



City of Stevenson

Planning Department

(509)427-5970

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371
Stevenson, Washington 98648

TO: R3 District Property Owners
FROM: Ben Shumaker
DATE: September 10th, 2020
SUBJECT: R3 Multi-Family District Owners—Zoning Code Amendment Proposal

This letter is intended to proactively engage you about potential changes to the zoning regulations affecting your property. The potential changes are proposed in response to a recent study by the Skamania County Economic Development Council (EDC). In their *Skamania County Housing Needs Analysis* the EDC is anticipating the need for ~2,000 new housing units over the next 20-year period. The study also found that a lack of appropriate infrastructure as well as the development regulations currently implemented by the City and County limit the ability to provide these new homes. As a result, housing costs, utility pricing, and community frustration is expected to increase. To address these deficiencies, the EDC's consultants have recommended several changes to the Zoning Code. The City is hoping to discuss these changes with you prior to their adoption.

The proposed changes revolve around the following policy questions:

- 1) Should it be easier to build senior care housing in the R3 Multi-Family Residential District?
- 2) Should more housing units be allowed on properties in the R3 District?
- 3) Should connection to the public sewer system be required for development in the R3 District?
- 4) Should development be allowed on more portions of lots in the R3 District?
 - a. If development should be allowed on more portions of lots, should the City try to avoid situations where vehicles in driveways block travel on sidewalks and streets?

Attachment 1 is provided to illustrate how affirmative answers to these policy questions might be incorporated into the zoning regulations applicable to your property. Changes have ~~red strike through~~ representing deletions and red underline representing additions. These changes occur on pages 2, 5, and 6 of the attachment. A potential change is also proposed on page 4 which is unrelated to housing needs.

The changes are titled "discussion draft" to reflect their intent to function as a starting point, not a desired endpoint. Your contributions to this discussion are an important part of the drafting process. Suggestions for fewer/alternative/additional changes will help ensure the Zoning Code implements the citizens' desires as well as their needs. To make the attachment as legible as possible, provisions applicable to the R3 District are shown in black ink. All other provisions are included for comparison purposes and appear in gray ink with smaller font.

Request: Please evaluate the policy questions above and share your initial opinions on the topic. You can do so by filling out an online questionnaire (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8PBXR7X>), via telephone (509-427-5970), in writing (planning@ci.stevenson.wa.us or PO Box 371, Stevenson, WA 98648), or at Planning Commission meetings on the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be a virtual meeting at 6:00pm on September 14th, 2020 taking place on the web at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84559583385> and via teleconference at 253-215-8782 or 301-715-8592, Webinar ID# 845 5958 3385.

Additional Request: The City is looking for some specific “case studies” of how the Zoning Code affects people’s lives and livelihoods. If you have a specific example from your experience, we’d appreciate it if you’d share it. Specifically, we’d like to know:

- 1- Have the existing provisions of the Zoning Code caused you to redesign or abandon a development proposal?
- 2- Have the existing provisions of the Zoning Code protected your neighborhood from a development or change you didn’t want?

To share a specific instance, please contact the city at 509-427-5970 or planning@ci.stevenson.wa.us.

