

Article 3.G:
R-O, Residential Office District

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(Transitional Residential/Office District)

A. Purpose and Intent:

The R-O, Residential Office District is established to provide for the location of office, studio, and conditional retail uses in low intensity development patterns. The district is intended to provide opportunities for commercial offices, studio, and limited retail within areas of the Town which are in transition from stable residential neighborhoods to more intensive, non-residential uses. The district is established for the purposes of selectively providing for well-planned non-residential land uses to be located between older residential neighborhoods and existing higher intensity non-residential areas, such as corridor commercial, shopping center commercial, downtown commercial and industrial areas.

The R-O District is to be applied where offices or financial institutions are the principal uses on a lot. This would include locations in both newly developing areas and redeveloping older areas of the Town which are subject to the pressures of adaptive reuse of existing structures but where lot sizes are questionable for non-residential uses with on-site parking. As specifically related to new development patterns in the Town, the district is to be used to implement planned professional and health care-related office parks and integrated development complexes.

Minimum site improvements shall include adequate on-site parking, public water and sewer service, public streets, storm drainage, stormwater management facilities and sidewalks.

(Ord. of 2-7-2017)

B. Permitted Uses:

1. Medical and dental offices, inclusive of outpatient facilities.
2. Banks and financial institutions without drive-thru facilities, excluding payday lending and check-cashing establishments.
3. General and professional offices.
4. (Repealed 2019)
5. Child day care and adult day care facilities.
6. Single family residential dwellings, provided that (a) said residential dwellings shall conform in all respects to the S-R District and (b) there shall be no more than one single-family dwelling per lot.
7. Studios for an artist, designer, writer, photographer, sculptor or musician.

8. Accessory uses, to include tool sheds, detached garages and carports, children's playhouses, doghouses and accessory off-street parking and loading spaces.
9. Irrigation wells and wells for ground source HVAC systems.
10. Group Homes.

(Ord. of 2019-09-03; Ord. of 2020-09-01; Ord. of 205-08-05)

C. Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit:

1. Retail sales provided that there shall be no exterior or store-front displays (exclusive of Recreational Substance Establishments).
2. Drive-in banks.
3. Residential apartments, as an ancillary use within a commercial structure and limited to one dwelling unit per structure.
4. Bed and breakfast lodgings.
5. Medical care facilities, inclusive of inpatient facilities.
6. Funeral homes.
7. Parking lots (private or public, off-street as a principal use).
8. Public schools, colleges and universities.
9. Private schools, colleges and universities.
10. Any use incorporating a drive-thru facility.
11. Permitted and special permit uses on private water and sewer systems.
12. Foster homes and family care residences
13. Accessory apartments.
14. Personal service establishments.
15. Home occupations.
16. Repealed (2023-12-05)
17. Waiver of maximum building height.
18. Waiver of lot size requirements.
19. Temporary real estate marketing offices for new subdivisions.
20. Waiver of Parking and Loading Requirements

(Ord. of 2000-09-05; 2008-09-02; 2011-04-05; Ord. of 2017-02-07; Ord. of 2023-12-05; Ord. of 2025-08-05)

D. Maximum Density:

1. Non-residential uses and accessory residential uses shall be regulated by floor area ratio. A maximum floor area ratio equal to 0.25 shall apply to non-residential uses and structures.
2. Residential dwellings: Subject to S-R District regulations.

E. Lot Size Requirements:

1. Minimum district size: Not regulated.
2. Minimum lot area:
 - A. Conventional lot: 15,000 square feet
3. Minimum lot width:
 - A. Conventional lot, with public water and sewer:
 - (1) Interior lot: 100 feet
 - (2) Corner lot: 125 feet
4. Minimum lot depth:
 - A. Conventional lot, with public water and sewer: 125 feet

F. Bulk Regulations:

1. Height:
 - A. Building height: 35 feet
 - B. Public or semi-public building: 45 feet, provided that required front, rear and side yards shall be increased by 1 foot for each foot of height over thirty-five feet.
 - C. Cupolas, spires and steeples: 90 feet, by special permit.
 - D. Accessory buildings: 16 feet, provided that accessory building heights may be increased to twenty-four (24) feet in accordance with Article 2, Section P of the Zoning Ordinance.
2. Minimum yard requirements:

A. Conventional lot, with public water and sewer:

- (1) Front yard: 35 feet,
- (2) Side yard: 15 feet
except where the lot adjoins an existing residential district,
and then the side yard must then be at least 20 feet
- (3) Rear yard: 35 feet
5 feet (accessory uses)

B. Maximum lot coverage for non-residential uses:

The maximum percentage of lot coverage for a non-residential use shall not exceed twenty (20) percent. The location of all such uses shall be subject to site plan approval.

