



# Update to Outdoor Lighting Standards

Planning and Transportation  
Commission Hearing

**August 14, 2024**

**[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)**





## Purpose

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- Council Priority 2024: Climate Change & Natural Environment  
*“Initiate an evaluation of strategies to protect natural habitats such as bird safe glass and wildlife protection from light pollution”*
- Consistent with *DarkSky* principles, which is an effort to turn back the sky to its natural dark sky to the extent feasible by reducing light pollution.



## Lighting Standards

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- Updating the existing Lighting Section 18.40.250
- Aligning with *DarkSky Principles* to reduce light pollution
- **Applicability**
- **Shielding**
- **Illumination Level**
- **Lighting Control**
- **Special Purpose Lighting**



# Lighting Standards

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## Applicability

- All new construction
- Existing buildings proposing a substantial remodel
- New or replacement of outdoor lighting

## Shielding

- Requirement of shielded lighting
- Exceptions for low-voltage landscape, art/monument, property line, and string lighting



# Lighting Standards

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## **Illumination Level**

- Staff recommends a 3,000 Kelvin limit for exterior lighting
- Retain foot-candle measurements

## **Lighting Control**

- Lighting extinguished by 10:00 p.m.
- Motion-sensor activation after 10:00 p.m. with a sensor

## **Special Purpose Lighting**

- Security Lighting
- Outdoor Recreational Facilities
- Service Station Lighting
- String Lighting





# City Operations

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## Additional Provisions on City Operations

*“City Operations. City-owned and operated facilities shall comply with the outdoor lighting standards set forth in this section to the extent feasible. Exceptions to these standards for city facilities may be granted when necessary for public safety and security purposes or as directed by the City Council.”*

- Impacting City operations to provide services to the community
- Extensive impact analysis required

# ARB Discussion and Feedback

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- Added Substantial Remodel to the Applicability
- Additional applicability added for “curfew”
- Minor modifications to the exemption (street numbers)



# Staff Recommendation

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- Recommend the City Council Adopt the Draft Ordinance Updating Palo Alto Municipal Code (PAMC) Chapter 18.40 (General Standards and Exceptions) Section 18.40.250 (Lighting)
- City Council hearing in September (tentative)





# Bird-Friendly Design Ordinance

Planning and Transportation  
Commission Hearing

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## Purpose

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- Council Priority 2024: Climate Change & Natural Environment  
*“Initiate an evaluation of strategies to protect natural habitats such as bird safe glass and wildlife protection from light pollution”*
- Comprehensive Plan Policy
  - Policy L-6.3: Encourage bird-friendly design.
  - Program L6.3.1: Develop guidelines for bird-friendly building design that minimizes hazards for birds and reduces the potential for collisions.



# Bird-Safe Design Standards

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- Introducing a new PAMC Section: 18.40.280
- **Applicability**
- **Bird Safe Treatment**
- **Bird Safe Treatment Location**
- **Bird Safe Design Standards**
- **Exemptions**





# Bird-Safe Design Standards

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## Applicability

- All new construction in the Bird Sensitive Area
- Substantial Remodel in the Bird Sensitive Area
- New or replacement windows or Bird Hazard Installations that are unbroken and 24 square feet in size

## Exemptions

- Historic Structures
- First-Floor Retail Storefronts
- 100% affordable housing projects



# Bird-Safe Design Standards

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## Bird Safe Treatment

One of the following options:

- Fenestration and Glazing
- Exterior Features
- Threat Factor

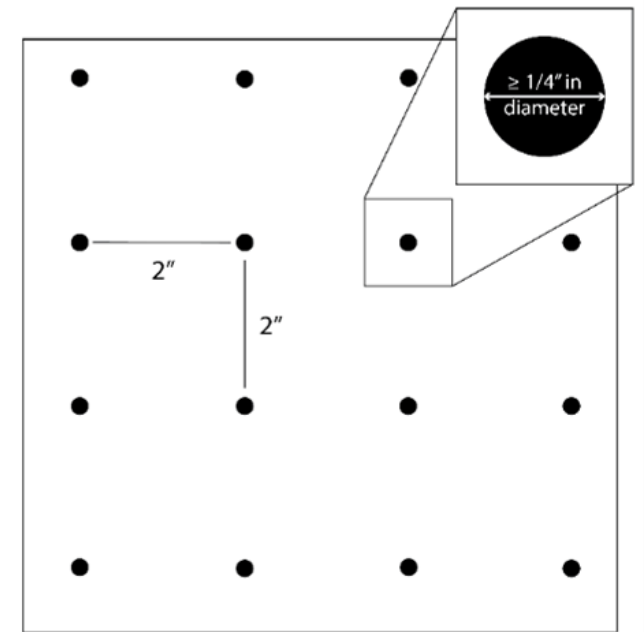
## Bird Safe Treatment Location

- Below 40 Feet: Bird Safe Treatment no less than 90 percent of the facade's surface area
- Above 40 Feet: Bird Safe Treatment no less than 60 percent for the facade's surface area





Sister Cities Café, Philadelphia

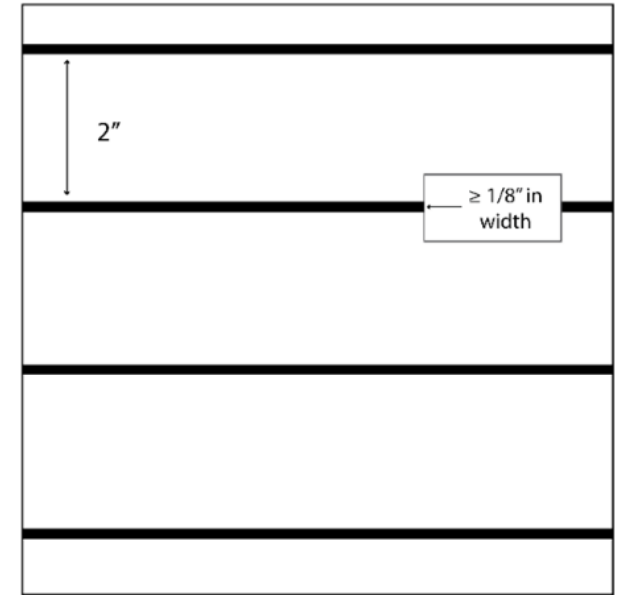


Source: City of Berkeley





Image: Vicki Thompson  
Google Campus in Mountain View



Source: City of Berkeley



Metal Shutter House, New York City



McDonald's at Walt Disney World, Bay Lake, FL



Exterior Shutter sample



The Grounds, Hobsonville Point, NZ



# ARB Discussion and Feedback

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- Applicability and Exemptions
  - Added Substantial Remodel to Applicability
  - Size-based requirement for the Bird-Friendly Design Ordinance



# Staff Recommendation

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- Recommend the City Council Adopt the Draft Ordinance Adding a New Section 18.40.280 (Bird-Friendly Design) to the Palo Alto Municipal Code (PAMC) Chapter 18.40 (General Standards and Exceptions)
- City Council hearing in September (tentative)



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## Basic LED Reference Example

## Kelvin Color Temperature Scale Chart