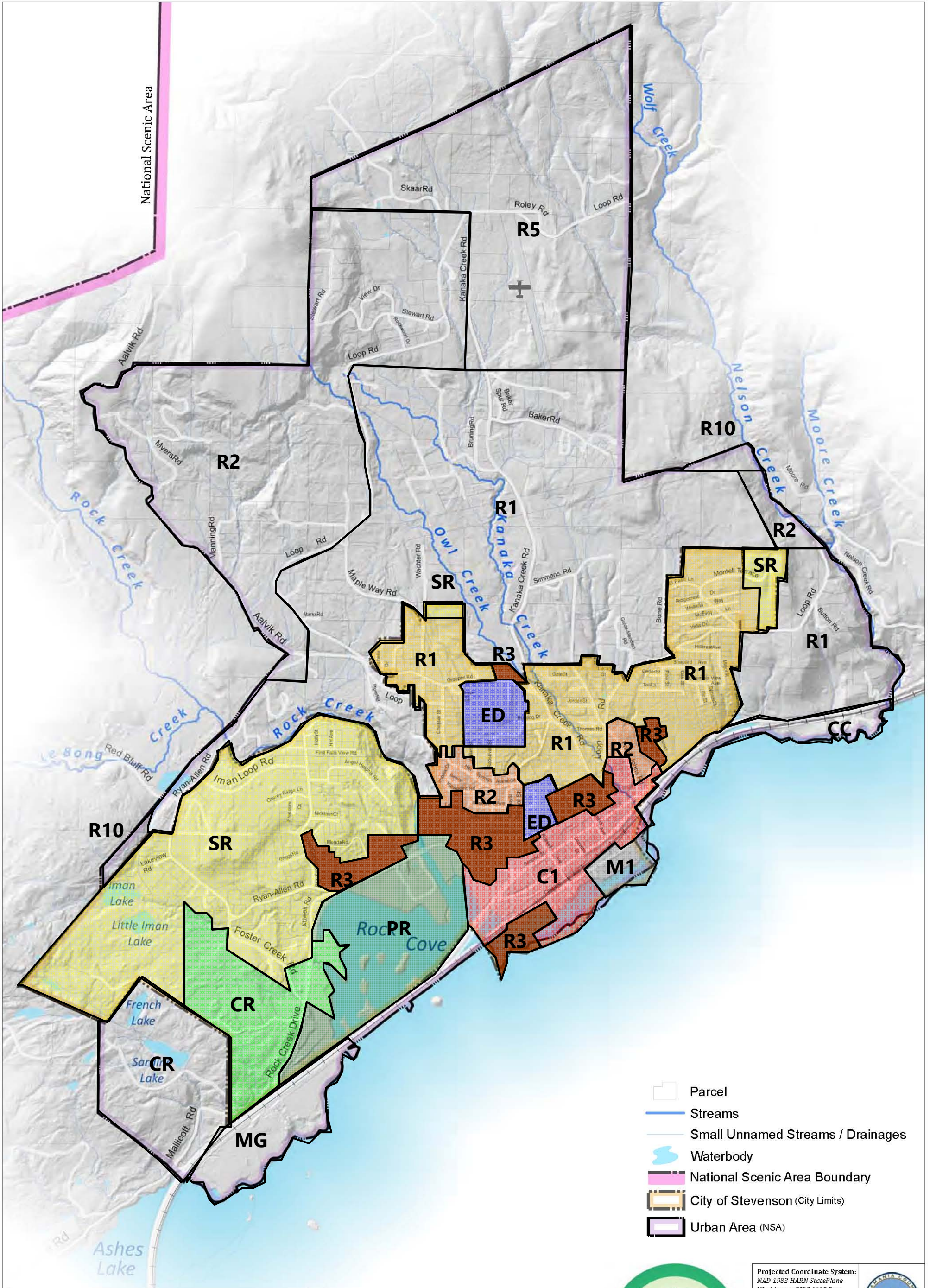
No decisions on this topic are imminent. In addition to this letter, you should expect at least 2 others on this topic:

- 1- Request for initial opinions on the zoning text amendments (*this letter*).
- 2- Request for opinions on a potential new zoning criteria: minimum density overlay (expected November).
- 3- Notification of the last draft ordinance and meetings where decisions will be made (expected January).

If you would like more information on this topic, including background reports, electronic copies of this letter, and information on other proposed changes, you can find it at: <http://ci.stevenson.wa.us/letsbuild>

Attachments:

- 1- Zoning Map Highlighting R3 Areas
- 2- Discussion Draft Zoning Amendment

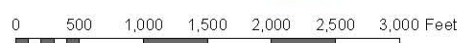


BASE MAP

This map is intended for planning purposes only. The stream locations and designations shown on this map are approximations based on the best available information at the time of mapping. The location and designation should be confirmed prior to undertaking land use actions in or near these areas.



