



# CITY OF CHANHASSEN

A Community for Life

## Chanhassen's New Downtown Design Standards



The City of Chanhassen has adopted new design standards for the downtown area and we are excited to share them with you.

This effort began in July of 2023 with City Council adopting the updated downtown standards in July 2024. This effort included two open houses, an online survey, three Economic Development Commission meetings, seven Planning Commission meetings (including two public hearings), and six City Council meetings.

You can read the city code [here](#) and the design guidelines [here](#).

## What We Accomplished

- » placed a new emphasis on pedestrian and bicycle accessibility.
- » moved away from allowing new drive-thrus in the downtown area.
- » created standards that require new buildings to be built closer to the sidewalk in order to create a more traditional downtown atmosphere.
- » established a building height limit where one did not exist before. No new buildings will be taller than the Venue Apartments.
- » eliminated uses that are not “downtown-oriented,” such as gas stations.
- » created a template for new wayfinding signage to create a more clear downtown and Chanhassen identity for visitors and newcomers.
- » established two districts within the Downtown area: “**Downtown West**,” which consists of properties west of Kerber Blvd such as Target and the Lunds & Byerlys shopping center. This area will continue to have a more suburban look-and-feel to it. “**Downtown Core**,” which is the area east of Kerber Blvd, is planned to develop with a more traditional downtown feel—buildings placed next to sidewalks, creating a walkable environment where people can park once and easily reach various destinations on foot. This plan doesn't require any immediate changes but prepares the area for future reinvestment opportunities as property owners look to update or redevelop their spaces.



These policy changes were made to help create a more cohesive and pedestrian-friendly downtown that reflects the community's vision for the future. By prioritizing walkability, setting clear design standards, and establishing distinct districts, we aim to foster a vibrant, accessible space that enhances the experience for residents, visitors, and businesses alike. These updates ensure that the downtown area will evolve in a way that balances Chanhassen's unique character with future growth and development needs.

Thank you for your participation in this effort. Whether you sent an email, attended an Open House or a meeting, or simply read the emails we sent to stay informed, we appreciate your involvement. Check our e-news offerings to stay up-to-date on [Proposed Developments](#) or subscribe to [Chan-happenings](#) for a weekly listing of events and information.