

Frequently Asked Questions about the City of Austin's Front and Side Yard Parking Ordinance (aka the Restricted Parking Area Map)

Intent and Definitions of the Front and Side Yard Parking Ordinance

Q: What is the intent of the Front and Side Yard Parking Ordinance? (Restricted Parking Area Map)

The intent of this ordinance is to prohibit a person from parking a motor vehicle in the front or side yard of a residential property **except in a driveway or a paved parking space depicted on an approved site plan (which is usually shown on a subdivision plat)**. Please note that this ordinance applies only in those areas as shown on the Restricted Parking Area Map.

PLEASE NOTE: This ordinance does not prohibit parking on the public street.

Q: What is classified as a Residential Property?

Residential property includes but is not limited to single family houses, duplexes, condominiums, town houses, and apartment buildings.

Q: What is classified as a Motor Vehicle?

A [motor vehicle](#) includes, but is not limited to, automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, vans, motor homes, panel trucks, buses, and sports utility vehicles.

Q: What is classified as the Front and Side Yard? (Land Dev. Code Sec. 25-1-21)

A [front yard](#) means a yard extending the full width of a lot between the front lot line and the front setback line.

A [side yard](#) means a yard extending the depth of a lot from the front yard to the rear lot line between the side lot line and the side setback line. For a corner lot, a street side yard is a yard that extends from the front yard to the rear lot line.

Front and Side Yard Parking Ordinance - Application, Parking, Enforcement, Penalties

Application Process

Q: Who can apply to be placed on the Restricted Parking Area Map?

Only [registered neighborhood associations](#) or [Neighborhood Planning Contact Teams \(NPCT\) with adopted Neighborhood Plans](#) may request inclusion onto the Restricted Parking Area Map by sending an application to City of Austin's Planning and Zoning Department. The open period to submit applications is any working day during the month of February. Residents and property owners located in a neighborhood planning area where a neighborhood plan is being adopted may also request to opt-in to be included on the Restricted Parking Area Map.

Q: How can my Neighborhood Association or Neighborhood Planning Area Contact Team apply to be placed on the Restricted Parking Area Map Overlay?

There are two ways that [neighborhood associations](#) or [neighborhood planning contact teams](#) may request that these parking restrictions apply to their area:

- 1) During the neighborhood planning process; or
- 2) Submit an application during the open filing period in February of each year. The Restricted Front/Side Yard Parking application is locate at [this link](#).

Applications may be hand delivered or mailed to the Planning and Zoning Department Offices at 505 Barton Springs Road, 5th Floor.

Q: We are not in a neighborhood planning area (with an adopted neighborhood plan). What if some members of our neighborhood association want to be placed on the Restricted Parking Area Map, but other members do not want to be covered by this ordinance?

The officers of a [registered neighborhood association](#) have to decide according to their official bylaws whether they want to **fully** opt into the Restricted Parking Area Map Ordinance and have their **entire** neighborhood covered. The City cannot enforce only part of a neighborhood association opting in to this ordinance due to logistical and administrative reasons. As for [planning area contact teams](#), they may designate all or part (if the planning area has subdistricts) of their planning area to be included on the Restricted Parking Area Map.

Q: What happens to the above neighborhood association or planning areas recommended the front yard parking restrictions, submitted a complete application, and City Council approved it?

The City of Austin's Planning and Zoning Department is required to mail out a notice to all property owners and City of Austin utility account holders in the designated area newly covered by the Restricted Parking Area Map Overlay not later than 30 days after the amendment goes into effect. The notice (in English and Spanish) explains the specifics of the ordinance, and penalties if the ordinance is violated.

Parking in a Restricted Parking Map Overlay Area

Q: Where can I park my motor vehicle if I am located in an area within a Restricted Parking Area Map Overlay?

A motor vehicle may only be parked on a driveway or paved parking space. In addition, a motor vehicle may be parked along a street as long as it does not block a driveway, alley, or access to a fire hydrant or is prohibited by a "No Parking" sign.

A motor vehicle may not be parked on a sidewalk or in a manner that blocks a sidewalk.

Q: Is my driveway or parking area required to be paved to comply with the Front and Side Yard Parking Ordinance? (Restricted Parking Area Map)?

Driveways made out of compacted gravel, cinder, crushed stone and even dirt are typically found in older areas of the City that were built before cement or asphalt pavements was required, are grandfathered.

Expanding a pre-existing driveway made out of gravel, cinder or dirt is NOT permitted. New driveways or parking areas made out of cinder, crushed gravel, dirt, or rock are not permitted.

All new curb cuts must lead to a paved driveway

Driveway requirements can be found in the City of Austin's online code at the links below or you can contact the [Development Assistance Center](#) at 512-978-4000.

- [Transportation Criteria Manual – Section5 – Driveways](#)
- [Title 25 Land Development Code Chapter 25-6-416 Requirements for Driveways](#)
- [Title 30 Austin/ Travis County Subdivision Regulations Chapter 30-3-146](#)

Q: How much is a curb cut fee if I want to install a new driveway? Can more than one curb cut be granted to a single household?

Please contact the [Austin Transportation Department](#) for a list of current fees and information regarding curb cuts.

Q: If a person has a gravel driveway, can they park two cars next to each other on that gravel? If someone has one parking space on gravel and the other in the yard, can they simply put down gravel or loose stones and park their vehicle side by side in that area, as long as they access that area from the curb cut?

See [Driveway Paving Requirements](#)

Putting down gravel, loose stone, dirt or cinder to expand a driveway or parking area is illegal and is subject to a citation.

To discuss the impervious surface requirements for your residential property, please contact the [Residential Plan Review Division](#) at 512-978-4000.

Enforcement and Penalties Associated with this Ordinance

Q: What do I do if I see someone violating the Front and Side Yard Parking Ordinance (Restricted Parking Area Map Overlay)?

To report a violation, or an illegal expansion of a driveway or parking area in a residential neighborhood please call or [email 3-1-1](#).

Q: Who enforces the Front and Side Yard Parking Ordinance (Restricted Parking Area Map Overlay)?

This ordinance is complaint-driven and citizens are required to call to report violations. The Austin Police Department District (APD) Representatives are the enforcement agency for this ordinance. This link below has current contact information for [APD District Representatives and a map of their areas](#).

Q: What are the fines given for violating the Front and Side Yard Parking Ordinance (Restricted Parking Area Map Overlay)?

Under this ordinance, the penalty for a first offense of parking a motor vehicle on the front or side yard is \$40.00. The fine is reduced to \$25.00 if the fine is paid early. The penalty for the second offence within 24 months is \$50.00. The penalty of a third and subsequent offenses is \$60.00.

Q: How can I find out the latest updates to Restricted Parking Area Map Overlay?

Please go to <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/front-yard-parking>.