction of necessary improvements and utilities;
 - (5) Ensure safe and convenient circulation of vehicular and pedestrian traffic;
 - (6) Ensure that parks, open spaces, school sites and land needed for other public purposes are either reserved or dedicated;
 - (7) Ensure development is in accordance with the requirements of the City's Comprehensive Plan as such may be amended from time to time; and
 - (8) Ensure that new development bears its fair share of the costs of providing improvements and services necessitated by, or resulting from, the development of subdivisions.
- (C) References in this Chapter to the term “lot” include, as the context requires, “tracts” or “parcels” of real property, to the extent the same are or can be legally described and capable of individual transfer.

Sec. 11-5-2. Major subdivisions.

- (A) *New Subdivisions.* A subdivision shall be classified as a major subdivision and governed by this Section when an applicant proposes to create four or more new lots; or less than four new lots if not eligible as a minor subdivision in accordance with Section 11-5-3.
- (B) *Resubdivisions or Major Plat Amendments.* Resubdivisions and major plat amendments are reviewed in the same manner as a major subdivision with the same purposes. A major plat amendment is any plat amendment that does not qualify as a minor plat amendment under Section 11-5-3 (C). To the extent submittal information was submitted as part of the original subdivision proposal and is adequate by current standards, the applicant for approval of a resubdivision or major plat amendment does not need to submit the information again and may reference such submittal information in the new application. The City Manager will determine the technical adequacy of previously submitted information.
- (C) *Procedure.* The major subdivision procedure shall consist of three separate phases, sketch plan, preliminary plat and final plat, in accordance with Sections 11-5-4, 11-5-5, and 11-5-6, respectively.

Sec. 11-5-3. Minor subdivisions.

- (A) *New Subdivisions.* A parcel of land is eligible for subdivision through the minor subdivision process if it meets the following criteria:
- (1) The subdivision results in no more than three lots except as permitted within a common interest community subdivision. See Subsection (B) below.
 - (2) All lots are adjacent to a dedicated and accepted public street.
 - (3) The public improvements required by these regulations are:
 - (a) Already in existence and available to serve each lot, or
 - (b) Individual lot service line stub improvements are completed and services are available at each lot, or
 - (c) Only for lots in commercial zoning districts with no existing building on the lot, and such improvements may be deferred until construction of a building on said lot. A Certificate of Occupancy shall not be issued until the improvements required by these regulations for said lot are installed, inspected, and approved by the City. The plans for such improvements shall be reviewed and approved by the City prior to commencement of construction. The plat shall specify what improvements are so required, and may include additional easements, plat notes or restrictions as appropriate to implement these provisions, or
 - (d) For minor subdivisions creating only two lots in which one lot is already devoted to use as a single household dwelling and to which services for that lot are already in place. The remaining lot may not be issued any building or construction permits until the public improvements necessary to serve the same have been installed, inspected and approved by the City, or the lot is approved for further subdivision.
 - (4) Each proposed lot will meet requirements of Chapter 7, Zoning, without the necessity for any variance.
 - (5) No part of the subdivision has been approved as part of a minor subdivision within three years prior to the date of submission of the minor subdivision plat.
 - (6) No material changes to prior plat notes, restrictions or easements are proposed.
- (B) *Common Interest Community Subdivisions.* A common interest community subdivision may be processed as a minor subdivision if all of the following criteria are met:
- (1) Is proposed for development of properties contained within a previously approved and recorded subdivision plat.
 - (2) Meets all applicable conditions of the plat governing the original subdivision.
 - (3) Complies with the required City platting conditions in Subsection (A) above.
 - (4) Complies with the requirements of C.R.S. § 38-33.3-101 et. seq. (sublots and common interest community units are not lots for purposes of compliance with this Section).

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- (5) Is consistent with the representations made by the property owner and/or applicant for subdivision approval which created the lot proposed to be further subdivided as a common interest community subdivision.
 - (6) Results in a change of ownership or marketing regime consistent with the basis upon which creation of the lot being proposed for common interest community subdivision was based.
- (C) *Minor Plat Amendments.* Previously-approved subdivision plats may be amended through the minor subdivision process if they meet the following criteria:
- (1) The plat, as amended, reduces the number of lots within the subdivision, i.e., a lot consolidation; or the nature of the amendment is de minimis, e.g., a boundary line adjustment, lot line correction, duplex conversion, easement adjustment, or similar minor plat modification.
 - (2) All lots are adjacent to a dedicated public street.
 - (3) The lots are part of a subdivision plat which has been approved and/or accepted by the City and recorded in the Montrose County Records.
 - (4) The improvements required by these regulations are already in existence and available to serve each lot, or if not yet constructed, are secured as a part of the original subdivision approval.
 - (5) Each lot will meet requirements of the applicable City zoning regulations without the necessity for any variance. No material changes to prior plat notes, restrictions or easements are proposed.
- (D) *Procedure.* Submittals of sketch plans and preliminary plats are not required for minor subdivisions. The minor subdivision application shall conform to all applicable final plat requirements. All fees related to this Section shall be as set forth in Chapter 3-1 of the City of Montrose Regulations Manual. The final plat for a minor subdivision shall contain certification on forms approved by the City to document approval of the plat.
- (1) The City Manager may either approve, disapprove or conditionally approve the final plat subject to compliance with any minimum design standards; dedication of additional right-of-way, easements, open space or park land; or installation of additional improvements. Final plats shall not be recorded until required public and private improvements are installed and approved by the City.
 - (2) Upon approval by the City land use staff, the plat of the minor subdivision shall be submitted in final form on one reproducible mylar, with all requisite signatures, and also in a digital format acceptable to the City, and compatible with City computer systems.
- (E) *Limitation of Eligibility.* Any subdivision not qualifying as a minor subdivision is a major subdivision. For the purpose of interpreting the requirements of this Section, any proposed minor subdivision which is clearly intended to evade the major subdivision regulations or would result in a de facto major subdivision through the combination of previous contiguous and/or consecutive minor subdivisions is not eligible for minor subdivision. A minor subdivision shall only be used one time on a previously unsubdivided parcel of land.

Sec. 11-5-4. Sketch plan.

