Affordable Housing Overlay Zone
Design Guidelines
Town of Los Gatos
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Greg Larson         Town Manager
Pamela Jacobs       Assistant Town Manager
Judith Propp        Town Attorney
Sandy Baily         Community Development Director
Erwin Ordonez       Senior Planner
Suzanne Avila       Senior Planner
Todd Capurso        Parks & Public Works Director
                     (Interim Community Development Director)
Wendie Rooney       Community Development Director (Retired)
Heather Bradley     Associate Planner

Larry Cannon        Architectural Consultant
                     Cannon Design Group

Town of Los Gatos
Community Development Department
110 East Main Street
Los Gatos, CA 95031
(408) 354-6872
www.losgatosca.gov

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INTRODUCTION

The Town of Los Gatos has a rich heritage and variety of homes, ranging from small cottages to larger homes which add to its desirability as a place to live. The variety and richness of the Town’s visual environment has added to its desirability as a place to live, work, and raise a family. It has also led to high residential land values, making it an unaffordable place to live for many who may not have been lucky enough to put down roots some years ago.

Recognizing the need for a broad range of residential accommodations to allow younger residents and seniors to remain in their community, house the workers who provide local goods and services, and contribute to the economic and social diversity of Los Gatos, the Town has established policies and programs to encourage affordable housing. They are complementary to and reinforce those established by the State to assist in the creation of affordable housing in all communities.

These design guidelines have been established as a part of the Town’s Affordable Housing Overlay Zone (AHOZ) to assist in defining and integrating affordable housing types into the special character, scale and ambience of Los Gatos.

APPLICABILITY

These design guidelines will be used by the Town staff, Development Review Committee, Planning Commission, and Town Council in evaluating new residential developments with a significant component of affordable housing in the Town.

They are applicable only to development with a significant component of affordable housing (i.e., greater than what is required by the Town’s Below Market Price Housing Program) or to the development of the five identified affordable housing sites listed below and shown in Figure 1.1. All other sites will be subject to the Town’s normal Architecture and Site review process.

- Southbay Development Site
- Oak Rim/North Blossom Hill Site N.
- Higgins Business Park Site
- Los Gatos Lodge Site A
- Los Gatos Lodge Site B

COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

The Town of Los Gatos expects a high level of experience and commitment in the development of the identified affordable housing sites.

The following is a summary of specific expectations that will need to be satisfied for the successful review and approval of projects covered by these design guidelines:

1. Site plans, landscaping, and structures will be developed with a character that is consistent with the quality of the Town’s existing neighborhoods.
2. Site development plans will be outward directed and compatible with their surrounding neighborhoods.
3. Homes will maintain a compatible presence on the street.
4. Structures will be designed to ensure architectural integrity with design, details, and material consistency on all facades.
5. Structures will be constructed with high quality materials and craftsmanship.
INTRODUCTION

6. In mixed affordability developments, market rate and affordable units will be architecturally harmonious.
7. Attention will be given to architectural details consistent with the individual architectural style.
8. Mature landscaping will be preserved whenever possible.
9. Structures will be designed to be energy and water efficient, constructed using building materials that reduce resource consumption, and take advantage of renewable resources where appropriate.
10. Developments will create a sense of place and community within the site and neighborhood.

HOUSING TYPES

While the General Plan land use designations for the identified AHOZ sites vary, the AHOZ overlay zone will allow higher densities on specific sites based upon compliance with the Town’s Housing Element and these guidelines.

The number of additional units that may occur on each designated AHOZ site will vary according to several factors including any additional development capacity allowed by the AHOZ, the amount of affordable housing proposed, and the ratios of income groups to be served. In general, the Town has established a target density of 20 units per acre, but actual densities may be lower.

The housing types included in these design guidelines are ones that can reasonably accommodate this density range. They can be utilized exclusively on a site or different types may be utilized in combination on the same site for a mix of affordable levels or household types (e.g., seniors and families). They include the housing types listed below.

All of the sites and housing types will be subject to the General Design Guidelines contained in Chapter 2 as well as the specific development standards and housing types guidelines which address the special features and characteristics of each housing type.

Chapter 3 contains guidelines specific to the unique characteristics of each designated AHOZ site.

- Small Lot Single Family Detached Homes
- Cottage Cluster Housing
- Multiplexes
- Townhouses
- Rowhouses
- Multifamily Flats
DESIGN GUIDELINES

GENERAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

Each housing type has its own unique opportunities and limits, and each site offers unique conditions affecting the site layout and unit designs. However, the guidelines for the individual housing types and sites are based upon the general design guidelines below.

SITE PLANNING

1. Relate buildings to the street and locate them on the site so that they reinforce street frontages.
2. Relate buildings to existing and planned adjacent uses.
3. Provide as many private, ground level entries to individual units as possible.
4. Ensure that all buildings have well designed and visible entries.
5. Provide each unit with its own visual identity and individual address whenever possible.
6. Provide pedestrian accessibility to adjacent uses with paseos, gates, pedestrian walkways, crossings, etc.
7. Locate common facilities – such as community rooms and laundries – centrally and link them to common outdoor space.
8. Locate buildings and landscaping to maximize solar access during cooler months and to control it during warmer months. Maximize natural ventilation, sunlight and views for each unit.
9. Enhance access to bus or light rail transit stops whenever possible.
10. Place parking lot in proximity to dwelling units to allow for casual surveillance.

PARKING

1. Place parking lots at rear or non-street side of the site to allow a majority of dwelling units to front on the street.
2. Build multiple small parking lots in lieu of large lots.
3. Plant trees and shrubs to soften the overall impact of parking areas and to provide shade and noise reduction.
4. Avoid blank walls facing the street on buildings with parking garages.
5. If blank walls are unavoidable, decorate with artwork, vines, and good quality durable materials.
6. If blank walls are unavoidable, decorate with artwork, vines, and good quality durable materials.
7. Two spaces provided for one unit may be accommodated in tandem spaces.
8. Separate bicycle and pedestrian paths from vehicular traffic.
9. Designate “vehicle free areas” for bicycle and pedestrian safety and enjoyment.
10. In developments without garage parking, bicycle parking will be required per Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) standards.

