# CITY OF MERCER ISLAND 

## SITE DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

Worksheet for single family residential development


## LOT SLOPE

According to the Mercer Island City Code, slope is a measurement of the average incline of the lot or other piece of land calculated by subtracting the lowest elevation of the property from the highest elevation and dividing the resulting number by the shortest horizontal distance between these two points. The resulting product is multiplied by 100.

## LOT SLOPE CALCULATIONS



## LOT COVERAGE

For single family residential development, "lot coverage" is the area of a lot that may be covered by a combination of the buildings and vehicular driving surfaces. Lot coverage is based on "net lot area". Net lot area is the size of the lot minus the area within any access easements on the property that do not provide access to the home on the subject lot. The maximum lot coverage for a specific lot is based upon the lots slope (see above). The area of the lot that cannot be used for lot coverage is "required landscaping area"; the landscaping area is typically improved with either hardscape (see below) or softscape.
Please note: Lot coverage is not the same as impervious surface calculations used for drainage review.

| Lot Slope | Maximum Lot Coverage <br> (House, driving surfaces, and <br> accessory buildings) | Required Landscaping Area |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Less than $15 \%$ | $40 \%$ | $60 \%$ |
| $15 \%$ to less than <br> $30 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $65 \%$ |
| $30 \%$ to $50 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $70 \%$ |
| Greater than 50\% <br> slope | $20 \%$ | $80 \%$ |

## ADJUSTMENTS

A one-time reduction in the required landscaping area and an increase in the allowed maximum lot coverage is allowed if:
A. The total reduction in required landscaping area shall not exceed $5 \%$, and the total increase in maximum lot coverage shall not exceed 5\%; and
B. The reduction in required landscaping area is associated with:

1. A development proposal that will result in a single-story dwelling with wheelchair accessible entry, and may also include a single-story accessory building; or
2. A development proposal on a flag lot that, after optimizing driveway routing and minimizing driveway width, requires a driveway that is more than the $25 \%$ of the allowed lot coverage. The allowed reduction in the required landscaping area and increase in the maximum lot coverage shall not exceed $5 \%$ or the area of the driveway in excess of $25 \%$ of the lot coverage, whichever is less. For example, a development proposal with a driveway that occupies $27 \%$ of the allowed lot coverage, may increase the total lot coverage by $2 \%$
C. A recorded notice on title, covenant, easement, or other documentation in a form approved by the city, shall be required. The notice on title or other documentation shall describe the basis for the reduced landscaping area an increase in lot coverage.
Does this project include a proposed adjustment? Yes $\square$ No ■

## LOT COVERAGE CALCULATIONS

A. Gross Lot Area
B. Net Lot Area
C. Allowed Lot Coverage Area
D. Allowed Lot Coverage

| $\frac{11080}{10072.75}$ | Square Feet <br> Square Feet |
| :--- | :--- |
| 4532.74 | Square Feet |
| $\%$ of Lot |  |

E. Existing Lot Coverage:

1. Main Structure Roof Area
2966.1

Square Feet
2. Accessory Building Roof Area

Square Feet
3. Vehicular Use (driveway, paved access easements [portion used by the lot for access], parking $\quad 822.27+232.59=1054.86$
4. Covered Patios and Covered Decks
$\qquad$ Square Feet
Square Feet


#### Abstract

5. Total Existing Lot Coverage Area (E1+E2+E3+E4) F. (Total Lot Coverage Area Removed) G. Proposed Adjustment for Single Story (Area) H. Proposed Adjustment for Flag Lot $\frac{\frac{4020.96}{232.59}}{5 \% \text { SEE ABOVE - 503.68 }}$

Square Feet Square Feet Square Feet Square Feet I. Total New Lot Coverage Area: 1. Main Structure Roof Area $3299.2-2966.1=333.1$ Square Feet Square Feet 3. Vehicular Use (driveway, paved access easement [portion used by the lot for access], parking) $48+59.94=107.94$ Square Feet 4. Covered Patios and Covered Decks 5. Total New Lot Coverage Area (II + I2 + I $3+14$ ) 441.04 J. Total Project Lot Coverage Area $=(E 5-F)+I 5$ K. Proposed Lot Coverage Area $=(\mathrm{J} / \mathrm{B}) \times 100$ | $(4020.96-232.59)+441.04=4229.4$ |
| :--- |
| $41.03 \%$ | Square Feet \% of Lot

