



ZONING CODE

INFORMATION GUIDE

Neighborhood Contact • Information for Applicants

Purpose: The intent of the Neighborhood Contact requirement is for people developing a property to informally share information and gather constructive feedback about it with people who will experience the development in the neighborhood. The steps below will assist applicants to complete the process and provide required documentation. This handout provides a summary of Neighborhood Contact requirements; for the full text of the requirements please see the relevant Portland Zoning Code regulations in the [base zone](#) and [Chapter 33.705 Neighborhood Contact](#).

Steps:

1. **Determine the type of Neighborhood Contact required.** Utilize the [Neighborhood Contact Overview](#) to determine if Neighborhood Contract requirements apply and the type of Neighborhood Contact associated with the proposal.
2. **Review the required timelines and deadlines.** Neighborhood Contact requirements must be completed at least 35 days prior to submitting for a land use review or building permit for the development project. These requirements cannot be completed more than a year before submitting. If a public meeting is required, the meeting cannot occur less than 14 days prior to submitting for a land use review or building permit. Notice of the meeting must also be sent at least 14 days prior to the meeting.
3. **Find the neighborhood where the site is located and find contact information.** The Office of Community & Civic Life website contains a tool to determine the neighborhood where a site is located. This tool will also tell you the neighborhood association, district coalition and any business association for that neighborhood.
 - **Neighborhood Association and Neighborhood Coalition:** Go to the Office of Community & Civic Life (OCCL) website at portland.gov/civic. Scroll down and click on “Neighborhood Associations Directory”, then click on “lookup your neighborhood on PortlandMaps.com”. Enter the site address and the next screen will list the neighborhood. Return to the Neighborhood Associations Directory on the OCCL website and click on the applicable neighborhood. This provides the contact information. It is recommended to email the neighborhood association chair and the land use chair, if there is one. The neighborhood association webpage on the OCCL website also lists the Neighborhood Coalition and contact information can be found by clicking on the name of the Neighborhood Coalition.
 - **Business Association:** Go to portlandmaps.com and enter the site address. Scroll down to “Permits & Zoning”, then click on “Zoning & District”. Next, scroll down to “Business Districts” which lists the name of the Business District and provides a website where contact information can be found. Please note that most sites will not be located within a business district.
 - Contact is also required to other neighborhood associations, neighborhood coalitions, and business associations within 400 feet of the site. Applicants who believe their site may be within the 400-foot proximity should contact the BDS Zoning Hotline at 503-823-7526 and ask a planner to confirm.

- 4. Send notification (*at least 35 days prior to land use or building permit submittal*).** The applicant must contact the neighborhood association, district neighborhood coalition and business association for the area, and any neighborhood association, district neighborhood coalition or business association within 400 feet of the proposed site. The notification may be sent via email or standard mail. Keep a copy of the notification and a list of recipients to submit with the land use review or building permit application. The email or letter must include the following information:
- The name, telephone number and email address of the applicant;
 - The address of the site of the proposed development;
 - A summary of the proposed development;
 - A site plan that includes the proposed development;
 - Neighborhood Contact 2 also requires the date, time and location of the required public meeting.
- 5. Set a date and time for a public meeting.** When a public meeting is required, the applicant must schedule it at least 14 days after sending the notification. It also must be scheduled at least 14 days before the applicant can submit for a building permit or land use review for the proposed project. The meeting must be held at a time between 6pm and 9pm Monday through Friday, between 1pm and 6pm on Saturday or Sunday, or during a scheduled neighborhood association meeting. The meeting cannot conflict with the scheduled neighborhood association meeting, unless the meeting is held in conjunction with the neighborhood association. Please note that until January 1, 2029, no meeting is required for projects that include a residential use.
- 6. Determine the setting for the public meeting.** When a public meeting is required, it may be held in person or remotely using online video conferencing. If a meeting is held remotely, there must be a phone-in option available. If the meeting is held in person, the location must be within the neighborhood of the site or not more than 2 miles from the boundary of the neighborhood, but within the district neighborhood coalition boundary. The location must be accessible to all members of the public including those with disabilities.
- 7. Contact the Bureau of Development Services (*at least 35 days prior to land use or building permit submittal*).** The Bureau of Development Services hosts an online list of projects that require Neighborhood Contact. This service provides a way for community members to subscribe to get proactive notification of new information. Information can be entered at www.portland.gov/bds/neighborhood-contact/search-neighborhood-notice and must contain the following:
- The name, telephone number, and email address of the applicant;
 - The address of the site of the proposed development;
 - A summary of the proposed development;
 - A site plan that includes the proposed development; and
 - The date, time and location of the public meeting (if required).
- If online information changes, please contact matt.wickstrom@portlandoregon.gov.
- 8. Install a sign(s) at the proposed development site (*at least 35 days prior to land use or building permit submittal*).** The two types of neighborhood contact require a sign or signs to be installed at the proposed development site. The sign must be placed on each street frontage of the site. For sites with over 600 feet of street frontage, a sign is required to be placed every 600 feet. Neighborhood Contact 2 requires the sign to state the date, time and location of the required public meeting. The sign must be installed at least 35 days before a land use review or building permit is submitted to the Bureau of Development Services, but not more than 1 year. If a public meeting is required, the meeting must be held at least 14 days after posting the required sign(s).