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

1. Design outdoor open space to define individual use areas as appropriate to the site.
2. Provide public open space which can be used for play, recreation, social or cultural activities.
3. Locate public open spaces so that they can be viewed from individual units, preferably from the kitchen, living room or dining room.
4. Locate play area(s) centrally to allow for adult supervision from dwelling units and/or from a central facility such as a laundry.
5. Provide lighting from a variety of sources at appropriate intensities and qualities for safety.
6. Provide energy-efficient lighting.

PRIVATE OPEN SPACE

1. Provide each household with some form of useful private open space, such as a patio, porch, deck, balcony, yard, or shared entry porches or balconies.
2. Private open space should be easily accessible – physically and visually – from individual units.
3. Design balconies for privacy without compromising views from the residential units to the outside.
4. Provide fencing to insure privacy and to help define boundaries between public and private open space.
LANDSCAPING

1. Provide common open space for the use of all residents.
2. Design landscaping to enhance the architecture and create and define useful public and private spaces.
3. Use hardy, native plant species – trees, shrubs, groundcover – that are easy to water and maintain, and conform to water efficiency standards.
4. Shade paved areas, especially parking lots.
5. Provide a variety of seating in landscaped areas, where appropriate.
6. Include paths to accommodate children, adults, bicycles, skate boards, shopping carts, walkers, pets, furniture moving, etc.
7. Provide appropriate lighting to insure that paths are safe at night.

ARCHITECTURE

1. Design buildings for the site; don’t use stock plans.
2. Relate first floor to the street. If close to the street, raise level of first floor slightly to maintain privacy.
3. Relate size and bulk of project so that it is consistent with buildings in the immediate neighborhood.
4. Eliminate box-like forms with large, unvaried roofs by using a variety of building forms and roof shapes with clusters of units, and variations in height, setback, and roof shape.
5. Make the building visually and architecturally pleasing by varying the height, color, setback, materials, texture, landscaping, trim and roof shapes and ridge orientation for all elevations.
6. Enhance views and make spaces feel larger by maximizing the number of windows.
7. Break up the façade of horizontal buildings into smaller components by utilizing vertical adjacent building masses.
8. Provide door and window openings with sizes and proportions that are appropriate to traditional architectural styles.
9. Use porches, stairs, railings, fascia boards, and trim to enhance buildings’ character.
10. Select building materials and colors that are complementary to the surrounding area and have high levels of recycled content whenever possible.
11. Design buildings to take advantage of solar opportunities.

HOUSING TYPES DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Design standards and guidelines for each individual housing type are summarized on the following pages.

- All items under Development Standards sections are Standards unless noted as encouraged. The use of the word encouraged means it is strongly recommended, but that other options may be considered.
- Individual items within the Design Standards and Guidelines sections which contain diagrams or text with specific percentages and dimensions shall be treated as Standards unless stated as encouraged.
- Text which includes the word shall, must or avoid are Standards.
- Text and diagrams which includes the words should, encouraged or provide are Guidelines, but are strongly recommended. The word provide within a Development Standards sections denotes a Standard.

The housing types covered are:
- Small Lot Single Family Detached Homes
- Cottage Cluster Housing
- Multiplexes
- Townhouses
- Rowhouses
- Multifamily Flats
Small lot single family housing features lots with parcel sizes of 2,500 to 4,500 square feet. Additional density is achieved by adding smaller Secondary Dwelling Units (SDUs) with separate entries at the rear of the site, typically over garages served by rear lane access.

**Typical Densities**
- 15 - 20 DU/acre
SMALL LOT SINGLE FAMILY DETACHED HOMES

DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

DESIGN OBJECTIVES

1. Enhance the livability of small lot homes.
2. Enhance affordability by allowing secondary units to be integrated into the main structure or as carriage houses over garages.
3. Enhance the appearance and unity of residential streetscapes.
4. Integrate small lot neighborhoods comfortably into the overall community fabric.

Lot Size

- 2,500 sq. ft. minimum
- Minimum parcel width: 30 ft. for interior lots & 35 ft. for corner lots

Unit Size

- Subject to Architecture and Site Review.

Lot Coverage

- 40% maximum.

Building Placement

- Setbacks and lot coverage standards to conform to the Town's RM standards except as specified below.
- Front yard setback on public or interior streets: 15 ft. or as noted in the site development guidelines.
- Garage setbacks: 18 ft. with front-loaded garages on public or interior streets to avoid encroachment onto public sidewalks.
- Front yard encroachments for open porches: 8 ft. max.
- Front yard encroachments for habitable space: 5 ft. max. over a maximum of 50% of the house frontage - only for homes with rear lane garage access.
- Side yard encroachments into minimum setbacks: 6 ft. over a maximum of 25% of the facade. The minimum projection required is 3 ft.

Open Space

- Subject to the following Town of Los Gatos Zoning Code sections:
  * Sec. 29.10.065 Recreational open space for residential condominiums.
  * Sec. 29.40.660 Recreational open space for multifamily dwellings.

Height

- Maximum Height: 30 ft. with allowance up to 35 ft. for units with parking integrated into or located below the units’ living space.

Entries

- Porches are expected, and may encroach into front setbacks up to a maximum of 8 feet. Porches must have a minimum six foot depth.

Parking

- 0 - 1 bedroom units: 1 spaces per unit.
- 2 - 3 bedroom units: 2 spaces per unit.
- 4+ bedroom units: 2 ½ spaces per unit.
- Tandem spaces are allowed.

Front setback encroachments example
SMALL LOT SINGLE FAMILY DETACHED HOMES

DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Site Development

1. Orient unit entries to streets and common open spaces.
2. Avoid fences over three feet tall along public street frontages.
3. Use a mix of narrow and wide lots to add variety to streetscapes as appropriate.
4. Link internal unit entries to adjacent streets with clear open space and pedestrian circulation networks (See site layout example at top of page 8).
5. Rear lane access to parking garages or carports is strongly encouraged to enhance street front facades.