- (A) *Purpose.* Sketch plan review provides an opportunity to determine whether an application will comply with the City's subdivision review and approval criteria, and to address any issues of concern early in the review process. The sketch plan is a conceptual version of the preliminary plat showing the general subdivision layout, access, street and lot pattern, location of parks, open space tracts, trail corridors, and other tracts for utilities or services.
- (B) *Review Procedure.* The sketch plan application shall be reviewed by the City in accordance with Section 11-4-2 of this Title. The Planning Commission shall take no formal action at the conclusion of its public hearing on the sketch plan; however, comments by the public and the Commission shall be reflected in the minutes of the hearing as a part of the record on the application as it moves through the entire review process.
- (C) *Review Criteria.* A sketch plan shall comply with the following review criteria:
 - (1) The proposal shall be consistent with the City subdivision and zoning regulations, standards and other applicable ordinances and regulations and will be reviewed, considering the following at a minimum:
 - (a) Relationship of development to topography, soils, drainage, flooding, potential natural hazard areas and other physical characteristics;
 - (b) Availability of water, means of sewage collection and treatment, stormwater drainage, access and other utilities and services;
 - (c) Compatibility with the natural environment, wildlife, vegetation and unique natural features;
 - (d) Adjacent streets and traffic flow, including pedestrian access; and
 - (e) Availability of fire, police and other emergency services protection.
 - (2) An applicant intending to immediately develop only a portion of a full tract shall nevertheless submit an informal sketch plan for the entire tract showing their present plans for its eventual development.

Sec. 11-5-5. Preliminary plat.

- (A) *Purpose.* The purpose of the preliminary plat is to provide the City with an overall master plan for the proposed subdivision. The preliminary plat is more detailed than the sketch plan and should incorporate the comments and guidance provided during the sketch plan process. It includes the layout of the subdivision, engineering design studies, and final engineering design, with all bearings, distances and survey monumentation.
- (B) *Review Procedure.* The preliminary plat application shall be reviewed by the City in accordance with Section 11-4-2 of this Title.
- (C) *Review and Approval Criteria.* A preliminary plat shall comply with the following review and approval criteria:
 - (1) The plat shall be consistent with the City subdivision and zoning regulations, standards and other applicable ordinances and regulations;

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- (2) The plat proposes a harmonious development and lot pattern that is compatible with the neighborhood and community;
 - (3) The lot and development pattern ensures there will be adequate light, air, parks, open space, and other places for public use;
 - (4) The plat design provides for adequate access and efficient emergency response to all lots proposed in the subdivision;
 - (5) Adequate, safe, and efficient public improvements, utilities, and community facilities and services will be provided with sufficient capacity to serve the subdivision;
 - (6) A sufficient supply of water is available and sufficient water rights have been dedicated to the City, in conformance with the City's water standards;
 - (7) The plat design provides for adequate protection from fire, flood, geologic hazards, significant soil constraints, and other dangers, and provides for proper design of stormwater drainage, erosion control, utilities and streets;
 - (8) The plat design provides for compatibility with unique or distinctive natural areas, scenic areas and views, natural landmarks, significant wildlife habitats and migration areas, drainage areas, riparian areas, wetlands, historic features and archaeologically sensitive sites, recognizing the irreplaceable character of such resources and their importance to the quality of life in Montrose; and
 - (9) The preliminary plat and proposed improvements shall comply with all requirements of this Chapter, other applicable City design and construction specifications and standards and all applicable County, State, and Federal Regulations.
- (D) *Notice to Proceed.* No construction of the required subdivision improvements shall commence until approval of the preliminary plat by the City Council and submittal of both a reproducible mylar of the preliminary plat, as finally approved with signed certificates as required by the City, and a copy of the preliminary plat in a digital format acceptable to the City and compatible with City computer systems. Upon approval and submittal of the reproducible mylar of the preliminary plat, and supporting documentation as required, the City shall provide signed copies of the preliminary plat which shall serve as notice to proceed with construction of the required subdivision improvements, both public and private.

Sec. 11-5-6. Final plat.

- (A) *Purpose.* The purpose of the final plat is to complete the subdivision of land in conformance with all the applicable requirements and standards of the City. The final plat shall correspond in every significant respect with the preliminary plat as previously approved. A complete review is conducted of the final subdivision design, with all bearings and distances, survey monumentation, and certificates of approval included on a document suitable for recordation.
- (B) *Review Procedure.* The final plat application shall be reviewed by the City in accordance with Section 11-4-2 of this Title.
- (C) *Review and Approval Criteria.* A final plat shall comply with the following review and approval criteria:

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- (1) The plat shall be consistent with the City subdivision and zoning regulations, standards and other applicable ordinances and regulations;
 - (2) The plat proposes a harmonious development and lot pattern that is compatible with the neighborhood and community;
 - (3) The lot and development pattern ensures there will be adequate light, air, parks, open space, and other places for public use;
 - (4) The plat design provides for adequate access and efficient emergency response to all lots proposed in the subdivision;
 - (5) Adequate, safe, and efficient public improvements, utilities, and community facilities and services will be provided with sufficient capacity to serve the subdivision;
 - (6) A sufficient supply of water is available and sufficient water rights have been dedicated to the City, in conformance with the City's water standards;
 - (7) The plat design provides for adequate protection from fire, flood, geologic hazards, significant soil constraints, and other dangers, and provides for proper design of stormwater drainage, erosion control, utilities and streets;
 - (8) The plat design provides for the preservation and conservation of unique or distinctive natural areas, scenic areas and views, natural landmarks, including rock outcroppings and unique landforms, significant wildlife habitats and migration areas, drainage areas, riparian areas, wetlands, historic features and archaeologically sensitive sites, recognizing the irreplaceable character of such resources and their importance to the quality of life in Montrose; and
 - (9) The final plat is generally consistent with the preliminary plat, as applicable and proposed improvements comply with all requirements of this Chapter, other applicable City design and construction specifications and standards and all applicable County, State, and Federal Regulations.

