

33.480 Scenic Resource Zone

480

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33.480.010 Purpose

The Scenic Resource zone is intended to:

- Protect Portland's significant scenic resources that provide benefits to the public as identified by the City in the *Scenic Resources Protection Plan (1991)*, the *Central City Scenic Resources Protection Plan (2017)*, and the *River Plan / South Reach Scenic Resources Protection Plan (2020)*;
- Enhance the appearance of Portland to make it a better place to live and work;
- Create attractive entrance ways to Portland and its districts;
- Improve Portland's economic vitality by enhancing the City's attractiveness to people who live and work in Portland and people who are visiting; and
- Implement the scenic resource policies, goals, and objectives of Portland's Comprehensive Plan.

The purposes of the Scenic Resource zone are achieved by establishing height limits within view corridors to protect significant views and by establishing additional landscaping and screening standards to preserve and enhance identified scenic resources.

33.480.020 Map Symbol

The Scenic Resource zone is shown on the Official Zoning Maps with a letter "s" map symbol.

33.480.030 Application

The Scenic Resource zone is applied to significant view corridors, viewpoints, and scenic corridors identified in the *Scenic Resources Protection Plan*, the *Central City Scenic Resources Protection Plan*, or the *River Plan / South Reach Scenic Resources Protection Plan*.

33.480.035 Where These Regulations Apply

Any changes to land or development, including rights-of-way, within the Scenic Resource zone are subject to the regulations of this chapter.

33.480.040 Development Standards

The development standards of the Scenic Resource zone apply based on the mapping designations shown in the *Scenic Resources Protection Plan*, the *Central City Scenic Resources Protection Plan*, or the *River Plan / South Reach Scenic Resources Protection Plan*. The standards for each subsection below apply only to areas with that designation in the respective plan. The resource is defined as the width of the right-of-way or top of bank to top of bank for scenic corridors. Setbacks are measured

from the outer boundary of the right-of-way unless specified otherwise in the ESEE Analysis and as shown on the Official Zoning Maps. In some cases, more than one development standard applies. For example, within a scenic corridor, a view corridor standard will apply where a specific view has been identified for protection.

- A. View Corridors.** The following standards apply to development and vegetation within a view corridor.
1. Purpose. The intent of the view corridor designation and standards is to establish maximum heights within view corridors to protect views from designated viewpoints and to provide a location where the public can safely take in a significant view.
 2. Standards.
 - a. Height limit. All development within the designated view corridors are subject to the height limits of the base zone, overlay zone, or plan district, except when a more restrictive height limit is established by the view corridor. In those instances, the view corridor height limit applies to both development and vegetation. Removal of trees or limbs necessary to maintain the view corridor is allowed. When no development is proposed, tree removal is subject to the requirements of Title 11, Trees. Public safety facilities are exempt from this standard.
 - b. Viewpoint standards. The following standards apply to the viewpoint portion of view corridors shown on a Map 480-1:
 - (1) Construction of a viewpoint. Construction of a viewpoint that is at least 16 feet in total area is required as follows:
 - When there is new development;
 - When exterior alterations to existing development are 35 percent or greater of the assessed improvement value of the total improvements on the site.
 - (2) Viewpoint location.
 - If the viewpoint is identified on a site that also has a major public trail designation, the viewpoint must be located adjacent to the major public trail and must comply with the Use of Trail, Hours of Use, Trespass and Trail Maintenance and Liability sections of Chapter 33.272, Major Public Trails.
 - A viewpoint shown in a right-of-way must be located within or adjacent to the lanes of pedestrian or bicycle travel.
 - (3) Viewpoint amenities. The viewpoint must include at least two of the following amenities. The amenities must be located within the required viewpoint area:
 - A bench;
 - A light;
 - A sign with information about the view; or
 - A telescope directed at the focal features of the view.

B. Scenic Corridors. The following standards apply to development and vegetation within a scenic corridor.

1. Purpose. The scenic corridor designation is intended to preserve and enhance the scenic character along corridors, and where possible, scenic vistas from corridors. This is accomplished by limiting the length of buildings, preserving existing trees, providing additional landscaping, preventing development in side setbacks, screening mechanical equipment, and restricting signs. Property owners and others are encouraged to make every effort to locate buildings, easements, parking strips, sidewalks, and vehicle areas to preserve the maximum number of trees.
2. Standards.
 - a. Scenic corridor setback. A scenic corridor setback per Table 480-1 applies along street lot lines that abut the Scenic Corridor identified in the *Scenic Resources Protection Plan*. Development within an environmental overlay zone is exempt from this setback standard.

