

City of Vancouver Zoning Districts

The City of Vancouver is divided into many zoning districts, shown on this map the Zoning District Plan. Each zoning district has a corresponding district schedule in the Zoning and Development By-law. The following is a brief description of the intent of each district schedule, included here to provide a general understanding of the various zoning districts. The Zoning and Development By-law and applicable official development plan by-laws must be consulted for a definitive statement of district schedule intent and regulations.

Where a zoning district applies to one specific area of the city, the area is noted in parenthesis. Where a zoning district is followed by the letter "N",

Agricultural Districts

Limited Agriculture District (Southlands)

The intent is to maintain and encourage the semi-rural, equestrian and limited agricultural nature of this District, to permit one-family dwellings and in specific circumstances to permit infill one-family dwellings.

One-Family Dwelling Districts

The intent is to maintain the single-family residential character of the RS-1 District, but also to permit conditionally one-family dwellings with secondary suites. Emphasis is placed on encouraging neighbourly development by preserving outdoor space and views. Neighbourhood amenity is enhanced

through the maintenance of healthy trees and planting which reflects the established streetscape.

The intent is to maintain the single-family residential character of the District

but also to conditionally permit in some instances one secondary suite or additional dwelling unit in a single-family residence.

RS-1B (Riverside) The intent is to maintain the single-family residential character of the District,

but also to permit a second one-family dwelling on some sites.

The intent is primarily to maintain the single-family residential character of the

District, but also to conditionally permit in some instances the conversion of large homes to contain additional accommodation, and some two-family and multiple-family dwellings.

the RS-3 and RS-3A Districts in a manner compatible with the existing amenity and design of development, and to encourage new development that is similar n character to existing development in this District. Emphasis is placed on encouraging neighbourly development by preserving outdoor space and views and by ensuring that the bulk and size of new development is similar to existing healthy trees and planting which reflects the established streetscape. The RS-3 District permits a higher non-discretionary density than the RS-3A District.

RS-4 (Turner-Ferndale) The intent is primarily to maintain the single-family residential character of the

District, to conditionally permit, in some instances, the conversion of large homes to contain additional accommodation, and some two-family dwellings and to accommodate retention of an existing residential building where creation of a new lot is otherwise approvable.

The intent is to maintain the existing single-family residential character of the RS-5 District by encouraging new development that is compatible with the form and design of existing development, and by encouraging the retention and renovation of existing development but also to permit conditionally one-family dwellings with secondary suites. Emphasis is placed on design compatibility with the established streetscape. Neighbourhood amenity is intended to be enhanced through the maintenance and addition of healthy trees and plants.

The intent is to maintain the single-family residential character of the District,

to encourage a good standard of building design, materials, and landscape development while allowing design diversity in new development and to encourage retention of existing housing stock. Neighbourhood amenity is enhanced through the maintenance of healthy trees and planting which reflects the established landscape.

permit multiple-family dwellings and infill. Neighbourhood amenity is enhanced through external design regulations.

The intent is primarily to permit side-by-side two-family dwellings.

The intent is to permit two-family dwellings and to conditionally permit, in some instances, low density multiple-family housing.

RT-3 (Strathcona/Kiwassa) The intent is to encourage the retention of neighbourhood and streetscape

character, particularly through the retention, renovation and restoration of existing character buildings. Redevelopment is encouraged on sites with existing buildings of style and form which are inconsistent with the area's pre-1920 architecture. Emphasis is placed on the external design of additions to existing buildings and new buildings to encourage the preservation of the historic architectural character of the area. Floor area incentives are included to achieve the creation of affordable housing and the rehabilitation of original buildings which are important to the neighbourhood's character.

RT-4, RT-4A, RT-4N, RT-4AN, RT-5, RT-5A, RT-5N, RT-5AN

The intent is to encourage the retention of existing residential structures and o encourage and maintain a family emphasis. The RT-4, RT4N, RT-5 and RT-5N Districts emphasis is placed on the external design of all new buildings and additions being compatible with the historical character of the area, and on being neighbourly in scale and placement. In the RT-4A, RT-4AN, RT-5A and RT-5AN Districts this emphasis is limited to certain uses or, in RT-5A and RT-5AN Districts, to development seeking density relaxations.

he intent is to encourage the retention, renovation and restoration of existing esidential buildings which maintain an architectural style and building form consistent with the area. Redevelopment is encouraged on sites with smaller buildings or buildings of architectural style and form which are inconsistent with the area. Emphasis is placed on requiring the external design of buildings and additions to buildings to follow the proportions, rhythm and details of

