

RM-4 and RM-4N Districts Schedule

1 Intent

The intent of this Schedule is to permit medium density residential development, including a variety of multiple dwelling types, to encourage the retention of existing buildings and good design, and to achieve a number of community and social objectives through permitted increases in floor area. Additionally, this Schedule is intended to encourage development of six storey social housing apartment buildings. The RM-4N District differs from the RM-4 District in that it requires evidence of noise mitigation for residential development.

2 Outright Approval Uses

2.1 Subject to all other provisions of this By-law and to compliance with the regulations of this Schedule, the uses listed in section 2.2 shall be permitted in the RM-4 and RM-4N Districts and shall be issued a permit.

2.2 Uses

2.2.A • Accessory Buildings customarily ancillary to any of the uses listed in this Schedule, provided that:

- (a) no accessory building exceeds 3.7 m in height measured to the highest point of the roof if a flat roof, to the deck line of a mansard roof, or to the mean height level between the eaves and the ridge of a gable, hip or gambrel roof, provided that no portion of an accessory building may exceed 4.6 m in height;
- (b) all accessory buildings are located in the rear yard and in no case are less than 3.1 m from the ultimate centre line of any rear or flanking lane and less than the width of the required side yard from a flanking street, subject also to the provisions of section 10.27 of this By-law;
- (c) the total floor area, measured to the extreme outer limits of the building, of all accessory buildings is not greater than 35 percent of the minimum rear yard prescribed in this Schedule, or 48 m², whichever is the greater;
- (d) not more than 66⅔ percent of the width of the rear yard of any lot is occupied by accessory buildings;
- (e) no accessory building is closer than 3.7 m to any residential dwelling;
- (f) no accessory building obstructs the daylight access prescribed in this Schedule.

- Accessory Uses customarily ancillary to any of the uses listed in this section.

2.2.DW [Dwelling]

- Multiple Conversion Dwelling, provided that:
 - (a) no additions shall be permitted;
 - (b) no housekeeping or sleeping units shall be created;
 - (c) the number of dwelling units is limited to two; and
 - (d) no development permit shall be issued until the requisite permits required by other by-laws that relate to design, construction and safety of buildings are issuable.
- One-Family Dwelling.
- Rooming House.
- Two-Family Dwelling.

- 2.2.I [Institutional]
 - Community Care Facility – Class A, subject to the regulations, variations, and relaxations that apply to a one-family dwelling.

3 Conditional Approval Uses

3.1 Subject to all other provisions of this By-law, the Director of Planning may approve any of the uses listed in section 3.2 of this Schedule, with or without conditions, provided that the Director of Planning first considers:

- (a) the intent of this Schedule and all applicable Council policies and guidelines; and
- (b) the submission of any advisory group, property owner or tenant.

3.2 Uses

- 3.2.A
 - Accessory Buildings customarily ancillary to any of the uses listed in this Schedule, other than as provided for in section 2.2.A of this Schedule.
 - Accessory Uses customarily ancillary to any of the uses listed in this section.

- 3.2.AG [Agricultural]
 - Urban Farm - Class A.

- 3.2.C [Cultural and Recreational]
 - Club, provided that no commercial activities are carried on and the use does not adversely impact residential uses.
 - Community Centre or Neighbourhood House.
 - Library in conjunction with a Community Centre.
 - Park or Playground.

- 3.2.D
 - Deposition or extraction of material so as to alter the configuration of the land.

- 3.2.DW [Dwelling]
 - Dwelling Units in conjunction with a child day care facility, provided that all residential floor area is developed as social housing.
 - Dwelling Units in conjunction with a Neighbourhood Grocery Store.
 - Infill, in accordance with section 3.3.1 of this Schedule.
 - Multiple Conversion Dwelling, resulting from the conversion of a building existing as of June 18, 1956 and in accordance with section 3.3.1 of this Schedule, provided that:
 - (a) before making a decision, the Director of Planning shall consider the quality and livability of the resulting units, the suitability of the building for conversion in terms of age and size, and the effect of the conversion on adjacent properties and the character of the area; and
 - (b) building additions resulting in a total floor space ratio greater than 0.6 shall be in keeping with the character of the building,
 - Multiple Dwelling, in accordance with section 3.3.1 of this Schedule.
 - One-Family Dwelling with Secondary Suite.
 - Seniors Supportive or Assisted Housing.

