



Residential Low Zone (R-L)

PH-02

Community Development Department

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ECC 15.300.040 (B) Residential Low Density Zone (R-L)

The R-L zone is intended to protect and enhance the character of existing low density residential neighborhoods while allowing for compatible infill development. These purposes are accomplished by:

1. Allowing detached single family dwellings as the predominate use, with options to integrate accessory dwelling units and duplexes and cottage housing on larger lots;
2. Providing standards and guidelines that reinforce Ellensburg's established pattern of attractive and walkable residential neighborhoods;
3. Providing standards and guidelines that promote the integration of usable open space for residential uses;
4. Providing standards and guidelines that encourage parks, trails, open spaces, and natural features to be integrated with the design of new development;
5. Providing a minimum density standard to avoid large scale low density sprawl;
6. Providing a flexible system of bonus incentives (see ECC 15.330.020) that allow for an increase in density in exchange for:
 - a. Energy efficient building and site design;
 - b. Mix of housing types;
 - c. Off-street trails;
 - d. Purchase of transferable development rights (subject to the city adopting a TDR program) that help to preserve valuable resource lands outside of the city;
 - e. Preservation of historic buildings; and/or
 - f. Affordable housing; and
7. Use of this zone is appropriate for:
 - a. Areas designated mixed residential in the comprehensive plan; and
 - b. Areas characterized as predominately detached single family in character.

Table 15.320.030 Form and intensity standards table – Residential zones.

Topic	R-S	R-L	R-M	R-H	R-O
DEVELOPMENT INTENSITY AND CONFIGURATION					
Minimum lot area	None ¹				
Minimum frontage	None ^{1,2}				
Density, minimum (ECC 15.320.050)		6/du/acre ³	8/du/acre ³	15 du/acre	8/du/acre ³
Density, maximum (base) ¹⁰ (ECC 15.320.050)	6 du/acre	8 du/acre	No limit	No limit	No limit
Density, maximum with bonus (see ECC Chapter 15.330)	12 du/acre ⁴	16 du/acre ⁴	No limit	No limit	No limit
Maximum floor area ratio (FAR) (ECC 15.320.050)		0.5 ⁵	1.0 ⁶	1.5 ⁶	1.0 ⁶
Maximum building height	35 ft	35 ft	35 ft ⁷	45 ft ⁷	35 ft ⁷
BUILDING PLACEMENT (see ECC 15.320.070-130)					
Minimum front yard ^{8,9}	15 ft				
Garage front yard setback	22 ft				
Minimum rear yard	20ft	20ft	20ft	20ft	20ft
Minimum rear yard, accessory structures (including garages) and detached accessory dwelling units	5 ft ¹²				
Minimum side yard ¹¹	5 ft/10 ft ¹³				
Minimum side yard (corner)	5 ft				

Development conditions:

1. Lot sizes may be variable provided they are sized and shaped sufficient to accommodate permitted uses and conform to applicable design and density standards.
2. New lots shall have access directly to a public right-of-way or may obtain access from a courtyard access [ECC 15.420.050(C)] or shared driveway [ECC 15.420.060(A)(2)].
3. The density minimum shall apply only to new subdivisions greater than one acre in size.

4. Exception: Projects complying with Net Zero Energy provisions may exceed the maximum density limits as set forth in ECC 15.330.020(A).
5. townhouses and multifamily uses, where permitted through density bonus provisions, are exempt from maximum FAR standards.
6. See ECC 15.330.030 for FAR bonus provisions.
7. For buildings, or portions thereof, with pitched roofs, the maximum height may be increased by 5 feet. Applicable roof slopes must be at least 4:12 to qualify for this additional height.
8. Porches and covered entries may project up to 6 feet into the front yard.
9. No front yard is required for buildings adjacent to designated "Storefront Streets".
10. Base maximum density refers to the maximum density allowed without utilizing density bonuses.
11. Townhouses and zero lot line homes are exempt from side yard standards internal to a development. However, such uses shall meet applicable side yard standards for adjacent lots outside of the development.
12. Accessory structures and accessory dwelling units, where built on top of an existing garage, may be built to a property line abutting an alley, provided sufficient turning movement and emergency vehicle access is provided within the alley.
13. For lots 6,000 square feet or less, the minimum side yard shall be 5 feet on each side.