The intent is to encourage the retention and renovation of existing buildings which maintain an architectural style and building form consistent with the historical character of the area. Redevelopment will be encouraged on sites where existing buildings are smaller, or do not contribute to this character. For renovations and additions, emphasis is placed on maintaining existing external architectural character; for new development, on compatibility in external character. In all cases, neighbourly building scale and placement is

RT-9 (Kitsilano Point) The intent is to encourage new development with a diversity of character and

neighbourly building scale and placement. The retention and renovation of existing buildings is also permitted on sites where buildings have historical or architectural merit.

RT-10. RT-10N

on large lots and assembled sites, while continuing to permit lower intensity development on smaller sites. Siting and massing is intended to be compatible with, but not the same as, pre-existing single family development. Retention of older character buildings and high quality architectural design of all new development are encouraged. RT-11. RT-11N

The intent of this schedule is to allow a variety of housing options by encouraging development of multiple small houses and duplexes on larger lots and assembled sites, while continuing to permit lower intensity development on smaller sites, such as one-family dwellings with or without a secondary suite and/or a laneway house. Siting and massing are intended to be compatible with, but not the same as, pre-existing single family development. Laneway houses, secondary suites, and lock-off units are permitted, within limits, to provide flexible housing choices. Retention of character buildings and high quality architectural design of new development is encouraged.

Multiple Dwelling Districts

The intent is to permit low to medium density residential development,

including low-rise apartment buildings, and to secure a higher quality of

parking, open space and daylight access through floor area bonus incentives

The intent is to permit medium density residential development, including

The intent is to permit medium density residential development, including

a variety of multiple dwelling types, to encourage the retention of existing

objectives through permitted increases in floor area. The RM-4N District

The intent is to permit a variety of residential developments and some

access and privacy. The RM-5A, RM-5B, RM-5C and RM-5D Districts permit

The intent is to permit high density residential development and some

compatible retail, cultural, recreational, service and institutional uses.

Emphasis is placed on achieving development which recognizes the formal character of Georgia Street and is compatible with the West End residentia

The intent of this schedule is to encourage development of ground-oriented stacked townhouses or rowhouses, while continuing to permit lower intensity

to be compatible with, but not the same as, pre-existing single family

RM-8, RM-8N (Marpole/South Cambie)

RM-9, RM-9N (Marpole/South Cambie)

development, such as one-family dwellings with or without a secondary suite

development. Secondary suites and lock-off units are permitted, within limits,

to provide flexible housing choices. Retention of character buildings and high quality design and livability standards are encouraged for new development.

The intent of this schedule is to encourage development of ground-oriented

stacked townhouses or rowhouses, including courtyard rowhouses, while

continuing to permit lower intensity development, such as one family dwellings

with or without a secondary suite and/or laneway house. Siting and massing of

The intent of this Schedule is to permit a variety of medium density residential

buildings, such as low rise apartments, ground oriented stacked townhouses and

rowhouses, including courtyard and freehold rowhouses. Emphasis is on a high

are permitted, within limits, to provide flexible housing choices. All new development will demonstrate high quality design, ensure a high standard of

compatible commercial, light industrial, and ancillary uses, designed to

optimize the amenities inherent in the topography and location of this

standard of liveability and creation of a variety of dwelling unit sizes, including

those appropriate for families with children. Secondary suites and lock-off units

ew development are intended to be compatible with, but not the same as. pre-existing single family development. Secondary suites and lock-off units are

permitted, within limits, to provide flexible housing choices. Retention of

character buildings and high quality design and liveability standards are

and/or a laneway house. Siting and massing of new development are intended

compatible retail, office, service and institutional uses. Emphasis is placed on achieving development which is compatible with neighbouring development with respect to streetscape character, open spaces, view retention, sunlight

The additional intent of the RM-5 District is to require developments suited to

families with children. The additional intent of the RM-5C District is to permit

a greater range of uses. The RM-5D District supports the development of social

requires evidence of noise mitigation for residential development.

buildings and good design, and to achieve a number of community and social

space and daylight access through floor area bonus incentives.

high-rise apartment buildings, and to secure a higher quality of parking, open

RM-1, RM-1N The intent is to encourage development of courtyard rowhouses on larger sites while continuing to permit lower intensity development on smaller sites. Siting and massing is intended to be compatible with, but not the same as,

new development is encouraged.