Scale: 1:18,000
1 inch = 1,500 feet



Projected Coordinate System:
NAD 1983 HARN StatePlane
Washington FIPS 4602 Feet
Projection Name:
Lambert Conformal Conic
Planar Units: US Survey Feet
Data Sources: Skamania Co,
Col. River Gorge Commission
LIDAR: DNR Flight 2005-2006
Map Created: December 2011



DISCLAIMER: This map product was prepared by Skamania County and is for information purposes only. It may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for, legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

Chapter 17.15 - RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

17.15.010 - Purpose.

Residential districts encourage a range of residential land uses, housing sizes, types, and price ranges for the diverse array of residents' personal preferences and financial capabilities. The standards in this chapter are intended to encourage mixtures of land uses and intensities while minimizing negative impacts related to conflicting land uses.

(Ord. No. 1103, § 5, 2-16-2017)

17.15.020 - List of zoning districts.

- A. R1 Single-Family Residential District. The single-family residential district (R1) is intended to provide minimum development standards for residential uses where complete community services are available and where residential uses are separated from uses characteristic of more urban and/or rural areas.
- B. R2 Two-Family Residential District. The two-family residential district (R2) is intended to provide minimum development standards for higher-density residential uses where complete community services are available and where residential uses are separated from uses characteristic of more urban and more rural areas.
- C. R3 Multi-Family Residential District. The multi-family residential district (R3) is intended to provide minimum development standards for various residential uses where complete community services are available and where residential uses are in close proximity to uses characteristic of more urban areas and separated from uses characteristic of more rural areas.
- D. MHR Mobile Home Residential District. The mobile home residential district (MHR) is intended to provide minimum development standards for affordable residential uses within the city.
- E. SR Suburban Residential District. The suburban residential district (SR) is intended to provide minimum development standards for a variety of uses and provide a transition area where service levels are less than urban and where low-density residential uses coexist with uses otherwise characteristic of more rural areas.

(Ord. No. 1103, § 5, 2-16-2017)

17.15.030 - Residential district location criteria.

- A. Residential districts can be appropriately applied and maintained within any LDR low density residential or HDR high density residential area on the future land use map.
- B. Areas designated as LDR low density residential and HDR high density residential shall not be rezoned for trade districts. Under limited circumstances HDR areas may be rezoned for public districts.

(Ord. No. 1103, § 3, 2-16-2017)

17.15.040 - Uses.

A. Types of Uses: For the purposes of this chapter, there are 4 kinds of use:

1. A permitted (P) use is one that is permitted outright, subject to all the applicable provisions of this title.
2. An accessory (A) use is permitted on properties containing permitted uses, provided that:
 - a. The accessory use or activity may be regarded as incidental or insubstantial in and of itself or in relation to the principal use on the lot; and
 - b. The accessory use or activity is commonly or frequently associated with the principal use on the lot.

3. A conditional (C) use is a discretionary use reviewed by the Planning Commission according to the process and criteria in SMC 17.39 - Conditional Uses.
4. A prohibited (X) use is one that is not permitted in a zoning district under any circumstances.
5. When a letter or use category is not listed in this table, an interpretation may be initiated under SMC 17.12.020.

B. Use Table. A list of permitted, accessory, conditional and prohibited uses in residential districts is presented in Table 17.15.040-1: Residential Districts Use Table.

Table 17.15.040-1 Residential Districts Use Table					
Use	R1	R2	R3	MHR	SR
Residence or Accommodation Uses					
Dwelling					
Single-Family Detached Dwelling	P	P	P	P	P
Mobile Home	X	X	X	P	X
Travel Trailer	—	—	—	—	X
Accessory Dwelling Unit (SMC 17.40.040)	A	—	—	—	A
Multi-Family Dwelling	C ¹	P/C ¹	P	C ¹	C ¹
Temporary Emergency, Construction or Repair Residence	C ²	C ²	C ²	—	C ²
Townhome (SMC 17.38.085)	—	C ⁸	P	—	—
Renting of no more than 2 rooms, rented by the month or longer, provided the parking requirements of SMC 17.42 are met.	A	A	A	A	A
Boarding House	C	C	C	—	C
Residential Care					
Adult Family Home	P	P	P	P	P
Assisted Living Facility	—	—	C-P	—	C
Nursing Home	—	—	C-P	—	—
Overnight Lodging					
Vacation Rental Home	P	P	P	P	P
Bed & Breakfast	C	C	P	C	C
Hostel	C	C	P	C	C
Hotel	X	X	C	X	C
Campground	X	X	X	C	C
Dormitory facility related to a public, private or parochial school	C	C	C	—	C
Miscellaneous Incidental Uses					
Residential Outbuilding	A/C _{3,4}	A/C _{3,4}	A/C ₄	A/C _{3,4}	A/C ₃
Garage or storage building for the parking of commercial vehicles	—	—	—	—	C
Swimming pool, spa or hot tub, and associated equipment	A	A	A	A	A
Buildings and uses related to, and commonly associated with a mobile home park such as a recreation area, laundry, facility office, and meeting rooms	—	—	—	A	—
General Sales or Service Uses					