Massing and Articulation

1. Sloped roofs are strongly encouraged for all structures.
2. Architectural features (e.g., bay windows, chimneys, canopies, cornices, awnings) are encouraged.
3. Projecting roof eaves of at least 18” are strongly encouraged.
4. Wrapping porches around to side elevations is strongly encouraged on corner lots.
5. Varied side wall plane setbacks between adjacent units are preferred over uniform setbacks to provide less visual rigidity and to allow access to more light and air. These setbacks shall be a minimum of 3 feet unless a shorter setback can be justified as being necessary in order to maintain consistency with a desired architectural style or the historic character of the neighborhood.
6. Limit the width of garages accessed from visible street frontages and lanes to a maximum of 50% of the home’s front facade, and recess the garage a minimum of 3 feet. Tandem parking is encouraged to limit the width of garage doors. For two-car wide garages, provide delineation between doors or additional architectural detail at the door opening.
2 SMALL LOT SINGLE FAMILY DETACHED HOMES

On Site Parking

1. Garage aprons for street-facing garages shall have an 18 ft. minimum depth
2. Rear entry garages: 3 ft. minimum setback are acceptable; larger aprons must be at least 18 ft. (no aprons shall be allowed between 3 ft. and 18 ft. to prevent cars blocking streets and sidewalks)
3. Provide guest parking along interior streets.
4. For dimensional standards not referenced, refer to the Town Code.

Architectural Details

1. Substantial architectural details are expected on all elevations. The following are some elements that may be used to add visual interest and a sense of human scale to the homes:
   - Horizontal and vertical wall plane changes
   - Varied roof forms and orientations
   - Bay windows
   - Roof Dormers
   - Material and color changes
   - Applied decorative features.
   - Roof segments over windows
   - Pot rails
   - Metal or wood balcony railings
   - Planter boxes and plant rings
COTTAGE CLUSTER HOUSING

Characteristics
Cottage Cluster Housing is a collection of small houses arranged around one or more common open spaces or courtyards. Units are smaller than typical single-family homes with floor areas of 1,200 square feet or less. Parking is provided in consolidated parking lots and/or in garages served by alley access.

Typical Densities
• 15 - 20 DU/acre

Cottages around a central courtyard with three carriage units above rear alley garages

Cottages around a central courtyard with a commons structure

Street facade of the 9-unit cottage cluster shown in the aerial photo above

Cottages around a central courtyard

Cottage housing site plan example
## COTTAGE CLUSTER HOUSING

### DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

#### DESIGN OBJECTIVES

1. Select a housing type that responds to changing household sizes and ages (e.g., retirees, small families, single person households).

2. Mitigate increased density by ensuring that the overall size, bulk and mass of cottage structures remains smaller and creates less visual impact than an equal number of standard sized single-family dwellings.

3. Provide centrally located and functional common open space that fosters a sense of community and a sense of openness.

4. Provide private area around the individual dwellings to enable diversity in landscape design and foster a sense of ownership.

5. Ensure minimal visual impact from vehicular use and storage areas for residents.

6. Maintain a single-family character along public streets.

7. Provide well designed forms, facade articulation, materials use, and architectural details around all sides of the structures.

#### Lot Size

- Minimum lot area per dwelling unit: 1,600 sq. ft.

#### Unit Size

- Shall be determined by required Architecture and Site Review.

- Maximum Second Floor Area: 50% of the area of the main level.

- Attached garages shall be included in the calculation of total floor area.

- Attached porches with roofs and architectural projections (e.g., bay windows, fireplaces) not greater than 18” in depth and 6 ft. or less in width are not included in the total floor area calculation.

#### Lot Coverage

- 40% maximum.

### Building Placement

- Setbacks and lot coverage standards shall conform to the Town’s RM standards except as specified below.

- Front yard setback on public or interior streets: 15 ft. or as noted in the Site Guidelines for individual AHOZ sites in Chapter 3.

- Cottages shall be oriented around and have their main entry from a common open space as referenced in Chapter 1 or in the Site Guidelines for individual AHOZ sites in Chapter 3. Structures facing public streets must have similarly articulated facades on both the street and courtyard facades.

- Cottages shall be within 60 feet walking distance of a common open space as referenced in Chapter 1 or in the Site Guidelines for individual AHOZ sites in Chapter 3.

### Open Space

- Shall be determined by the following Town of Los Gatos Zoning Code sections:
  - Sec. 29.10.065 Recreational open space for residential condominiums.
  - Sec. 29.40.660 Recreational open space for multifamily dwellings.

- A minimum of 125 sq. ft. of the required private use open space shall be adjacent and oriented to the common open space as referenced in Chapter 1 or in the Site Guidelines for individual AHOZ sites in Chapter 3, and shall have no dimension less than 5 ft. on any one side.

### Height

- Maximum Wall Plate Height: 18 ft.

- All parts of the roof above 18 feet shall be pitched.

### Entries

- Porches are required with a minimum area of 60 sq. ft. and depth of 6 ft.

### Parking

- 0 - 1 bedroom units: 1 spaces per unit.

- 2 - 3 bedroom units: 2 spaces per unit.

- 4+ bedroom units: 2 ½ spaces per unit.

- Tandem spaces are allowed.

- Parking shall not be allowed between cottages.
COTTAGE CLUSTER HOUSING

Cottage Cluster Carriage House standards and guidelines

Cottage Cluster frontage standards and guidelines

Cottage Cluster Housing example
# DESIGN GUIDELINES

## COTTAGE CLUSTER HOUSING

### DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

#### Site Development

1. Orient unit entries to common open spaces.
2. Limiting carriage units over garages to one unit for each four regular cottage units is encouraged.
3. Avoid fences over three feet tall along public street frontages.
4. Link internal unit entries to adjacent streets with clear open space and pedestrian circulation networks.
5. Limit all fences on the interior of the parcel to 3 ft. in height.
6. Provide landscape screening, which may include a fence up to 6 ft. in height, as a visual buffer along property lines of any adjacent residentially zoned lots.

