

17.20.010 Purpose of the mixed use zoning districts.

A. General. The purpose of the mixed use zoning districts is to provide for active and inviting destinations in Capitola with a diversity of residential and commercial land uses. In the mixed use zoning districts, development shall support a lively, pedestrian-friendly public realm with inviting storefronts facing the sidewalk. A diversity of local and independent businesses, recreational amenities, and public spaces balances the needs of residents and visitors. New development shall respect Capitola’s history and reflect its unique coastal village character. The diversity of land uses, pedestrian-friendly development, and general level of activity in the mixed use zoning districts shall support a range of transportation choices, including walking, biking, and transit.

B. Specific.

1. Mixed Use, Village (MU-V) Zoning District. The purpose of the MU-V zoning district is to preserve and enhance Capitola Village as the heart of the community. A diversity of commercial, residential, and recreational uses in the MU-V zoning district serve both visitors and residents. Land uses and development shall enhance the vitality of the Village while maintaining a high quality of life for residents. A fine-grain mix of retail, restaurants, services, and recreational amenities in the MU-V zoning district provides a walkable environment, caters to all ages, and supports year-round activity during the day and night.

2. Mixed Use, Neighborhood (MU-N) Zoning District. The purpose of the MU-N zoning district is to allow for neighborhood-serving mixed use areas that enhance residents’ quality of life. The MU-N zoning district contains an eclectic mix of retail, restaurants, and services for residents and visitors. A range of housing types close to nonresidential uses increases housing choices and supports a walkable community. Development in the MU-N zoning district will be carefully designed to complement its surroundings and minimize impacts on neighboring properties. Land uses will strengthen connections between destinations in Capitola, including the Village, Bay Avenue, and 41st Avenue. (Res. 4223, 2021; Ord. 1043 § 2 (Att. 2), 2020)

17.20.020 Land use regulations. Revised 4/23

A. Permitted Land Uses. Table 17.20-1 identifies land uses permitted in the mixed use zoning districts.

Table 17.20-1: Permitted Land Uses in the Mixed Use Zoning Districts

Key		Zoning District		Additional Regulations
		MU-V	MU-N	
P	Permitted Use			
A	Administrative Permit required			
M	Minor Use Permit required			
C	Conditional Use Permit required			
–	Use not allowed			
Residential Uses				Section 17.20.020(B), (C) and (E)
	Duplex Homes	–/P [1]	P	
	Elderly and Long-Term Care	C [2] [6]	C	
	Group Housing	C [2] [6]	C	
	Multifamily Dwellings	–/P [1] [6]	C	
	Residential Care Facilities, Small and Large	See Section 17.20.020(F)		
	Residential Care Facilities, Large	C [2] [6]	C	Section 17.96.080
	Residential Mixed Use	See Sections 17.20.020(D) and (E) [6]	C	

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P	Permitted Use			
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-	Use not allowed			
Accessory Dwelling Units		A	A	Chapter 17.74
Single-Family Dwellings		-/P [1]	P	
Public and Quasi-Public Uses				
Community Assembly		C	C	
Cultural Institutions		C	C	
Day Care Centers		M	M	
Government Offices		P/C [4]	M [5]	
Home Day Care		P	P	
Medical Offices and Clinics		-	M [5]	
Parks and Recreational Facilities		C	C	
Public Pathways and Coastal Accessways		C	C	
Public Safety Facilities		C	C	
Schools, Public or Private		-	C	
Commercial Uses				Section 17.20.020(E)
Alcoholic Beverage Sales		C	C	
Banks and Financial Institutions		C	P/C [3] [5]	
Commercial Entertainment and Recreation		C	C	
Eating and Drinking Places				
Bars and Lounges		C	C	
Restaurants and Cafes		C	C	
Take-Out Food and Beverage		M	M	
Gas and Service Stations		-	-	
Lodging				
Bed and Breakfast		C	C	
Hotels and Motels		C	C	
Personal Services		P	P/C [3] [5]	
Professional Offices		P/C [4]	M [5]	
Retail		P	P/C [3] [5]	