Electric Vehicle Station					
Restricted Access, Gradual Charging EV Station	A	A	A	A	A
Restricted Access, Rapid charging EV Station	C	C	C	C	C
Public Access, Gradual Charging EV Station	—	—	C	—	—
Street—Side Access, Gradual Charging EV Station	—	—	C	—	—
Retail and wholesale sales of agricultural and animal products raise or produced on the premises					
Professional Office	—	C	C	—	—
Veterinarian	—	—	—	—	C
Child Day Care Facility					
Family Day Care Home	P	P	P	P	P
Mini-Day Care Center	C	C	C	C	C
Child Day Care Center	—	C	C	C	C
Home Occupation					
A	A	A	A	A	A
Transportation, Communication, Information, and Utilities Uses					
Public Transportation Stop or Shelter	—	—	—	—	C
Utility or Communication Facility	C	C	C	C ⁵	C
Wireless Telecommunications Facility ⁶					
Minor Wireless Telecommunications Facility	P	P	P	P	P
Intermediate Wireless Telecommunications Facility (SMC 17.39.170)	C	C	C	C	C
Major Wireless Telecommunications Facilities (SMC 17.39.170)	C	—	—	—	C
Wind Power Generation Facility ⁶					
Minor Wind Power Generation Facility (SMC 17.39.165)	C	C	C	C	C
Hazardous Waste Storage					
C	C	C	C	C	C
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation Uses					
Public Assembly	-	-	-	-	-
Wedding Venue	—	—	—	—	C
Park, Playground or Outdoor Recreation Area	C	C	C	C	C
Golf Course	—	—	—	—	C
Education, Public Administration, Health Care, and Other Institutions Uses					
Public, Private or Parochial School	C	C	C	—	C
Nursery School or Similar Facility	—	—	—	C	—
Library	C	C	C	—	—
Government Administration Building	—	—	C	—	—
Fire, Police, or Emergency Services Station	C	C	C	—	C
Hospital	—	—	C	—	—
Church or Other Religious or Charitable Organization	C	C	C	—	C
Cemetery or Mausoleum	—	—	—	—	C
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting Uses					

Subsistence or hobby type gardening	P	P	A	P	P
Indoor or Outdoor Horticultural Activity	P	P	P	P	P
Nursery	—	—	C	—	P
Farm Animals (SMC 17.40.095)	C ⁷	X	X	X	P
Urban Farm Animals (SMC 17.40.095)	A	A	A	A	P
Pets	A	A	A	A	A
Kennel	C	X	X	X	C
Miscellaneous/Other Uses					
Signs listed with a "C" in Table 17.15.145-1 and any other sign identifying and/or related to any conditional use or existing nonconforming use.	C	C	C	C	C
Signs identifying and/or related to any principal or accessory use allowed in this chapter.	A	A	A	A	A

1-Conditional use permits for these uses are only considered when submitted as part of an R-PUD proposal under SMC 17.17 - Residential Planned Unit Developments.

2-A conditional use permit is only required for a temporary emergency, construction or repair residence after the expiration of the initial 6-month grace period.

3-Up to 4 residential outbuildings on a property is considered an accessory Use. When at least 4 residential outbuildings already exist on a lot then an additional residential outbuilding is considered a conditional use. During the conditional use review process, the planning commission may establish size, serial proliferation and other limitations on such buildings.

