Houston-Galveston Area Council

Friendswood Active Transportation Plan

Appendix 4. Recommendations and Implementation

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March 2026

Friendswood Active Transportation Plan

Friendswood Policy Recommendations to support the Active Transportation Plan

Document/ Ordinance	Page No. / Section	Current Ordinance	Recommended Change	Rationale
Friendswood Design Criteria Manual (2021)	77	2. Sidewalks are required as set out in Section III of the Subdivision Ordinance and Section 70-64 of the Code of Ordinances. Where sidewalks are required, they shall have a minimum width of four (4) feet, except on TxDOT rights-of-way where the minimum width shall be five (5) feet.	Where sidewalks are required, they shall have a minimum width of five (5) feet, except on TxDOT rights-of-way where the minimum width shall be six (6) feet	ADA requires any sidewalks under five (5) feet to include a section of sidewalk that is five feet six inches (5'6") every 200 feet. Maintaining a standard width of five (5) feet avoids this requirement. Commercial area sidewalks should be of sufficient width to accommodate more foot traffic.
	78	3. Sidewalk wheelchair ramps shall be required at all intersections, and at or through all driveways where required. The design and installation of such ramps shall comply with Texas Accessibility Standards Architectural Barriers requirements.	Sidewalk wheelchair ramps shall be required at all intersections and at or through all driveways where required. The design and installation of such ramps shall comply with Texas Accessibility Standards Architectural Barriers requirements. Sidewalk Wheelchair ramps shall be perpendicular curb ramps with paired ramps on tangent wherever possible, with a vertical curb face that protects pedestrians.	Wherever possible, sidewalk ramps should create paths to intersections that provide the safest crossing for wheelchair users. Ramps should directly face the crosswalks rather than the center of the intersection.
	116	B. Site developments, not including single family residential, shall include any project that affects public water, wastewater, storm drainage, sidewalks, or paving facilities.	Single family residential should not be exempt from sidewalks	
	116	C. All sidewalks in new developments shall be a minimum of five (5) feet from the back of curb, two (2) feet from the edge of the public rights-of-way and shall not be in any utility easements.	All sidewalks in new developments shall be a minimum of six (6) feet from the back of curb, two (2) feet from the edge of the public rights-of-way and shall not be in any utility easements.	Healthy tree growth requires a six (6) feet wide soil bed, unless strategies to use structural soils or silva cells are explored. Greater width also reduces root conflicts with sidewalks. Small trees should be spaced 15' minimum on center, and large trees between 30' minimum and 40' maximum on center. Proper spacing helps with creating more deep and consistent shade while allowing for the growth of the tree in urban conditions. Spacing in parks or natural areas can be different.
	128	J. Sidewalks are required as set out in Section III of the Subdivision Ordinance and Section 70-64 of the Code of Ordinances. Where sidewalks are required, they	Where sidewalks are required, they shall have a minimum width of five (5) feet, except on TxDOT rights-of-way and in commercial districts	See rationale above

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		shall have a minimum width of four (4) feet, except on TxDOT rights-of-way where the minimum width shall be five (5) feet. The design and installation of such sidewalks shall comply with Texas Accessibility Standards Architectural Barriers requirements and the City of Friendswood Standard Details and Technical Specifications. The location of all proposed and existing sidewalks shall be shown on the site development plan.	where the minimum width shall be six (6) feet.	
	150	Callery Pear/Braford (*Pyrus Calleryana*) - Invasive	Consider removing from plant list	Considered invasive per Invasive Plant Atlas of the US
	150	Chinese Elm (*Ulmus Parvifolia*) - Invasive	Remove this plant from the list.	Considered invasive per the City of Houston Invasive Plant List Considered invasive per Invasive Plant Atlas of the US
	151	Camphor-Tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) - Invasive	Remove this plant from the list.	Considered invasive per the City of Houston Invasive Plant List Considered invasive per Invasive Plant Atlas of the US
	152	Vitex (*Vitex Agnus-castus*) - Invasive	Consider removing from plant list	Considered invasive per Invasive Plant Atlas of the US
	152	Chinaberry (*Melia Azedarach*) - Invasive	Remove from plant list	Considered invasive per the City of Houston Invasive Plant List Considered invasive per Texas Department of Agriculture
	152	Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia Chinesis*) - Invasive	Consider removing from plant list	Considered invasive per Invasive Plant Atlas of the US
	152	Chinese Tallow (*Sapium sebiferum* or *Triadica sebifera*)	Remove from plant list	Considered invasive per the City of Houston Invasive Plant List Considered invasive per Texas Department of Agriculture
	152	Golden-Raintree (*Koelreuteria Paniculata*) - Invasive	Removing from plant list	Considered invasive per the City of Houston Invasive Plant List Considered invasive per Invasive Plant Atlas of the US
	152	Mimosa/silktree (*Albizia Julibrissin*) - Invasive	Consider removing from plant list	Considered invasive per Invasive Plant Atlas of the US
	152	Mulberry (*Morus Alba*) - Invasive	Consider removing from plant list	Considered invasive per Invasive Plant Atlas of the US
	152	Siberian Elm (*Ulmus Pumila*) - Invasive	Consider removing from plant list	Considered invasive per Invasive Plant Atlas of the US
Proposed Additions to the Design Criteria Manual			For all BP, CSC, DD, LNC, NC, OPD, PUD and Multi-family residential zoning categories, sidewalks shall **connect building entrances to public sidewalks.** Connecting walkways, at least five (5) feet wide, must link sidewalks with building entries through parking areas, all points in the development, and buildings on adjacent parcels. Pedestrian routes that **extend through parking lots** shall use marked walkways or raised paths.	

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Proposed Additions to the Design Criteria Manual Appendix B - Subdivision	Section IV, B, 1	Construction Plans and Specifications in accordance with Section X. Plan profiles of all private and public infrastructure (including but not limited to, water and sewer lines, drainage and detention areas, utilities, berms, roads, sidewalks, fences, and hike and bike trails) shall be submitted and approved by the city engineer	No specific recommended change, but a suggestion for using a committee review of projects that relate to active transportation in Friendswood and that could potentially fundraise for projects, similar to Keep Friendswood Beautiful (KFB)	
Proposed Additions to the Design Criteria Manual		1.Exception: Sidewalks shall not be required in single-family residential (SFR) and single-family residential estate (SFR-E) districts where: a.Open ditch streets are approved; or b.The subdivision was accepted prior to sidewalks being a required improvement; or c.The property is an in-fill tract without an abutting sidewalk.	Remove the exception.	Sidewalks should be required in all cases in residential and residential estate districts.
Proposed Additions to the Design Criteria Manual		Sidewalks may not be required when, in the judgment of the planning and zoning commission, the safety of the pedestrians does not require such sidewalks.	Remove the exception.	Sidewalks encourage active transportation and support healthy communities.