(Ord. of 5-4-2004)

G. **Landscaping, Open Space and Recreation Areas:**

1. Twenty percent (20%) of the gross lot area shall be landscaped open space.
2. Open space and recreation area regulations for residential uses in the R-O District, if and when required, shall be governed by those specified in the S-R District.

H. **Net Developable Area Calculation:**

1. Notwithstanding governing lot size and yard regulations, the maximum use intensity for any subdivision lot or non-residential lot shall be calculated based on existing land conditions. The development yield (in terms of allowable lots or floor area) shall be based on its net developable area, with adjustment factors for physical land units as specified in the chart in the following section.
2. The subdivision plat and/or site plan for a project shall graphically depict the location and area for the physical land units as outlined herein below. A calculation of the net developable area shall be required for all subdivision and site plan submissions. (Refer to *illustrative example of net developable area calculation in the appendix of the Zoning Ordinance.*)

Physical Land Unit	Percent Credited Toward Net Acreage
<i>Slopes less than 10%:</i>	100%
<i>Slopes from 10% but less than 20%:</i>	75%
<i>Slopes from 20% but less than 30%:</i>	50%
<i>Slopes 30% or more:</i>	10%
<i>Soils with high shrink/swell characteristics, as defined:</i>	75%
<i>Wetlands, existing water features and streams:</i>	0%
<i>Stormwater management basins and structures:</i>	0%
<i>Above-ground 69 KV or greater transmission lines:</i>	0%
<i>Public right-of-way</i>	0%
<i>Private streets, travelways and combined travelways and parking bays</i>	0%

3. No credit towards net developable area shall be given for planned public rights-of-way, private streets, travelways and combined travelways and parking bays within a lot or property to be developed or subdivided. Twenty percent (20%) shall be subtracted from the calculated net developable acreage to allow for street rights of way, unless it can be demonstrated by survey calculations to the satisfaction of the Planning Commission that proposed street rights of way, private streets, travelways and combined travelways and parking bays in a subdivision will be less than 20% percent of the calculated net acreage.

4. No R-O District lot shall be designed or employed for use in which an area more than 25% of the prescribed minimum lot area is comprised of one or more of the following physical land units: (a) slopes 30% or more, (b) wetlands, (c) 100-year floodplains, and (d) water features.

(Ord. of 8-1-2001)

I. Additional Regulations:

1. Refer to the Floodplain Zoning Overlay District, where applicable.

2. Refer to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Overlay District.

3. All business services and storage shall be conducted within the principal structure which is to be completely enclosed.

4. Refer to Landscaping and Screening, Article 9, for screening and buffer yard provisions.

5. Refer to Parking and Loading Requirements, Article 8, for parking regulations:

- a. Parking for non-residential uses shall be governed by the parking and loading requirements for that use.
- b. Parking for a non-residential use shall not be permitted within the front yards of any lot.
- c. No parking shall be permitted within a yard setback line.
- d. Recreational vehicle parking shall not be permitted within front yard and the area of the side yard setbacks.

6. Refer to Sign Regulations, Article 10, for signage provisions.

7. Any subdivision or lot which is proposed to be developed on shrink/swell soils shall require a geotechnical report to be submitted with the preliminary plat and plans. Such report shall be prepared by a registered professional engineer and shall address the feasibility of development on the subject soils. No subdivision plat or site plan shall be approved for final recordation until a foundation engineering report has been reviewed by the Town. All recorded plats for lots containing shrink/swell soils shall bear the following note: *"This lot contains shrink/swell soils which require special engineering design for foundations and structural elements. No structure will be approved for issuance of a building permit until a foundation engineering design prepared by a certified professional engineer has been approved for the proposed structure."*

8. Refer to the Town's Design and Construction Standards Manual for additional regulations.

9. All uses within the R-O District shall require a General Development Plan and/or site plan for zoning and/or special permit approval.

10. All refuse shall be contained in completely enclosed facilities. Refuse containers and refuse storage shall be located in a paved area and screened from public view by means of fences, wall or landscaping.

11. No private domestic well and septic systems shall be permitted. Irrigation wells and wells for ground source HVAC systems are permitted by right.

(Ord. of 10-3-2000; Ord. of 2020-09-01)