RM-3, RM-3A

RM-4, RM-4N

greater densities than RM-5.

RM-6 (West End)

character along Alberni Street.

RM-7, RM-7N (Norquay)

encouraged for new development.

employment opportunities or serve a useful or necessary function in the city. It pre-existing single family development. High quality architectural design of all is not the intent, however, to permit uses that are potentially dangerous or environmentally incompatible when situated near residential districts.

Industrial Districts

M-1A (Cornwall & Cypress)

The intent is to permit industrial and other uses that are generally incompatible with residential land use but are beneficial in that they provide industrial employment opportunities or serve a useful or necessary function in the city. It is the intent, however, to permit these uses in a manner which achieves an acceptable level of compatibility with adjacent residential districts and to not permit uses that are potentially dangerous or environmentally incompatible

The intent is to permit industrial and other uses that are generally incompatible

with residential land use but are beneficial in that they provide industrial

M-1B (S.E. Marine Lands)

when situated near residential districts.

The intent is to provide an industrial district schedule that permits industrial and other related uses under conditions designed to minimize conflicts with adjacent or nearby residential uses. The Schedule is also intended to discourage uses that are not related to the industrial sector. While certain commercial and office uses are permitted as either outright or conditional uses, the type and scale of non-industrial uses is restricted.

The intent is to permit industrial and other uses that are generally incompatible or potentially dangerous or environmentally incompatible when situated in or near residential districts but that are beneficial in that they provide industrial

employment opportunities or serve a useful or necessary function in the city.

MC-1, MC-2 The intent is to permit commercial, residential and industrial uses which are compatible with one another and with nearby residential districts. MC-2 is similar to MC-1, but limits dwelling uses in areas adjacent to heavy impact

Light Industrial Districts

uses compatible with and complementing light industrial uses.

IC-1, IC-2

The primary intent is to permit light industrial uses that are generally compatible with one another and with adjoining residential or commercial districts. It is also the intent to permit advanced technology industry, industry with a significant amount of research and development activity, and commercial

The general intent of external design regulations in the IC-2 District is to achieve a form of development compatible with the function and character of abutting

The primary intent is to permit a mix of light industrial, live arts and theatre, residential and related uses that are generally compatible with adjoining residential and commercial districts. Service uses compatible with and

The primary intent is to permit light industrial uses that are generally compatible with one another and with adjoining residential or commercial districts. It is also the intent to permit advanced technology industry, and industry with a significant amount of research and development activity. Service commercial uses compatible with and complementing light industrial uses are also permitted but not offices or retail stores.

liveability and neighbourhood fit. FM-1 (Fairview Slopes) The intent is to enhance the small-scale residential character of the Fairview Slopes neighbourhood by encouraging retention of the existing houses and permitting new low-profile residential development which may include some

The intent is to provide for small-scale convenience commercial establishment catering typically to the needs of a local neighbourhood and consisting primarily of retail sales and certain limited service functions, and to provide for dwelling uses designed compatibly with commercial uses.

The intent is to provide for a wide range of commercial uses serving both local

and city-wide needs, as well as residential uses, along arterial streets. Emphasis is on building design that furthers compatibility among uses, ensures livability, limits impact on adjacent residential sites, and contributes to pedestrian interest and amenity.

The intent is to provide for a wide range of goods and services, to maintain commercial activities and personal services that require central locations to serve larger neighbourhoods, districts or communities and through discretionary approvals, to encourage good design and proper utilization of the land.

The intent is to provide for a wide range of goods and services, to maintain commercial activities and personal services that require central locations to serve larger neighbourhoods, districts or communities and to encourage creation of a pedestrian oriented district shopping area by increasing the residential component and limiting the amount of office use.

The intent is to provide for a wide range of goods and services, to maintain commercial activities and personal services that require central locations to serve larger neighbourhoods, districts or communities and to encourage creation of a district shopping area by increasing the residential component and limiting the amount of office use.

The intent is to provide for a wide range of goods and services, to maintain

commercial activities, specialized services and some light manufacturing enterprises while preserving the character and general amenity of the area and its immediate surroundings, and to provide for dwelling uses designed compatibly with commercial uses.

