

Chapter 20.36

ZONING DISTRICTS AND
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Part I. Zoning Districts20.36.010 Residential Districts Established.

- (a) The following residential districts are hereby established: Residential Ultra Low Capacity (RULC) allows for 1-4 dwelling units per acre – 4 Du/Ac. Residential Low Capacity (RLC) allows for 5-6 dwelling units per acre – 6 Du/Ac. Residential Moderate Capacity (RMod) allows for 7-11 dwelling units per acre – 11 Du/Ac. Residential Medium Capacity (RMC) allows for 12-16 dwelling unit per acre – 16 Du/Ac. Residential High Capacity (RHC) allows for 17 and greater dwelling units per acre – 17 > Du/Ac. Old Town Residential (OTR) allows for lot sizes established with the original plats to be utilized, but not less than 3,800 S.F.. Each of these districts is designed to provide for residential lands with varying housing capacities and housing types to provide residents with a variety of housing ~~options;~~ ~~and options and~~ intended to secure for the persons who reside there a comfortable, healthy, safe, and pleasant environment in which to live, sheltered from incompatible and disruptive activities that properly belong in nonresidential districts. Other objectives of these districts are explained in the remainder of this section. All residential districts must be served with public sewer and water facilities in order to utilize the capacities described for each district. Without public utilities servicing the residential district, no increase in the current housing capacity is allowed.
- (b) The *Residential Ultra Low Capacity* (RULC) district is established primarily to accommodate detached single-family residential development in areas not currently served by public sewer and water facilities. Larger lots are required to accommodate a septic system and reserve area as required by the Snohomish Health District.

- (c) The *Residential Low Capacity* (RLC) district is established primarily to accommodate detached single-family residential uses at lower capacity levels typically on 7200 – 9600 square foot parcels, but also allows for recreational, quasi-public, and public uses that customarily serve residential development. Some types of two-family residences are allowed in this district on larger lots.
- (d) The *Residential Moderate Capacity* (RMod) district is designed primarily to accommodate medium capacity housing types, especially smaller multifamily and single family attached, such as duplex, triplex, fourplex, row houses, and garden apartments, typically situated on 4000 – 6200 square foot parcels, but also allows for recreational, quasi-public, and public uses that customarily serve residential development.
- (e) The *Residential Medium Capacity* (RMC) district is established primarily to accommodate higher capacity housing, such as larger multi-family developments, townhomes, condominiums, and the use of the Unit Lot Subdivision process to create fee-simple housing. Live/work units may also be allowed in this zone with additional requirements. Typical parcel size range from 2800 – 3600 square feet, but also allows for recreational, quasi-public, and public uses that customarily serve residential development.
- (f) *Residential High Capacity* (RHC) district is designed primarily to accommodate the highest capacity residential developments, that are designed to be compatible with their sites and surroundings, building types are typically large scale multifamily buildings, mixed use buildings, and live/work units.
- (g) The *Old Town Residential (OTR)* district is designed primarily to single-family residential development while preserving the historic quality of the traditional town center. Further, this zone is intended to promote residential development that is in character with the older, existing homes in the area. The Old Town *Residential* District may also allow for duplex, triplex, *fourplex*, and garden style housing units (missing middle housing) that are designed to match the context of the existing neighborhood they are placed within. This is accomplished through strict design elements, orientation, and scale of the building.