\section*{HARDSCAPE}

Up to $9 \%$ of the net lot area may consist of hardscape areas. For single family residential development, hardscape is the solid, hard, elements or structures that are incorporated into landscaping. The hardscape includes, but is not limited to, structures, paved areas, stairs, walkways, decks, patios, rockeries and retaining walls, and similar constructed elements that do not have a roof. The hardscape within the landscaping area consists of materials such as wood, stone, concrete, gravel, permeable pavements or pavers, and similar materials. Hardscape does not include solid, hard elements or structures that are covered by a minimum of two feet of soil intended for softscape (for example, a septic tank covered with at least two feet of soil and planted shrubs is not hardscape). The hardscape does not include driving surfaces or buildings. In addition, unused lot coverage may also be improved with hardscape.


## HARDSCAPE CALCULATIONS


6. Other
7. Total New Hardscape Area $(\mathrm{H} 1+\mathrm{H} 2+\mathrm{H} 3+\mathrm{H} 4+\mathrm{H} 5+\mathrm{H} 6)$
I. Total Project Hardscape Area $=(\mathrm{F} 7-\mathrm{G})+\mathrm{H} 7$
J. Total Project Hardscape Area $=(I / D) \times 100$
Hardscape calculations shown on Plan Sheet \#

| $\frac{133.5}{} \quad$Square Feet |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\frac{646.5}{6.42}$ | Square Feet <br> Square Feet <br> \% of Lot |

## GROSS FLOOR AREA (GFA)

For single family residential development, GFA is the total square footage of floor area, bounded by the exterior faces of the building(s). The GFA includes the floor area of the main building, accessory buildings, garages, attached roofed decks on the second or third story of a single family home, staircases, etc. The GFA does not include second- or third-story uncovered decks or uncovered rooftop decks.
The GFA includes the floor area of the main building, accessory buildings, garages, attached roofed decks on the second or third story of a single family home, staircases, etc. The GFA does not include second- or third-story uncovered decks or uncovered rooftop decks. GFA does not include any portion of a building that is below ground (refer to page 6).

## Allowed GFA

A. R-8.4: 5,000 square feet or $40 \%$ of the lot area, whichever is less.
B. R-9.6: 8,000 square feet or $40 \%$ of the lot area, whichever is less.
C. $R-12: 10,000$ square feet or $40 \%$ of the lot area, whichever is less.
D. R-15: 12,000 square feet or $40 \%$ of the lot area, whichever is less.
E. All zones: Lots with a lot area of 7,500 square feet or less, the lesser of 3,000 square feet or $45 \%$ of the lot area.
F. All zones: If an accessory dwelling unit is proposed, the $40 \%$ allowed GFA may be increased by the lesser of 5 percentile points, or the floor area of the accessory dwelling unit. Provided, this allowance shall not result in a GFA of more than 4,500 square feet or $45 \%$ of the lot area, whichever is less.

## GFA Modifiers

The GFA calculation for a floor with a ceiling height of 12 to 16 feet, is $150 \%$ of the area of the floor.
The GFA calculation for a floor with a ceiling height of more than 16 feet, is $200 \%$ of the area of the floor. The GFA calculation for a stair case shall be counted as a single floor for the first two stories accessed by the stair case. For each additional story above two stories, the stair case shall count as a single floor area.
*Floor plans shall identify rooms with a ceiling height of more than 12 feet and rooms with a ceiling height of more than 16 feet.
All building areas must be identified and labeled on the site plan. Please distinguish all new construction from existing areas on both your drawing and in the calculations you complete below.

Will you be excluding a portion of the basement floor area? Yes $\square$ No $\square$
If yes, you must provide basement floor area calculations, with your building permit application, that show how you determined what portion of the basement will be excluded. Refer to page 6.

GROSS FLOOR AREA CALCULATIONS

| Building Area |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Upper Floor |  |
| Main Floor |  |
| Gross Basement Area |  |
| Garage/ Carport |  |
| Total Floor Area |  |
| Accessory Buildings |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |




Basement exclusion calculations found on Plan Sheet \#

## BUILDING HEIGHT

All building height measurements must be taken from existing grade or finished grade, whichever is lower. Existing grade refers to ground surface as it exists at the proposed building perimeter before grading or other alterations take place. Finished grade refers to the ground surface as it exists at the building perimeter after grading or other alterations take place.

