

Greenbelt Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone Development Standards Discussion Draft – March 2020

Purpose

The Greenbelt Neighborhood Conservation Overlay (NCO) Zone is established and intended to protect and preserve unique development features and the character of the historic New Deal community of Greenbelt. As required by the adopted Zoning Ordinance (CB-13-2018 DR-2, adopted by the County Council on October 23, 2018), a neighborhood study has been prepared. That study identified goals for the NCO Zone and informs the development standards proposed in this document.

This document is a discussion draft of potential development standards for the Greenbelt NCO Zone and is provided for stakeholder review and comment. Community input will inform the next draft, which Planning Department staff anticipate will appear in a proposed County Council Resolution in June 2020. Final approval of the Greenbelt NCO Zone development standards is anticipated in early November 2020.

All references to the “Zoning Ordinance” below are references to the adopted Zoning Ordinance, not the current ordinance.

Goals

As expressed in the neighborhood study, the Greenbelt NCO Zone is intended to

1. Preserve the development characteristics of the New Deal community, including the superblock concept, garden city character, walkability, internal green spaces, sustainable development practices, and the “green belt.”
2. Restrict the residential density allowed by the new zones of the Zoning Ordinance so that new development does not overwhelm or negatively impact the character of the community.
3. Clarify the applicability of development standards for properties that were never subdivided.
4. Ensure new buildings and structures and additions to existing dwellings, accessory structures, and nonresidential buildings are appropriate in size and scale with existing buildings.
5. Minimize impacts to or restrictions on existing nonresidential uses to ensure they have every opportunity to continue to serve the community.
6. Minimize the provision of new parking spaces to limit expansion of impervious surfaces and preserve open space.

General Provisions

1. The boundaries of the Greenbelt NCO Zone are identified on the Official Zoning Map.
2. Pursuant to Section 27-4403(a)(4)(C) of the Zoning Ordinance, in the case of conflicts with any standards of the Zoning Ordinance, the Greenbelt NCO Zone development standards shall control.
3. As stated by Section 27-4403(a)(4)(B), no permit for any new construction or expansion of an existing structure resulting in an increase in the gross square footage of the building of 15 percent or more may be issued until the Planning Director determines that the proposal complies with all development standards (as may be applicable to the proposed development) established below.
4. Alterations or modifications made to previously constructed dwelling unit additions that existed as of the effective date of the Zoning Ordinance that do not further expand the gross square

footage shall be exempt from these development standards except that any such alteration or modification shall maintain the roof line of the existing structure.