Table 480-1 Scenic Corridor Setback [1]	
Zone	Minimum Setback from Street Lot Line
IR, CI	1' per 2' of building height, not less than 10'
RM2	3'
EG1, IH	5'
EG2, IG2	25'
All other base zones	20'

[1] Larger minimum setbacks in overlay zone and plan district supersede this setback

- b. Side building setbacks. Buildings, garages, and covered accessory structures are not allowed within the side building setbacks within the first 100 feet from the designated resource.
- c. Structure length. No more than 80 percent of the length of any site can be occupied by structures, excluding fences, as measured parallel to the scenic corridor. This standard applies to an entire attached housing project rather than to individual units.
- d. Limiting blank facades. Long, blank facades create uninteresting elements along a scenic corridor. This standard applies to all portions of buildings within 100 feet of the designated resource. Residential structures are exempt from this standard. Blank facades must be mitigated for in at least one of the following ways:
 - (1) The maximum length of any building facade is 100 feet.
 - (2) Two rows of trees, one deciduous and one evergreen, must be planted on 30-foot centers along the length of the building between the structure and the protected resource.

- (3) Facades facing the scenic corridor must have a minimum of 40 percent of surface area in glass. Mirrored glass with a reflectance greater than 20 percent is prohibited.
- e. Landscaping. The entire required scenic corridor setback must be landscaped to at least the L1 level unless the more stringent standards below or in other chapters of this Title apply. Up to 25 percent of the entire area of the scenic corridor setback may be used for vehicle and pedestrian areas except that each lot is allowed at least a 9-foot wide driveway or parking area and a 6-foot wide pedestrian area. Additionally, areas within the adjacent right of way must be landscaped to standards approved by the City engineer. The required landscaping in the setback and adjacent right of way must be provided at the time of development, except as allowed in B.2.e(1) below.
- (1) When alterations are made to a site with an existing nonconforming use, allowed use, limited use, or conditional use, and the alterations are over the threshold stated in 33.258.070.D.2.a, the site must be brought into conformance with the landscape standards above. The value of the alterations is based on the entire project, not individual building permits. The cost of the upgrades required by this chapter may be counted toward the cost of upgrades required by Subsection 33.258.070.D. However, the upgrades required by this chapter must be completed first.
 - (2) Area of required improvements. Except as provided in 33.258.070.D.2.c(2), Exception for Sites With Ground Leases, required improvements must be made to the entire site and adjacent right of way. If the ground lease is adjacent to a right of way within the scenic corridor, the upgrades required by this chapter also apply to the right of way adjacent to the ground lease.
 - (3) Timing and cost of required improvements. The timing and cost of the required improvements is specified in 33.258.070.D.2.d. However, where 33.258.070.D.2.d refers to the standards listed in 33.258.070.D.2.b, the landscape standards above, are also included.
- f. Screening. All exterior garbage cans, garbage and recycling collection areas, and mechanical equipment (including heat pumps, air conditioners, emergency generators, and water pumps) must be screened from view or not visible from the designated scenic corridor. Small rooftop mechanical equipment, including vents, need not be screened if the total area of such equipment does not exceed 10 square feet per structure.
- g. Fences and hedges. The total maximum height of fences, hedges, and berms within the scenic corridor setback, and when allowed in the adjacent right of way is 3-1/2 feet. This provision does not apply to any required screening and buffering.
- h. Preservation of trees. This provision does not apply if the property is regulated by state statutes for forest management practices. All trees 6 or more inches in diameter that are within the scenic corridor setback and right of way must be

retained unless removal conforms to one or more of the following standards:

- (1) The tree is located within a view corridor designated in the *Scenic Resources Protection Plan* (1991) or the *Central City Scenic Resources Protection Plan* (2017);
- (2) The tree is located within the footprint or within 10 feet of existing or proposed buildings and structures attached to buildings, such as decks, stairs, and carports, or within 10 feet of a proposed driveway;
- (3) The tree is determined by an arborist to be dead, dying or dangerous;
- (4) The tree is on the *Nuisance Plants List*;
- (5) The tree must be removed due to installation, repair, or maintenance of water, sewer, or stormwater services. For new installation of services, tree removal allowed under this provision is limited to a single 10 foot wide utility corridor on each site;
- (6) The tree is within a proposed roadway or City-required construction easement, including areas devoted to curbs, parking strips or sidewalks, or vehicle areas;
- (7) The tree is within 20 feet of a Radio Frequency Transmission Facility antenna that is a public safety facility. The distance to the antenna is measured vertically and horizontally from the edge of the antenna. See Figure 480-1; or
- (8) The tree is at least 6 and up to 12 inches in diameter and does not meet any of the other standards of this subparagraph, but is replaced within the scenic corridor setback or adjacent right of way according to Table 480-2. Replacement plantings must meet Section 33.248.030, Plant Materials.

Figure 480-1
Measuring from an RF Transmission Facility Antenna

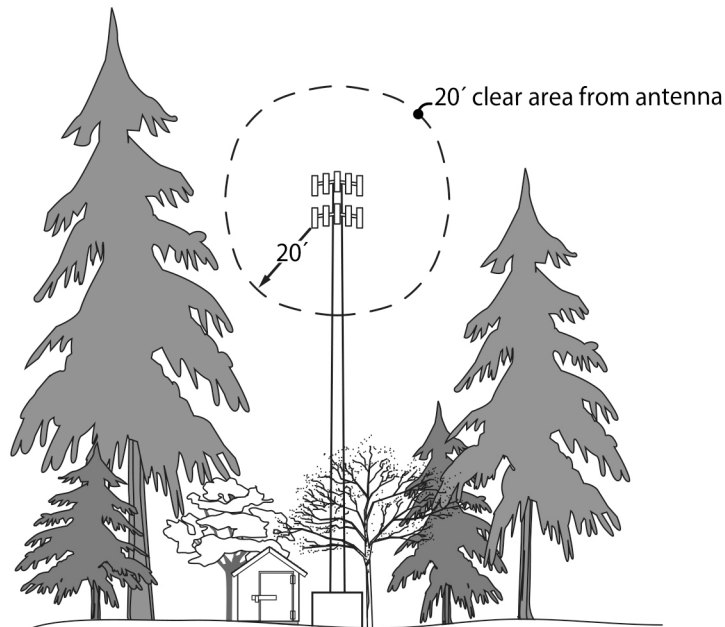


Table 480-2 Tree Replacement Requirements In Scenic Overlay Zone		
Applicants may choose either Option A or Option B [1]		
Size of tree to be removed (inches in diameter)	Option A (no. of trees to be planted)	Option B (combination of trees and shrubs)
Up to 9	1 tree	Not applicable
More than 9 and up to 12	3 trees	2 trees and 2 shrubs
More than 12	Tree Review Required (see 33.480.050 below)	

[1] Trees and Shrubs must be species listed in the Scenic Resources Protection Plan

33.480.050 Tree Removal Review

- A. Tree removal without development. When no development is proposed, tree removal allowed by the standards of Subparagraph 33.480.040.B.2.h is subject to the tree permit requirements of Title 11, Trees.
- B. Tree removal in development situations. When tree removal is proposed as part of development, the standards of Subparagraph 33.480.040.B.2.h apply in addition to the tree preservation standards of Title 11, Trees.

- C. Trees that do not qualify for removal under Subparagraph 33.480.040.B.2.h may be removed if approved through tree review as provided in Chapter 33.853, Tree Review. However, where the tree removal would require environmental review, only environmental review is required.