(D) *Additional Provisions.*

- (1) No land shall be subdivided, or any parcel thereof sold or conveyed, until a final plat has been approved and either a Letter of Substantial Completion or a Preliminary Letter of Infrastructure Completion has been issued in accordance with this Section.
- (2) Any conditions or improvements imposed on the applicant by the City Council under the preliminary plat approval must be shown on the final plat and either completed, or accompanied by the appropriate security under Section 11-5-12, prior to approval by the City Council.
- (3) The final plat may be submitted for a portion of the preliminary plat, or phased, subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) The applicant has submitted a phasing plan that has been approved as a part of the preliminary plat, or if subsequent to that time, as an amendment of the approved preliminary plat.
 - (b) All required improvements, utilities and road infrastructure must be accessible to the remaining aggregate of unsubdivided land, or outlot.

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- (c) In instances where completion of required improvements, utilities or road infrastructure within the outlot is determined by the City to be necessary as a condition of approval of that final plat, the developer shall be required to complete said improvements, utilities or road infrastructure upon approval of that final plat. This may include, but not be limited to, completion of necessary road infrastructure, stormwater drainage system, trails and park development.
 - (4) No final plat shall be approved by the City Council until:
 - (a) All of the public improvements required by these subdivision regulations have been installed, inspected and approved by the City Engineer, or properly secured in accordance with the provisions of Section 11-5-12 on forms approved by the City.
 - (b) As-built plans, supporting documentation, certificates and data for completed utility improvements have been provided, reviewed and accepted by the City Engineer and provided in a digital format acceptable to the City and compatible with City computer systems. All as-built plans, supporting documentation, certificates and data for completed utility and infrastructure improvements shall be signed and stamped by a registered Colorado professional engineer.
 - (c) The final plat has been submitted in final form on reproducible mylars, with all requisite signatures, and also in a digital format acceptable to the City, and compatible with City computer systems.
 - (d) Payment to the City of any atypical costs incurred by the City within the subdivision review process, which costs are specifically subject to reimbursement.
 - (e) The security for the two-calendar year construction warranty has been provided by the subdivider in a form acceptable to the City.
 - (5) Following City Council approval of the final plat and verification that the documentation has met all applicable codes and regulations, the final plat shall be executed by the appropriate City staff and recorded with due diligence.

Sec. 11-5-7. Reserved.

Sec. 11-5-8. Issuance of building permits.

- (A) Until any required public improvements are accepted by the City, the City shall not be obliged to issue any building permits within a subdivision, except as provided herein. Provided that all other applicable City codes and regulations have been satisfied, building permits may be issued only to the subdivider for any property with an approved Preliminary Plat. The subdivision must have sufficient access and water to allow for adequate fire protection as determined by the fire protection district. No certificates of occupancy, temporary or otherwise, shall be issued unless and until:
 - (1) All required public and private on- and off-site improvements have been completed;
 - (2) A Letter of Substantial Completion or a Preliminary Letter of Infrastructure Completion has been issued by the City; and
 - (3) A final plat has been approved and recorded.

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- (B) A Letter of Substantial Completion or a Preliminary Letter of Infrastructure Completion shall evidence City inspection and approval.

Sec. 11-5-9. Land dedication and Fees in Lieu.

(A) *Purpose & Intent.*

- (1) The purpose of the land dedication requirement is to provide public park, open space, trail, and school facilities and/or services made necessary as a consequence of a subdivision, in an amount roughly proportional to the impact of the subdivision upon such facilities and/or services or the increased need for them brought about by a subdivision. New residential subdivisions require these services provided through municipal facilities which are constructed, in part, through dedication of land necessary to construct the facilities. Absent land dedication by new subdivisions, sufficient land may not be made available at the time of subdivision to provide necessary services to new residents. In order to provide public services, the City requires certain dedications of land or in the appropriate circumstances, payment of fees-in-lieu of such dedication.
- (2) It is the intent of this Section to preserve natural and scenic areas and provide for the public health, recreational, and educational needs by ensuring that school, recreational, and open space land and trails are available to the residents and/or employees of developments in conformance with the City's Comprehensive Plan as updated from time to time.

(B) *Dedication procedure.*

- (1) The amount, location, and nature of land interests to be dedicated shall be established prior to final subdivision plat approval. Land dedications and/or conveyances shall be made as a condition of final plat approval and shall be implemented in one or more of the following ways, as appropriate and as provided in the final plat approval:
 - (a) A fee simple dedication to the City granted via plat note on the final plat;
 - (b) A fee simple conveyance to the City granted via general warranty deed;
 - (c) A fee simple dedication to the school district of a school site via plat note on the final plat;
 - (d) A fee simple conveyance to the school district via general warranty deed; and/or
 - (e) Payment of fees-in-lieu of land dedications where permitted and approved by the City.
- (2) Whenever a subdivision application involves land that is to be dedicated and/or conveyed to the City, the applicant shall submit, with the final plat application, a title insurance commitment indicating the land is owned by the applicant free and clear from all liens, encumbrances and restrictions.
 - (a) Title insurance shall be provided by the applicant in an amount equal to the approximate value of the property to be dedicated and/or conveyed, as approved by the City.

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- (b) The executed deed, if applicable, and the payment of the premium for the title insurance policy shall be delivered to the City prior to the recording of the final plat.

(C) *Land dedication standards.*

- (1) *General Requirements.* Every approved subdivision shall convey land for the purpose of providing parks, open space, trails, school sites, and other public uses. The standards herein are minimum standards and the City may require dedications and improvements greater than the minimum to adequately meet the needs created by the development.
 - (a) The City Council shall determine the suitability of the land and improvements proposed for dedication in consideration of the intended purpose of the dedication.
 - (b) The City may consider recommendations from other agencies which would be directly involved in the development and service of those areas.
 - (c) Parks, open space, and trails shall be dedicated to the City in conformance with the requirements herein and the adopted standards of the City Comprehensive Plan as may be updated from time to time.
 - (d) Parks, open space and trails shall be situated within floodplains instead of developed lots when reasonable to do so.
- (2) *Improvement Required.* Any land to be dedicated to the City shall be improved by the developer per the timetable specified at time of final plat subdivision approval for use as park, open space, and/or trails.

