

RS-1 District Schedule

1 Intent

The intent of this Schedule is generally to maintain the single-family residential character of the RS-1 District, but also to permit conditionally one-family dwellings with secondary suites and laneway houses. 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.

2 Outright Approval Uses

2.1 Subject to all other provisions of this By-law and to compliance with the regulations of this Schedule, the uses listed in section 2.2 shall be permitted in the RS-1 District and shall be issued a permit.

2.2 Uses

2.2.A • Accessory Buildings customarily ancillary to any of the uses listed in this Schedule, provided that:

- (a) no accessory building exceeds 3.7 m in height measured to the highest point of the roof if a flat roof, to the deck line of a mansard roof, or to the mean height level between the eaves and the ridge of a gable, hip or gambrel roof, provided that no portion of an accessory building may exceed 4.6 m in height;
- (b) all accessory buildings are:
 - (i) located within 7.9 m of the ultimate rear property line or located within the permitted building depth as regulated by section 4.16.1 of this Schedule; and
 - (ii) in no case less than 3.1 m from the ultimate centre line of any rear or flanking lane and less than 1.5 m from a flanking street, subject also to the provisions of section 11.1 of this By-law;
- (c) the total floor area, measured to the extreme outer limits of the building, of all accessory buildings is not greater than 30% of the minimum rear yard prescribed in this Schedule, or 48 m², whichever is the greater, except that:
 - (i) floor area previously excluded from existing development pursuant to section 4.7.3(c), and
 - (ii) the floor area of a laneway house, shall be deducted from the total allowable accessory building floor area;
- (d) not more than 80 percent of the width of the rear yard of any lot is occupied by accessory buildings;
- (e) roof gardens and sun decks are not located on an accessory building located beyond the permitted building depth as regulated by section 4.16.1 of this Schedule.

- Accessory Uses customarily ancillary to any of the uses listed in this section, provided that accessory parking spaces shall comply with the provisions of section 2.2.A(b) of this Schedule.

2.2.DW [Dwelling]

- One-Family Dwelling.

2.2.I [Institutional]

- Community Care Facility – Class A, subject to the regulations and relaxations that apply to a one-family dwelling.

3 Conditional Approval Uses

3.1 Subject to all other provisions of this By-law, including section 3.3.3, and the provisions and regulations of this Schedule, the Development Permit Board may approve, for the RS-1 District, any of the uses listed in section 3.2 including such conditions as it may decide, provided that it first considers:

- (a) the intent of this Schedule and all applicable policies and guidelines adopted by Council; and
- (b) the submission of any advisory group, property owner or tenant.

3.2 Uses

3.2.1 The uses listed in section 3.2.1 may be permitted in the RS-1 District.

- 3.2.1.A
- Accessory Buildings customarily ancillary to any of the uses listed in this Schedule, other than as provided for in section 2.2.A of this Schedule.
 - Accessory Uses customarily ancillary to any of the uses listed in this section.

3.2.1.C [Cultural and Recreational]

- Community Centre or Neighbourhood House.
- Golf Course or Driving Range.
- Library in conjunction with a Community Centre.
- Marina.
- Park or Playground.
- Stadium or Arena.
- Zoo or Botanical Garden.

3.2.1.D • Deposition or extraction of material so as to alter the configuration of the land.

3.2.1.DW [Dwelling]

- Dwelling Unit in conjunction with a neighbourhood grocery store existing as of July 29, 1980, subject to the provisions of section 11.16 of this By-law.
- Infill One-Family Dwelling, provided that:
 - (a) it shall be for a caretaker;
 - (b) it shall be subject to the provisions of section 2.2.A regulating Accessory Buildings except that:
 - (i) clause (a) thereof shall not apply to any portion not located within 7.9 m of the ultimate rear property line;
 - (ii) clause (c) thereof shall not apply; and
 - (iii) clause (b) of section 11.1 of this By-law shall not apply; and
 - (c) its floor area shall not exceed 75 m² and shall be also counted in the accessory building area.
- One-Family Dwelling with Secondary Suite.
- Laneway House, subject to the provisions of section 11.24 of this By-law.
- Seniors Supportive or Assisted Housing, subject to section 11.17 of this By-law.

3.2.1.I [Institutional]

- Ambulance Station.
- Child Day Care Facility.
- Church, subject to the provisions of section 11.7 of this By-law.
- Hospital, subject to the provisions of section 11.9 of this By-law.