The intent is to provide for retail and services uses and forms of development

compatible with the primarily residential character of the West End and to provide for dwelling units in C-5A and C-6 designed to be compatible with commercial uses. External building design, the scale and function of which is oriented towards pedestrians, is encouraged. The C-5 district provides opportunities for commercial uses throughout the district and opportunities for nightlife in the Davie Village. The C-5A district differs from the C-5 district because C-5A provides density bonuses for social housing and secured market rental housing. The C-6 district differs from the C-5 and C-5A Districts because the C-6 district provides a transition between the Downtown and the West End by permitting a greater density and scale than the C-5 and C-5A districts.

The intent is to encourage the transition of a predominantly industrial and commercial area into a mixed-use community with a strong residential component, while respecting the needs of existing development. Emphasis is placed on well-designed all-residential or mixed residential and commercial buildings. The C-8 District differs from the C-7 District in encouraging pedestrian-oriented retail uses at grade.

FC-1 (East False Creek)

C-7, C-8 (Arbutus Neighbourhood)

The intent is to permit and encourage the development of a high density mixed commercial use neighbourhood, including some residential and compatible industrial uses. For commercial development, a variety of small-scale retail and of design and development within a number of residential neighbourhoods, service uses are encouraged. Larger, more regional-oriented office and retail commercial uses are limited in size and extent for individual sites.

complementing light industrial uses and a limited number of office uses are also permitted, but not general retail stores. The general intent of the external design regulations is to achieve certain public objectives with respect to the historic Brewery Creek water course.

The intent is to permit industrial and other uses that are generally incompatible with residential land use but are beneficial in that they provide industrial and service employment opportunities or serve a useful or necessary function in the city. It is not the intent, however, to permit uses that are potentially dangerous or environmentally incompatible when situated near residential districts.

The intent is to permit high technology industry, and industry with a significant amount of research and development activity. It is also the intent to permit light industrial uses that are generally compatible with one another and with adjoining residential or commercial districts.

Historic Area Districts

designated heritage sites; HA-1A is the remainder of Chinatown.

HA-1, HA-1A (Chinatown) The intent is to encourage the preservation and rehabilitation of the significant early buildings of Chinatown, while recognizing that the evolving activities that make this district an asset to the City need to be accommodated contextually. There are two Districts: HA-1 corresponds to the boundaries of the Provincially

HA-2 (Gastown) Gastown is the site of the old Granville Townsite, and it is from this area that the City of Vancouver developed and grew. This District Schedule is designed to

recognize the area's special status and to ensure the maintenance of Gastown's "turn of the century" historical and architectural character.

or constructing a new building.

the intended form of development.

False Creek, west of the Cambie Bridge.

HA-3 (Yaletown) The intent is to encourage the conversion and renovation of existing warehouse buildings and the construction of compatible new buildings, to produce a more contemporary mix of commercial, industrial and residential uses, and to introduce more activity-oriented uses into this area. Emphasis is placed on requiring the external design of buildings to follow the proportions, rhythm and details of the predominant circa 1900 architectural features, whether renovating

Comprehensive Development Districts

CD-1 (Site Specific) A separate CD-1 bylaw exists for each area or site zoned CD-1, tailor-made to

The intent of this District and accompanying official and area development plans is to encourage high standards of design and development for the south shore of

ensure that all buildings and developments in the Downtown District meet the

highest standards of design and amenity for the benefit of all users who live,

The intent of this District and accompanying official development plan is to

work, shop or visit the Downtown. **CWD** (Central Waterfront) The intention of this District and its two accompanying official development

plans (Central Waterfront and Coal Harbour) is to encourage the development of

commercial, recreational, cultural and public uses throughout the waterfront area as well as residential uses west of Burrard Street. Marathon's Coal Harbour redevelopment is in this area, between Cardero and Burrard Streets. **DEOD** (Downtown-Eastside/Oppenheimer)

Downtown-Eastside Oppenheimer area, and to provide for compatible commercial and industrial uses in some areas. FSD (First Shaughnessy)

The intent of this District and accompanying official development plan is to protect and preserve Shaughnessy's unique pre-1940 single-family residential character. Provision is made to allow large pre-1940 houses to be redeveloped as multiple conversion dwellings, and to allow large sites with pre-1940 residential buildings to provide infill development.

The intent of this District and accompanying official development plan is to

retain existing and provide new affordable housing for the population of the

The intent of this District and its two accompanying official development plans (False Creek North and Southeast Granville Slopes) is to achieve a high standard parks, public facilities and commercial areas on the north side of False Creek.