(D) *Park Land Standards.* Dedication of land for park purposes shall be based upon the following standards. In the event the subdivider disagrees with the calculation provided by the City, the subdivider may request continuation of final plat review and fund an independent study under Section 11-5-9 (I):

- (1) Subdividers shall dedicate to the City developed park land based upon a formula of seven acres of developed and usable park land per density of 1,000 residents, calculated at build-out of the proposed subdivision. For the purpose of this calculation, it shall be assumed that each residential unit shall house an average of two and one-half residents.
- (2) Those developments that dedicate adequate quantities and qualities of park land acceptable to the City, in the City's sole discretion, shall not be required to pay the money in lieu of park land dedication. Only park land dedicated to the City of Montrose, and approved by the City, in the City's sole discretion, that meets the City's Comprehensive Plan, the minimum design standards as set forth herein, and that is improved to meet the City's park standards and specifications, shall qualify to relieve the subdivider of payment of money in lieu of park land dedication.
- (3) Developed park land proposed for dedication or conveyance to the City shall require prior submittal and approval of a park plan by the City, which plan shall address the City's park standards and specifications.
- (4) When authorized by the City, the required dedication of developed park land may be partially or wholly substituted by alternative dedication and/or preservation of open space

areas such as riparian habitat, wetlands habitat, wildlife habitat and view corridors as approved by the City.

- (5) Parks that are sized, developed, and located to meet the needs of the City and constructed in accordance with City standards and specifications may be dedicated to the City, and if so dedicated, shall be available for use by the public.

(E) *Trail and Sidewalk Standards.*

- (1) Trails shall be dedicated as needed to serve the recreational and transportation needs of the subdivision in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan, and shall provide links to schools, the local and regional trail system, parks and open space areas, commercial and employment areas, public transit, community facilities such as libraries, and other destinations. Trails should be provided adjacent to or within natural and scenic areas and open space areas, when possible, in a manner that provides a recreational corridor without degrading the natural or scenic resource.
- (2) Sidewalks and recreation trails shall be integrated with existing and planned sidewalks and recreation trails in accordance with the City's Comprehensive Plan. The owner of each project shall dedicate the appropriate easements and/or rights-of-way consistent with said plans.
- (3) All sidewalk and recreational trails shall be available for use by the public.

(F) *Open Space and Watercourse Standards.*

- (1) If required by the City, open space shall be dedicated as necessary to preserve significant natural areas such as buttes, bluffs, and other geologic formations, water bodies/resources, wildlife habitat areas, fragile ecosystems (wetlands) riparian areas, floodplains, native trees and shrubs and/or other significant native vegetation. Open space shall also be dedicated as necessary to preserve lands which preserve significant views, provide transitions between different densities and uses (buffers) and otherwise serve to give shape and form to the proposed development and surrounding community.
- (2) Public access is not required for open space dedications.
- (3) Natural watercourses may be developed and preserved consistent with City floodplain management regulations, Storm Drainage Requirements and Federal Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit requirements, to minimize safety, environmental, and other hazards, and shall be integrated with the City's Comprehensive Plan for such watercourses whenever feasible.

(G) *Fees in Lieu of Dedication.*

- (1) In the event the dedication of required park land is not deemed suitable or not in the public interest within the development, the City Manager is hereby authorized to require the applicant, in-lieu thereof, to pay the City a fee-in-lieu-of land based on the amount of required land dedication as calculated in Section 11-5-9 (D) above, and pro-rated using the average value of land in the City plus the cost per acre of constructing the improvements for that type of facility. Such fee may be updated from time to time to reflect current market land values and costs of the improvements and shall be adopted by Resolution and included in the City's fee schedule.

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- (2) Alternatively, and if approved by the City Manager, the subdivider may develop or contribute to the improvement of an off-site facility if said facility conforms to the adopted standards in the Comprehensive Plan. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent the City Manager from requiring that part of the park land dedication requirement be made in the form of dedicated land, and that part of such requirement be made in the form of cash in-lieu of the remaining requirements for such land.
 - (3) When in-lieu payments are permitted, the following standards apply:
 - (a) Lot or Unit x 0.0175 (acres park land per lot or unit) x \$90,000.00 (value per developed park land acre, based upon \$25,000.00 per acre undeveloped land value plus \$65,000.00 park land development cost) = \$1,575.00 per lot or unit.
 - (b) Monies collected in lieu of park land dedication shall be collected at time of issuance of building permit, and placed into a City park development fund to be earmarked for future acquisition or development of parks, opens space, or trails. No security as set forth in Section 11-5-12 shall be required.
 - (4) Monies paid in lieu of park land dedication pursuant to this Section are to enable the City to provide parks in the proper locations, and of the proper sizes to serve the citizens of the City.

(H) *Relationship to useable open space.*

- (1) Useable open space, as defined in Section 11-15-2 of this Title, shall not be a substitute for the dedication of park land, or money in lieu of park land dedication.
- (2) All non-public common areas, parks and open spaces shall be held in private ownership and maintained in perpetuity, with appropriate platted restrictions on use and covenants for ownership and maintenance in accordance with the provisions of Section 11-5-11 (B).
- (3) For useable open space within Planned Developments, see Sec. 11-7-8 (B) (2).

(I) *Site specific dedication study.*

- (1) In the event that the applicant disagrees with the City's determination concerning dedication of land and/or payment in lieu of dedication, the applicant may request a continuation of any subdivision processing and review by the City, in order for the applicant to prepare a private study evaluating the demand for public facilities made necessary or generated by the proposed development. Upon receipt by the City of the applicant-funded study, the subdivision review process shall recommence.
- (2) Such study shall be undertaken at the applicant's cost by a licensed professional engineer or other professional approved in advance by the City.
- (3) To the greatest extent possible, the study shall include an evaluation of the City's present supply or capacity and present demand for all public facilities and/or services required by the proposed development.
- (4) The study shall identify and quantify the additional demand placed upon such public facilities and/or services by the proposed development.

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- (5) The study shall identify the necessary public land and improvements required to be dedicated or constructed by the applicant in order to serve the demand generated by the proposed development.

- (6) Such study shall be considered by the City in determining the required dedication of land.