- 3.2.I [Institutional]
 - Ambulance Station.
 - Child Day Care Facility.
 - Church.

- Hospital.
- Public Authority Use essential in this District.
- School - Elementary or Secondary.
- Social Service Centre.
- Community Care Facility – Class B.
- Group Residence.

3.2.R [Retail]

- Farmers’ Market. *Compatibility with nearby sites, parking, traffic, noise, hours of operation, size of facility, pedestrian amenity.*
- Neighbourhood Grocery Store.
- Public Bike Share.

3.2.S [Service]

- Bed and Breakfast Accommodation.
- Short Term Rental Accommodation.

3.2.U [Utility and Communication]

- Public Utility.

3.3 Conditions of Use

3.3.1 Unless its development does not require the demolition or change of use or occupancy of one or more rental housing units, registered owners of buildings containing three or more dwelling units in conjunction with child day care facility, provided that all residential floor area is developed as social housing, Infill Multiple Dwellings, Multiple Conversion Dwellings consisting of three or more dwelling units, or Multiple Dwellings, must:

- (a) if it is new development that requires demolition of one or more buildings on that site, or if it is an existing development that requires major alterations resulting in a change to the unit mix of the building(s) and the reconfiguration of a majority of the existing dwelling units, housekeeping units, or sleeping units:
 - (i) enter into a housing agreement, satisfactory to Council, that secures:
 - A. one for one replacement of existing rental housing units with dwelling units on the site or in the same zoning district, or on another site that was subject to the RHS ODP before it was rezoned to allow for replacement housing, and is adjacent to the contiguous area of the zoning district of the site that requires the replacement housing, or one for one replacement with another type of affordable housing if permitted under an applicable community plan, except that in cases where the existing rental housing units are sleeping or housekeeping units, the Director of Planning may permit less than one for one replacement, having regard for the Council’s intention to maximize the replacement of such rental units; and
 - B. a Tenant Relocation Plan in keeping with the city’s Tenant Relocation and Protection Policy, if applicable, and
 - (ii) ensure that at least 35% of the total number of dwelling units include two or more bedrooms, except where the Director of Planning considers that such requirement would deter or prevent:
 - A. the conservation of a protected heritage property or a building on, or eligible for addition to, the Vancouver Heritage Register;
 - B. the renovation of a building where there are physical constraints due to light, access, and the form and structural elements of the existing building;
 - C. development of low-rise and midrise buildings on mid-block or unique sites with significant design challenges in meeting the requirement; or

- D. development of projects on sites or in areas identified in Council-approved plans or policies as targeted to single and couple households,

or

- (b) if it is an existing development requiring renovations resulting in a change of use or occupancy of a rental housing unit on that site, but it does not require major alterations or additions resulting in a change to the unit mix of the building(s) and the reconfiguration of a majority of the existing dwelling units, housekeeping units, or sleeping units:
 - (i) secure, to the satisfaction of the Director Planning, one for one replacement of existing rental housing units with dwelling units on the site or in the same zoning district, except that in cases where the existing rental housing units are sleeping or housekeeping units, the Director of Planning may permit less than one for one replacement, having regard for the Council’s intention to maximize the replacement of such rental units; and
 - (ii) provide a Tenant Relocation Plan in keeping with the city’s Tenant Relocation and Protection Policy, if applicable;

and, in this section, all references to the demolition or change of use or occupancy of one or more rental housing units are to include then existing rental housing units and rental housing units that, during the three years preceding the date of application for a development permit, a person has demolished or in respect of which has changed the use or occupancy.

4 Regulations

All uses approved under sections 2 and 3 of this District Schedule shall be subject to the following regulations, except that:

- (a) section 4.15 shall apply only in the RM-4N District; and
- (b) the Director of Planning may vary any of the regulations of this Schedule for the following developments where the Director of Planning is satisfied that the variation will serve to accomplish certain social and community goals, including where possible the retention of existing buildings, having regard to the intent of this Schedule and all applicable policies and guidelines adopted by Council:
 - (i) one-family dwelling, one-family dwelling with secondary suite, or two-family dwelling, provided that the floor space ratio shall in no case exceed 1.00;
 - (ii) infill or additions to existing buildings, provided that the floor space ratio shall in no case exceed 1.45;
 - (iii) multiple dwelling or seniors supportive or assisted housing, provided that:
 - a. all required parking spaces shall be provided underground or within the outermost walls of a building (but in no case with the floor of the parking area above the highest point of the finished grade around the building), except in the case of lots of 560 m² or less;
 - b. useable on-site open space shall be provided;
 - c. a minimum of 20 percent of total units within any building shall contain 2 or more bedrooms, except in the case of buildings designed specifically for use as senior citizens’ housing or other similar use;
 - d. in no case shall the site coverage exceed 65 percent; and
 - e. the maximum floor space ratio shall be 1.45.