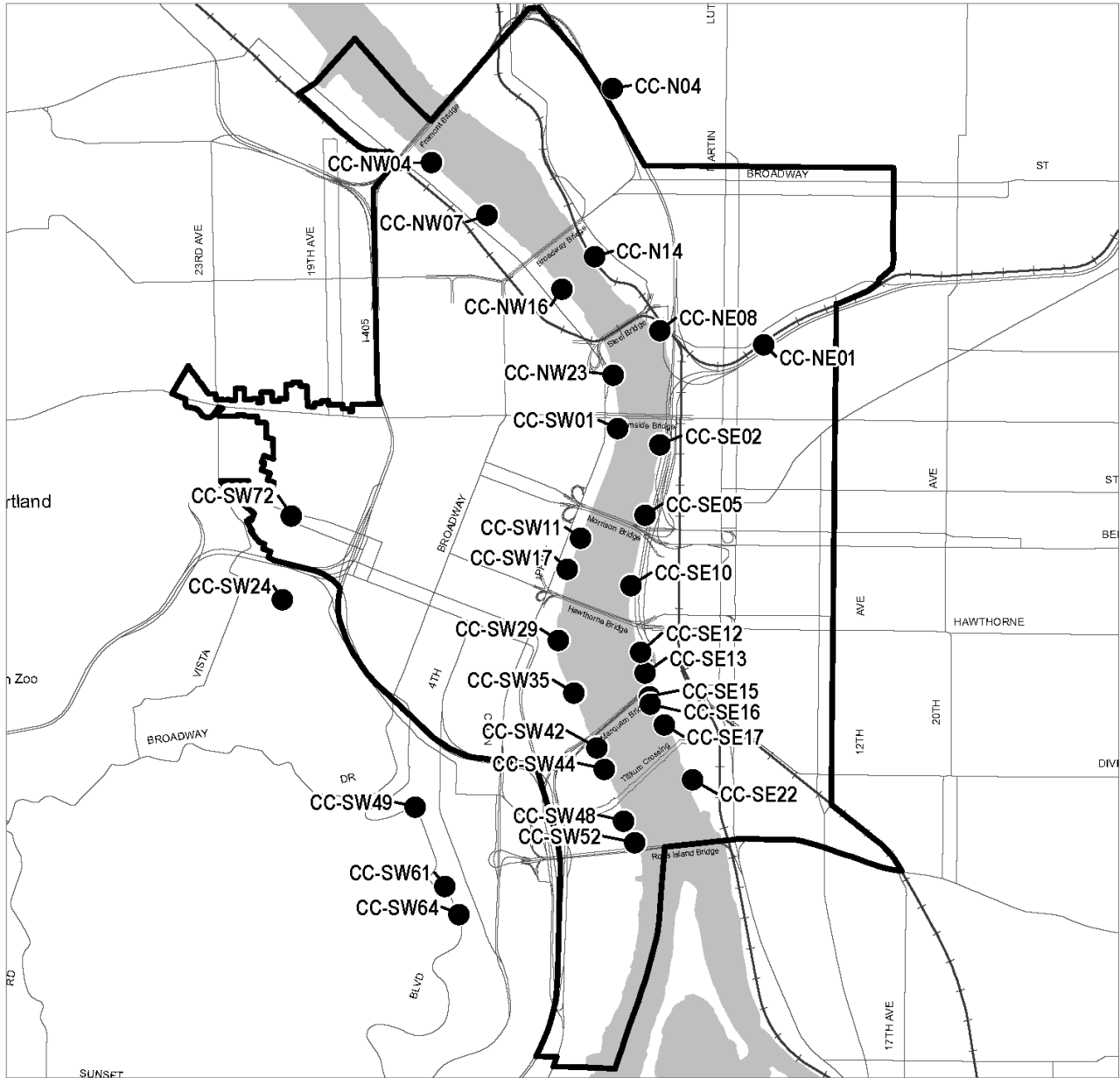
(Amended by: Ord. No. 163957, effective 4/12/91; Ord. No. 166572, effective 6/25/93; Ord. No. 167186, effective 12/31/93; Ord. No. 171718, effective 11/29/97; Ord. No. 173528, effective 7/30/99; Ord. No. 175204, effective 3/1/01; Ord. Nos. 175965 and 176333, effective 7/1/02; Ord. No. 176469, effective 7/1/02; Ord. No. 177368, effective 5/17/03; Ord. No. 178509, effective 7/16/04; Ord. No. 178657, effective 9/3/04; Ord. No. 179092, effective 4/1/05; Ord. No. 181357, effective 11/9/07; Ord. No. 184524, effective 7/1/11; Ord. No. 186053, effective 1/1/15; Ord. No. 187216, effective 7/24/15; Ord. No. 188177, effective 5/24/18; Ord. No. 188958, effective 5/24/18; Ord. No. 189000, effective 7/9/18; Ord. No. 189805, effective 3/1/20; Ord. No. 190023, effective 8/10/20; Ord. No. 190241, effective 3/1/21; Ord. No. 190834, effective 10/1/22.)

