

**BRAINERD, MN**  
**Chapter 515 ZONING**

**515-4-7 Site Design Standards.**

A. **Purpose and Intent.** It is the purpose of this Section to outline the general rules pertaining to lot size, building placement, open space, setbacks, setback exceptions and permitted encroachments that are not identified in specific zoning districts.

**B. Minimum Lot Area Requirements.**

1. Except for non-conforming lots of record governed by Section [515-5-10] of this Ordinance, the minimum lot area and dimensional requirements shall conform to the standards of the applicable Base Zoning District and any applicable Overlay District. No lot, yard, or other open space shall be reduced in area or dimensions so as to make such lot, yard, or open space less than the minimum required by this Ordinance, and if an existing yard or other open space is less than the minimum required, it shall not be further reduced.
2. No required yard or other open space allocated to a building or dwelling unit shall be used to satisfy yard, other open space, or minimum lot area requirements for any other building.

**C. Buildable Area.**

1. Any lot or parcel served by public water or sanitary sewer services shall require a minimum buildable area to support a principal structure that complies with the minimum dimensional and lot requirements established within the Base Zoning District that the parcel is located. The required minimum lot area shall be exclusive of road easements.
2. Any lot or parcel served by private well and sanitary septic system must contain a minimum of 0.75 acres of contiguous buildable land capable of supporting an individual septic system that complies with Minnesota Rules 7080, or successor statutes. All other minimum dimensional and lot requirements of the Base Zoning District shall be met.

**D. Building Placement and Multiple Structures.**

1. Street Obstructions. All buildings hereafter erected upon unplatted land shall be so placed that they will not obstruct proper street extensions or other features or proper subdivision and land planning.
2. Principal Buildings. Except in an approved Planned Unit Development (PUD) that specifically allows it, not more than one (1) principal building shall be located on a lot or parcel.

**E. Yards.**

1. Yards. No required yard or other green space allocated to a building or development area shall be used to satisfy yard, other green space, or minimum lot area requirements for any other building or development.
2. Green Space. The Base Zoning District establishes the maximum impervious surface coverage of a lot or parcel. The remaining uncovered area shall be considered Green Space.

**F. Setbacks**

1. Reductions. No setback or yard shall be reduced in area or dimension to make such setback or yard less than the minimum required by this Ordinance, and if the existing setback, yard, or other green space as existing is less than the minimum required, it shall not be further reduced.
2. Front Setback Exception. Where adjacent structures within the same block have front yard setbacks different from those required, the front yard minimum setback shall be the average of the adjacent structures. If there is only one (1) adjacent structure, the front yard minimum setback shall be the average of the required setback and the setback of the adjacent structure.
3. Corner Lots and Double Frontage Lots. All lots and improvements must conform to the setback standards as established in the Base Zoning District. In the case of a lot with double frontage the primary frontage shall be established by determining the orientation of the principal structure's main entrance.
4. Traffic Visibility Setback. The visibility setback, or site triangle, shall be regulated per the Base Zoning District standards.

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**G. Permitted Yard Encroachments.** The following structural elements or equipment shall not be considered encroachments on required yards:

1. Flag poles, sidewalks, wheelchair ramps, trees, shrubs, plants, yard lights, mailboxes, floodlights, or other sources of light illuminating authorized illuminated signs, or light standards for illuminating yards for safety and security reasons, provided the direct source of light complies with Section [515-4-8] of this Ordinance. Replacement of any item located within a public easement which has been destroyed or damaged due to accessing the easement shall be at the owner's expense.
2. Flues, belt course, bay windows, leaders, sills, pilaster, eaves, lintels, cornices, gutters, awnings, open canopies, chimneys, ornamental features, and open fire escapes, provided they do not extend more than four (4) feet into a required yard.
3. Terraces, steps, decks, uncovered porches, stoops, or similar structures, which do not extend in elevation above the height of the ground floor elevation of the principal building and do not extend within two (2) feet of any lot line.
4. Decks, balconies, uncovered porches, and/or similar features, attached to the principal building which extend in elevation above the height of the ground floor elevation of the principal building provided they do not extend within ten (10) feet of the rear lot line or extend beyond side yard accessory building setbacks.
5. In rear yards, clothes lines, recreational equipment (non-vehicular), trellises, open arbors are permitted provided that they maintain a five (5) foot setback from the side and rear lot lines. No encroachment shall be permitted within existing drainage or utility easements.
6. Accessory equipment or uses including: gazebos, air conditioners, accessory antennas, sport courts, swimming pools, and trash enclosures are as regulated within this Section.
7. Fences that comply with the standards and regulations established in Section [515-4-11].
8. Essential services.

**H. Zero Lot Line Subdivisions.**

1. **Attached Single-Family Residential and Multi-family Residential Uses.** If existing duplex, triplex, fourplex townhouses, or apartment units are proposed to be subdivided so that each unit is on an individual unit or condominium basis for owner occupancy, it shall require a Planned Unit Development (PUD) according to the provisions of Section [515-5-7] of this Ordinance. Any proposed subdivision shall meet the following requirements:
  - a. Prior to a duplex, triplex or fourplex building subdivision, the base lot shall meet all the requirements of the Base Zoning District in which the building is located.
  - b. There shall be no more than one (1) principal structure on a base lot in all Zoning Districts, unless otherwise permitted within an approved PUD. The principal structure on a lot created in a duplex, triplex or fourplex building subdivision will be that portion of the dwelling unit that is existing or constructed on the platted lot.
  - c. Permitted accessory uses as defined by the Base Zoning District is acceptable provided that the use meets all the dimensional and lot requirements.
  - d. A property maintenance agreement shall be arranged by the applicant and submitted to the City Attorney for review and subject to approval. The agreement shall ensure the maintenance and upkeep of the structure including but not limited to siding, roofing (type and color), fencing, driveways, maintenance, etc. and the lots to meet minimum City standards. The agreement is to be filed with the County Recorder's office as a deed restriction against the title of each unit lot.
  - e. Separate public utility service shall be provided to each subdivided lot or unit and shall be subject to the review and approval of the City Engineer.

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- f. The subdivision is to be platted and recorded in conformance to requirements of the Subdivision Ordinance.
- 2. Buildings may be excluded from side yard requirements if party walls are utilized or if the adjacent buildings are planned to be constructed as an integral structure and a Conditional Use Permit is secured.