4.1 Site Area

- 4.1.1 The minimum site area for a building containing dwelling units in conjunction with child day care facility, provided that all residential floor area is developed as social housing, multiple dwelling or rooming house shall be 550 m².
- 4.1.2 The Director of Planning may permit a reduction to the minimum site area requirements of section 4.1 with respect to any of the following developments if the lot was on record in the Land Title Office for Vancouver prior to March 9, 1976 and has an area of not less than the minimum noted:
 - (a) a building containing dwelling units in conjunction with child day care facility, provided that all residential floor area is developed as social housing, with a minimum lot area of 500 m²;
 - (b) multiple dwelling with a minimum lot area of 500 m²;
 - (c) rooming house, with a minimum lot area of 500 m²; and
 - (d) seniors supportive or assisted housing, with a minimum lot area of 500 m².
- 4.1.3 The Director of Planning may permit a reduction to the minimum site area requirements of section 4.1 with respect to any of the following developments where the Director of Planning considers the development site to consist of locked in lots and provided the Director of Planning also considers the intent of this Schedule and all applicable policies and guidelines adopted by Council:
 - (a) a building containing dwelling units in conjunction with child day care facility, provided that all residential floor area is developed as social housing;
 - (b) multiple dwelling;
 - (c) rooming house; and
 - (d) seniors supportive or assisted housing, with a minimum lot area of 500 m².

4.2 Frontage

- 4.2.1 The maximum site frontage for a building containing dwelling units in conjunction with child day care facility, provided that all residential floor area is developed as social housing, or a multiple dwelling shall be 45.8 m.

4.3 Height

- 4.3.1 The maximum height of a building shall be 10.7 m, but no portion of the building shall extend above an envelope formed by a vertical line measuring 7.3 m in height at the north property line and a plane formed by an angle of 30 degrees measured from the horizontal and having its vertex at the maximum building height permitted at the north property line.
- 4.3.2 Despite section 4.3.1, the Director of Planning or Development Permit Board, as the case may be, may increase the maximum height to 19.9 m for multiple dwellings or dwelling units in conjunction with a child day care facility if:
 - (a) 100% of the residential floor area is developed as social housing; and
 - (b) the Director of Planning or Development Permit Board first considers the intent of this Schedule, all applicable policies and guidelines adopted by Council, and the submission of any advisory group, property owner, or tenant.
- 4.3.3 If 100% of the residential floor area is developed as social housing, and if the Director of Planning first considers the intent of this Schedule and all applicable policies and guidelines adopted by Council, the Director of Planning may permit a greater height than otherwise permitted for:

- (a) roof-top access structures to shared outdoor amenity space that do not exceed a height of 3.6 m;
- (b) any required guards provided the Director of Planning considers the guard materials to be appropriate to reduce visual impacts; and
- (c) common roof-top amenity structures contiguous with common outdoor amenity spaces that do not exceed a height of 3.6 m, provided that the total floor area of the amenity room on the roof deck does not exceed 10% of the roof area.

4.4 Front Yard

- 4.4.1 A front yard with a minimum depth of 6.1 m shall be provided.
- 4.4.2 Despite section 4.4.1, the Director of Planning or Development Permit Board, as the case may be, may vary the front yard requirements for multiple dwellings or dwelling units in conjunction with a child day care facility if:
 - (a) 100% of the residential floor area is developed as social housing; and
 - (b) the Director of Planning or Development Permit Board first considers the intent of this Schedule, all applicable policies and guidelines adopted by Council, and the submission of any advisory group, property owner, or tenant.
- 4.4.3 Entries, porches and verandahs complying with the conditions of subsection 4.7.4(h) are permitted to project a maximum of 1.8 m into the required front yard.