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Vacation Rental		See Section 17.40.030		
Transportation, Communication, and Utility Uses				
Utilities, Major		C	C	
Utilities, Minor		P	P	
Wireless Communications Facilities		See Chapter 17.104		
Other Uses				
Accessory Uses and Structures		See Chapter 17.52		Chapter 17.52
Home Occupations		A	A	Section 17.96.040
Permanent Outdoor Display (Accessory Use)		-	C	Section 17.96.100
Temporary Uses and Structures		See Section 17.96.180		
Urban Agriculture				
Home Gardens		P	P	
Community Gardens		M	M	
Urban Farms		C	C	

Notes:

- [1] Allowed only in the village residential (-VR) overlay zone. Exclusively residential uses are not allowed outside of the -VR overlay zone.
- [2] Allowed only on the second or third story of a mixed use development outside of the -VR overlay zone. Allowed on any story in the -VR overlay zone.
- [3] Larger than three thousand square feet requires a conditional use permit.
- [4] Second-floor uses permitted by right. Ground-floor uses require a conditional use permit. Prohibited third floor and above.
- [5] Conditional use permit required for parcels fronting Capitola Road.
- [6] Residential uses are prohibited on the former Capitola Theater site (APNs 035-262-04, 035-262-02, 035-262-11, and 035-261-10).

B. Village Residential Overlay. Pursuant to Section 17.40.040 (Village residential (-VR) overlay zone), only residential uses are permitted in the -VR overlay zone. The village residential (-VR) overlay zone applies to the following areas within the MU-V zoning district as shown on the zoning map: Six Sisters, Venetian Court, Lawn Way, and portions of Wharf Road, Riverview Avenue, Cliff Drive, Cherry Avenue, San Jose Avenue, Park Place, and California Avenue.

C. Ground-Floor Conversions to Residential. Existing ground-floor commercial uses in the MU-V zoning district may not be converted to a residential use unless located in the village residential (-VR) overlay zone.

D. Residential Mixed Use in the MU-V Zoning District.

1. If a proposed residential mixed use project in the MU-V zoning district contains any use that requires a conditional use permit, the entire project, including the residential use, requires a conditional use permit.
2. If a proposed residential use replaces an existing upper-floor commercial use, the residential use is allowed by right.

E. Third-Story Uses in the MU-V Zoning District. Permitted land uses within the third story of an existing or new building in the MU-V zoning district are limited to residential and hotel uses only.

F. Residential Care Facilities. Residential care facilities shall be allowed with the permits required for dwellings of the same type within the applicable zoning district. For example, a residential care facility in a detached single-family home requires the same permits and is subject to the same use regulations as a detached single-family home. (Ord. 1057 § 2 (Att. 1), 2022; Res. 4223, 2021; Ord. 1043 § 2 (Att. 2), 2020)

17.20.030 Development standards – Mixed use village zoning district. Revised 4/23

A. General. Table 17.20-2 identifies development standards that apply in the mixed use village (MU-V) zoning district.

Table 17.20-2: Development Standards in the Mixed Use Village (MU-V) Zoning District

	MU-V	Additional Standards
Site Requirements		
Floor Area Ratio, Maximum	2.0	Section 17.20.030(C) Section 17.48.040 Chapter 17.88
Parking and Loading	See Chapter 17.76	
Structure Requirements		
Setbacks		
Front	Min: 0 ft. Max: 15 ft.	Section 17.20.030(D)
Rear	None [1]	
Interior Side	None	
Street Side	Min: 0 ft. Max: 15 ft.	
Height, Maximum	27 ft.	Section 17.20.030(B) and (C) Section 17.48.020 Chapter 17.88
Accessory Structures	See Chapter 17.52	