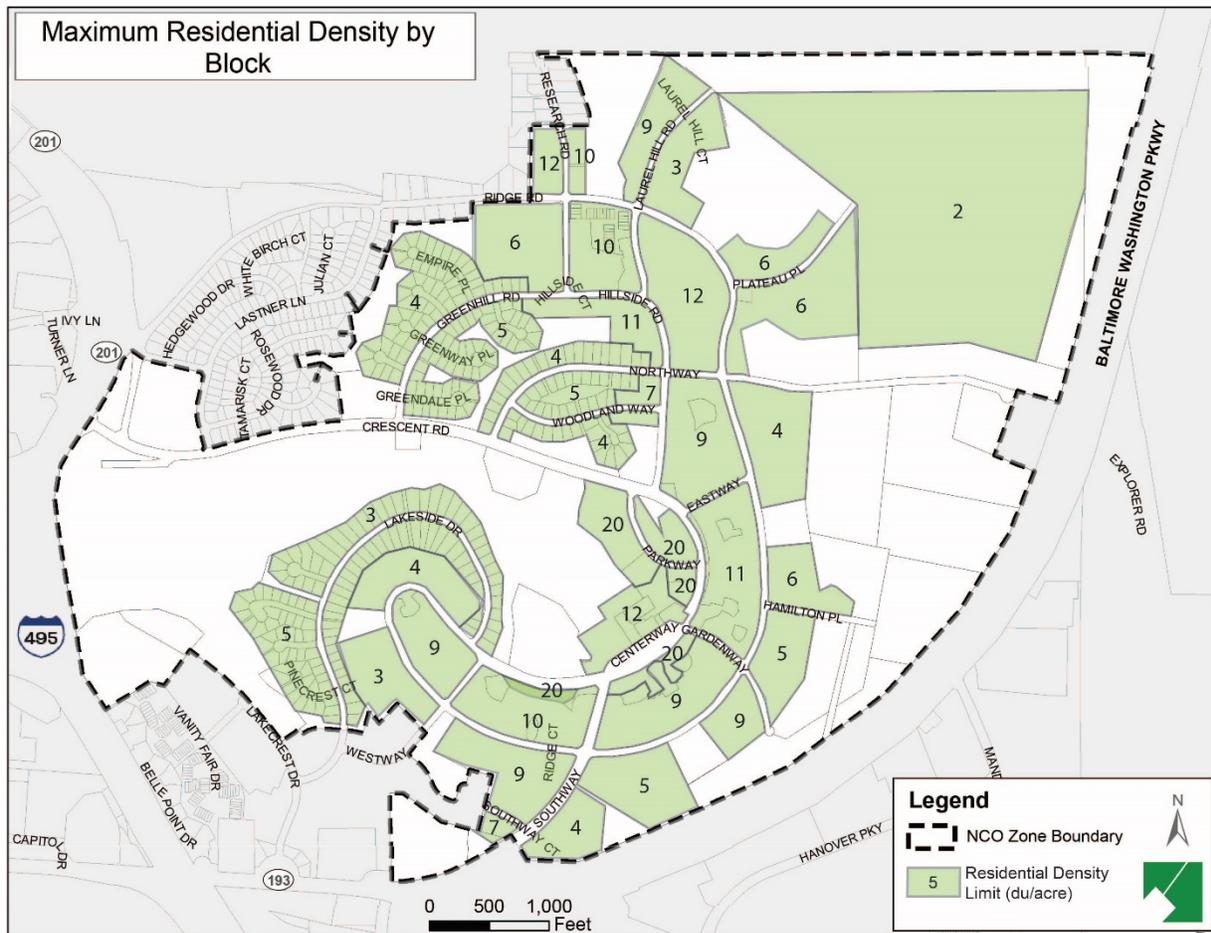
Development Standards

All development within the Greenbelt NCO Zone shall demonstrate compliance with the following development standards (as may be applicable):

Density

1. The overall density of the entire Greenbelt NCO Zone shall not exceed eight dwelling units per gross acre.
2. The maximum dwelling unit density for each property or assemblage of properties that is the subject of a development application within the Greenbelt NCO Zone shall not exceed the density shown in Figure 1: Greenbelt NCO Zone Maximum Density for Residential Blocks. Where a maximum density is not shown, the maximum density shall not exceed the maximum density permitted by the underlying zone.

Figure 1: Greenbelt NCO Zone Maximum Density for Residential Blocks.



Dimensional and Intensity Standards

Attached dwellings (other than multifamily dwellings) and any alterations, expansions, enlargements, or extensions thereto located within the Greenbelt NCOZ shall not be subject to the individual lot dimensional and intensity standards as set forth in Part 27-4: Zones and Zone Regulations for the zone in which they are located.

Multiple Principal Dwellings on Same Lot or Parcel

Notwithstanding Section 27-5101(b)(2), multiple single-family detached, townhouse, two-family, three-family, artists' residential studios, and/or live-work dwellings may be permitted on any lot or parcel in the RSF-A base zone within the Greenbelt NCOZ. This provision shall not be interpreted to permit accessory dwelling units and shall only apply to multiple principal dwellings on the same lot or parcel.

Alterations, Expansions, Enlargements, or Extensions

1. Additions or expansions to existing single-family detached, townhouse, two-family, or three-family residential dwelling units shall not exceed a cumulative sum of 40 percent of the gross floor area of the original dwelling unit as it existed when construction was initially complete. No alteration, expansion, enlargement, or extension shall exceed the height of the existing dwelling unit. Alterations, expansions, enlargements, or extensions shall maintain the roofline of the existing dwelling unit.
2. Multifamily dwelling buildings constructed before November 29, 1949, shall retain their character-defining architectural features to the maximum extent practicable. Such features may include but are not limited to concrete block exterior walls, casement windows, flat roofs, open porches, glass block walls, and exterior courses of decorative brick. Original exterior doors and exterior lighting fixtures shall be preserved wherever possible. Alterations, expansions, enlargements, or extensions shall maintain the roofline of the existing multifamily building.
3. Additions or expansions to commercial buildings constructed before November 29, 1949, shall reflect the massing and architectural character of existing commercial structures located in Roosevelt Center. Alterations, expansions, enlargements, or extensions shall not exceed 40 feet in height.
4. Garages may only be used for vehicle parking or general storage (not residential or any other uses). When present, original garage doors should be repaired rather than replaced. If replacement is necessary, new garage doors shall be compatible in appearance and function with original garage doors. Garage additions shall not be permitted, nor shall garage doors or garage openings be sealed shut or blocked by walls or similar structures.

New Development

1. New dwellings in the Household Living Uses or Group Living Uses use categories in the RSF-A, RMF-20, and CGO zones shall be designed to maintain the general form and massing of the existing dwellings in these zones. High-quality, durable exterior materials shall be used.
2. New dwellings shall not exceed 50 feet in height for multifamily dwellings or 40 feet in height for any other dwelling.

3. New commercial or mixed-use buildings shall not exceed 40 feet in height.

Block Design

1. Section 27-6206(k)(1), Block Length, shall not apply. Instead, block length shall be at least 400 feet on a side.
2. Notwithstanding Section 27-6206(k)(3), any new development in the RSF-A Zone shall provide sidewalks or multi-use paths through the block regardless of block face length.

Parking

1. The minimum number of off-street parking spaces required for any new development in the Household Living Uses Principal Use Category shall be 1.5 spaces per dwelling unit.
2. Pervious or semi-pervious parking lot surfacing shall be required for any new required or proposed surface parking spaces to the maximum extent practicable. Any pervious or semi-pervious surfacing shall be certified by a licensed civil engineer as capable of accommodating anticipated traffic loading stresses and maintenance impacts. Where possible, such materials should be used in areas proximate to and in combination with on-site stormwater control devices.

Accessory Structures

Residential accessory structures including but not limited to sheds, fences, and porches shall be permitted. For accessory structures located within the RSF-A Zone, the applicant shall demonstrate that accessory structures are associated with and located within the service side of the associated dwelling, if applicable. Nonresidential accessory structures may be permitted pursuant to the regulations of the Zoning Ordinance.