

2.826 RT - Research/Technology Center

(ZC 98-69; Ordinance No. 98-10-10)

(1) Purpose

The RT district is intended to create a low density, employment center consisting of office, research and development facilities, and limited assembly operations. RT districts should generally accommodate several users in a campus environment.

(2) Permitted Uses

See Subsection 2.502, Schedule of Permitted Uses, for a complete listing.

(3) Area, Yard, and Bulk Requirements

Description	Requirement
Minimum Lot Area	None
Minimum Lot Width	None
Minimum Lot Depth	None
Minimum Front Yard	50 feet, except as provided in Section 3.500 and Other Setback Requirements below
Minimum Side Yard	30 feet, except as provided in Section 3.600 and Other Setback Requirements below
Minimum Rear Yard	30 feet, except as provided in Section 3.700 and Other Setback Requirements below
Maximum Height	20 story, not to exceed 325 feet in height. One story buildings shall not exceed 28 feet, inside clear height (exclusive of interior support structures), except as specified in Other Setback Requirements below.
Maximum Lot Coverage	45%, 60% with structured parking
Maximum Floor Area Ratio	1:1
Minimum District Size	25 contiguous acres
Other Setback Requirements	In addition to the above yard requirements, the following additional setbacks shall apply (as measured from nearest residential district boundary line):
	A minimum setback of three times the height up to a maximum height of eight stories or 140 feet, whichever is more restrictive, for a minimum distance of 1,000 feet.
	Beyond 1,000 feet, the setback shall be increased at one time the height above eight stories or 140 feet, whichever is more restrictive, up to 12 stories or 200 feet in height, whichever is more restrictive.

(4) Off-Street Parking and Loading Requirements (See Section 3.1100.) (ZC 2002-48; Ordinance No. 2002-10-41)

(a) Maximum Loading Facilities

Buildings in RT districts shall not exceed the following ratios for loading spaces:

Square Feet of Gross Floor Area in Structure	Maximum Loading Spaces or Berths
Zero to 20,000	Four
Over 20,000	One for each additional 10,000 square feet up to a maximum of 12

- (b)** The design and orientation of the building(s) shall minimize the exposure of loading and trash collection areas from adjacent streets and from adjacent properties unless they are part of the same approved preliminary site plan. No loading spaces shall face streets. No loading spaces or areas shall be located within 100 feet of the boundary line of a residential district. In addition, the Planning & Zoning Commission may require a combination of wing walls extended from a building, screening walls, landscape berms, and plant materials to further obscure the view of loading and trash collection areas. The above screening elements shall be designed and located in conformance with applicable yard and setback requirements. Screening must extend the entire length of the loading area.

Screening elements should be a minimum of eight feet in height at installation. Berms should not exceed a slope of three feet, horizontal to one foot, vertical. Retaining walls may be used on the interior side of the berm but should not face adjacent streets or properties. The height shall be measured from the top of the curb of adjacent streets or from the average grade of property lines with adjacent tracts of land. Depending upon the average grade of the adjacent streets and properties, the minimum height at installation may be increased to as high as 12 feet.

Plant materials used for screening shall include a combination of shade and ornamental trees (four-inch minimum caliper), conifers (eight-foot minimum height), and shrubs (five gallon minimum). The plant materials shall be arranged in a manner which significantly obscures the view from adjacent streets and properties.

Proposed screening elements shall be identified on the preliminary site plan. A detailed plan showing the angles of view and the specific placement of screening elements shall be submitted with the final site plan.

- (c)** Loading areas in RT districts are intended to provide for short-term pick-up and delivery. Onsite storage of delivery vehicles, including trailers and shipping containers, is prohibited. No delivery vehicles shall be parked outside of the designated loading areas.

(d) In order to accommodate future changes in use, approved site plans shall include adequate land area to increase parking to the minimum requirements for office development (one space per 300 square feet) for 75% of the gross floor area of any building.