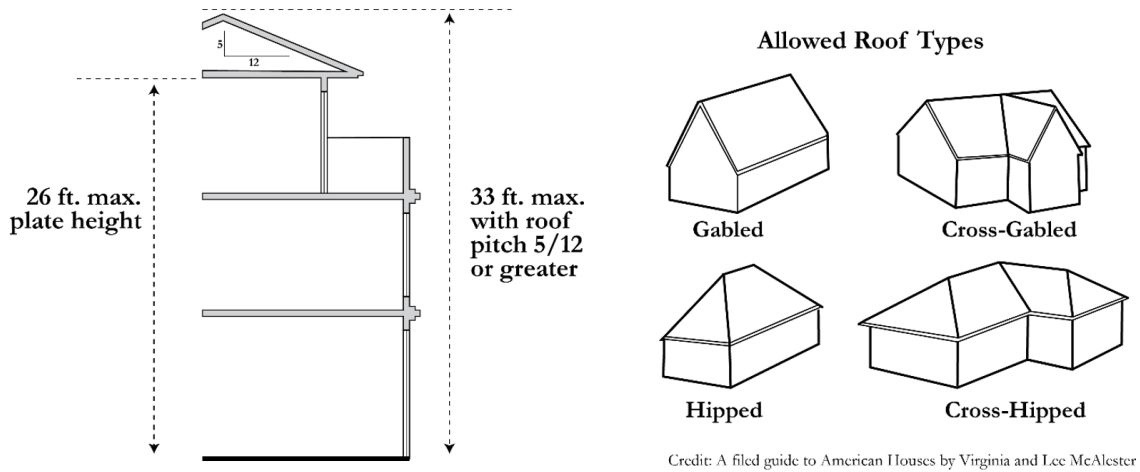
Note:

[1] Twenty percent of lot depth for residential use on parcel.

B. Height Exceptions. The following exceptions are permitted to the maximum permitted height in the MU-V zoning district as shown in Table 17.20-2:

1. Up to thirty-three feet for gabled or hipped roof with a minimum 5:12 roof pitch and a maximum plate height of twenty-six feet. There shall be no breaks in the roof slope for doors and decks. Exterior doors and decks above the twenty-six-foot plate height are prohibited. See Figure 17.20-1.
2. The thirty-three feet includes the maximum height of projections for nonhabitable decorative features and structures identified in Section 17.48.020(B) (Height Exceptions).

Figure 17.20-1: Increased Height in the MU-V Zoning District

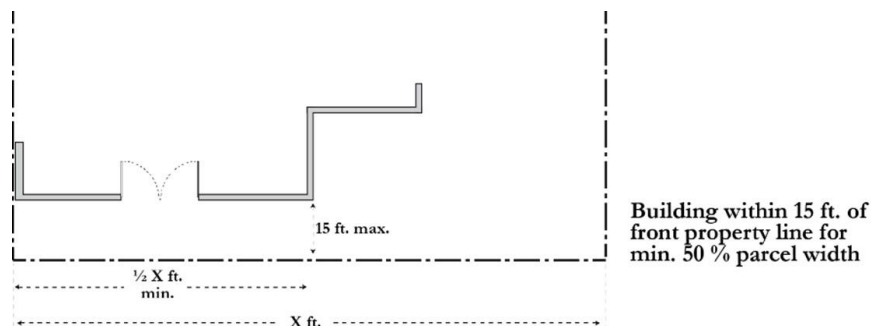


C. Increased Floor Area and Height for the Capitola Theater Site. As provided in Chapter 17.88 (Incentives for Community Benefits), the city council may approve exceptions to height and floor area ratio (FAR) limits shown in Table 17.20-2 for the Capitola Theater site (APNs 035-262-04, 035-262-02, 035-262-11, and 035-261-10). These exceptions are intended to facilitate the development of a new hotel in the Capitola Village consistent with the general plan/land use plan.