Commented [AR1]: Updated zoning name

Commented [AR2]: Added use from 20.40 approved in 2021

20.36.020 Commercial Districts Established.

- (a) The following commercial districts are hereby established: *Neighborhood Commercial* (NC), *Old Town Business District* (OTBD), *General Commercial* (GC), *Highway Commercial* (HC), *Business Park* (BP), and *Commercial Corridor* (CC). These districts are created to accomplish the purposes and serve the objectives set forth in the remainder of this section.
- (b) The *Neighborhood Commercial* (NC) zone is established to accommodate commercial activities that would meet the daily convenience needs of people residing or working in the environs.
- (c) The *Old Town Business District* (OTBD) zone is established to accommodate a mix of a wide variety of commercial activities and vertically oriented, high-capacity residential uses in a pedestrian-oriented environment. The Old Town Business District is comprised of three different sub districts, identified as, Old Town Business Districts 1, 2, and 3 with each one having its own nuances regarding permissible uses, parking, and signage.
- (d) The *General Commercial* (GC) zone is established to accommodate commercial uses generally similar, though more intensive, to the types permissible in a Old Town Business District. However, it is intended that this zone be placed along arterials to cater to commuters or as a transition in some areas between a Highway Commercial zone and a residential zone.
- (e) The *Highway Commercial* (HC) zone is established to accommodate the widest range of commercial activities. Uses allowed here include those allowed in other commercial districts, but also those that require highway access or that should be separated from residential uses.

- (f) The *Business Park* (BP) zone is established to promote and accommodate office, certain manufacturing and light industrial uses, training/educational facilities, high technology research and developments, and related uses in a park-like, master-planned setting. The Business Park also allows for Public/Semi-Public uses within this zone.
- (g) The *Commercial Corridor* (CC) zone is established to create pedestrian oriented, urbanized, mixed use neighborhoods, along designated transit routes. Design elements to include widened sidewalks, drop lanes with on street parking, mid-block pedestrian crossings, planted medians, and bike lanes. These zones are established to utilize the stringent use of the ~~Mixed-Use~~Mixed-Use Development Regulations/Form Based Code, therefore negating the underlying zoning to accommodate mixed use as the primary land use.

20.36.030 Manufacturing Districts Established.

The *General Industrial* (GI) and *Light Industrial* (LI) districts are hereby established primarily to accommodate enterprises engaged in the manufacturing, processing, creating, repairing, renovating, painting, cleaning, or assembling of goods, merchandise, or equipment. The performance standards set forth in ~~Part I of Chapter 20.44~~ place limitations on the characteristics of uses located in these districts. The Light Industrial district is distinguished from the General Industrial district in that the Light Industrial district is intended to be a cleaner, more business park-like area, whereas the General Industrial district allows more resource-based manufacturing has a greater tolerance of the nuisances that typically accompany such manufacturing. Furthermore, the limitations in the Light Industrial district are more restrictive than those in the General Industrial district.

Commented [AR3]: Performance Standards are listed in Part III. Removed to include the entire chapter instead of just one part.

20.36.034 Aviation Flightline District Established.

The *Aviation Flightline District* (AF) zone is hereby established. This district is created to allow only aviation related uses proximate to airport runways and taxiways. Aviation related uses include any uses related to supporting aviation that require direct taxiway access as a necessary part of their business operations, such as aviation services, manufacturing of aviation-related goods, general services whose primary customers would be those engaged in aviation-related activities (e.g., restaurants primarily catering to pilots, employees, or passengers), or other uses that are clearly related to aviation.

20.36.036 Medical Services District Established.

The *Medical Services District* (MS) zone is hereby established. This district is created to allow hospitals and related medical services uses that have developed around the Cascade Valley Hospital in an otherwise residential neighborhood. Medical services include hospitals, doctors' offices, birthing centers, and other related uses, but not including manufacturing of medical equipment.

20.36.040 Public/Semi-Public District Established.

A *Public/Semi-Public* (P/SP) district is hereby established to accommodate public and semi-public uses, such as schools, government services and facilities, public utilities, community facilities, parks, etc. on publicly owned land.

20.36.054 Master Planned Neighborhood Overlay District Established.

The *Master Planned Neighborhood* (MPN) district is hereby established as an "overlay" district, meaning that this district is overlaid upon other districts and the land so encumbered may be used in a manner permitted in the underlying district only if and to the extent such use is complies

with the requirements of section 20.44.032 (Master Planned Neighborhood Developments). Thereafter, this overlay district shall be removed from the property for which the master plan is approved by the City Council.

