



The following information provides General Information and a summary of the Review Procedures to obtain a consolidated site plan permit within the City of Austin jurisdiction (full-purpose and limited-purpose city limits).

General Information

What Is a Site Plan?

Chapter 25-5-1 of the City of Austin Land Development Code (LDC) requires that a site plan be submitted, approved, and released before an applicant can develop or change the use of their property, or a building permit can be issued. A site plan illustrates the proposed development and its intended use within the context of the site. Existing conditions typically included in site plans are topography, watercourses, floodplains, significant vegetation, other environmental features, and any existing improvements on the site. Within this framework, a site plan illustrates the proposed development and provides details on features such as access, utilities, parking, landscaping, buffers, general architectural features, building footprint, and location of new structures.

What a Site Plan Is Not

A site plan is not a building permit and does not authorize the construction, demolition, or relocation of buildings. The applicant is responsible for requesting building, demolition, and relocation permits once the site plan is approved.

When Is a Project Exempt from the Site Plan Process?

Chapter 25-5-2 of the City Code specifies when a project can be exempt from site plan submittal. Generally, certain types of minor development that do not have a site plan already on file do not require formal site plan review. This includes construction of single-family and most duplex residences, and other types of development that increase impervious cover by 1,000 square feet or less, and have limits of construction of 3,000 square feet or less. This development must meet the requirements of Section 25-5-2, Site Plan Exemptions. A Site Development Determination form (formerly called an Exemption) should be completed and filed with the Development Assistance Center in order to request an exemption.

Who Approves Site Plan Permits?

Administrative Approval

If review by the Land Use Commission is not required, the Director of Development Services Department may approve the site plan administratively. Administrative site plans within the city limits that include building construction must be **consolidated**. A consolidated site plan consists of two major elements that are submitted and reviewed concurrently:

- The **Land Use Element** includes information on the land use, site design, and layout (such as building height, setbacks, density, and parking) and demonstrates compliance with zoning, site development, and transportation

- The **Construction Element** includes detailed information on the construction aspects of the site design (such as grading, detention, filtration, erosion/sedimentation controls, landscaping, and tree protection) and demonstrates compliance with drainage, water quality, and environmental regulations

Land Use Commission Approval

Approval of the land use element of the site plan is required by the Land Use Commission under Section 25-5-142 of the City Code for:

- Conditional Use Permits when required by Chapter 25-2, Subchapter C
- Construction of improvements within a 1000-foot Hill Country Roadway Corridor

Site plans requiring approval by the Land Use Commission can be either **consolidated** (as described above) or **non-consolidated**. A non-consolidated site plan consists of two separate submittals: One for the land use element and one for the construction element. With a non-consolidated submittal, approval of the land use element by the Land Use Commission may be obtained before the detailed engineering work required for the construction element is performed. **For a non-consolidated submittal, the Land Use Commission Site Plan Application and Non-Consolidated Site Plan Application should be used instead of the Consolidated Site Plan Application.** Once the land use element is approved by the Commission, the construction element may be reviewed and approved administratively, however, both the land use element and the construction element must be released concurrently.

Consolidated Site Plan Review Procedures

The procedures for review and approval of site plans are based on Volume III, Chapter 25 of the City of Austin Land Development Code (LDC). The process is summarized below:

Step 1: Development Assessment (Optional)

A person may request an assessment of a proposed development **prior** to formal submittal by contacting the Development Assistance Center (DAC). The assessment is based on the information provided by the applicant at the time that an assessment is requested. An assessment of the project includes applicable code requirements pertaining to the site and identification of major development issues. For submittal information, please visit <http://austintexas.gov/digitaldevelopment>.

Step 2: Completeness Check

In order to submit a site plan for review, an application for Completeness Check is required. Intake reviews the application and pertinent information to determine if all required administrative items have been submitted. Intake then forwards it to the completeness check team, which determines whether the technical items needed for review have been submitted.