D. Setbacks in the MU-V Zoning District. The following setback standards apply to all new structures in the MU-V zoning district:

1. Building should be constructed within fifteen feet of the front property line for a minimum of fifty percent of the parcel’s linear street frontage. See Figure 17.20-2. The planning commission may modify or waive this requirement upon finding that:
 - a. Compliance with the build-to width requirement would render the proposed project infeasible;
 - b. The project incorporates a front-facing courtyard or public seating area; or
 - c. An alternative site design would result in an enhanced pedestrian experience.

Figure 17.20-2: Build-To Line – MU-V Zoning District

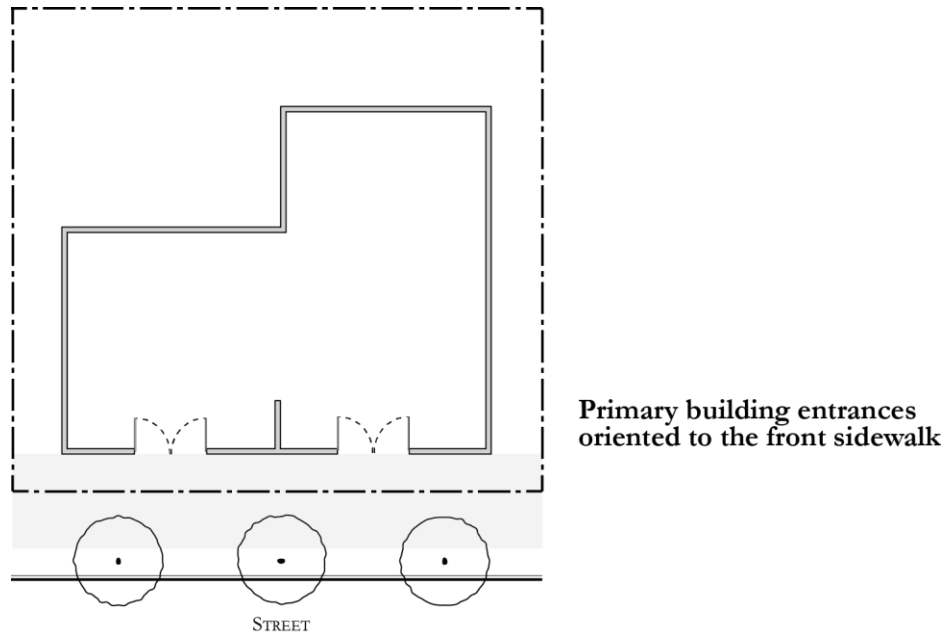


2. Front setback areas shall be pedestrian oriented and contain semi-public amenities such as courtyards or outdoor seating areas.
3. Structures shall be set back a minimum of ten feet from the property line on the northerly side of the first two hundred fifty feet of Cliff Drive, west of the intersection of Wharf Road.

E. General Design Standards. The following standards apply to all new buildings and area of new additions within the MU-V zoning districts, excluding the village residential overlay:

1. Building Orientation. Buildings should be oriented towards a public street with the primary entrance to the site or building directly accessible from an adjacent sidewalk. See Figure 17.20-3.

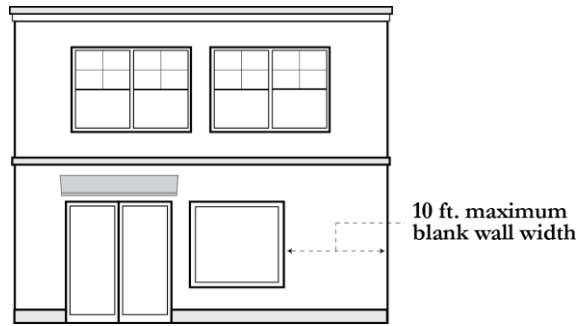
Figure 17.20-3: Building Orientation



2. Blank Walls. The maximum length of an unarticulated/blank building wall fronting a public street shall be ten feet. See Figure 17.20-4. Building articulation may be provided by:

- a. Doors, windows, and other building openings;
- b. Building projections or recesses, doorway and window trim, and other details that provide architectural articulation and design interest;
- c. Varying wall planes, heights or contrasting materials; and
- d. Awnings, canopies or arcades to reinforce the pedestrian scale and provide shade and cover from the elements.