Single family new construction and additions are limited to a maximum height of 30 ft . above the Average Building Elevation ( $A B E$ ) - see section on next pages. The height is measured to the top of the structure. On the downhill side of a sloping lot, the wall façade height is also limited to a height of 30 feet measured from existing or finished grade (whichever is lower) to the top of the exterior wall facade supporting the roof framing, rafters, trusses, etc.

A topographic survey is required at permit application when the proposed building height is within 2 ft . of the allowable building height. The survey must include a statement that attests the average contour elevation within the vicinity of the building footprint to be accurate within 6 inches vertically and horizontally from actual elevations.

## BUILDING HEIGHT CALCULATIONS

A. Average Building Elevation (ABE) calculations located on sheet \#:
B. Allowable Building Height (ABE +30 ft .)
C. Proposed Building Height
D. Benchmark Elevation*
E. Describe Benchmark Location (must be undisturbed throughout project)

| $\frac{01}{338}$ | Feet |
| :--- | ---: |
| Feet |  |
| Feet |  |
| FB @ SW CORNER |  |

F. Sloping lot (Downhill side)- maximum height of top of exterior wall façade above lowest existing grade (30-ft max)
G. ABE and Allowable Building Height Shown on elevations plan sheet \#
H. Topo-survey Accuracy Attested on Plan Sheet \#

| $\frac{14^{\prime}-4 "}{}$ Feet |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| $01+03$ |  |
| SURVEY |  |

Note: survey must attest to accuracy when proposed building height is within 2 feet of the allowable building height. Please see page 8 for more information on calculating Average Building Elevation (ABE)
*The benchmark elevation is a fixed elevation point on or off site that will not be disturbed during development activity and is used to verify the final building height.

## BASEMENT FLOOR AREA CALCULATION

The Mercer Island Development Code allows for the portion of the basement floor area which is below grade to be excluded from the Gross Floor Area. That portion of the basement which will be excluded is calculated as shown:
Portion of Excluded Basement Floor Area $=$ Total Basement Area x

$$
\frac{\Sigma(\text { Wall Segment Coverage } \times \text { Wall Segment Length })}{\text { Total of all Wall Segment lengths }}
$$

Where the terms are defined as follows:
Total Basement Area: The total amount of all basement floor area.
Wall Segment
Coverage:
The portion of an exterior wall below existing or finished grade, whichever is lower. It is expressed as a percentage. Refer to example below.
Wall Segment Length: The horizontal length of each exterior wall in feet.


## EXAMPLE OF BASEMENT FLOOR AREA CALCULATION

This example illustrates how a portion of the basement floor area may be excluded from the Gross Floor Area. In order to complete this example, the following information is needed:
a. A topographic map of the existing (e) grades and showing proposed finished (f) grades.
b. Building plans showing dimensions of all exterior wall segments and floor areas.
c. Building elevations showing the location of existing and finished grades in relation to basement level.

Step One
Determine the number and lengths of the Wall
Segments.

## Step Two

Determine the Wall Segment Coverage (in \%) for each Wall Segment. In most cases this will be readily apparent, for example a downhill elevation which is entirely above existing and finished grade. In other cases, where the existing contours are complex, an averaging system shall be used. Refer to illustration.


## Step Three

Multiply each Wall Segment Length by the percentage of each Wall Segment Coverage and add these results together. Divide that number by the sum of all Wall Segment Lengths. This calculation will result in a percentage of basement wall which is below grade. (This calculation is most easily completed by compiling a table of the information as illustrated below.)

| Wall Segment | Length x | Coverage $=$ | Result |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A | $25^{\prime}$ | $56 \%$ | $14 \%$ |
| B | $10^{\prime}$ | $0 \%$ | $0 \%$ |
| B | $8^{\prime}$ | $0 \%$ | $0 \%$ |
| D | $25^{\prime}$ | $0 \%$ | $0 \%$ |
| E | $8^{\prime}$ | $0 \%$ | $0 \%$ |
| F | $13^{\prime}$ | $0 \%$ | $0 \%$ |
| G | $25^{\prime}$ | $60 \%$ | $15 \%$ |
| H | $48^{\prime}$ | $100 \%$ | $48 \%$ |
| Totals | $162^{\prime}$ | NA | $77 \%$ |