- Public Authority Use essential in this District.
- School - Elementary or Secondary, subject to the provisions of section 11.8 of this By-law.
- Social Service Centre.
- Community Care Facility – Class B, subject to the provisions of section 11.17 of this By-law.
- Group Residence, subject to the provisions of section 11.17 of this By-law.

3.2.1.P [Parking]

- Parking Area ancillary to a principal use on an adjacent site.

3.2.1.R [Retail]

- Neighbourhood Grocery Store existing as of July 29, 1980, subject to the provisions of section 11.16 of this By-law.

3.2.1.S [Service]

- Bed and Breakfast Accommodation, subject to the provisions of section 11.4 of this By-law.

3.2.1.U [Utility and Communication]

- Public Utility.

4 Regulations

All uses approved under sections 2 and 3 of this District Schedule shall be subject to the following regulations:

4.1 Site Area

4.1.1 The minimum site area for a one-family dwelling or one-family dwelling with secondary suite is 334 m², and the minimum site width for a one-family dwelling or one-family dwelling with secondary suite is 7.3 m.

4.1.2 Where the site is less than 9.8 m in width or less than 334 m² in area, the design of any new dwelling shall first require the approval of the Director of Planning or the Development Permit Board, as the case may be.

4.1.3 The minimum site area for a dwelling unit for a caretaker shall be 3 000 m².

4.2 Frontage -- Not Applicable.

4.3 Height

4.3.1 A building shall not exceed 9.5 m in height and shall not have more than 2½ storeys nor exceed the maximum dimensions created by the combination of:

- a primary envelope located in compliance with the side yard regulation and formed by planes vertically extended 4.9 m in height and then extending inward and upward at an angle of 30 degrees from the horizontal to the point where the planes intersect; and
- a secondary envelope located between the required side yards and equal to 60 percent of the site width (except as provided for by section 4.3.2) and formed by planes vertically extended 7.6 m in height and then extending inward and upward at an angle of 45 degrees from the horizontal to the point where the planes intersect.

- 4.3.2 The secondary envelope need not be less than 9.8 m in width except as limited by the required side yard.
- 4.3.3 Height shall be measured from a hypothetical surface determined by joining the existing grades at the intersections of the hypothetical lines defining the front and rear yards and the side property lines, except that if the Director of Planning is of the opinion that the hypothetical surface determined by joining the existing grades is not compatible with the existing grades of adjoining sites or general topography of the area, he may instead require that height be measured from base surface.
- 4.3.4 Notwithstanding the height limitation in section 4.3.1, the Director of Planning may permit a building to exceed a height of 9.5 m but not to exceed a height of 10.7 m provided that he considers:
- (a) the impact of the increased height on views from surrounding development;
 - (b) the extent to which the increased height improves the roof lines of the building; and
 - (c) the effect of the increased height on adjacent properties and the character of the area.
- 4.3.5 Where the Director of Planning is prepared to approve an increase in floor space ratio pursuant to section 4.7.1(c), he may permit a building to exceed any of the maximum dimensions of section 4.3.1 provided that in no case shall the height be increased to more than 10.7 m.

4.4 Front Yard

- 4.4.1 A front yard with a minimum depth of 20 percent of the depth of the site shall be provided, except that:
- (a) on a site where the average front yard depth of the two adjacent sites on each side of the site is more than the 20 percent depth by at least 1.5 m or is less than the 20 percent depth, the minimum depth of the front yard to be provided shall be that average, subject to the following:
 - (i) where an adjacent site is vacant, it shall be deemed to have a front yard depth of 20 percent of the depth of the site;
 - (ii) if one or more of the adjacent sites front on a street other than that of the development site or the adjacent sites are separated by a street or lane, then such adjacent sites shall not be used in computing the average;
 - (iii) where the site is adjacent to a flanking street or lane, the average depth shall be computed using the remainder of the adjacent sites;
 - (b) the Director of Planning may vary the front yard requirement on a double fronting site or a site where a building line has been established pursuant to section 14.1 of this By-law;
 - (c) if the provisions of section 4.4.1(a) and section 4.6.1 of this Schedule result in a distance between the front yard and the rear yard which is less than 35 percent of the depth of the site, and provided that the principal building is sited so that it abuts the required rear yard, the depth of the required front yard can be reduced so that the distance between the front yard and the rear yard is equal to 35 percent of the depth of the site; and
 - (d) Covered porches complying with the conditions of section 4.7.3(g) shall be permitted to project into the required front yard a maximum of 1.2 m provided that such a projection is limited to 30 percent of the width of the building.
- 4.4.2 Where the Director of Planning is prepared to approve an increase in floor space ratio pursuant to section 4.7.1(c), he may permit a building having a lesser front yard than required in section 4.4.1.

