

CHAPTER 6 - UTILITIES



Chapter Organization

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6.1 INTRODUCTION

The design and construction of public and private utilities located within City rights-of-way shall be in conformance with these standards.

6.2 DESIGN CRITERIA

The City has established the following minimum requirements to ensure the efficient construction of utilities with the least impact to City transportation and utility infrastructure.

6.2.1 UTILITIES LOCATED WITHIN RIGHT-OF-WAY

Pursuant to SVMC 20.20.090(M), the short subdivision, subdivision, or binding site plan shall provide underground utilities within all new public rights-of-way, alleys, or utility easements including, but not limited to, those for electricity, communication, and street lighting.

6.2.2 UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

New underground utilities shall meet the following requirements:

- a. Private utility lines shall be located within the rights-of-way only when approved by the City. Utility companies shall have a current franchise consistent with the City of Spokane Valley Municipal Code,
- b. Private utilities shall be located a minimum horizontal distance of five feet from buildings and public utilities;
- c. When crossing public utilities, private utilities shall be located a minimum vertical distance of 12 inches from the public utility;
- d. Manhole covers, utility box lids, and all other underground utility and irrigation access covers shall not be located within the sidewalk or driveway approaches;
- e. Sewer utility installation shall meet Spokane County *Standards for Road and Sewer Construction*, as adopted or amended, and the Department of Health's *Orange Book*, as adopted or amended;
- f. Water line installations or modifications shall satisfy American Water Works Association (AWWA) *Standard Specifications*;
- g. End markers shall be installed at the end of all utility stubs or crossings, and locator tape shall be installed at a maximum of six inches above all conduits, pipe and cables; and,
- h. The Applicant shall timely notify the applicable utility companies of upcoming street construction so they have the opportunity to upgrade their utilities in conjunction with the development project, if desired.

6.2.3 ABOVEGROUND UTILITIES

On projects where underground requirements do not apply, the following requirements shall be met in locating aboveground utilities:

- a. Utilities shall be located pursuant to Standard Plan U-100;
- b. Utility poles and other aboveground utility structures located on curbed streets with separated sidewalks shall be installed a minimum of two feet behind the back of curb. When the sidewalk is adjacent to the curb, they shall be located a minimum of two feet behind the sidewalk. For shouldered streets, utility poles and other aboveground utility structures shall be located outside the clear zone pursuant to the AASHTO manual “*A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*” as adopted or amended, and Chapter 7 of the Street Standards;
- c. Utility poles and other aboveground utility structures shall not be located within the sidewalk. Sidewalks shall have a continuous unobstructed path of at least five feet wide;
- d. Utility poles and other aboveground utility structures shall not interfere with driveways, intersections, clear zone, and all other road features. They shall not obstruct sight distance, road signing, traffic signals, culverts, etc. This may require that existing poles be relocated at the Applicant’s expense;
- e. No utility pole or other aboveground utility structures shall be located in such a way as to pose a hazard to the general public. Utility companies shall locate and replace poles and other structures with primary consideration given to public safety and roadway functionality; and,
- f. When an Applicant-driven project requires the relocation of private utilities due to public utility extensions or other City required improvements, the cost of relocation of the private utility shall be borne by the Applicant.

6.2.4 REGIONAL PAVEMENT CUT POLICY

Modification or removal of pavement within the City’s rights-of-way is governed by the *Inland Northwest Regional Pavement Cut Policy*, or as adopted or amended. Copies may be obtained from the City Permit Center or City website. General requirements are as follows:

- a. Pursuant to SVMC 22.130.060, a right-of-way permit is required for any person or entity cutting pavement within existing City rights-of-way or on City-owned infrastructure;
- b. Permit fees are established in the *Spokane Valley Master Fee Schedule* as adopted or amended;
- c. A pavement cut moratorium is in effect for three years from the date of pavement or reconstruction of pavement for public streets. For streets beyond the moratorium period, cuts are allowed if the requirements of this policy are met; and,

- d. The Applicant shall provide a warranty in accordance with this policy for pavement cuts and other infrastructure affected by the work.
- e.

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