## Step Four

Multiply the Total Basement Floor Area by the above percentage to determine the Excluded Basement Floor Area. Portion of Excluded Basement Floor Area Calculation below

```
1,400 Sq. Ft. \(\times \frac{\left(25^{\prime} \times 56 \%+10^{\prime} \times 0 \% \ldots 25^{\prime} \times 60 \%+48^{\prime} \times 100 \%\right)}{162^{\prime}}\)
```

$=1,400$ Sq. Ft. $\times 47.53 \%$
$=665.42$ Sq. Ft. Excluded from the Gross Floor Area

## CALCULATING AVERAGE BUILDING ELEVATION (ABE)

No part of a structure may exceed 30 feet in height above the "Average Building Elevation" to the top of the structure, except that on the downhill side of a sloping lot the structure shall not extend to a height greater than 30 feet measured from existing or finished grade to the top plate of the roof; provided the roof ridge does not exceed 30 feet in height above the "Average Building Elevation." ABE is defined as: The elevation established by averaging the elevation at existing or finished grade, whichever is lower, at the center of all exterior walls of the completed building.



| MIDPOINT ELEVATION | WALL SEGMENT LENGTH |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{A}=105.9$ feet | $\mathrm{a}=30$ feet |
| $\mathrm{B}=104.7 \mathrm{feet}$ | $\mathrm{b}=9$ feet |
| $\mathrm{C}=103.7 \mathrm{feet}$ | $\mathrm{c}=17 \mathrm{feet}$ |
| $\mathrm{D}=102.7 \mathrm{feet}$ | $\mathrm{d}=25 \mathrm{feet}$ |
| $\mathrm{E}=101.6$ feet | $\mathrm{e}=13 \mathrm{feet}$ |
| $\mathrm{F}=101.7$ feet | $\mathrm{f}=6$ feet |
| $\mathrm{G}=102.2$ feet | $\mathrm{g}=34$ feet |
| $\mathrm{H}=104.5$ feet | $\mathrm{h}=40$ feet |

## ABE CALCULATION:

$\frac{(105.9)(30)+(104.7)(9)+(103.7)(17)+(102.2)(25)+(101.6)(13)+(101.7)(6)+(102.2)(34)+(104.5)(40)}{30+9+17+25+13+6+34+40}$
$\frac{18023^{\prime}}{174^{\prime}}=103.6^{\prime}$ Average Building Elevation (ABE)
NOTE: This example is not to scale. Site plans submitted to the building department must be to scale.

## BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS, CHECK TO SEE THAT YOU HAVE PROVIDED THE INFORMATION BELOW.

$\square$ The site plan and the elevation drawings must be drawn to scale, for example $1^{\prime \prime}=20^{\prime}$, and based on a survey.
$\square$ Clearly show existing topography on your site plan. Topography should be shown in 2' increments.
$\square \quad$ Submit (with the site plan) your average building elevation calculations using the formula provided on page 8.
$\square \quad$ Indicate on an elevation drawing where the average building elevation strikes the building and the proposed ridge elevation (see below for example).
$\square$ Elevation drawings for all sides of the building.
$\square$ Indicate on the site plan the elevation of the finished floor or garage slab.
$\square$ Indicate the elevation and location of a fixed point (benchmark) within the ADJACENT RIGHT-OF-WAY or other point approved by the Building Official. The benchmark elevation and location must be provided and cannot be a part of the proposed structure. Note: Benchmark must be established, verified by a licensed surveyor and remain during construction so height can be verified when completed.
$\square$ For additions, you must provide an average building elevation calculation for the entire structure.
$\square$ If a portion of the basement floor area will be excluded from the gross floor area, provide the exclusion calculations with your site plan. The formula for basement area exclusions is shown on page 6.
$\square$ Indicate ceiling heights greater than $12^{\prime}$ and greater than $16^{\prime}$ on floor plans.

## CROSS-SECTION REPRESENTATION OF ABE



