





Policy

Support the development of a variety of housing types and designs to meet the anticipated housing needs of residents. This may include non-market and market housing options that are designed to accommodate young and multi-generational families, the local workforce, as well as middle and high income households.

Policy

Encourage the development of rental accommodation designed for a variety of demographic household types, including young families.

5.2 Low Density Residential Redevelopment

OBJECTIVE: Strive for redevelopment and infill development that improves and enhances the appearance and livability of neighbourhoods and the community as a whole.

Policy

Proposed redevelopment or infill within present low density residential land use designated areas should be built to high quality design and landscaping standards and respond sensitively to existing neighbourhood amenities.

Policy

Consider the inclusion of secondary suites in infill developments where it is demonstrated that neighbourhood impacts can be mitigated.

Policy

Discourage new applications for infill housing, including rezoning and subdivision, for panhandle lots in the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Old Esquimalt Road and the 600 block of Fernhill Road.

5.3 Medium and High Density Residential Development

OBJECTIVE: Support compact, efficient medium density and high density residential development that integrates with existing and proposed adjacent uses.

Policy

Encourage new medium density and high density residential development with high quality design standards for building and landscaping and which enhance existing neighbourhoods.

Policy

Prioritize medium density and high density residential development in proposed land use designated areas that:

1. reduce single occupancy vehicle use;
2. support transit service;
3. are located within close proximity to employment centres; and
4. accommodate young families.

Policy

Consider new medium density residential development proposals with a Floor Area Ratio of up to 2.0, and up to six storeys in height, in areas designated on the “Proposed Land Use Designation Map.”

Policy

Consider new high density residential development proposals with a Floor Area Ratio of up to 3.0, and up to 12 storeys in height, in areas designated on the “Proposed Land Use Designation Map.”

Policy

Notwithstanding other policies set out in this OCP, maximum heights in medium density and high density residential land use designated areas in West Bay are limited to those parcel heights identified in the West Bay Development Permit Area.

Policy

Consider, where appropriate, development proposals with densities greater than those set out in the OCP through density bonus of floor-space provided that the additional density results in the provision of community amenities deemed appropriate by Council for the benefit of the community.

Policy

Recognize, for the purposes of density bonuses, “amenities” may include but are not limited to:

1. Privately-owned, publicly-accessible open space;
2. Public art;
3. Contributions towards the enhancement of public recreation facilities;
4. Contributions towards street and boulevard enhancements, including street furniture and decorative lighting;
5. Building to a higher step of the BC Energy Step Code than required under the Building Bylaw;
6. Group daycare and respite facilities for children and adults;
7. Preservation of heritage structures, features or assets;
8. Affordable housing units;
9. Special needs housing units;
10. Community gardens;
11. Enhanced green family play space for residents;
12. Public space improvement supporting and surrounding transit stations; and
13. Other as may be appropriate to the development proposal or surrounding community as deemed appropriate by Council.

Policy

A mix of dwelling unit sizes should be provided in medium density and high-density residential land use designated areas in order to meet the varying housing needs of Esquimalt residents.

Policy

Buildings with shallow setbacks should step down to no more than three storeys at street level in order to provide an appropriate human scale along the sidewalk.

Policy

Encourage the incorporation of spaces designed to foster social interaction.

Policy

Encourage the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in medium and high density residential developments.

5.4 Affordable Housing

OBJECTIVE: To encourage a range of housing by type, tenure and price so that people of all ages, household types, abilities and incomes have a diversity of housing choice in Esquimalt.

Policy

Encourage the provision of affordable housing by the private market and the non-profit housing sector. Partnerships between private, public or non-market housing providers may be supported. These might include innovative approaches such as limited equity, rent-to-own, co-op, mixed market and non-market projects.

Policy

Encourage the placement of new rental, affordable, special needs, and seniors housing in accordance with designated residential land use areas as they are integral components of inclusive neighbourhoods.

Policy

Avoid the spatial concentration of affordable and special needs housing in neighbourhoods.

Policy

Promote housing agreements to ensure that all strata units have the opportunity to be used as long-term residential rentals within strata buildings.

Policy

Consider offering a Revitalization Tax Exemption to all new or renovated purpose-built multi-unit rental buildings within the Township.

Policy

Consider bonus density, parking relaxations or other development variances where a development proposal includes affordable, special needs or seniors housing. This may apply to both market and non-market housing, and mixed-use proposals. A housing agreement may be entered into between the Township and the owner.

Policy

Work in co-operation with the provincial and federal governments, the real estate community, social service agencies, faith-based organizations, service clubs and other community resources to provide affordable housing and support services for seniors, the frail elderly and other special needs groups.