(J) *School land dedication requirements.*

- (1) Based upon conversations with both the City staff and School District staff during the pre-application phase of any project at the time of filing a sketch plan or preliminary plat for approval, the applicant shall, as part of such filing, either:
 - (a) Designate the general area or areas the applicant proposes to set aside for school site(s) and shall indicate the number of acres proposed for such uses and the number of proposed dwelling units in the development; or
 - (b) Agree to make payment of cash-in-lieu of land in an amount as set forth in Chapter 3-1 of the City of Montrose Regulations Manual; or
 - (c) Request waiver of the requirement to provide for school land dedication or payment in lieu, per Section 11-5-9 (K) below.
- (2) The preliminary plat and final plat of a proposed subdivision shall designate specific areas proposed for use as school sites, the number of acres so designated, and the proposed number of lots by dwelling unit type in the subdivision; or, the waiver of this requirement and agreement to provide cash in-lieu-of land; or a plat note indicating that no children will be generated by the development.
- (3) School sites dedicated through this procedure shall conform to the school site size requirements and site criteria policy adopted by the School District and incorporated herein by this reference.
- (4) *Determination of School Land Dedication.* If the City Council determines that the dedication of land for school purposes is appropriate, then the applicant shall convey the property and all improvements located thereon in the manner permitted by Section 11-5-9 (B) to the School District at the time of recording of the final plat.
- (5) *Fees in-Lieu of Land or Guarantee of Future Land Dedication.* When, after recommendation of the School District, dedication of all or portions of required school lands is not deemed feasible or in the public interest, in that event the City Council shall require the payment of fees in-lieu thereof.
- (6) Monies collected in lieu of school land dedication shall be collected at time of issuance of building permit (or Certificate of Occupancy for those buildings commenced prior to final plat approval) and disbursed to the School District on a quarterly basis. No security as set forth in Section 11-5-12 shall be required.
- (7) The following shall be exempted from school land dedication requirements or payment-in-lieu-of fees:
 - (a) Skilled nursing facilities as defined in the Section 11-15-2 of this Title;
 - (b) City-approved subdivisions that are subject to recorded covenants restricting the age of the residents of said dwelling units such that the dwelling may be classified

as housing for older persons pursuant to the Federal Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988.

(K) *Waiver of Requirements.*

- (1) The City Council may waive the required dedication of land or the payment in lieu of dedication of open space, parks, trails and/or school lands in the following cases:
 - (a) When the project has already been fully developed and the subdivision of land is necessary to bring the land into conformance with the as-built or as-constructed development;
 - (b) When the development does not result in any increase in demand for parks, trails, or open space; or
 - (c) With respect to school land dedication, the School District approves a waiver request under Section 11-5-9 (J).

Sec. 11-5-10. Required Public Improvements.

- (A) All subdivisions shall be provided, at the expense of the subdivider, and subject to applicable zoning criteria, with the following public improvements as required to serve the subdivision and to mitigate its impacts.

- (1) Street improvements:
 - (a) Paved streets;
 - (b) Paved alleys, if required by the City;
 - (c) Street signs;
 - (d) Street lights; and
 - (e) On- and off-site traffic mitigation improvements as identified in the subdivision's Traffic Impact Study as necessary to safely support the development.
- (2) Curbs, gutters, sidewalks and accessibility ramps.
- (3) Parks, open space and recreation trails.
- (4) Public utilities:
 - (a) A water system including fire hydrants and fire mains;
 - (b) A sanitary sewer system;
 - (c) A stormwater system; and
 - (d) Other public utilities, including gas, electricity, and a minimum of three conduits for telecommunications.
- (5) Drainage facilities and waterways.
- (6) Survey monuments.
- (7) As applicable, off-street parking, mailbox location areas and bus stops with accessibility ramps.

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- (B) Other improvements required as a condition of approval and found to be roughly proportional to the impacts being mitigated. All public improvements shall be subject to applicable City minimum design standards, regulations and specifications.
 - (C) Public improvements shall be secured by warranty and security instruments as required by Section 11-5-12.

Sec. 11-5-11. Private improvements.

- (A) The subdivider may provide, or may be required to provide as a condition of certain private improvements, as specifically referenced below, to serve the subdivision and to mitigate its impacts, and in accordance with duly adopted City standards, if applicable, to include:
 - (1) Recreational facilities, parks, open space and trails;
 - (2) Drainage facilities and waterways;
 - (3) Mailbox location areas;
 - (4) Berms, screening and buffers; and
 - (5) Other private improvements required as a condition of approval.
- (B) Such improvements shall be privately-owned and/or -maintained, and the plat shall contain appropriate restrictions and/or covenants, in form approved by the City Attorney, governing use, ownership and maintenance in perpetuity enforceable by the City, providing for recovery of the City's costs by liens or assessment against the property in the subdivision. Such improvements shall be completed prior to issuance of building permits pursuant to Section 11-5-8.

Sec. 11-5-12. Security, warranty and acceptance of improvements.

- (A) If the subdivider wishes to have the final plat approved prior to the installation, inspection and approval of all required improvements, the subdivider must provide security incorporated into a subdivision improvement agreement to guarantee the completion of all required improvements within one year, and all landscaping improvements within two calendar years after approval of the final plat in accordance with this Section.
 - (1) Said security shall be in the form of:
 - (a) A subdivision improvements agreement, in a form approved by the City Attorney, in an amount to be verified by the City Engineer equal to 150 percent of the pro rata cost to complete the improvements necessary to serve said lots; or
 - (b) A cash escrow deposited with the City or a clear irrevocable letter of credit in an amount to be verified by the City Engineer equal to 150 percent of the pro rata cost to complete the improvements necessary to serve said lots.
 - (2) Funds in any escrow account shall be returned to the subdivider upon the issuance of either a Letter of Substantial Completion or a Preliminary Letter of Infrastructure Completion, depending on the circumstances.
 - (3) Security shall not be required for money in lieu of payments relative to park land and school land dedications provided in Section 11-5-9 (D) and (J), as such money

payments shall be collected upon issuance of building permits relative to subdivided lots or units.