4.5 Side Yard

4.5.1 A side yard shall be provided on each side of the building with a minimum width of not less than the site width multiplied by the percent of site width given by the following formula, except that this percent shall never be less than 10 percent and need never be more than 20 percent:

$$\% \text{ of site width} = \frac{\text{site width in metres}}{1.219} - 5$$

4.5.2 In the case of a corner site which has located at its rear, with or without the intervention of a lane, a site which fronts on the street flanking the corner site, the exterior side yard shall be regulated by the provisions of section 11.1 of this By-law.

4.5.3 Where the Director of Planning is prepared to approve an increase in floor space ratio pursuant to section 4.7.1(c), he may permit a building having a lesser side yard than required in section 4.5.1.

4.6 Rear Yard

4.6.1 A rear yard with a minimum depth of 45 percent of the depth of the site shall be provided, except that the rear yard to be provided can be reduced to a depth of not less than the greater of the depths of the rear yards of the sites on either side, subject to the following:

- (a) where an abutting site is vacant, it shall be deemed to have a rear yard depth of 45 percent of its site depth;
- (b) where an adjacent site abuts the site by way of its rear property line or is separated by a street or lane, it shall not be used in computing the reduction in the depth of the rear yard to be provided;
- (c) where the site has an exterior side yard, the rear yard to be provided can be reduced to that of the abutting site; and
- (d) any portion of the principal building to be located within that part of the rear yard decreased as provided for in this section 4.6.1 must comply with the provisions of section 2.2.A(a) of this Schedule.

4.6.2 For the purposes of calculating the rear yard to be provided, where the rear property line does not abut a lane or abuts a lane that is only partially dedicated, the rear yard to be provided shall be calculated and measured from the ultimate rear property line.

4.6.3 Where a building line has been established pursuant to the provisions of section 14.2, such building line shall be deemed to be the southerly boundary of any required rear yard on lands described in “Plan A” of Part III of Schedule E to this By-law, notwithstanding any dimension contained herein.

4.6.4 For buildings existing prior to April 12, 1988 the depth of the required rear yard can be reduced by up to 3.1 m, provided that the resulting depth of the principal building does not exceed 35 percent of the depth of the site. The floor of a roof garden or sundeck located within that part of the rear yard decreased as provided for in this section shall not be any higher than the floor of the first storey of the principal building.

4.6.5 Where the Director of Planning is prepared to approve an increase in floor space ratio pursuant to section 4.7.1(c), he may permit a building having a lesser rear yard than required in section 4.6.1.

4.7 Floor Space Ratio

4.7.1 The floor space ratio shall not exceed 0.60, subject to the following:

- (a) for buildings existing prior to April 12, 1988 the area of all floors at or above finished grade and of the floors of any storey, basement or cellar located below a storey which has a floor surface located 2.0 m or more above finished grade, all of which floors are located within the building depth as defined by section 4.16.1 of this Schedule shall not exceed a floor space ratio of 0.20 plus 130 m²;
- (b) in all other cases, the area of all floors at or above finished grade and of the floors of any storey, basement, or cellar located below a storey which has a floor surface located 1.8 m or more above finished grade, all of which floors are located within the building depth as defined by section 4.16.1 of this Schedule, shall not exceed a floor space ratio of 0.20 plus 130 m²;
- (c) notwithstanding clauses (a) and (b), where a site is 18.2 m or more in width and 500 m² or more in area the Director of Planning may permit an increase in the area of all floors as described in clause (a) or (b) as the case may be, to a floor space ratio not exceeding 0.3 plus 93 m² provided that:
 - (i) he considers the effect of the increase in floor area on adjacent properties and the character of the area, and
 - (ii) he first approves a plan showing existing and proposed trees and landscape;
- (d) if:
 - (i) the area of all floors at or above finished grade does not exceed the lesser of a floor space ratio of 0.45, and the floor space ratio determined under subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 4.7.1,
 - (ii) the area of any floor, including the basement or cellar, does not exceed a floor space ratio of 0.25, and
 - (iii) no portion of the basement or cellar projects horizontally beyond the perimeter of the first storey, including covered porches,
 an increase in the floor space ratio to 0.70 is permissible;
- (e) for buildings existing prior to July 7, 2009, if:
 - (i) the area of all floors at or above finished grade does not exceed the lesser of a floor space ratio of 0.50 and the existing floor space ratio,
 - (ii) the area of all floors at, above or below finished grade, after the addition of a basement or cellar, does not exceed a floor space ratio of 0.75,
 - (iii) the area of any floor, including the basement or cellar, does not exceed a floor space ratio of 0.25, and
 - (iv) no portion of the basement or cellar projects horizontally beyond the perimeter of the first storey, including covered porches,
 a basement or cellar is permissible.