Central City Designated Viewpoints

Map 480-1

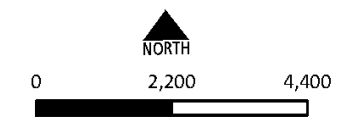
Map 1 of 2

Map Revised March 1, 2021



Legend

- City Boundary
- Designated Viewpoint
- ▭ Central City Plan District Boundary



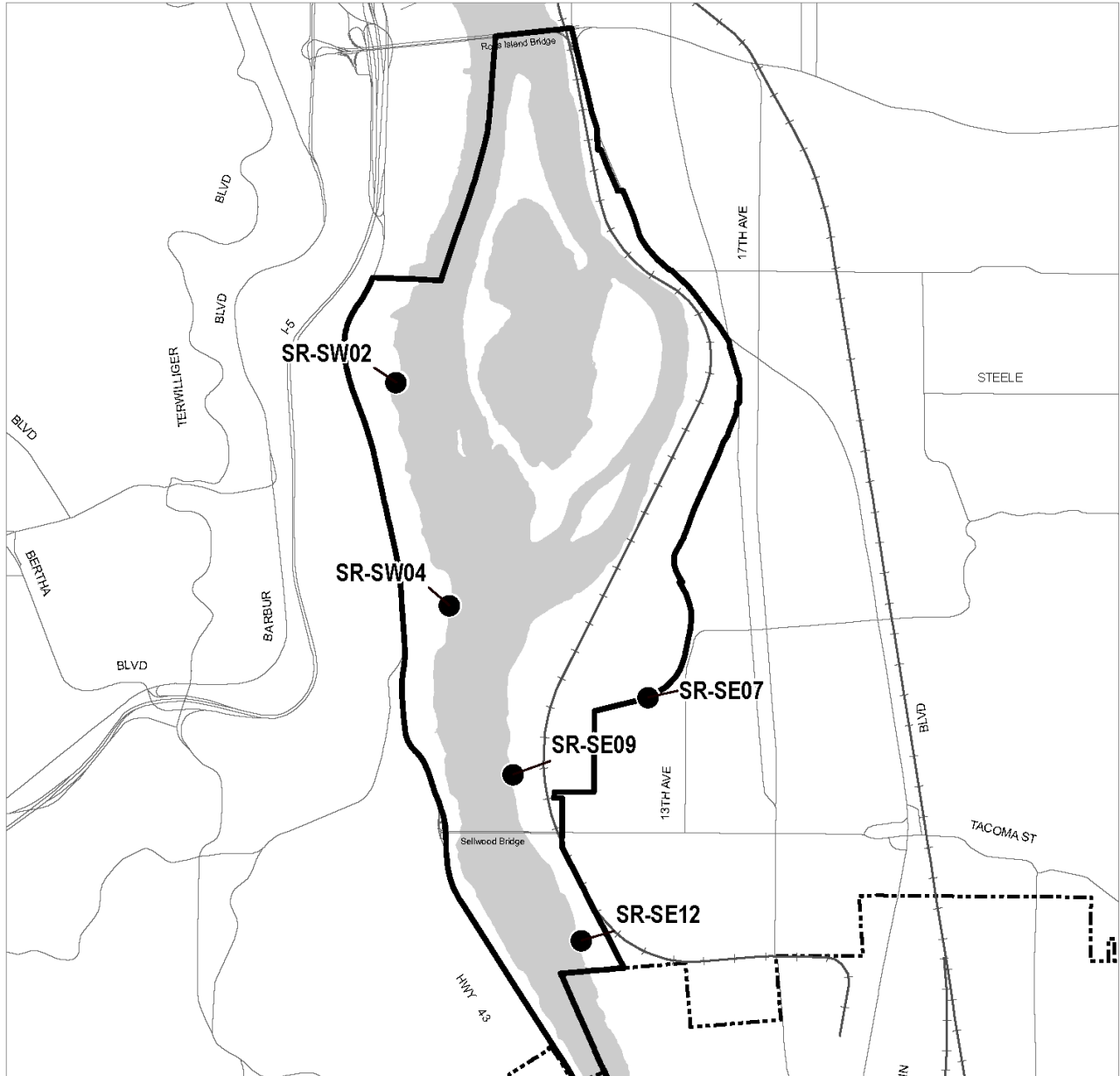
Scale in Feet
Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Portland, Oregon

South Reach Designated Viewpoints

Map 480-1

Map 2 of 2

Map Revised March 1, 2021



Legend

- City Boundary
- Designated Viewpoint
- ▭ South Reach River Overlay Boundary