- (4) Even though a final plat will have been recorded, when a subdivider chooses to secure required improvements with a subdivision improvement agreement, as a part of that agreement, the subdivider shall agree not to sell, transfer, offer for sale or otherwise convey any portion of the property, including lot, unit or outlot, prior to the issuance of a Letter of Substantial Completion or a Preliminary Letter of Infrastructure Completion, depending on the circumstances. A sale or other transfer of the entire subdivision is permitted once the purchaser has provided the necessary security.
- (B) The subdivider shall complete all required improvements within one year, and all landscaping improvements within two calendar years of the approval of the final plat by the City Council. In the event that all necessary on- and off-site improvements are not completed, inspected and approved within two calendar years of the date of the approval of the final plat by the City Council, no further building permits, occupancy permits, water taps or sewer taps shall be allowed by the City in such subdivision until such improvements are completed. It shall then be unlawful to sell any further lots in the subdivision until all necessary on- and off-site improvements are completed.
- (C) The City Council may authorize extensions of time to complete all improvements beyond the one and two-year limitations as set forth herein.
- (D) Following the completion of required improvements and submission of the as-built plans, the City Engineer shall conduct an inspection and if the improvements are in accordance with the requirements of these and other applicable regulations and good engineering and construction standards, shall issue a Preliminary Letter of Infrastructure Completion as provided herein.
 - (1) A Letter of Substantial Completion may be issued when only landscaping and irrigation facilities are incomplete and secured as provided in Subsection 11-5-12 (A) of this Section.
 - (a) In the case of subdivisions that have been issued a Letter of Substantial Completion, upon completion of the outstanding improvements and submission of the as-built plans therefor; the City Engineer shall conduct an inspection and shall issue a Preliminary Letter of Infrastructure Completion, if all required improvements are in accordance with the requirements of these and other applicable codes and regulations and good engineering and construction standards.
 - (2) The subdivider shall warrant the public improvements against defects or failures in workmanship or materials for a period of two calendar years from the date of the Preliminary Letter of Infrastructure Completion. During this two-calendar-year construction warranty period, the City will, as applicable, assume the responsibility for snow removal within public rights of way in regard thereto, but the subdivider shall remain responsible for all other maintenance and to correct all defects or failures that appear in any such public improvements during the construction warranty period.
 - (a) The City shall determine what constitutes a defect or failure in its sole discretion, provided that such are not the result of public abuse, misuse or normal wear from

use. The City Engineer shall notify the subdivider in writing of such defect or failure, setting forth a list of specific deficiencies. If within 30 days after the City has notified the subdivider of a defect or failure, the subdivider has not started or completed the required repairs, provided construction drawings and a proposed repair schedule for City review and approval, or submitted a written objection to the to the City's request for repair work, the City is hereby authorized to make the repairs or replacements or to order the work be done by a third party. The City may authorize a temporary repair if necessary due to weather conditions or materials availability. The subdivider shall pay the cost of any repair work. Any appeal of the City Engineer's repair or replacement requirements shall follow the appeal process pursuant to Chapter 4-1-6 of the City Code.

- (b) At the end of the warranty period, the subdivider shall request, in writing, that the City Engineer perform a final inspection of the improvements to facilitate the completion of the construction warranty.
 - (i) The City Engineer shall conduct an inspection of all public improvements, and upon final approval, as evidenced by the City's issuance of a Letter of Infrastructure Completion and Acceptance, the City shall accept the improvements, and the security held by the City shall be returned to the subdivider.
 - (ii) All public improvements, including all physical facilities constructed by the subdivider necessary for the extension, maintenance and repair of municipal utility services and other public facilities constructed by the subdivider in public rights-of-way, easements, streets or alleys shall become the property of the City immediately upon the issuance of the Letter of Infrastructure Completion and Acceptance by the City Engineer.
 - (iii) Following such conveyance, the City shall be solely responsible for the maintenance of such public improvements, unless otherwise provided for by agreement, except for any correction work required during the warranty period.
- (c) Any repairs or replacements noted in the final inspection shall be completed prior to the issuance of the Letter of Infrastructure Completion and Acceptance.
 - (i) Upon notification, the subdivider shall promptly make all repairs or replacements in accordance with a repair plan prepared by the subdivider and approved by the City, which repair or replacement, in the opinion of the City, arose out of defects or failures and became necessary during the construction warranty period.
 - (ii) The subdivider shall warrant each repaired and/or replaced improvement or any portion or phase thereof for one calendar year following acceptance of such repair and/or replacement.
 - (iii) Inspection of any improvements does not constitute a waiver by the City of any rights or remedies that it may have on account of any defect in or failure of the improvements that are detected. The construction warranty shall

continue until the Letter of Infrastructure Completion and Acceptance is provided in writing to the subdivider.

- (3) The subdivider may, at the subdivider's option, provide the City financial security for the two-calendar year construction warranty in one or a combination of the following forms only:
- (a) A cash escrow in the amount of 15 percent of the total construction cost of all public improvements required by the final plat.
 - (b) A letter or letters of credit on forms acceptable to the City, in the amount of 15 percent of the total construction cost of all public improvements required by the final plat.
 - (c) It is the responsibility of the subdivider to maintain the necessary amount of security at all times until all public improvements are completed and accepted by the City.
 - (d) The City shall not be obligated to administer burdensome security arrangements.
 - (e) The City shall require a construction warranty backed by financial security prior to issuance of a Preliminary Letter of Infrastructure Completion.
 - (f) The security shall be available for the City to use to correct any defects or failures in accordance with City specifications during or after the construction warranty period in the event the subdivider is unable or unwilling to perform any repair or replacement of the improvements in a timely fashion. The use of the proceeds from the security is a remedy that is cumulative in nature and is in addition to any other remedies that the City has at law or in equity.

Sec. 11-5-13. Minimum design standards.

(A) *Minimum Standards, Conformity to Preliminary Plat, and Approval Required.* All public improvements shall be constructed in accordance with the minimum standards set forth below or other applicable City design and construction specifications and standards, and other applicable City ordinances or regulations. All public and private improvements shall be in substantial conformity with the preliminary plat as approved, the City Comprehensive Plan and amendments thereto, and in accordance with good engineering and construction practices. All plans must be approved in advance by the City Engineer.

(B) *Minimum Standards.*

(1) *Streets.*

- (a) Subdivider shall be required to make and install improvements to existing streets within and abutting the subdivision and/or other areas outside the subdivision or any filing thereof being considered, including, but not limited to, curbs, gutters, sidewalks and street paving improvements, when the subdivision and developments thereof will directly create a need for said improvements outside the subdivision itself, if necessary to properly serve the subdivision.
- (b) In those cases where the City determines that the immediate improvement of the abutting street, or other on-site or off-site improvements, is not currently practical,

or should be delayed, or the costs of such improvements should be shared with additional property likely to use and be benefited by the improvements, the developer may be allowed to execute recordable covenants on the plat or separately in a form provided by the City, binding the lots in the subdivision to future assessments or participation in an improvement district for the construction of such improvements.