4.7.2 The following shall be included in the computation of floor space ratio:

- (a) all floors, including earthen floor, to be measured to the extreme outer limits of the building;
- (b) stairways, fire escapes, elevator shafts and other features which the Director of Planning considers similar, to be measured by their gross cross-sectional areas and included in the measurements for each floor at which they are located;
- (c) where the distance from a floor to the floor above or where there is no floor above to the top of the roof joists exceeds 3.7 m, an amount equal to the area of the floor below the excess height.

4.7.3 The following shall be excluded in the computation of floor space ratio:

- (a) open residential balconies or sundecks, and any other appurtenances which, in the opinion of the Director of Planning, are similar to the foregoing, provided that the total area of all exclusions does not exceed eight percent of the permitted residential floor area;

- (b) patios and roof gardens, provided that the Director of Planning first approves the design of sunroofs and walls;
- (c) where floors are used for off-street parking and loading, the taking on or discharging of passengers, bicycle storage in multiple conversion dwellings containing 3 or more units or in multiple dwellings or uses which, in the opinion of the Director of Planning, are similar to the foregoing, those floors or portions thereof not exceeding 7.3 m in length so used which:
 - (i) are located in an accessory building located within 7.9 m of the ultimate rear property line, or
 - (ii) where a site has no developed secondary access, are located in a principal building, or in an accessory building located within the building depth regulated by the provisions of section 4.16, up to a maximum of 42 m².
- (d) child day care facilities to a maximum floor area of 10 percent of the permitted floor area, provided the Director of Planning, on the advice of the Director of Social Planning, is satisfied that there is a need for a day care facility in the immediate neighbourhood;
- (e) areas of undeveloped floors which are located
 - (i) above the highest storey or half-storey and to which there is no permanent means of access other than a hatch; or
 - (ii) adjacent to a storey or half-storey with a ceiling height of less than 1.2 m.
- (f) floors located at or below finished grade with a ceiling height of less than 1.2 m;
- (g) covered porches, provided that:
 - (i) they face a street or a rear property line and are located at the basement or first storey;
 - (ii) that portion facing the street or rear property line shall be open or protected by guard rails the height of which shall not exceed the minimum specified in the Building By-law;
 - (iii) the total area being excluded does not exceed 5 percent of the permitted floor area; and
 - (iv) the ceiling height, excluding roof structures, of the total area being excluded does not exceed 3.1 m measured from the porch floor;
- (h) the floor area of a laneway house;
 - (i) where exterior walls greater than 152 mm in thickness have been recommended by a Building Envelope Professional as defined in the Building By-law, the area of the walls exceeding 152 mm, but to a maximum exclusion of 152 mm thickness, except that this clause shall not apply to walls in existence prior to March 14, 2000; and
- (j) with respect to exterior:
 - (i) wood frame construction walls greater than 152 mm thick that accommodate RSI 3.85 (R-22) insulation, or
 - (ii) walls other than wood frame construction greater than 152 mm thick that meet the standard RSI 2.67 (R-15),
 the area of such walls that exceeds 152 mm to a maximum exclusion of 51 mm of thickness for wood frame construction walls and 127 mm of thickness for other walls, except that this clause is not to apply to walls in existence before January 20, 2009.

A registered professional must verify that any exterior wall referred to in subsection (ii) of this section meets the standards set out therein.

4.8 Site Coverage

4.8.1 The maximum site coverage for buildings shall be 40 percent of the site area.

4.8.2 For the purpose of this section, site coverage for buildings shall be based on the projected area of the outside of the outermost walls of all buildings and includes carports, but excludes steps, eaves, balconies and sundecks.