#### Massing and Articulation

1. Sloped roofs are strongly encouraged for all structures, and should include the use of varied pitched roof styles, gables or dormers.
2. Architectural features (e.g., bay windows, chimneys, canopies, cornices, awnings) are encouraged.
3. Projecting roof eaves of at least 18” are required.
4. Wrapping porches around to side elevations is strongly encouraged on corner lots.
5. Structures should be varied in height, size, proportions, orientation and roof lines.
6. For every eight units, at least two basic floor plans should be used.
7. Facades facing street frontages and common open spaces should have windows and doors that comprise at least 25% of the facade area.
8. Carry wall materials, window types and architectural details around all sides of the house. Avoid side and rear elevations that are markedly different from the front elevation.

### On Site Parking

1. Locate parking to the rear of the parcel or on a non-street side.
2. Parking may be provided in small groupings of surface lots, carports, garages or a combination of the above.
3. Garage doors should feature windows, recesses, and/or moldings to help blend the garages with the character of the house.
4. For dimensional standards not referenced, refer to Chapter 29 of the Town Code (Zoning Regulations).

### Architectural Details

1. Structures must include building articulation, changes in materials or textures, or other architectural features as summarized below:
   - Horizontal and vertical wall plane changes
   - Varied roof forms and orientations
   - Bay windows
   - Roof Dormers
   - Material and color changes
   - Applied decorative features.
   - Roof segments over windows
   - Pot rails
   - Metal or wood balcony railings
   - Planter boxes and plant rings

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Town of Los Gatos

Affordable Housing Design Guidelines
MULTIPLEXES

Characteristics
Multiplexes are structures containing two or more dwelling units (e.g., duplexes) with individual entries designed to resemble detached single family homes. Units may be side-by-side or stacked one above the other or a combination of both.

Typical Densities
• 15 - 20 DU/acre
## DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

### DESIGN OBJECTIVES

- Maintain a single-family character along public streets, and compatibility between new multiplex housing and the Town's existing single family neighborhoods.
- Minimize the visual mass and bulk of the structures.
- Maintain a high-quality streetscape appearance.
- Provide a sense of neighborhood and community within the development.

### Lot Size

- Minimum lot area per dwelling unit: 2,000 sq. ft.

### Unit Size

- Subject to Architecture and Site review.

### Lot Coverage

- 40% maximum.

### Building Placement

- Setbacks and lot coverage standards shall conform to the Town's RM standards except as specified below.
- Front yard setback on public or interior streets: 15 ft. or as noted in the site development guidelines.

### Open Space

- Subject to the following Town of Los Gatos Zoning Code sections:
  - Sec. 29.10.065 Recreational open space for residential condominiums.
  - Sec. 29.40.660 Recreational open space for multifamily dwellings.

### Height

- Maximum Height: 30 ft. with allowance up to 35 ft. for units with parking integrated into or located below the units’ living space.
- Wall Plate Height: 18 ft. strongly encouraged
- Sloped roofs are strongly encouraged.

### Entries

- Distinctive projecting or recessed entries shall be provided for each living unit.

### Parking

- 0 - 1 bedroom units: 1 spaces per unit.
- 2 - 3 bedroom units: 2 spaces per unit.
- 4+ bedroom units: 2 ½ spaces per unit.
- Tandem spaces are allowed.

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Fourplexes around auto courts
MULTIPLEXES

DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Site Development

1. Strongly consider some one-story and two-story detached units mixed with the multiplex units.
2. Utilize public and private streets, rather than driveways, to provide access to units.
3. Orient unit entries to streets rather than parking courtyards to the maximum extent possible.
4. Minimize the number of curb cuts and street-facing garages.

Massing and Articulation

1. Sloped roofs are strongly encouraged for all structures, and should include the use of varied pitched roof styles, gables or dormers.
2. Architectural features (e.g., bay windows, chimneys, canopies, cornices, awnings) are encouraged.
3. Projecting roof eaves of at least 18” are strongly encouraged.
4. Structures should be varied in height, size, proportions, orientation and roof lines.
5. Emphasize the individuality of units along street fronts.
6. Provide a mix of one- and two-story masses (e.g., one story garages) or set the second floor back from the first floor walls by a minimum of 5 feet for at least 50 percent of the facade of the structure.
7. Emphasize entries by adding projecting porches or other entry elements.
MULTIPLEXES

On Site Parking

1. Parking may be provided in garages, carports or a series of small parking lots separated by landscaped islands.
2. Recess garages from unit fronts along streets. Recesses from the building face of 18 feet or more are desirable to minimize the prominence of the garages and to allow guest parking on driveway aprons.
3. Use high-quality decorative garage doors with windows.
4. Where there are adjacent garages, provide a landscaped area to separate them and reduce the amount of driveway paving.
5. Textured decorative paving in driveways visible from the street is strongly encouraged.

Architectural Details

1. Structures must include building articulation, changes in materials or textures, or other architectural features as summarized below:
   • Horizontal and vertical wall plane changes
   • Varied roof forms and orientations
   • Bay windows
   • Roof Dormers
   • Material and color changes
   • Applied decorative features.
   • Roof segments over windows
   • Pot rails
   • Metal or wood balcony railings
   • Planter boxes and plant rings
TOWNHOUSES

Characteristics
Townhomes are single-family attached dwelling units constructed in clusters within an overall master development plan. Parking is typically in garages or parking lots adjacent to the dwelling unit clusters, but may be integrated into the dwelling’s ground floor if limited in width.

Typical Densities
• 15 - 20 DU/acre
## TOWNHOUSES

### DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

#### DESIGN OBJECTIVES

- Minimize the visual mass and bulk of the structures.
- Encourage site development that enhances unit entries and open spaces.
- Enhance the appearance of common parking areas and relate carport design to the townhomes.
- Integrate outdoor private open space areas into the overall design.

#### Lot Size

- Minimum lot area per dwelling unit: 1,800 sq. ft.

#### Unit Size

- Subject to Architecture and Site review.

#### Lot Coverage

- 40% maximum.

#### Building Placement

- Setbacks and lot coverage standards to conform to the Town’s RM standards except as specified below.
- Front yard setback on public or interior streets: 15 ft. or as noted in the site development guidelines.

#### Open Space

- Subject to the following Town of Los Gatos Zoning Code sections:
  * Sec. 29.10.065 Recreational open space for residential condominiums.
  * Sec. 29.40.660 Recreational open space for multifamily dwellings.

