



REVIEW AND PERMITTING PROCESSES

Zoning Map Amendments (Conditional Rezoning)

This process overview is intended to provide general guidance for the conditional zoning map amendment process (commonly known as “conditional rezoning”). A conditional rezoning is when an applicant requests a subject property to be rezoned from its existing zoning designation to a unique zoning district with an applicant’s self-imposed standards and conditions, subject to the approval of the governing board.

To initiate a zoning map amendment request, contact the Department of Community Development at 919-718-4657 or zoning@sanfordnc.net.

The Community Development Dept. also offers a [comprehensive resource guide](#) for developers and design professionals.

Step 1 – Pre-Application Conference (OPTIONAL)

- This is an opportunity for developers and applicants to meet with Zoning & Design Review staff to discuss review processes, annexation and rezoning requirements, and other details of the proposal.
- This step can be waived at the developer’s request, but is always recommended for design professionals new to the Sanford/Lee County area.
- More information about pre-application meetings can be found [here](#).

Step 2 – Conceptual TRC (Technical Review Committee) Review

- Typically, applicants are unwilling to commit to investing time and money into a civil engineered site plan without some assurances that their proposal will be approved by a governing board. Thus, a **TRC Concept Review** is acceptable for an initial site plan review for projects requiring a **conditional rezoning request**.
- The conceptual site plan should require basic submittal criteria as detailed in the [Concept Review Checklist](#).
- There is no fee for a conceptual TRC review.
- TRC applications are typically due on the 1st business day of each month.
- The TRC typically meets on the last Thursday of each month.
- [TRC conceptual review applications](#) and site plans can be submitted via email to trc@sanfordnc.net.
- Comments from the TRC review are provided to the applicant within two weeks of the meeting.
- The level of detail to which an applicant is willing to commit at this point will determine if their conditional rezoning request will need to be **further amended** with a **second review** by the Sanford Planning Board and Sanford City Council.



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- Applicants have the option of *first* establishing general details for their conditional zoning district such as permitted land uses and maximum densities and then, if the initial rezoning is approved, further amending the conditional rezoning (see Step 6) with greater specificity, such as a detailed lot or building layout, street or driveway network, landscaping plan, architectural standards, and other information.

Step 3 – Neighborhood Meeting

- Applicants for a rezoning *or* conditional rezoning request must conduct at least one (1) neighborhood meeting at least 25 days prior to the public hearing date set for the rezoning request.
- Neighborhood meetings are the sole responsibility of the applicant for the rezoning request.
- Comprehensive instructions for holding Neighborhood Meetings are available on the [Community Development Dept.'s webpage](#).

Step 4 – Zoning Map Amendment Application Submittal

- Submit a [Conditional Zoning Map Amendment \(Conditional Rezoning\) Application](#) along with the associated fee of \$750 to Zoning & Design Review staff
- Rezoning applications are due on the 1st of the month (or, if the month begins on a weekend/holiday, the business day prior to the 1st of the month) at 12:00PM
 - Please note that all submittals must be delivered to the Planning Department by mail or in-person
 - **Late or incomplete submittals will not be accepted**
- Applications received on the first of any given month will be placed on the following month's Planning Board agenda
 - For example, applications received by the first of June will be placed on the July agenda.

Step 5 – City of Sanford Planning Board Meeting

- The Sanford Planning Board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month
- This meeting is held jointly with Sanford City Council.
- North Carolina statutes require that all rezoning requests allow for a public hearing.
- Zoning & Design Review staff present the rezoning request before both Sanford City Council and the Sanford Planning Board



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- The Sanford Planning Board will relocate to a separate room, away from City Council, to review the rezoning request and make a **recommendation** for **or** against the rezoning request.
- The Sanford Planning Board's decision will be transmitted to City Council members during the next scheduled Sanford City Council meeting.

Step 6 – Sanford City Council Meeting

- Sanford City Council meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month.
- At the next scheduled City Council meeting (typically the 1st Tuesday of the following month), City Council will receive the Planning Board's recommendation.
- Sanford City Council may then make a final vote to **approve** or **reject** the rezoning request.
- If approved, the zoning of the subject property shall be changed to the applicant's requested zoning designation.

Step 7 – TRC (Technical Review Committee) Review

- The site plan submitted for TRC review should include the basic submittal criteria detailed in the [Technical Review Checklist](#).
- TRC applications are typically due on the 1st business day of each month.
- The TRC typically meets on the last Thursday of each month.
- [TRC applications](#) and site plans can be submitted via email to trc@sanfordnc.net.
 - Once the TRC application is received, you will be invoiced for the appropriate TRC fee, which can then be paid online our [CSS Self-Service Portal](#) (you will need to make an account using your name, phone number, and email address).
- Comments from the TRC review are provided to the applicant within two weeks of the meeting.
- Applicants shall incorporate review comments into their site plan revisions and resubmit the updated site plan back to Zoning & Design Review staff with a **comment-by-comment response letter**.
 - There is no deadline for resubmittals. Revised site plans can be resubmitted at any time. However, they will be distributed to TRC members on the **15th and 30th** of each month (or closest business day).
 - Resubmittal review typically takes two to three weeks.
 - If approved, written notice of approval will be provided to the applicant, with further guidance for the project's next steps.



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Step 8 – Amending an Approved Conditional Rezoning Request (if needed)

- if additional details and greater design specificity are needed beyond what was approved during the initial rezoning, the applicant **may have to repeat Steps 3 through 5 and are expected to provide in a civil engineered plan set for TRC review (Step 6)**
- With broad details like land uses and maximum densities in place with the initial conditional rezoning, applicants are expected to invest in a civil engineered plan set to provide further details like building locations, street or driveway network, landscaping plans, architectural standards, and other information.

Important Notes

Conditional zoning map amendment requests are typically the first step for either a major subdivision or a commercial or industrial development. After a conditional rezoning request is approved, the next step (*typically*) is a full technical review of a civil engineered plan set, and then one of the following steps:

- the subject property must then be subdivided in the manner approved, based upon the site plan-specific conditional zoning associated with the site.
- the subject property must be developed in a manner approved, based upon the site plan-specific conditional zoning associated with the site.

Deviation from the approved site plan-specific conditional zoning will trigger a re-review by the Technical Review Committee, the Planning Board, and City Council.