20.36.060 Floodplain and Floodway Districts Established.

The floodplain and floodway districts are hereby established as “overlay” districts, meaning that these districts are overlaid upon other districts and the land so encumbered may be used in a manner permitted in the underlying district only if and to the extent such use is complies with the restrictions found in [Chapter 20.64](#) (Floodplain Development Regulations).

20.36.070 Shoreline Management District Established.

The shoreline management district is hereby established as an “overlay” district, meaning that this district is overlaid upon other districts and the land so encumbered may be used in a manner permitted in the underlying district only if and to the extent such use is also permitted in the applicable overlay district and a Shoreline Development Permit has been granted, if necessary, pursuant to ~~Chapter 20.92 (Shoreline Management)~~ [the Shoreline Master Program](#).

Commented [AR4]: Chapter 20.92 no longer exists. Removed and referenced the Shoreline Master Program which is a reference document to the code.

20.36.080 Mixed Use Overlay District Established

The ~~mixed-use~~mixed-use overlay district is hereby established as an “overlay” district, meaning that the underlying zoning applicable within each commercial zone remains as the primary or principle zoning designation. The overlay allows for a mix of diversified residential development to co-exist within a proportionate share of the commercially zones areas of highway commercial (HC), general commercial (GC), and neighborhood commercial (NC) zones where typical retail and other support services would be located, thus creating a walkable neighborhood concept. The ~~mixed-use~~mixed-use overlay will also be applied to the residential moderate ~~density capacity~~ (RMDRMod), residential medium capacity (RMC), and residential high ~~density capacity~~ (RHDRHC) zones along Smokey Point Boulevard corridor. The overlay will provide for the efficient use of property by requiring the mixed use of properties in a manner that allows for residential development to co-exist with commercial, retail and specific light manufacturing uses. This promotes the creation of attractive, sustainable neighborhoods which enable walkability and less automobile dependency. The performance standards/design guidelines set forth in Chapter 20.110 place limitations on the characteristics of uses located in these districts.

Commented [AR5]: Changed to correct zoning designation

Part II. Zoning Map

20.36.100 Official Zoning Map.

- (a) There shall be a map known and designated as the Official Zoning Map, which shall show the boundaries of all zoning districts within the city’s planning jurisdiction. This map shall either be drawn on acetate or other durable material from which prints can be made, or kept in electronic format, or both. It shall be dated, and shall be kept in the planning department.
- (b) The Official Zoning Map of the City shall be maintained in the City Clerk’s office. Amendments to this map shall be made and posted in accordance with [Chapter 20.96](#) (Amendments).
- (c) Should the Official Zoning Map be lost, destroyed, or damaged, the Community Development Director may have a new map drawn on acetate or other durable material from which prints can be made. No further council authorization or action is required so long as no district boundaries are changed in this process.

20.36.105 Lots Divided by District Lines.

- (a) Whenever a single lot one acre or less in size is located within two or more different zoning districts, the district regulations applicable to the district within which the larger portion of the lot lies shall apply to the entire lot.
- ~~(a)~~(b) Whenever a single lot greater than one acre in size is located within two or more different zoning districts, each portion of that lot shall be subject to all the regulations applicable to the district in which it is located.

Commented [AR6]: This section was located in the definitions chapter. Moved to Zoning Map section.

20.36.110 Amendments to Official Zoning Map.

- (a) Amendments to the Official Zoning Map are accomplished using the same procedures that apply to other amendments to this Title, as set forth in [Chapter 20.96](#) (Amendments).
- (b) The Community Development Director shall update the Official Zoning Map as soon as possible after the council adopts amendments to it. Upon entering any such amendment on the map, the Community Development Director shall change the date of the map to indicate its latest revision. New prints of the updated map may then be issued.
- (c) No unauthorized person may alter or modify the Official Zoning Map.
- (d) The planning division shall keep copies of superseded prints of the zoning map for historical reference.