### Height

- Maximum Height: 30 ft. with allowance up to 35 ft. for units with parking integrated into or located below the units’ living space.
- Sloped roofs are strongly encouraged.

### Entries

- Distinctive projecting or recessed entries shall be provided for each living unit.

### Parking

- 0 - 1 bedroom units: 1 spaces per unit.
- 2 - 3 bedroom units: 2 spaces per unit.
- 4+ bedroom units: 2 ½ spaces per unit.
- Tandem spaces are allowed.
- Garages shall occupy no more than 50% of a unit width fronting on a street, common open space or other pedestrian area.

![Townhouse example with wall offsets and details used to break up tall building form](image-url)
**Design Standards and Guidelines**

### Site Development

1. Orient unit entries to streets and common open spaces rather than parking courtyards to the maximum extent possible.
2. Avoid turning unit back elevations and patio walls to public streets.
3. Minimize the number of curb cuts and street-facing garages.
4. Orient living space windows to overlook streets and common open spaces.
5. If parking is not attached to the units, utilize small parking areas reasonably close to the living units. Large parking areas shall be broken into smaller segments with substantial landscaping.

### Massing and Articulation

1. Construct a maximum of 6 attached units in a row. Approval of more than 6 attached units may be considered, but will only be granted for projects with extraordinarily high design quality.
2. The individuality of each townhouse unit shall be emphasized with well defined limits and individual entries and details.
3. Elevations should be mixed within a development to avoid repetition of identical facades and roof lines.
4. Houses on corner lots shall be required to provide one or more 1-story elements and/or projecting second story bay windows or other decorative architectural features to avoid tall exterior walls without design articulation facing streets, open spaces and pedestrian ways.
5. Design front elevations to emphasize entries, porches or other living areas and de-emphasize garages. No more than 50 percent of the front elevation of a house shall consist of garage area.
6. Front-facing garages should be recessed a minimum of 12 inches from the front facade of the living space.
7. Carports and garages separated from the townhouse units should be substantial in appearance, and should match the residential units in terms of roof pitches, materials and construction.
8. A minimum of 50% of all two-story houses should have a minimum 3-foot horizontal offset in plan.
9. Add variety to second floors with varied eave heights, windows and ridge line variations.
## TOWNHOUSES

### On Site Parking

1. Parking may be provided in garages, carports or a series of small parking lots separated by landscaped islands.
2. Townhouses with garages sharing a facade with the unit’s entry are discouraged unless other options are unfeasible.
3. High-quality decorative garage doors with windows are encouraged.
4. Where there are adjacent garage doors, provide a landscaped area to separate them and reduce the amount of driveway paving.
5. Garage aprons shall either be 3 feet or less, or 18 feet or more in depth.

### Architectural Details

1. Structures must include building articulation, changes in materials or textures, or other architectural features such as those summarized below:
   - Horizontal and vertical wall plane changes
   - Varied roof forms and orientations
   - Bay windows
   - Roof Dormers
   - Material and color changes
   - Applied decorative features.
   - Roof segments over windows
   - Pot rails
   - Metal or wood balcony railings
   - Planter boxes and plant rings
ROWHOUSES

Characteristics
Rowhouses are single-family, attached dwelling units constructed in rows along common streets. Unit entries are oriented to the fronting streets, and garages are integrated into the individual units at the rear. Private open space is typically provided as a porch, entry garden or deck rather than as at-grade patios.

Typical Densities
- 15 - 20 DU/acre
## Development Standards

### Design Objectives
- Minimize the visual mass and bulk of the structures.
- Maximize the pedestrian scale and character of streetscapes.
- Enhance the individual identity of each unit.
- Integrate outdoor private open space areas into the overall design.

### Lot Size
- Minimum lot area per dwelling unit: 1,800 sq. ft.

### Unit Size
- Subject to Architecture and Site review.

### Lot Coverage
- 40% maximum.

### Building Placement
- Setbacks and lot coverage standards to conform to the Town's RM standards except as specified below.
- Front yard setback on public or interior streets: 15 ft. or as noted in the site development guidelines.
- Minimum rear setback: none

### Open Space
- Subject to the following Town of Los Gatos Zoning Code sections:
  * Sec. 29.10.065 Recreational open space for residential condominiums.
  * Sec. 29.40.660 Recreational open space for multifamily dwellings.

### Height
- Maximum Height: 30 ft. with allowance up to 35 ft. for units with parking integrated into or located below the units' living space.
- Sloped roofs are strongly encouraged.

### Entries
- Distinctive projecting or recessed entries shall be provided for each living unit.

### Parking
- 0 - 1 bedroom units: 1 spaces per unit.
- 2 - 3 bedroom units: 2 spaces per unit.
- 4+ bedroom units: 2 ½ spaces per unit.
- Tandem spaces are allowed.
- Garages shall be located on rear lanes or auto courts.

### Images
- Active Common Open Space example
- Passive Common Open Space example
- Rowhouse site plan example
ROWHOUSES

DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Site Development

1. Orient unit entries to streets and common open spaces.
2. Avoid garages facing public streets.
3. Minimize the length of auto courts, and utilize landscape features (e.g., roundabouts) to provide visually attractive street frontages.
4. Orient living space windows to overlook streets and common open spaces.
5. Place 3-story units sharing a common garage access driveway with 2-story units or small lot detached units where possible.
6. Internal streets shall be designed for a high degree of walkability. Parkstrips, sidewalks, and pedestrian scale street lights should be provided on both sides of the street.
### Massing and Articulation

1. Rear driveways may be constructed at grade level or slightly depressed below grade level to reduce overall building height and the height of the first floor above grade.

2. The individuality of each rowhouse unit shall be emphasized with well-defined limits and individual entries and details.

3. Elevations shall be mixed within a development to avoid repetition of identical facades and roof lines.

4. Houses on corner lots will be required to provide one or more 1-story elements and/or projecting second story bay windows or other decorative architectural features to avoid tall exterior walls without design articulation facing streets, open spaces and pedestrian ways.

5. Garages doors should be recessed a minimum of 12 inches from the main facade of the garage.

6. Provide facade articulation and architectural details along rear facades at driveways. Projecting bay windows are one successful way of breaking up tall facades.