(5) Landscaping (ZC 2006-02; Ordinance No. 2006-4-24)

A minimum of 20% of the total lot area shall be landscaping which may include courtyards, plazas, walkways, water features, and related treatments in addition to plant materials. (See Section 3.1200.) Per the development standards and incentives in Section 3.1700 (Storm Water Management), up to 50% of this required landscape area may be placed outside of the parking lot and/or landscaping along street rights-of-way if designated as storm water conservation area on a site-specific storm water management plan per Section 3.1700.

(6) Signage Standards

All freestanding general business, identification, institution, and multipurpose signs, as defined in the Sign Ordinance (No. 91-4-12) and its subsequent updates and revisions, shall be monument type. The copy shall be framed on all four sides by at least six inches of masonry, rock, or other material if compatible with an associated building's fascia. An additional allowance of up to three feet in height may be permitted for earthen berms, stone mounds, or other landscape features if part of an approved landscape plan. Except for those signs located within 150 feet of a residential zoning district, the following standards shall apply:

General Business Signs	
Maximum Height	12 feet*
Maximum Size	90 square feet*
Maximum Size of Copy Area	70 square feet
* The requirement for framing of general business signs may be eliminated if the following standards are met:	
Maximum Height	Five feet
Maximum Size	50 square feet
Maximum Size of Copy Area	N/A

Identification Signs	
Maximum Height	12 feet
Maximum Size	125 square feet
Maximum Size of Copy Area	100 square feet

Institutional Signs	
Maximum Height	12 feet
Maximum Size	45 square feet
Maximum Size of Copy Area	30 square feet

Multipurpose Signs	
Maximum Height	15 feet
Maximum Size	225 square feet
Maximum Size of Copy Area	Identification - 50 square feet
	Directory* - 70 square feet
	Reader Board* - 30 square feet
* Any combination of directory and reader board is permitted if it does not exceed 100 square feet	

For freestanding signs located within 150 feet of a residential zoning district, the following standards shall apply:

General Business Signs	
Maximum Height	Six feet*
Maximum Size	50 square feet*
Maximum Size of Copy Area	35 square feet
* The requirement for framing of general business signs may be eliminated if the following standards are met:	
Maximum Height	Four feet
Maximum Size	25 square feet
Maximum Size of Copy Area	N/A

Identification Signs	
Maximum Height	Six feet
Maximum Size	70 square feet
Maximum Size of Copy Area	50 square feet

Institutional Signs	
Maximum Height	Six feet
Maximum Size	35 square feet
Maximum Size of Copy Area	20 square feet

Multipurpose Signs	
Maximum Height	Six feet
Maximum Size	125 square feet
Maximum Size of Copy Area	Identification - 25 square feet
	Directory* - 35 square feet
	Reader Board* - 20 square feet
* Any combination of directory and reader board is permitted if it does not exceed 55 square feet.	

All other provisions of Ordinance No. 91-4-12 and its subsequent updates and provisions shall apply. Where conflicts exist, the provisions of this ordinance shall apply.

(7) Special District Requirements

- (a)** In the RT district, permitted uses shall meet the following standards:
 - (i)** Operations should be fully enclosed with no outside storage of goods or materials.
 - (ii)** No noise, vibration, odor, smoke, and dust should impact adjacent properties in conformance with the performance standards in Section 3.1300.

- (b) Retail and service uses identified with an “*” in Subsection 2.502, Schedule of Permitted Uses, may not occupy more than ten percent of the gross floor area** of a building unless the building and the designated location and amount of said uses are part of an approved site plan for more than one building, and the amount of space for these uses does not exceed ten percent of the combined floor area of all constructed buildings. The space for these uses may be redistributed within and among the buildings with the approval of a revised site plan. If a site plan includes multiple lots, all property owners must authorize the application. These uses may not be distributed among noncontiguous parcels of land.