4-A residential outbuilding that is subordinate to the main use on the lot is considered an accessory use. A residential outbuilding which is not subordinate to the main use on the lot is considered a conditional use. During the conditional use review process, the planning commission may establish size, serial proliferation and other limitations on such buildings.

5-Despite the general exclusion of overhead elements from this use category, any utility or communication facility in the MHR district with an overhead element greater than 35 feet is considered a conditional use.

6-See also SMC 17.36-WW Wind/Wireless Overlay District.

7-In granting a conditional use request for farm animals in the R1 district, the planning commission shall find, at a minimum, that the proposal is compliant with the performance standards in SMC 17.40.095.

8-Townhomes in the R2 District are subject to review according to the density and parking requirements of the R3 Multi-Family Residential District and shall connect to the municipal sewer system.

(Ord. No. 1103, § 5, 2-16-2017; Ord. No. 1104, § 3A, 6-15-2017; Ord. No. 2019-1141, § 4, 5-16-2019)

17.15.050 - Residential density standards.

A. Density and Lot Size. The maximum density and minimum lot dimensions for Residential Districts are contained in Table 17.15.050-1: Residential Density Standards.

District	Utility Availability	Minimum Lot Area	Minimum Lot Width	Minimum Lot Depth	Maximum Number Dwelling Units	Maximum Lot Coverage
R1	Water, Sewer	6,000 sf	40 ft	90 ft	1 Unit ²	35%
	Water, Septic	15,000 sf ¹	90 ft	120 ft	1 Unit ²	25%
	Well, Septic	1 acre ¹	200 ft	200 ft	1 Unit ²	10%
R2	Water, Sewer	5,000 sf + 2,000 sf per unit over 1	50 ft ³	90 ft	2 Units	50%

	Water, Septic	15,000 sf ¹	90 ft	120 ft	2 Units	30%
	Well, Septic ⁶	—	—	—	—	—
R3	Water, Sewer	4,000-sf + 2,000 sf per unit over 1 ⁴	75-20 ft ⁵	90 ft	—	65-100%
	Water, Septic ^{6,7}	15,000-sf ¹ + 5,000-sf per unit over 2	90 ft	120 ft	—	40%
	Well, Septic ^{6,7}	—	—	—	—	—
MHR	Water, Sewer	5 ac + 5,000 sf per unit over 40	200 ft	200 ft	—	40%
	Water, Septic	5 ac + 2 acres per unit over 2	200 ft	200 ft	—	40%
	Well, Sewer	5 ac + 2 acres per unit over 2	200 ft	200 ft	—	40%
	Well, Septic	5 ac + 2 acres per unit over 2	200 ft	200 ft	—	40%
SR	Water, Sewer	15,000 sf	100 ft	100 ft	1 Unit ²	25%
	Water, Septic	20,000 sf ¹	100 ft	100 ft	1 Unit ²	20%
	Well, Septic	1 acre ¹	200 ft	200 ft	1 Unit ²	10%

- 1-When sewer is unavailable, minimum lot area may be increased based on current health district regulations.
- 2-Unless an accessory dwelling unit (SMC 17.13.010) is allowed under SMC 17.40.040.
- 3-Except 40 ft for single-family detached dwellings.
- 4-Except 2,500-sf for townhomes.
- 5-Except 25 ft for townhomes, 40 ft for single-family detached dwellings, and 50 ft for two-family dwellings.
- 6-Service by the public water system is required.
- 7-Service by the public sewer system is required.

B. Exceptions. The following exceptions are permitted to the standards of Table 17.15.050-1:

1. Properties receiving approval to deviate from standards according to SMC 17.38 - Supplementary Provisions.
2. Properties obtaining variance approval in accordance with SMC 17.46 - Adjustments, Variances, and Appeals.
3. Properties receiving modification approval in accordance with SMC 17.17 - Residential Planned Unit Developments.

(Ord. No. 1103, § 5, 2-16-2017; Ord. No. 1104, § 3.B,C, 6-15-2017)

17.15.060 - Residential dimensional standards.