7. Add variety to second floors with varied eave heights, windows and ridge line variations.

### On Site Parking

1. Guest parking should be distributed throughout the development.

2. High-quality decorative garage doors with windows are encouraged.

3. Where there are adjacent garage doors, provide a landscaped area to separate them and reduce the amount of driveway paving.

4. Garage aprons shall either be 3 feet or less, or 18 feet or more in depth.

### Architectural Details

1. Structures must include building articulation, changes in materials or textures, or other architectural features such as those summarized below:
   - Horizontal and vertical wall plane changes
   - Varied roof forms and orientations
   - Bay windows
   - Roof Dormers
   - Material and color changes
   - Applied decorative features.
   - Roof segments over windows
   - Pot rails
   - Metal or wood balcony railings
   - Planter boxes and plant rings

2. Trellises with flowering vine landscaping are encouraged above garage doors.

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*Example of facade articulation, architectural details, and recessed garage doors used to soften the auto court*

*Active Common Open Space example*
MULTIFAMILY FLATS

Characteristics
Multifamily Flats are typically stacked one above another with access by way of common building entries and corridors. Parking is usually accommodated in common areas composed of surface parking with carports or individual garages, separate parking structures, or in a parking level located beneath the residential complex.

Typical Densities
• Maximum of 20 DU/acre
## MULTIFAMILY FLATS

### DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

**DESIGN OBJECTIVES**

- Minimize the visual mass and bulk of the structures.
- Enhance the ground floor pedestrian scale and character of structures.
- Minimize the visual impact of parking structures.
- Integrate outdoor private open space areas into the overall design.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lot Size</th>
<th>NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Size</td>
<td>Subject to Architecture and Site review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot Coverage</td>
<td>40% maximum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Placement</td>
<td>Setbacks and lot coverage standards to conform to the Town's RM standards except as specified below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Front yard setback on public or interior streets: 15 ft. or as noted in the site development guidelines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Open Space

- Subject to the following Town of Los Gatos Zoning Code sections:
  * Sec. 29.10.065 Recreational open space for residential condominiums.
  * Sec. 29.40.660 Recreational open space for multifamily dwellings.

### Height

- Maximum Height: 30 ft. with allowance up to 35 ft. for units with parking integrated into or located below the units' living space.
- Sloped roofs are strongly encouraged.

### Entries

- Distinctive projecting or recessed entries shall be provided for each ground floor unit.

### Parking

- 0 - 1 bedroom units: 1 spaces per unit.
- 2 - 3 bedroom units: 2 spaces per unit.
- 4+ bedroom units: 2 ½ spaces per unit.
- Tandem spaces are allowed. A maximum of 50% of units are allowed to have a tandem parking space.
**DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

### Site Development

1. Orient unit entries to streets and common open spaces.
2. Podium parking below individual buildings is strongly encouraged to allow large scale tree landscaping around the buildings. One large podium parking structure for several buildings is discouraged.
3. Avoid garages and parking lots facing public streets.
4. Internal streets shall be designed for a high degree of walkability. Parkstrips, sidewalks, and pedestrian scale street lights should be provided on both sides of the street.
5. Entry driveways should have strong landscaped edges with terminus views focused on landscaped areas or building entries, not the rear end of parked cars.
6. The edges of any garage structure and vents into the garage visible above grade shall be screened with evergreen plant materials. Earth berms and other techniques to tie the top of the garage structure into the surrounding grade level should be utilized.
## 2 MULTIFAMILY FLATS

### Massing and Articulation

1. Provide horizontal and vertical wall plane offsets to break up the building mass. Avoid building forms that appear to be large boxes with elements attached to them.

2. Provide buildings with a well defined base, a middle, and a top to reduce the apparent building height and bulk. Significant projecting roof overhangs are strongly encouraged.

3. Integrating the upper floor units into the roof form, stepping back of upper floors from those below, or the use of a different material on the top floor walls are encouraged.

4. Adding horizontal projecting molding at some floor lines (e.g., top floors) is encouraged to mitigate the feeling of tall unbroken walls.

5. Step down the building mass at corners.

6. Stepping back portions of upper floors is encouraged to reduce the visual bulk of structures.

7. Provide pedestrian oriented elements and details on facades facing public sidewalks. Elements such as projecting balconies and awnings can add visual interest and richness to the street environment.

8. Provide a varied building silhouette when viewed against the sky. This may be achieved with variations in roof height, the addition of building elements projecting above the roof eave, and other similar means.

9. Provide well defined common entries related to the sidewalk facing the public streets, common open spaces and pedestrian walkways.

### On Site Parking

1. Below grade parking is encouraged with entries placed at the rear or sides of the structures whenever possible. They shall be recessed as much as possible from the building facade - especially where security gates are used at the garage entry.

2. Guest parking should be distributed throughout the development.

3. Podium garages should not extend more than 5 ft. above grade along street frontages, common open spaces or pedestrian walkways unless fully screened by building walls with decorative treatment and detail.

### Architectural Details

1. Structures must include building articulation, changes in materials or textures, or other architectural features such as those summarized below:
   - Horizontal and vertical wall plane changes
   - Varied roof forms and orientations
   - Bay windows
   - Roof Dormers
   - Material and color changes
   - Applied decorative features.
   - Roof segments over windows
   - Pot rails
   - Metal or wood balcony railings
   - Planter boxes and plant rings

2. Projects constructed on top of parking podiums shall take special care to provide design elements to minimize the hard edge of the parking podium. Decks extending beyond the podium edge and varied setbacks for the residential units are just two ways of approaching this issue.

---

*Example of facade articulation and subordinate underground parking*

*Example of larger building subdivided into smaller building forms*
HOUSING TYPES/SITES SUITABILITY
In general, most of the housing types are suitable to all of the sites subject to the unique opportunities and limits related to the individual site size, configuration, and interfaces with their adjacent environments. However, based on the large size of the Southbay Development site, its adjacency to the Aventino Apartments, and its proximity to future light rail transit service on Winchester Blvd., the Town feels that the lower intensity Small Lot Single Family and Cottage Housing types are not suitable for the Southbay site.