Figure 17.20-4: Blank Wall Limitations



3. Storefront Width. The maximum building/storefront width shall be twenty-five feet. See Figure 17.20-5. Larger buildings shall be broken down into a pedestrian-scale rhythm with differentiated storefront design every twenty-five feet.

Figure 17.20-5: Storefront Width



4. Ground-Floor Building Transparency.

a. The ground-floor street-facing building walls of nonresidential uses shall provide transparent windows or doors with views into the building for a minimum of sixty-five percent of the building frontage located between two and one-half and seven feet above the sidewalk. See Figure 17.20-6. Windows or doors area shall be transparent to allow views into the building.

Figure 17.20-6: Storefront Transparency



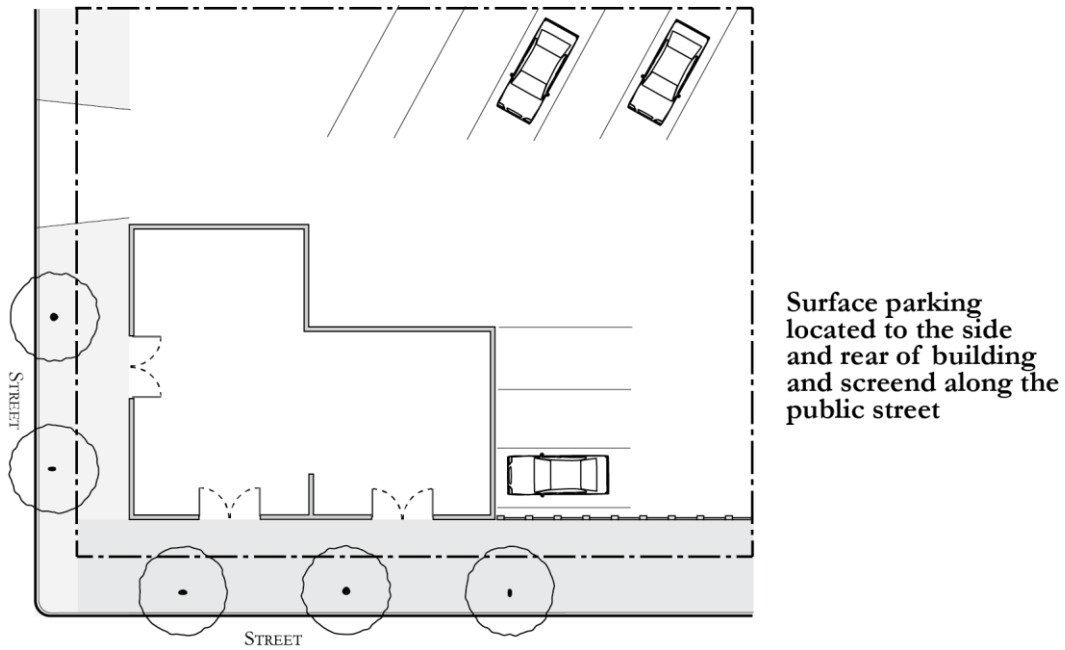
b. Exceptions to this transparency requirement may be allowed with a design permit if the planning commission finds that:

- i. The proposed use has unique operational characteristics which preclude building openings, such as for a cinema or theater; and
- ii. Street-facing building walls will exhibit architectural relief and detail, and will be enhanced with landscaping in such a way as to create visual interest at the pedestrian level.

5. Parking Location and Buffers.

- a. Surface parking shall be located to the rear or side of buildings. Surface parking may not be located between a building and a street-facing property line. See Figure 17.20-7.
- b. Surface parking adjacent to a street-facing property line shall be screened along the public right-of-way with a decorative wall, hedge, trellis, and/or landscaping at least three feet in height or maximum allowed pursuant to line of sight requirements in Section 17.96.050.
- c. Loading areas shall be located to the side and rear of buildings, and shall be sufficiently screened from the public right-of-way, as determined by the community development director.