- 4.8.3 Except where the principal use of the site is a parking area, the maximum site coverage for any portion of the site used as parking area shall be 30 percent.
- 4.8.4 Where the Director of Planning is prepared to approve an increase in floor space ratio pursuant to section 4.7.1(c), he may permit a greater site coverage than specified in section 4.8.1.
- 4.8.5 The area of impermeable materials, including building coverage, shall not exceed 60 percent of the total site area except that where developed secondary vehicular access to a site is not available, the Director of Planning may exclude from the area of impermeable materials an amount not exceeding:
- (a) for the first parking space, the product of the distance, in metres as measured along the driveway centre line, from the point where the driveway crosses the property boundary to the point where it meets the nearest side of the approvable parking space times 3.1 m; and
 - (b) for each additional parking space, 67 m² to accommodate vehicular access and manoeuvring.
- 4.8.6 For the purposes of section 4.8.5, the following materials shall be considered impermeable: the projected area of the outside of the outermost walls of all buildings, including carports, covered porches and entries; asphalt; concrete; brick; stone; and wood.
- 4.8.7 Notwithstanding section 4.8.6, gravel, river rock less than 5 cm in size, wood chips, bark mulch, and other materials which, in the opinion of the Director of Planning, have fully permeable characteristics when in place installed on grade with no associated layer of impermeable material (such as plastic sheeting) that would impede the movement of water directly into the soil below, are excluded from the area of impermeable materials.

4.9 [Deleted -- see Parking By-law.]

4.10 to 4.15 (Reserved.)

4.16 Building Depth

- 4.16.1 The distance between the front yard and the rear yard of a site shall not exceed 35 percent of the depth of the site unless otherwise determined pursuant to the provisions of section 4.6.1.
- 4.16.2 Projections into front yards permitted under section 4.4.1(d) shall not be included in the calculation of building depth.
- 4.16.3 Where the Director of Planning is prepared to approve an increase in floor space ratio pursuant to section 4.7.1(c), he may permit a greater distance between the front yard and the rear yard of a site than specified in section 4.16.1.

4.17 External Design

- 4.17.1 For the purpose of section 4.17, a front entrance means a door facing the front yard and located at or within 1.8 m of grade or connected to grade by stairs, a ramp or other means and a side entrance means a door located on that part of a building facing a side yard and at or within 1.8 m of grade or connected to grade by stairs, a ramp or other means.
- 4.17.2 There shall be no more than one separate and distinct front entrance to a one-family dwelling or one-family dwelling with secondary suite.
- 4.17.3 A side entrance to a one-family dwelling or one-family dwelling with secondary suite shall be limited to one, and shall only be permitted where the side yard faces a street.

- 4.17.4 For the purpose of providing light or access to a basement or cellar, the surface of the ground adjoining a building can be lowered without affecting the calculation of average elevation, provided that:
- (a) the lowered surface does not extend more than 3.1 m into the required front or rear yard; and
 - (b) that portion of the building abutting the lowered surface:
 - (i) faces either the front street or the rear property line; and
 - (ii) is not greater than half the width of the building, or 4.6 m, whichever is the lesser.
- 4.17.5 Notwithstanding section 4.17.2 or section 4.17.3, the Director of Planning, on the advice of the Director of Permits and Licenses, may permit one additional entrance facing a front yard or a side yard if it provides access to a building existing prior to March 14, 1989 in the RS-1 District.

5 Relaxation of Regulations

- 5.1** The Director of Planning may relax the minimum site area requirements (but not the minimum site width) of section 4.1 with respect to any of the following developments on an existing lot of lesser site area on record in the Land Title Office for Vancouver:
- (a) one-family dwelling;
 - (b) one-family dwelling with secondary suite.
- 5.2** The Director of Planning may relax the height and yard provisions of sections 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6 and 4.16, and the floor space ratio exclusions for parking in accessory buildings of section 4.7.3(c)(i) of this Schedule where, due to conditions peculiar either to the site or to the proposed development, literal enforcement would result in unnecessary hardship, provided that:
- (a) he first considers the submission of any advisory group, property owner or tenant; and
 - (b) in no case shall the height be increased to more than 10.7 m or the yard requirements be reduced to less than 60 percent of the amount specified in this Schedule.
- 5.3** In the case of a corner site, where the rear property line of a site adjoins, without the intervention of a lane, the side yard of a site in an R District, the Director of Planning may relax the provisions of section 4.7 of this Schedule to permit the exclusion of floor space used for off-street parking in the principal building up to a maximum of 42 m².
- 5.4** The Director of Planning may relax section 4.8.5 for buildings existing prior to May 30, 2000 to a maximum of 70 percent impermeable materials site coverage provided that:
- (a) the percentage of the site covered by existing impermeable materials is not increased by the proposed development;
 - (b) he considers the advice of the City Engineer; and
 - (c) he considers all applicable policies and guidelines adopted by Council.
- 5.5** The Director of Planning may relax the requirements of section 4.8.5 where, due to the peculiarities of the site or special circumstances related to the use of the site, literal enforcement would result in unnecessary hardship, provided that:
- (a) he considers all applicable guidelines and policies adopted by Council; and
 - (b) he considers the advice of the City Engineer.