A. Compliance Required. All structures in residential districts must comply with:

1. The applicable dimensional standards contained Table 17.15.060-1: Residential Dimensional Standards.
2. All other applicable standards and requirements contained in this title.

District	Maximum Height of Building	Minimum Setbacks				
		Front	Side, Interior	Side, Street	Rear, Interior Lot	Rear, Through Lot
R1	35 ft	20 ft	5 ft	15 ft	20 ft ¹	20 ft
R2	35 ft	20 ft	5 ft	15 ft	20 ft ¹	20 ft
R3	35 ft	150 ft ³	5 ft ²	15 ft	20 ft ¹	20 ft
MHR	35 ft	30 ft	15 ft	20 ft	20 ft ¹	20 ft

SR	35 ft	30 ft	15 ft	20 ft	20 ft	20 ft
----	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

1-5 ft for residential outbuildings that are both 12 ft in height or less and 200 sq ft in size or less
 2-A 10-foot setback is required when adjacent to an R1 or R2 district.

3-See also SMC 17.15.130(B)(3)

B. Exceptions. The following exceptions are permitted to the standards of Table 17.15.060-1:

1. Properties receiving approval to deviate from standards according to SMC 17.38 - Supplementary Provisions.
2. Properties obtaining variance approval in accordance with SMC 17.46 - Adjustments, Variances, and Appeals.
3. Properties receiving modification approval in accordance with SMC 17.17 - Residential Planned Unit Developments.

(Ord. No. 1103, § 5, 2-16-2017; Ord. No. 1104, § 3.D, 6-15-2017)

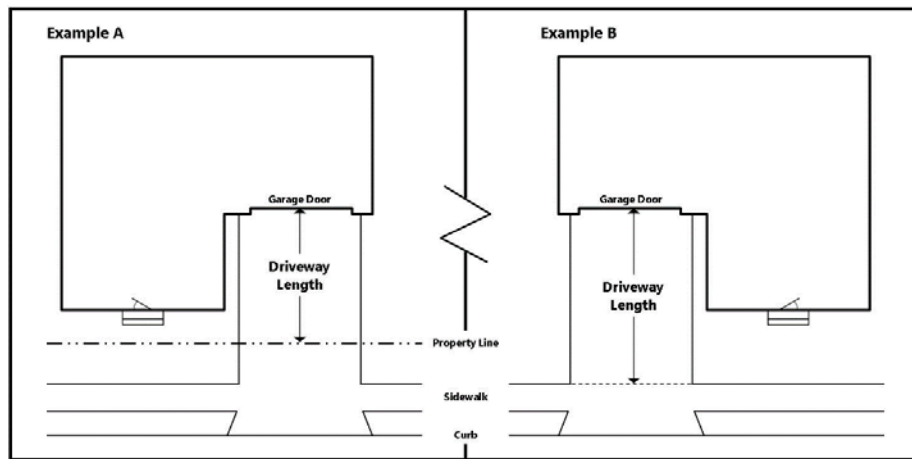
17.15.130 - Residential districts parking.

A. Off-Street Parking Required. Off-street parking shall be provided in all residential districts in accordance with the requirements of SMC 17.42: Parking and Loading Standards.

B. Parking Location Requirements.

1. Required parking shall be located on the same lot as the dwelling it serves.
2. No motor vehicle, recreational vehicle or equipment, or other equipment, whether operational or not, shall be parked, stored or otherwise located in an Interior Side Setback required by Table 17.15.060-1: Residential Dimensional Standards.
3. No driveway shall be less than 20 feet in length. This shall be done to eliminate the parking of vehicles on or over curbs, sidewalks, or vehicle travel areas [SMC 17.10.855]. For the purposes of this chapter driveway length is measured conservatively as the shortest distance between a) a garage door or other physical obstruction to the parking of a vehicle and b) a curb, sidewalk, public pedestrian way [SMC 17.10.660], property line, or right-of-way line.

FIGURE 17.38.085-1 Driveway Length Illustration



(Ord. No. 1103, § 5, 2-16-2017)

17.15.145 - Residential districts signs.