An application for completeness check must include:

- Site Plan Application
- Site Plan Review - Completeness Check fee (check, cash, money order, or credit card): see <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/fees>
- Site Plan sealed by professional engineer and/or Landscape Architect, as required by state licensing regulations
- All Items listed on the completeness checklist, located in the Intake Office and available online at <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/land-use-applications#site>

The completeness check review takes a maximum of 10 business days from the date of submittal. The applicant will be notified via email or fax whether the application is approved or additional information is required for submittal. When the application is approved, the plans can be formally submitted for a detailed review. **The application must be submitted formally within 45 calendar days of the initial completeness check or it will expire and a new completeness check will be required.**

Step 3: Formal Submittal Review Process

The next step is to submit the Consolidated Site Plan Application (Administrative and Land Use Commission) to Intake to start the review process. Electronic copies of the application are available online at <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/land-use-applications#site>.

For submittal information, please visit <http://austintexas.gov/digitaldevelopment>.

Electronic submittal of CADD files and other documents is also required for the initial submittal, as described in Exhibit VIII (Consolidated Site Plan Application Instructions). A final version of the plans and reports incorporating all changes made during the review process must be submitted electronically prior to release of the site plan.

A Case Manager with the Land Use Review Division is assigned to coordinate interdisciplinary reviews and provide guidance on code requirements and procedures. A review team is also assigned to the project. The team reviews the plans and prepares a Master Comment Report that contains specific areas of non-compliance. The initial review of the plans by the team can take up to 28 days from the date that the plans were formally submitted. If the site plan complies with the provisions of the code and other applicable state and federal regulations, and Commission approval is not required, the site plan will be approved administratively. The Master Comment Report can be viewed on the City of Austin website at <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/interactive-development-review-permitting-and-inspection>.

Step 4: Update

If it is determined that the site plan does not comply, the applicant must file an update in order to bring it into compliance. For submittal information, please visit <http://austintexas.gov/digitaldevelopment>. Staff reviews the updates within 14 days of receipt, and the Case Manager will issue additional Master Reports identifying remaining items to be addressed. Updates will be required until the site plan is in compliance or the site plan expires.

Updates to the plan must be filed by the applicant within 180 days after the site plan has been filed. An applicant can request an extension to the 180-day update period if the request is made prior to the 180-day deadline. The request must be made in writing and the reason for the extension should be specified. Extensions may be granted for good cause at the Director's discretion for up to 180 days. All comments must be cleared prior to the expiration date, or the application will expire and a new application must be submitted.

Step 5: Site Plan Approval and Release

Once all code requirements have been met, the Case Manager will notify the applicant that the site plan can be approved administratively or scheduled for Land Use Commission approval if necessary. If Commission approval is necessary, the Case Manager will inform you of the date and time of the public hearing. Commission-approved site plans may be appealed by the applicant or an interested party to the City Council. An appeal must be filed within 14 days of the Commission's action. If the plan is appealed, you will be notified of the date and time of the public hearing before the City Council.

Prior to release of the site plan, an original mylar copy of the plans must be provided that will be signed by the Case Manager and retained in the City's files. Copies of the mylar will be made for distribution to other City departments, and you may request additional copies to be made for your personal use for an additional fee. An electronic submittal of the final plan is also required, as described in Exhibit VIII (Consolidated Site Plan Application Instructions). A Site Development Permit will also be prepared to authorize site work on the property, except for work that requires a building, demolition, or relocation permit.

Prior to site plan approval all fees must be paid. Additional fees may include but are not limited to: Landscape Inspection, Parkland Dedication, Variance, Notification, Phasing Fee, and Fiscal Surety. The Case Manager will inform you of any required fees prior to preparing the Site Development Permit.

Once all fees have been paid, plans have been copied, and the appeal period has passed, you will be advised that the site plan has been released and will be told when you can pick up the approved plans and permit.