Prior to starting detailed planning and design on any sites, applicants should review the Town’s General Plan and Zoning Regulations, and confer with Town staff on the appropriate housing types for their site.
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SITE GUIDELINES

SITES OVERVIEW

The identified AHOZ sites vary in size, configuration and neighborhood context. Each has its own special opportunities and constraints which will affect the selected housing types, resident mix, and site layout. This chapter sets forth guidelines that are applicable to housing type selection and site layout.

The five sites covered by these design guidelines are summarized in the table below, and shown at a common graphic scale (see page 1 for site locations within the Town of Los Gatos).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>APN</th>
<th>AHOZ Zoning</th>
<th>Allowable Base Density (Units/Acre)</th>
<th>Parcel Acreage</th>
<th>Devel- opable Acreage</th>
<th>Realistic Development Capacity*</th>
<th>Development Density</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southbay Development</td>
<td>424 32 077</td>
<td>CM/AHOZ</td>
<td>12-20 DU High Density Residential General Plan Designation</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>148 units</td>
<td>Capacity based on 20 units per acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Rim Site</td>
<td>529 16 042</td>
<td>RM-5:12/ AHOZ</td>
<td>5-12 DU Medium Density Residential General Plan Designation</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>76 units (30 existing + 46 new)</td>
<td>Capacity based on 20 units per acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higgins Business Park Site</td>
<td>529 16 071</td>
<td>O/AHOZ</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>64 units</td>
<td>Capacity based on 20 units per acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Gatos Lodge Site A</td>
<td>529 04 001</td>
<td>CH:PD/AHOZ</td>
<td>Mixed Use Commercial General Plan Designation</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>30 units</td>
<td>Capacity based on 20 units per acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Gatos Lodge Site B</td>
<td>529 24 032</td>
<td>CH:PD/AHOZ</td>
<td>Mixed Use Commercial General Plan Designation</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>140 units</td>
<td>Capacity based on 20 units per acre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The acceptable development capacity will be determined by development concessions, and acceptable site plan and building designs.
LOS GATOS LODGE SITES
3 SOUTHBAY DEVELOPMENT SITE

SITE SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AHOZ Zoning</th>
<th>Allowable Base Density (Units/Acre)</th>
<th>Parcel Acreage</th>
<th>Developable Acreage</th>
<th>Realistic Development Capacity</th>
<th>Development Density</th>
</tr>
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<td>148 units</td>
<td>Capacity based on 20 units per acre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SITE DEVELOPMENT INFLUENCES

1. Site Features
   - Site is relatively flat, and elevated slightly above Knowles Drive and the Los Gatos Creek Trail.
   - Three existing office buildings complexes located on the site.
   - Substantial mature landscaping along Knowles Drive and the Los Gatos Creek Trail frontages.

2. Nearby Uses
   - Light industrial uses to the north of the site.
   - Two-story El Gatos Business Park structure immediately adjacent to the west.
   - City of Campbell to north - office and light industrial.
   - Aventino Apartments development immediately adjacent to the south.
   - Netflix office building to the southwest.
   - Los Gatos Creek and Trail immediately adjacent to the east with single family homes across the creek.
   - Small shopping center and professional offices to the west across Winchester Blvd.

3. Other Influences
   - Shared entry drive easement from Knowles Drive for this site and the adjacent El Gato Business Park to the north.
   - Three utility easements.
   - Los Gatos Creek 100 year flood plain. Any construction shall be consistent with the Town's Floodplain Management Ordinance.
   - Irregular shaped site.
   - Future nearby light rail transit service on Winchester Blvd.
   - Adjacent medium density multifamily residential structures adjacent to the south property line.
   - Applicable Guidelines and Standards for Land Uses near streams.
3 SOUTHBAY DEVELOPMENT SITE

LANDSCAPING

- Preserve existing trees and lawn setback
- Preserve existing trees
- Provide one or more common open spaces adjacent to Creek Trail
- Provide a 25 ft. minimum landscaped setback

BUILDING MASSING

- Avoid building parallel to adjacent Aventino structure unless set back from property line a distance at least equal to the building height
- Limit building widths along the Creek Trail to no more than 4 adjacent units similar to Aventino
OAK RIM and HIGGINS BUSINESS PARK SITES

SITE DEVELOPMENT INFLUENCES

1. Site Features

   **Oak Rim Site**
   - The site has two flat developed areas that have the potential to accommodate additional development.
     1) The eastern portion of the site with frontage along Blossom Hill Road.
     2) The western portion of the site along Highway 17.
   - The property is divided by a very steep hillside in the middle of the parcel which accommodates an access drive that connects the two developable areas.
   - The site has two groupings of existing apartment buildings in the developed areas. The Blossom Hill structures are older.
   - The site has substantial mature landscaping.

   **Higgins Business Park Site**
   - The site is lower than Blossom Hill Road, and is accessed via a sloping driveway.
   - The majority of the site is flat with a steep slope along Blossom Hill Road and a portion of the eastern boundary.
   - The site is developed with two office buildings and a paved parking lot.
   - The site has substantial mature landscaping.

2. Nearby Uses
   - Vasona and Oak Meadow Park are within ½ mile of the sites.
   - Fisher and Van Meter Public Schools are within ¼ mile of the sites.
   - Community Bus Transit Stops are within ½ mile of the sites.
   - Adjacent existing apartments and condominium complex.
   - Adjoins approximately 13,000 square foot San Jose Water Company parcel to the east.
   - Within ¼ mile of Los Gatos Boulevard shopping centers and professional offices.
   - New 25-unit mixed-use residential/commercial development being constructed nearby on the former Swanson Ford site.
   - New 10-unit single family subdivision being constructed nearby on Placer Oaks.

3. Other Influences
   - The Oak Rim site has signalized access at the Blossom Hill Road and Roberts Road intersection.
   - Possible joint development potential of Higgins and Oak Rim sites with shared access potential.
   - Adjacent to Highway 17 - Noise impacts will need to be mitigated and addressed by the proposed development.

