

# **MULTI-FAMILY PRINCIPLES & GUIDELINES**

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Multi-Family structures vary significantly in form, scale, and function. Even a specific Multi-Family type (i.e. apartment building, townhouse, duplex, etc.) can vary in size and shape depending on the land use zone in question and site configuration. Therefore, a separate set of Design Review principles and guidelines have been developed for three separate multi-family structure categories:

## **Multi-Family Structures:**

- ↖ Stacked Housing
- ↖ Townhome/Rowhouse
- ↖ Duplex/Tri-plex/Four-plex

The multi-family design principles and guidelines are intended to be applied to all new development, redevelopment (including change in use, e.g. commercial to multi-family), or major rehabilitation (exterior changes requiring a building permit), unless otherwise noted in each subsection of this chapter.

## **STACKED HOUSING**

All structures that have separate living units located on top of one another are considered stacked housing. This includes garden apartments, flats, and low-, mid-, and high-rise structures. The principles and guidelines developed for this housing type are intended to be applied regardless of the underlying land use designation.

### ***Design Principles***

- All on-site parking areas shall be screened with landscaping. Parking spaces shall be clustered in small groups of no more than 6-10 spaces.
- Stacked houses abutting or located in single-family residentially zoned areas shall be designed to mitigate size and scale differences.
- Walls shall be articulated in order to avoid a blank look and to provide a sense of scale.
- Detached garages shall be located to the rear of stacked unit(s) so as not to be directly viewable from a public street.
- Attached garages shall account for less than 50% of the front face of the structure. Garages visible from the street shall be articulated by architectural features, such as windows, to avoid a blank look.

## ***Design Guidelines***

The design guidelines developed for stacked housing are intended to serve as a guide to the development community (or project proponent). A project should not be expected to meet every design guideline as long as it can show it can achieve the overall intent of the design principles. However, the project proponent is expected to adequately address each guideline and if it cannot meet a specific guideline, then provide an explanation as to why and how it will mitigate and still meet the intent of the design principles.

## ***Landscaping & Screening***

A landscaping plan shall be submitted to the City that identifies:

- The vegetation to be utilized should encourage native, low maintenance plantings. Trees planted along streetscapes with overhead power lines should include only those identified on the City's Street Tree List. When possible, existing significant trees or other natural features that do not pose a hazard or hinder development should be required to remain and be incorporated into the landscaping and site plans.
- Landscape lighting should be low voltage, non-glare, and indirect. Street lighting, such as light poles and lamps, should be compatible with other nearby lighting on the same street, unless other lighting is expected to be replaced in the foreseeable future or a nostalgic theme compatible with the proposed development is desired. Surrounding sites should be screened from parking and building lighting.
- Parking spaces should be clustered in small groupings. Groupings should be separated by landscaping to create a pedestrian friendly, park-like environment. Parking lot landscaping should be credited toward the total landscaping requirement. (see exhibit 9)
- Green belts should be used to separate different uses whenever possible. (see exhibit 3)
- The vertical intensity of landscaping should increase as the height of the structure increases. With the exception of properties located in or abutting the Downtown Commercial (DC) zone, greater setbacks can be used to create a greater buffer and lessen the need for more intense vertical landscape materials.

## ***Circulation & Connections***

The following guideline is important to consider in terms of public safety or the perception thereof:

- Pathways define traffic/pedestrian movement. Buildings brought up to the public right-of-way help define these movements. Trees and/or planting strips shall be used for separating vehicles and pedestrian movements as well as providing a secure and pedestrian friendly environment.

## **TOWNHOMES & ROWHOUSES**

Townhomes and rowhouses tend to be made up of several one to three story units that are attached (or connected) by a common wall. For the Design Review process, the Townhome/Rowhouse regulations address structures with two to five units attached by a common wall and configured in a townhouse style of structure. The principles and guidelines developed for this housing type are intended to be applied regardless of the underlying land use designation.

### ***Design Principles***

- All on-site parking areas (excluding driveways and garages) shall be screened with landscaping.
- Buildings shall be used to define the streetscape unless site conditions prove prohibitive.
- Structures abutting or located in single family residentially zoned areas shall be designed to mitigate size and scale differences when appropriate.
- Walls shall be articulated in order to avoid a blank look and to provide a sense of scale.
- Detached garages shall be located to the rear of the townhouse or rowhouse unit(s) so as not to be directly viewable from a public street.
- Attached garages shall account for less than 50% of the front face of the structure. Garages visible from the street shall be articulated by architectural features, such as windows, to avoid a blank look.

### ***Design Guidelines***

The design guidelines developed for townhomes and rowhouses are intended to serve as a guide to the development community (or project proponent).

### ***Landscaping & Screening***

A landscaping plan shall be submitted to the City that identifies:

- Green belts should be used to separate different uses or intensity of uses whenever possible. (see exhibit 3)
- The vertical intensity of landscaping should increase as the height of the structure increases. With the exception of properties located in or abutting the Downtown Commercial zone, greater setbacks can be used to create a greater buffer and lessen the need for more intense vertical landscape materials.

## ***Circulation & Connections***

The following guideline is important to consider in terms of public safety or the perception thereof:

- Pathways define traffic/pedestrian movement. Buildings brought up to the public right-of-way help define these movements. Trees and/or planting strips shall be used for separating vehicles and pedestrian movements as well as providing a secure and pedestrian friendly environment.

## **DUPLEX, TRIPLEX, & FOUR-PLEX**

Duplexes, triplexes, and four-plexes tend to be constructed to resemble single family homes. For the design review process, the Duplex/Triplex/Four-plex regulations address structures with two to four units attached by a common wall that are configured to resemble a single-family style of structure. The specific principles and guidelines developed for this housing type are mandatory and intended to be applied regardless of the underlying land use designation.

### ***Design Principles***

- Garages shall account for less than 50% of the front face of the structure. Garages visible from the street shall be articulated by architectural features, such as windows, to avoid a blank look.

### ***Design Guidelines***

#### ***Architecture***

- Garages shall account for less than 50% of the front face of the structure. Garages visible from the street shall be articulated by architectural features, such as windows, to avoid a blank look.