- A. Allowed Sign Types and Characteristics. A list of permitted, accessory, conditional and prohibited sign types and characteristics in Residential Districts is presented in Table 17.15.145-1: Allowed Signage.

Table 17.15.145-1: Allowed Signage					
	R1	R2	R3	MHR	SR
Animated Sign	X	X	X ¹	X	X
Sign Structure					
Temporary	P	P	P	P	P
Awning/Marquee	X	X	X	X	X
Portable	—	—	—	—	—
Sign Type					
Community Information Sign	C	C	C	C	C
Dilapidated Sign	X ²	X ²	X ²	X ²	X ²
Mural	C	C	C	C	C
Off-Premises Sign	X	X	X	X	X
Sign Placed by a Governmental Agency	P	P	P	P	P
Sign of Outstanding Design	—	—	C	—	—
Sign Illumination					
Back-lit Cabinet	X	X	X	X	X
Back-lit Channel Letter	X	X	X ¹	X	X
Dark-Sky Friendly	C	C	P	C	C
Directly -Illuminated	X	X	A ³	X	X
Externally-Illuminated	X	X	X ¹	X	X
Halo-Lighted	X	X	X ¹	X	X
Pedestrian-Oriented Video Display	X	X	—	X	X

1-Unless a bonus allowance is granted for a sign of outstanding design under SMC 17.39.145.

2-An existing sign, together with its sign structure, which becomes dilapidated shall be removed after notice to the property owner, unless upon appeal under SMC 17.46, the property owner establishes facts sufficient to rebut the presumption of dilapidation.

3-Allowed as an accessory sign only when placed in windows and limited to 4 sq ft in area.

- B. Sign Standards. Signs allowed in Residential Districts are subject to the dimensional and duration standards in Table 17.15.145-2: Sign Standards.

Table 17.15.145-2: Sign Standards					
	R1	R2	R3	MHR	SR
Number of Signs	Any	Any	Any	Any	Any
Maximum Sign Area					
Individual Sign	5 sf ¹	5 sf ¹	12 sf ^{2,3}	5 sf ¹	5 sf ¹
Total Cumulative Signage Allowed	32 sf	32 sf	40 sf	32 sf	32 sf
Maximum Sign Height					
Building Sign	16 ft ⁴	16 ft ⁴	26 ft ^{3,4}	16 ft ⁴	16 ft ⁴

Freestanding Sign	6 ft	6 ft	12 ft ³	6 ft	6 ft
Temporary Sign	6 ft	6 ft	6 ft ³	6 ft	6 ft
Minimum Sign Clearance					
Building Sign Projecting More than 12" from a Building	8 ft	8 ft	8 ft	8 ft	8 ft
Sign Placement ^{5,6}					
Setback from any property line	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft
Allowed Sign Duration					
Temporary Sign	45 days ⁷	45 days ⁷	45 days ⁷	45 days ⁷	45 days ⁷
Political Sign ⁸	Until 5 days after election	Until 5 days after election	Until 5 days after election	Until 5 days after election	Until 5 days after election
Real Estate Sign	Until 5 days after the property is taken off the market	Until 5 days after the property is taken off the market	Until 5 days after the property is taken off the market	Until 5 days after the property is taken off the market	Until 5 days after the property is taken off the market

- 1-When allowed as conditional uses, the planning commission may permit individual signs no larger than 16 sq ft.
- 2-When allowed as conditional uses, the planning commission may permit individual signs no larger than 24 sq ft.
- 3-Subject to bonus allowance when approved as a Sign of Outstanding Design under SMC 17.39.145.
- 4-No part of a building sign shall be higher than the highest point of the building to which it is attached.
- 5-No sign may be placed in a Vision Clearance Area (SMC 17.10.862).
- 6-Signs within a public right-of-way may be permitted according to SMC 12.02-Use of City Rights-of-Way.
- 7-Signs related to a specific event, sale, etc. must be removed within 5 days after such event.
- 8-Political signs not related to an upcoming election in the voting district where the sign is placed are subject to the temporary sign duration standards.

(Ord. No. 1103, § 5, 2-16-2017)