### SITE SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AHOZ/Zoning</th>
<th>Allowable Base Density (Units/Acre)</th>
<th>Parcel Acreage</th>
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<th>Realistic Development Capacity</th>
<th>Development Density</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OAK RIM SITE</td>
<td>RM:5:12/AHOZ</td>
<td>5-12 DU</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>78 units (30 existing + 46 new)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGGINS BUSINESS PARK SITE</td>
<td>O/AHOZ</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>64 units</td>
<td>Capacity based on 20 units per acre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 OAK RIM and HIGGINS BUSINESS PARK SITES

CIRCULATION

Provide EVA and potential road and pedestrian links

Preserve existing vehicular entry

Preserve existing vehicular entry
“AS” depicts symbolic requirement for the provision of common amenity space with final locations determined by the Architectural and Site approval process.

LANDSCAPING

MASSING
LOS GATOS LODGE SITES A & B

SITE SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AHOZ Zoning</th>
<th>Allowable Base Density (Units/Acre)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOS GATOS LODGE SITE A</td>
<td>CH:PD/AHOZ 20 due to General Plan Designation</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>30 units</td>
<td>Capacity based on 20 units per acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOS GATOS LODGE SITE B</td>
<td>CH:PD/AHOZ 20 due to General Plan Designation</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>140 units</td>
<td>Capacity based on 20 units per acre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SITES A & B DEVELOPMENT INFLUENCES

1. Site Features
   - Both sites are developed with an existing motel and parking lot.
   - Both sites are relatively flat except for a steep hillside along the eastern portion of the site.
   - The majority of Site B is developed with older motel structures and pavement.
   - Substantial mature landscaping exists on the sites and along property boundaries.

2. Nearby Uses
   - Los Gatos-Saratoga Road and a mixture of residential, commercial and motel uses are to the north.
   - Highway 17 on-and-off ramps are located at the northwest corner of the sites.
   - Los Gatos High School play fields are along the southern boundary.
   - Bella Vista neighborhood and residential uses along the eastern boundary.

3. Other Influences
   - Signalized intersection at Los Gatos-Saratoga Road and Alberto Way.
   - Proximity to the High School.
   - Possible joint development of both parcels with shared access.
   - Adjacent to Highway 17 - Noise impacts will need to be mitigated and addressed by the proposed development.
“AS” depicts symbolic requirement for the provision of common amenity space with final locations determined by the Architectural and Site approval process.
ALLEY (REAR LANE)
A narrow street located at the rear of residential parcels, and providing access to garages and surface parking areas serving residences whose entries face nearby public or internal streets.

ARTICULATION
The visible expression of architectural elements which through their form, structure, or materials break up the scale of buildings and spaces to achieve a human scale.

AUTO COURTS
A paved open space surrounded on three sides by residential structures, and serving as access to garages for those dwelling units. It may also provide access to residence entries.

BALCONY
An exterior platform that projects from or into the façade of a building, and is surrounded by a railing, balustrade, or parapet.

BAY WINDOW
A large window or grouping of windows projecting from the outer facade of a building and forming an alcove in the interior of the building.

CARRIAGE UNIT
A complete dwelling unit with separate entrance, sleeping, bath and kitchen facilities that is located above a ground level garage structure.

CONDOMINIUM
Condominium, residential means a residential development, a condominium project, a community apartment project or a stock cooperative as defined in title 6 Common Interest Developments, section 1351 of the Civil Code. (Condominiums are a form of ownership rather than a housing type)

COTTAGE CLUSTER HOUSING
A collection of small houses arranged around and fronting one or more common open spaces or courtyards. Units are usually smaller than typical single family homes with floor areas of 1,200 square feet or less. Parking is provided in consolidated parking lots and/or in garages served by alley access.

EVA
Emergency Vehicle Access is a secondary means of access to a parcel of land for fire fighting apparatus and other public service vehicles.

GARAGE APRON
A portion of driveway serving an individual garage, and separating the garage from the adjacent street, auto court or other vehicular access way. Garage aprons between 3 feet and 18 feet shall be prohibited to prevent vehicles from encroaching into the sidewalk, street, or alley.

MULTIFAMILY FLATS
Dwelling units typically stacked one above another with access by way of common building entries and corridors. Parking is usually accommodated in common areas composed of surface parking with carports or individual garages, separate parking structures, or in a parking level located beneath the residential complex (also referred to as Podium Parking defined below).

MULTIPLEXES
Structures containing two or more dwelling units (e.g., duplex, triplex, 4-plex, 6-plex) with individual entries designed to resemble detached single family homes. Units may be side-by-side or stacked one above the other or a combination of both.

PODIUM PARKING
A parking structure configured with the parking partially located below grade (but not fully underground), and with dwelling units or other uses above.

POT RAILS
Shelves attached to and projecting from the exterior facade of a structure for the purpose of supporting potted plants.

PARK STRIPS
A strip of land located between the rear of the curb and the front of a sidewalk, usually used for planting low ground cover and/or street trees - also known as a “planter strip” or “parkway strip”.

ROOF DORMER WINDOWS
A window set vertically in a structure projecting through a sloping roof.

ROWHOUSES
Single-family, attached dwelling units constructed in rows along common streets. Unit entries are oriented to the fronting streets, and garages are integrated into the individual units at the rear. Private open space is typically provided as a porch, entry garden or deck rather than as at-grade patios. Units occupy all floors, without other units above or below.

SMALL LOT SINGLE FAMILY DETACHED HOMES
Individual houses on their own individual lots with parcel sizes generally in the range of 2,500 to 4,500 square feet.
GLOSSARY

SECONDARY DWELLING UNIT (SDU)
A detached or attached dwelling unit which provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons, and is accessory to and generally smaller than a primary dwelling unit. A secondary dwelling unit is located in a permanent structure with separate entrance, sleeping, bath and kitchen facilities.

TANDEM PARKING
A parking configuration wherein two spaces are located end to end in such a manner that one of the spaces is not directly accessible to the street without traveling over the other space.

TOWNHOUSES
Single-family attached dwelling units constructed in clusters within an overall master development plan. Parking is typically in garages or parking lots adjacent to the dwelling unit clusters, but may be integrated into the dwelling’s ground floor.