- (c) Wherever topography will permit, the arrangement of the streets shall provide for the dedication and construction of street stubs to align with existing or future streets to adjoining developing or developable areas.
- (d) Cul-de-sacs shall terminate in a circular turn-around having a minimum right-of-way of at least 100 feet in diameter, and a paved turn-around with a minimum outside diameter of 80 feet. Cul-de-sacs shall be not less than 100 feet long, and not more than 500 feet long, as measured from the center of the cul-de-sac bulb to the center of the intersecting street; use of cul-de-sacs is limited to places where street connections would be impractical.
 - (i) Cul-de-sacs longer than 300 feet shall require a recreation trail connection at the end that provides connectivity to the nearest City street.
- (e) Temporary dead-end streets which extend for a distance greater than the depth of one abutting lot shall be provided with a temporary turn-around having a diameter of at least 80 feet.
- (f) Whenever a new street is proposed along the edge of the subdivision, the entire street shall be dedicated and improved within the subdivision.
- (g) No more than two streets shall intersect at any point. Intersections shall be as near as practicable to 90 degrees. A street shall have a minimum straight distance of 100 feet from the intersection before it may be curved.
- (h) A straight section of 100 feet shall be provided between reverse curves on all streets.
- (i) All lots in the subdivision shall have direct access to a dedicated street, subject to the following exceptions:
 - (i) One or more private shared access drives may be used to provide access for up to no more than four dwelling units each, subject to City Manager approval, in residential zoning districts. Shared access drives shall not be used as an extension of a cul-de-sac.
 - (ii) Reciprocal access easements may be approved to accommodate subdivisions with multiple commercial units sharing a contiguous parking area in commercial zoning districts.
- (j) Any two local streets which intersect a common third local or collector street shall have centerlines no closer than 175 feet from one another. Any two local streets which intersect a common third minor arterial or major arterial street, shall have centerlines no closer than 350 feet from one another.

- (i) The City may limit access to major arterial or minor arterial streets to facilitate traffic flows, or to promote public safety.
- (k) The maximum block length, as measured from the centerline of the nearest intersecting streets, shall be a maximum of 700 feet.
- (l) Street names must be approved by the City and respective 911 authority.
- (m) Streets shall be developed in accordance with the City's Comprehensive Plan roadway cross sections, the City's engineering specifications, as applicable, and the table below. The minimum dedicated rights-of-way and street widths shall be as shown in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1
Minimum Dedicated Rights-Of-Way and Street Widths

Street Classification	Minimum Right-of-Way	Minimum Street Width Urban = Width (Distance Between Curb Flowlines)
Major Arterial	124 feet *	92 feet
Minor Arterial	80 feet *	Varies with traffic volume and whether parking is allowed, see engineering specifications for road widths
Collector	70 feet	46 feet
Local	50 feet	28 feet with detached 5-foot sidewalk; 36 feet with attached 6-foot sidewalk
Planned Developments	40 feet	27 feet with attached 6-foot sidewalks. Supplemental off-street parking may be required.
* ROW width shall be increased by 12 feet within 500 feet of an arterial cross street intersection to allow a double left turn lane.		

- (n) Subdivisions which include any part of an existing platted street which does not conform to the minimum right-of-way requirements of these regulations may be required to provide additional width necessary to meet the minimum right-of-way requirements of these regulations.
- (o) No street grade shall be less than one-half of one percent or exceed the maximum grade shown in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2
Maximum Street Grade

Street Classification	Maximum Percent Grade	Minimum Radius of Curve	Minimum Sight Distance*
Major Arterial	5 percent	400 feet	500 feet
Minor Arterial	5 percent	400 feet	500 feet
Collector	8 percent	300 feet	300 feet
Local	8 percent	100 feet	200 feet
* As measured between points four feet above the centerline of the street.			

- (p) Alleys shall be provided at the rear of lots within the commercial zoning districts, or as otherwise approved by the City. Alleys shall be 20 feet in width and shall be paved in accordance with City specifications.
- (2) *Curb, Gutter, Sidewalks and Trails.*
- (a) Curb, gutter, and sidewalks or recreation trails shall be provided along all roadways consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- (i) Six-foot detached concrete sidewalks are required on collector streets.
 - (ii) Five-foot detached or six-foot attached concrete sidewalks are required for local streets.
 - (iii) A 10-foot-wide concrete recreation trail on one side and 6-foot detached concrete sidewalk are required on the other side of major and minor arterial roadways, as directed by the City.
 - (iv) Recreation trails with alternative non-hard surfaces and narrower widths may be approved in those instances where such trails are secondary to existing or proposed concrete recreation trails, and do not serve as connectors to the City's recreation trail system, as denoted within the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- (b) Sidewalks shall be located and constructed as necessary to interconnect the subdivision and lots therein with the network of City sidewalks and recreation trails.
- (c) Accessibility ramps shall be provided in accordance with the US Access Board Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG).
- (d) The City may elect to require over-sizing of any sidewalk and participate in cost sharing thereof.
- (e) The City may require any sidewalk to be wider than those standards set forth herein, upon a finding that such greater widths are necessary to serve the subdivision, due to:
- (i) High density of the subdivision;
 - (ii) Special needs of the residents of the subdivision; or

(iii) Connection to existing wider sidewalks or recreation trails.

(3) *Blocks and Lots.*

- (a) In residentially zoned districts, blocks shall be wide enough to permit two lots between lengthwise streets.
- (b) The building line for residential lots on collector streets shall be set back 25 feet from the front property line.
- (c) The building line on corner lots shall be set back 25 feet from both street front property lines.
- (d) Lots which abut a street in the front and the rear shall be avoided except where a railroad right-of-way, a major arterial or minor arterial street is located to the rear of the lot, in which case such a lot shall have a minimum depth of 125 feet.
- (e) Every lot shall front on a designated collector or local street, subject however, to the following exceptions:
 - (i) One or more private shared access drives may be used to provide access up to no more than four dwelling units each, subject to City approval, in residential zoning districts. Shared access drives shall not be used as an extension of a cul-de-sac.
 - (ii) Private access easements may be provided, subject to City approval, in subdivisions within commercial zoning districts across parking lot areas;
 - (iii) In such instances, the shared access improvements shall be subject to City specifications and the restrictions set forth in Section 11-5-11 (B).
- (f) No residential lot shall front on a major arterial or minor arterial street. No access shall be permitted directly from a residential lot to a major arterial or minor arterial street.
- (g) The lot depth shall not be more than three times the lot width at the front of the building line of the principal structure.
- (h) Access drives and intersections shall comply with City access standards and the transportation plan. In addition, accesses onto County roads shall comply with applicable County regulations.
- (i) Lots shall be at least 50 feet in width at the front of the building line of the principal structure. Lots abutting cul-de-sacs shall have at least 25 feet of linear frontage to the cul-de-sac.
- (j) Sight triangles shall be shown on the plat as per the engineering specifications.