A freestanding (sole use and occupant) restaurant/cafeteria is permitted in an RT district as part of the ten percent allowance described above if it has a minimum of 5,000 square feet of gross floor area** and no drive-in window.

** “Gross Floor Area” means the total floor area of a building from the exterior face of a building or from the centerline of a wall separating two buildings, but shall exclude any space where the floor-to-ceiling height is less than six feet and all patios, balconies, and parking facilities.

- (c) An office - showroom/warehouse use is permitted in an RT district only when the first floor of the building housing said use does not exceed 100,000 square feet of gross floor area. In addition, any office - showroom/warehouse use shall not have more than 70% of its gross floor area devoted to warehousing. Existing office - showroom/warehouse and/or storage or wholesale warehouse developments and properties with a valid preliminary site plan or site plan for said uses, approved prior to the initial zoning of property as RT, are exempt from the above requirements for maximum building size and percentage of space devoted to warehousing. If a valid, approved preliminary site plan expires before approval of a site plan or if a valid, approved site plan expires before issuance of a building permit, the above exemptions shall no longer apply. The above exemption does not apply to uses other than office - showroom/warehouse and/or storage or wholesale warehouse. Existing uses other than those permitted by right in an RT district or preliminary site plan or site plan proposing uses other than those permitted by right in an RT district, except storage or wholesale warehouse, are not exempted from the above requirements. Notwithstanding Subsection 2.703, if such a development is destroyed or partially destroyed, it may be reconstructed but not expanded. For a use within a development as described above in which more than 70% of its gross floor area is devoted to warehousing, the period of time that the structure is vacant between tenants shall not be deemed an intentional abandonment of the nonconforming use as described in Subsection 2.704. (ZC 2000-36; Ordinance No. 2000-6-26)
- (d) Any existing development or properties with a valid preliminary site plan or site plan approved prior to the zoning of a property as RT shall be exempted from the Area, Yard, and Bulk, Off-Street Parking and Loading, and Landscaping requirements specified for RT districts, and the preceding standards shall apply except for 4.c. above regarding loading areas. Notwithstanding Subsection 2.703, if such a development is destroyed or partially destroyed, it may be reconstructed but not expanded. (ZC 2002-48; Ordinance No. 2002-10-41)
- (e) Warehousing is allowed as an accessory use to light-intensity manufacturing use and is not subject to the maximum percentage requirements in 7.c. above. (ZC 2005-20; Ordinance No. 2005-6-34)

Disclaimer - Uses listed by zoning district are provided as a convenience but should not be relied upon as the most current and accurate source of information. Please contact the City of Plano Planning Department to verify a specific use.

RT – Research/Technology Center Permitted Uses

Accessory and Incidental Uses	
Accessory Building or Use (8)*	P
Construction Yard (Temporary) (9)*	35
Field Office (9)*	35
* = (8) - See Section 3.200 of the Zoning Ordinance; (9) - For construction yard, field offices, and other temporary buildings, see Subsection 3.103 of the Zoning Ordinance	

Automobile and Related Uses	
Automobile Leasing/Renting (ZC 99-46)	R, 33
Automobile Parking Lot/Garage	31

Commercial, Manufacturing, and Industrial Uses	
Concrete/Asphalt Batching Plant (Temporary)	36
Manufacturing - Heavy-Intensity (ZC 05-20)	S
Manufacturing - Light-Intensity (ZC 05-20)	P
Manufacturing - Moderate-Intensity (ZC 05-20)	P

Educational, Institutional, Public, and Special Uses	
Airport/Heliport (4)*	S
Cemetery/Mausoleum	S
Church and Rectory (5)*	P
Civic Center	P
College/University (5)*	P