4.5 Side Yard

- 4.5.1 A side yard with a minimum width of 2.1 m shall be provided on each side of the principal building, but the minimum width shall be increased so that the outer walls of the building are contained within a 135 degree angle extended horizontally and measured inwardly from any and all points on the side property lines.
- 4.5.2 In the case of a corner site, the exterior side yard shall not be regulated by section 4.5.1 above but shall be 20 percent of the width of the site, except that it shall not be less than 3.0 m and need not be more than 6.0 m in width.
- 4.5.3 Despite sections 4.5.1 and 4.5.2, the Director of Planning or Development Permit Board, as the case may be, may vary the side yard requirements for multiple dwellings or dwelling units in conjunction with a child day care facility if:
 - (a) 100% of the residential floor area is developed as social housing; and
 - (b) the Director of Planning or Development Permit Board first considers the intent of this Schedule, all applicable policies and guidelines adopted by Council, and the submission of any advisory group, property owner, or tenant.
- 4.5.4 In the case of a side yard for a one-family or two-family dwelling, the side yard shall not be regulated by subsections 4.5.1 and 4.5.2, but shall be a minimum width of 10 percent of the width of the site on each side of the building, except that a side yard need not exceed 1.5 m in width.

4.6 Rear Yard

- 4.6.1 A rear yard with a minimum depth of 10.7 m shall be provided, except that where the rear of the site abuts a lane, this required minimum depth shall be decreased by the lane width between the rear property line and the ultimate centre line of the lane.
- 4.6.2 Not applicable.
- 4.6.3 Where the principal building or any portion thereof abutting the rear yard is 9.1 m or less in width and is located 7.6 m or more from an adjoining site, it may extend up to 3.0 m into the required rear yard.
- 4.6.4 Where the principal building or any portion thereof abutting the rear yard is 15.3 m or less in width and is located 7.6 m or more from an adjoining site, and where the average distance from

the building to the rear property line is 10.7 m, the building or that portion thereof may extend up to 3.0 m into the required rear yard.

- 4.6.5 Despite sections 4.6.1, 4.6.3, and 4.6.4, the Director of Planning or Development Permit Board, as the case may be, may vary the rear yard requirements for multiple dwellings or dwelling units in conjunction with a child day care facility if:
 - (a) 100% of the residential floor area is developed as social housing; and
 - (b) the Director of Planning or Development Permit Board first considers the intent of this Schedule, all applicable policies and guidelines adopted by Council, and the submission of any advisory group, property owner, or tenant.

4.7 Floor Space Ratio

4.7.1 The floor space ratio shall not exceed 0.60 for one-family dwellings, one-family dwellings with secondary suite, and two-family dwellings, nor 0.75 for all other uses.

4.7.2 Despite section 4.7.1, the Director of Planning or Development Permit Board, as the case may be, may increase the maximum floor space ratio to 3.0 for multiple dwellings or dwelling units in conjunction with a child day care facility if:

- (a) 100% of the residential floor area is developed as social housing; and
- (b) the Director of Planning or Development Permit Board first considers the intent of this Schedule, all applicable policies and guidelines adopted by Council, and the submission of any advisory group, property owner, or tenant.

4.7.3 The following shall be included in the computation of floor area:

- (a) all floors having a minimum ceiling height of 1.2 m, including earthen floor, both above and below ground level, to be measured to the extreme outer limits of the building;
- (b) stairways, fire escapes, elevator shafts and other features which the Director of Planning considers similar, to be measured by their gross cross-sectional areas and included in the measurements for each floor at which they are located; and
- (c) the floor area of bay windows, regardless of seat height, location on building or relationship to yard setbacks, in excess of the product of the total floor area permitted above the basement times 0.01.

4.7.4 The following shall be excluded in the computation of floor area:

- (a) balconies and decks and any other appurtenances which, in the opinion of the Director of Planning, are similar to the foregoing, provided that the total area of these exclusions does not exceed 12% of the floor area being provided for multiple dwellings and 8% of the floor area being provided for all other uses;
- (b) patios and roof decks, provided that the Director of Planning first considers the effect on privacy and overlook;
- (c) where floors are used for off-street parking and loading, the taking on or discharging of passengers, bicycle storage, heating and mechanical equipment, or uses which in the opinion of the Director of Planning are similar to the foregoing, those floors or portions thereof so used, which:
 - (i) are at or below the base surface, provided that the maximum exclusion for a parking space shall not exceed 7.3 m in length; or
 - (ii) are above the base surface and where developed as off-street parking are located in an accessory building situated in the rear yard, provided that the maximum exclusion for a parking space shall not exceed 7.3 m in length.
- (d) amenity areas, including child day care facilities, recreational facilities, and meeting rooms accessory to residential use, to a maximum floor area of 10 percent of the permitted floor area, provided that for child day care facilities the Director of Planning,

on the advice of the Director of Social Planning, is satisfied that there is a need for a day care facility in the immediate neighbourhood;

