

9.7 Development Permit Area No. 5 – Enhanced Design Control Residential

9.7.1 Scope

All lands zoned for two-unit dwellings or zoned as Comprehensive Development Districts for residential developments only are designated as part of Development Permit Area No. 5 – Enhanced Design Control – Intensive Residential as shown on “Schedule C” of this Plan.

9.7.2 Category

Section 919(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act* – form and character of intensive residential development.

9.7.3 Justification

The following policies and guidelines were developed to allow for the better utilization and redevelopment of parcels within residential neighbourhoods and ensure that development occurs in a manner that retains the desirable physical characteristics of a neighbourhood.

9.7.4 Requirements of Owners of Land within the Development Permit Area

- a) Owners of land within Development Permit Area No. 5 must not do any of the following without first obtaining a development Permit in accordance with the guidelines for this Development Permit Area:
- ♦ construct a two-unit dwelling;
 - ♦ subdivide a two-unit dwelling;
 - ♦ convert a single-unit dwelling to a two-unit dwelling;
 - ♦ renovate an existing two-unit dwelling if the value of construction, as specified in the Building Permit, would exceed 50 percent of the assessed value (as listed on the BCAA property roll at the time of construction) of the building being added to or renovated;
 - ♦ construct two or more separate dwelling units on one parcel, without first obtaining a Development Permit in accordance with the guidelines of this Development Permit Area; or
 - ♦ construct a dwelling on a parcel less than 530 m² in area if that parcel was created after May 31st, 2002.
- b) Exemptions:
- The following do not require a development permit:
- ♦ additions or renovations to, or the construction of, one single-unit dwelling situated on a fee simple parcel;
 - ♦ additions or renovations to any two-unit dwelling situated on a parcel zoned for two-unit use where the value of construction, as specified in the Building Permit, does not exceed 50 percent of the assessed value of the building (as listed on the BCAA property roll at the time of construction) being added to or renovated;
 - ♦ construction of buildings or structures less than 10 square meters in area;
 - ♦ minor additions to existing dwellings where the floor area of the addition does not exceed 10 percent of the ground floor area of the dwelling;

- ♦ emergency repairs to existing structures where a potential safety hazard exists; and
- ♦ fences.

9.7.5 Guidelines for Owners of Land within the Development Permit Area

The intent of these guidelines is to ensure that new two-unit development (i.e. duplexes) is compatible with and enhances the surrounding community.

- a) New two-unit dwellings, additions to or renovations of existing two-unit dwellings, and the conversion of single-unit dwellings into two-unit dwellings should be designed to be consistent with and preserve the proportions and patterns of existing residential buildings in the immediate vicinity, including the wall-to-window area ratios and the amount and type of open space provided.
- b) Where it is not possible to achieve buildings of similar size and proportion to the surrounding residential buildings, the fronts of the buildings should be designed to create the appearance of smaller structures either by staggering the dwelling units or visually breaking up the façade with architectural detailing.
- c) Innovative and creative site-specific two-unit dwellings are encouraged where yard space is maintained either on the ground or as rooftop gardens. Setbacks to the street may be reduced to maximize property use.
- d) Front to back duplexes are generally discouraged unless they can be designed to eliminate negative impacts to the immediate neighbours such as shading of gardens, overlook of outdoor amenity areas and violation of privacy.
- e) Side by side, up and down, or staggered unit configurations are preferred as these result in a greater number of units facing the street, less disruption of privacy, and a more equitable division of outdoor amenity areas between the two dwelling units.
- f) The use of exterior building materials similar to those used in older residential neighbourhoods (i.e. combinations of wood, brick, stucco, and stone) is encouraged.
- g) Rooflines of new development should relate in height, shape and pitch to existing residential buildings in the immediate area. For corner sites, the building design should avoid having large unbroken sloped roof areas facing the street.
- h) To create interest in the façade of the buildings facing the street, the incorporation of architectural elements such as bay windows, covered porches, verandas and prominent front doors is encouraged.
- i) Buildings should be designed to minimize visual intrusion onto the privacy of surrounding homes. Some overlook of adjoining yards and neighbouring decks may be unavoidable; however, additional privacy should be achieved by inseting balconies, decks and patios into the building or by screening them with latticework or landscaping. Windows should be spaced



so that they do not align directly with those of other buildings.

- j) The height and massing of new two-unit dwellings should be designed to minimize the casting of shadows onto the private outdoor space of adjacent residential dwellings.
- k) A landscaping plan showing ground cover areas, planting beds, shrubbery and trees (both existing and proposed) is required for every new two-unit dwelling or the conversion of a single-unit dwelling to a two-unit dwelling. Landscaping should add to the aesthetic appeal of the streetscape as well as provide privacy between dwelling units.
- l) The provision of private open space should be part of an overall site development and landscape plan and should take into consideration general site circulation patterns (including parking), existing landscape features, sun access, privacy and usability.
- m) Retention and protection of trees and the natural habitat is encouraged where possible.
- n) Parking areas, garages and driveways should appear as a minor component of the site when viewed from the street. The building of curving access roads and driveways helps to avoid views from the street of large expanses of paving. The use of shared driveways is encouraged.
- o) The use of permeable and decorative surfacing materials, such as brick, concrete pavers, textured concrete, coloured paving or grasscrete is encouraged in place of solid expanses of asphalt or concrete.
- p) Where possible, hydro meters will not be placed on the front façade of a building and, if placed on the side of a building which is visible from the street, will be appropriately screened.
- q) Where an existing single unit dwelling is being converted to a two-unit dwelling both the original structure and the addition shall be in the same architectural style and constructed of the same exterior finishes including roofing material, window treatments, exterior finishes, door styles and trims.
- r) Roof styles and pitches of the original and new portions of the building must be complimentary with the variation in the height of roof lines less than 1.5 metres.