P = Permitted Use; S = Specific Use Permit Required; R = Refer to Residential Adjacency Standards of the Zoning Ordinance; 31 = Permitted as an accessory use to motel/hotel or residence hotel; 33 = Fuel dispensing and/or car washing facilities associated with this use may be prohibited when in proximity to residential districts. See Residential Adjacency Standards of the Zoning Ordinance; 35 = Subject to temporary permit and removal at completion of project; 36 = Concrete Plant: Issuance of temporary permit by City Engineer and removal as directed; Asphalt Plant: Issuance of temporary permit by resolution of City Council

Educational, Institutional, Public, and Special Uses	
Community Center (ZC 98-101)	P
Farm, Ranch, Garden, or Orchard	P
Fire Station/Public Safety Building	P
Fraternal Organization, Lodge, or Civic Club	30
Golf Course/Country Club (Private)	P
Helistop (4)*	S
Hospital (5)*	P
Park/Playground	P
Post Office	P
Private Recreation Facility	P
Recreation Center	P
School - Primary or Secondary (Private) (5)*	P
School - Primary or Secondary (Public or Parochial) (5)*	P
Trade/Commercial School	P
* = (4) - See Subsection 3.106 of the Zoning Ordinance; (5) - See Subsection 3.401 of the Zoning Ordinance	

Office and Professional Uses	
Clinic	P
Medical Office	P
Office Center	P
Office - Professional/General Administrative	P
Research and Development Center	P

Retail Uses	
Convenience Store (ZC 99-46, ZC 98-69)	R, *, 33
Florist Shop	*
Retail/Service (Incidental) (ZC 96-29)	P

Service Uses	
Adult Day Care Center	S
Bank, Savings and Loan, or Credit Union	P
Body Piercing (ZC 01-19)	37
Business Service	P
Cleaning - Small Plant/Shop	*
Day Care Center (ZC 01-51, ZC 96-32, ZC 93-45) (13)*	S
Health/Fitness Center (ZC 96-29)	P
Licensed Massage Therapy	P
Motel/Hotel	20
Personal Service Shop	*
Print Shop (Major) (ZC 02-48)	S
Print Shop (Minor)	*
Private Club (19)*	S
Residence Hotel (ZC 95-23)	20
Restaurant/Cafeteria	*
Tattooing and Permanent Cosmetics (ZC 04-54, ZC 00-98)	37
Theater - Drive-In (ZC 99-46, ZC 96-24)	R
* = (13) - See Section 1.600 and Subsections 3.102, 3.1107, and 3.1109 of the Zoning Ordinance; (19) - See Subsection 3.105 of the Zoning Ordinance	

P = Permitted Use; S = Specific Use Permit Required; R = Refer to Residential Adjacency Standards of the Zoning Ordinance; * = Uses allowed when their combined area does not exceed ten percent of the gross floor area of a development. See Subsection 2.825, Regional Employment district or Subsection 2.826, Research/Technology Center district; 20 = Permitted when the building is a minimum of 200 feet from the nearest residential district boundary; 33 = Fuel dispensing and/or car washing facilities associated with this use may be prohibited when in proximity to residential districts. See Residential Adjacency Standards of the Zoning Ordinance; 37 = Permitted as an accessory use to a personal service shop and allowed in districts where that use is permitted; allowed by specific use permit as a primary use in the Retail, Corridor Commercial, Light Commercial, Light Industrial-1, and Light Industrial-2 districts. See Subsection 3.116 and Schedule of Permitted Uses of the Zoning Ordinance

Transportation, Utility, and Communications Uses	
Antenna	34
Antenna Support Structure (Commercial and Amateur) (ZC 99-43)	34
Electrical Substation	S
Private Utility (other than listed)	S
Railroad Spur Track (ZC 98-69)	P
Service Yard of Governmental Agency	S
Sewage Treatment Plant	S
Transit Center (ZC 96-29)	P
Transportation and Utility Structures/Facility	P
Utility Distribution/Transmission Line	P
Water Treatment Plant	S

Wholesale Uses	
Office - Showroom/Warehouse	32