Additionally, if the proposal requires a land use review and the site is posted with a notice of that land use review, the required sign(s) must be removed. Once the sign(s) is installed, take a photo(s) to provide with the land use review or building permit application. A template for the required sign(s) can be found in the [Neighborhood Contact Administrative Rule](#).

9. **Provide accommodations.** If requested by a member of the public at least three days prior to the meeting, accommodations must be provided including language services, alternative formats, auxiliary aids, or other reasonable requests that ensure barrier free access.
10. **Host the public meeting and take notes (at least 14 days prior to land use or building permit submittal).** The applicant must attend the public meeting, if a meeting is required. The meeting should include a summary of the proposed development as well as a presentation of the site plan. The applicant may also share the floor plans and any drawings of the proposed development. An attendance log for meeting attendees who want to receive a copy of the notes must be provided. The attendance log should request the attendee's name, mailing address and email address. Take notes regarding public comments and questions at the meeting. The notes should also indicate any changes that were made to the proposed development as a result of public comments. Notes will also be sent to the neighborhood association, district neighborhood association, and business association.
11. **Submit required documentation.** The following information must be submitted with the land use review or building permit application for the proposed development. Applications that do not contain all the required documentation will not be accepted:
 - **Neighborhood Contact 1**
 - A copy of the initial notification email or letter sent to the neighborhood association, district neighborhood coalition, and business association;
 - A list of email or postal addresses to which the initial notification email or letter was sent;
 - A photograph of the sign(s) installed at the proposed development sites;
 - A signed statement certifying that:
 - The initial notification email or letter was sent at least 35 days, but not more than 1 year, before applying for the land use review or building permit;
 - The required sign(s) was posted at least 35 days, but not more than 1 year, before applying for the land use review or building permit.
 - **Neighborhood Contact 2**
 - A copy of the initial notification email or letter sent to the neighborhood association(s), district neighborhood coalition(s), and business association(s);
 - A list of email or postal addresses to which the initial notification email or letter was sent;
 - A photograph of the sign(s) installed at the proposed development sites;
 - A signed statement certifying that:
 - The initial notification email or letter was sent at least 35 days, but not more than 1 year, before applying for the land use review or building permit;
 - The required sign(s) was posted at least 35 days, but not more than 1 year, before applying for the land use review or building permit;
 - The required meeting was held at least 14 days before applying for the land use review or building permit and at least 14 days after sending the initial notification email or letter and posting the required sign(s); and
 - Notes from the public meeting were emailed or mailed to the neighborhood association, district neighborhood coalition, business association, school district and any meeting attendees who provided an email or postal address, prior to applying for the land use review or building permit.