(4) *Public Utilities.*

- (a) All utilities shall be installed underground unless the City Engineer determines that soil or topographic conditions make that impracticable.
- (b) Utilities shall be installed prior to the paving of any street under which they are to be located and the individual service lines shall be connected and stubbed out

prior to paving, in order to avoid the necessity of cutting into the pavement to connect any abutting lots.

- (c) Utilities will be sized and placed as necessary to facilitate connection with future subdivisions and developments. With the exception of terminal lines and fire hydrant laterals where sufficient hydraulic capacity can be demonstrated, all water mains shall be a minimum eight inches diameter in all zoning districts. At a minimum, eight-inch diameter sewer main lines shall be provided in all zoning districts. Individually conveyable lots shall each require a singular water and sewer lateral connection to a public main line.
- (d) The City may elect to require over-sizing of the extended utility and pay for the cost of such materials accordingly.
- (e) City water and sewer systems shall be provided except where the City has required an alternative supplier by service area agreement with such alternative provider. In cases where alternative utilities are provided on a temporary basis, connection to City services shall be required at such time they are made available to the subject property.
- (f) In the event that City sewer service will not be available within a reasonable time period following final plat approval, engineered individual sewage disposal systems may be authorized by the City for those subdivisions occurring within the residential rural living zoning districts with lot sizes of five acres or greater. Advance City approval shall be required in each case.
- (g) All extension of City utilities shall require City approval and proper execution of City utility extension agreements. The extension of utilities shall be at the sole expense of the subdivider.
- (h) Prior to any installation or construction of utility extensions, the subdivider shall first submit proposed alignment location maps and engineered drawings for City approval. The subdivider shall acquire all necessary easements for the proposed utility location from all affected properties. The easements shall be conveyed to the City and executed on applicable City forms.
- (i) All utility extensions shall be subject to City inspection and approval.
- (j) All utility main line extensions, once approved by the City, shall be dedicated to the City with applicable utility easements. As-built plans and data shall be provided on hard copy in accordance with these provisions and in a digital format compatible with City computer systems.
- (k) Following the completion of any utility extension and submission of the as-built plans, the City Engineer shall conduct an inspection, and if the improvements are in accordance with the requirements of these and other applicable regulations and good engineering and construction standards, shall issue a Preliminary Letter of Infrastructure Completion.
 - (i) For a period of two calendar years thereafter, the subdivider shall be responsible for correcting all defects or failures that appear in such improvements.

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- (ii) At the completion of this two-calendar-year construction warranty period, upon written request from the subdivider, all public and necessary on- and off-site improvements shall again be inspected by the City Engineer, and upon final approval, may be accepted by the City, as evidenced by issuance of a Letter of Infrastructure Completion and Acceptance. The provisions set forth in Section 11-5-12 (D) shall apply to improvements and construction covered by this Section.
- (5) *Piped Drainage Facilities and Waterways.*
- (a) Stormwater discharge improvements shall be engineered and approved in accordance with City specifications. stormwater retention on site shall be discouraged. When feasible to do so and when requested by the City Engineer, all ditches shall be piped and subject to platted easements to be dedicated either to the City or to the applicable owner of the ditch facilities. The City may elect to allow the location of piped ditch facilities within its rights-of-way at its discretion. Perpetual maintenance shall be provided pursuant to plat notes and/or City-approved covenants.
 - (b) Permission shall be acquired, in writing, from all applicable owners of ditch facilities prior to improvements thereto.
 - (c) No discharges of urban stormwater into any irrigation supply facilities shall be allowed. No discharges of urban stormwater into agricultural drainage ditch facilities shall be allowed, unless approved in writing by the owning interest in said drainage facilities.
- (6) *Monuments.* Monument quantity, type, and location shall be established and set in accordance with to Section 38-51-105, Colorado Revised Statutes, as amended from time to time.
- (7) *Street Lights.*
- (a) In all subdivisions, except for residential zoned rural living and estate subdivisions, streetlights shall be provided at all intersections.
 - (b) In residential rural living zoning districts and estate subdivisions, street lights shall only be required at street intersections with major or minor arterials.
 - (c) All streetlights shall conform to City standards and specifications, and with Chapter 11-9 of this Title.
- (8) *Outdoor Lighting.* All outdoor and exterior lighting shall conform with Chapter 11-9 of this Title.
- (9) *Flood Hazard Prevention.* All subdivision proposals shall conform to the flood hazard reduction standards in Section 11-6-5 (G) of this Title.
- (10) *Nonfunctional turf, artificial turf, or invasive plant species.* On and after January 1, 2026, no subdivision approved under this Chapter shall permit the installation, planting, or placing of any nonfunctional turf, artificial turf, or invasive plant species as a public or private improvement within the subdivision, except for residential property or as otherwise permitted by CRS 37-99-101, et. seq.

Sec. 11-5-14. Deviations from standards.

The Planning Commission may recommend to the City Council a deviation from the standards of Section 11-5-13 during preliminary or final plat review, if one or more of the below criteria are met. The City Council may accept or deny the recommendation accordingly.

- (1) Unusual topography or a non-financial hardship exists;
- (2) Alternative standards will more effectively protect the quality of the subdivision and the public welfare and more effectively achieve the purposes of these regulations;
- (3) Alternative standards will more effectively implement provisions of the City's Comprehensive Plan; or
- (4) Alternative standards will more effectively conform to existing improvements within the subdivision, which existing improvements have been previously approved by either the City or the County of Montrose in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.