Figure 17.20-7: Parking Location



6. Driveways and Curb Cuts.

- a. The maximum width of a new driveway crossing a public sidewalk may not exceed forty percent of the parcel width or twenty feet, whichever is less. The community development director may approve an exception to this standard in the case of shared or joint use of driveways and parking lots.
- b. New curb cuts, where allowed, shall be located and designed to maximize safety and convenience for pedestrians, bicycles and mass transit vehicles, as determined by the community development director. Considerations for determination include separation between curb cuts, displaced parking, and sight lines.

7. Paved Site Areas.

- a. The materials, colors, textures, and other design features of on-site paved areas, including courtyards, walkways, and patios, shall complement and enhance the overall design character of development on the site.
- b. The use of asphalt for on-site paving is prohibited, except when used for parking areas and vehicle circulation.

8. Garbage and Recycling. Facilities for garbage and recycling shall be screened from public right-of-way and either designed into the architecture of the primary building or enclosed in an accessory structure located to the side and/or rear of the primary building.

9. Landscaping. See Section 17.72.050(B).

10. Roof Decks. Roof decks are prohibited in the MU-V zoning district. (Ord. 1057 § 2 (Att. 1), 2022; Res. 4223, 2021; Ord. 1043 § 2 (Att. 2), 2020)

17.48.020 Height measurement and exceptions.

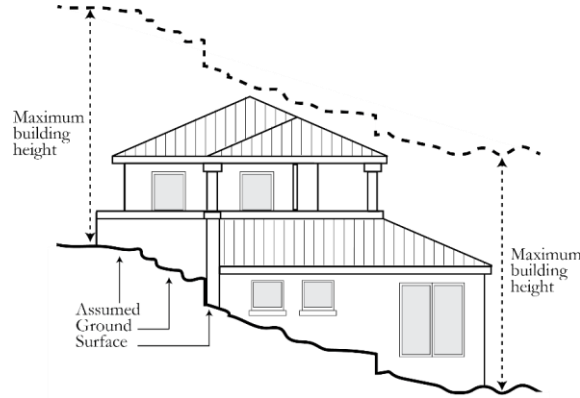
A. Measurement of Height.

- 1. The height of a building is measured as the vertical distance from the assumed ground surface to the highest point of the building.

2. “Assumed ground surface” means a line on the exterior wall of a building that connects the points where the perimeter of the wall meets the finished grade. See Figure 17.48-1.

3. If grading or fill on a property within five years of an application increases the height of the assumed ground surface, height shall be measured using an estimation of the assumed ground surface as it existed prior to the grading or fill.

Figure 17.48-1: Measurement of Maximum Permitted Building Height



B. Height Exceptions. Buildings may exceed the maximum permitted height in the applicable zoning district as shown in Table 17.48-1. These exceptions may not be combined with any other height exceptions, including but not limited to allowances for additional height in the MU-V zone or for historic structures.

Table 17.48-1: Allowed Projections Above Height Limits

Structures Allowed Above Height Limit	Maximum Coverage	Maximum Projection Above Height Limit
Nonhabitable decorative features including spires, belfries, cupolas, domes and other similar architectural elements	10% of roof area	3 ft. in the R-1 zoning district; 6 ft. elsewhere
Skylights	20% of roof area	1 ft.
Chimneys not over 6 feet in width	10% of roof area	3 ft. in R-1 zoning district; 6 ft. elsewhere
Flagpoles not over 8 inches in diameter	N/A	3 ft. in R-1 zoning district; 6 ft. elsewhere
Photovoltaic panels and thermal recovery systems	No restriction; subject to California Building Code	4 ft.
Building-mounted telecommunications facilities	See Chapter 17.104	

(Ord. 1043 § 2 (Att. 2), 2020)