- (e) areas of undeveloped floors which are located
 - (i) above the highest storey or half-storey and to which there is no permanent means of access other than a hatch; or
 - (ii) adjacent to a storey or half-storey with a ceiling height of less than 1.2 m.
- (f) for multiple dwelling, all residential storage area above or below base surface, except that if residential storage area above base surface exceeds 3.7 m² per dwelling unit, there will be no exclusion for any of the residential storage area above base surface for that unit;
- (g) above grade floor area built as open to below, designed in combination with venting skylights, opening clerestory windows or other similar features which, in the opinion of the Director of Planning, reduce energy consumption or improve natural light and ventilation to a maximum exclusion of one percent of permitted floor area;
- (h) entries, porches and verandahs, and covered porches above the first storey, provided that:
 - (i) the side facing the street or rear property line is open or protected by guards that do not exceed the required minimum height, and
 - (ii) the total area of these exclusions, when combined with the balcony and deck exclusions under subsection 4.7.4(a), does not exceed 16% of the floor area being provided for multiple dwellings and 13% of the floor area being provided for all other uses; and
- (i) unconditioned floor areas with a ceiling height or height to the underside of joists of less than 2.0 m, located below the floors of entries, porches and verandahs complying with subsection 4.7.4(h), to which there is no access from the interior of the building.

4.8 Site Coverage

4.8.1 Not Applicable.

4.8.2 Site coverage^[1] for buildings shall be based on the projected area of the outside of the outermost walls of all buildings and includes carports, but excludes steps, eaves, balconies and decks.

4.8.3 Except where the principal use of the site is a parking area, the maximum site coverage for any portion of the site used as parking area shall be 30%.

4.8.4 In the case of a sloping site where a structure is located in or beneath a yard, the structure shall be excluded from the site coverage^[1] calculation provided that it does not, except for required earth cover, permitted fences and similar items, project above the average elevation of the portions of the streets, lanes or sites located adjacent to such structure, and does not, in any event, project more than 1.0 m above the actual elevation of adjoining streets, lanes and sites.

4.9 [Deleted -- see Parking By-law.]

4.10 Horizontal Angle of Daylight

4.10.1 Each habitable room must have at least one window on an exterior wall of a building.

4.10.2 Each exterior window must be located so that a plane or planes extending from the window and formed by an angle of 50 degrees, or two angles with a sum of 70 degrees, will encounter no obstruction over a distance of 24.0 m.

4.10.3 The plane or planes referred to in section 4.10.2 must be measured horizontally from the centre of the bottom of each window.

^[1] [as provided for in section 5.3 of this Schedule]

- 4.10.4 The Director of Planning may vary the horizontal angle of daylight requirement, if:
 - (a) The Director of Planning first considers all the applicable policies and guidelines adopted by Council; and
 - (b) the minimum distance of unobstructed view is not less than 3.7 m.

- 4.10.5 An obstruction referred to in section 4.10.2 means:
 - (a) any part of the same building including permitted projections; or
 - (b) the largest building permitted under the zoning on any adjoining site.

- 4.10.6 A habitable room referred to in section 4.10.1 does not mean:
 - (a) a bathroom; or
 - (b) a kitchen whose floor area is the lesser of:
 - (i) 10% or less of the total floor area of the dwelling unit, or
 - (ii) 9.3 m².

4.11 - (Reserved)
4.14

4.15 Acoustics

4.15.1 A development permit application for dwelling uses in the RM-4N District shall require evidence in the form of a report and recommendations prepared by persons trained in acoustics and current techniques of noise measurements, demonstrating that the noise levels in those portions of the dwelling units listed below shall not exceed the noise levels expressed in decibels set opposite such portions of the dwelling units. For the purposes of this section the noise level is the A-weighted 24-hour equivalent (Leq) sound level and will be defined simply as the noise level in decibels.

Portions of dwelling units	Noise levels (Decibels)
bedrooms	35
living, dining, recreation rooms	40
kitchen, bathrooms, hallways	45