

**What is an HR Zone?**

The Hillside Residential zone is intended to provide for orderly, harmonious development of the foothills and mountains. The HR zone provides a means to minimize the amount of disturbance of the natural terrain and encourages excellence in design principles and engineering techniques. The HR zone also provides for a variety of dwelling types where land assembly and a unified development scheme are more appropriate.

**How can I find out the zoning requirements for my property?**

You may contact the Town of Los Gatos Community Development Department. Please supply the following information:

- Street address and Nearest cross street
- Assessor's Parcel Number (APN number) if available

**What are the permitted uses in the HR zone?**

The following uses are permitted in the HR zone:

- Single-family dwelling (no more than 1 principle residential structure per lot)
- Agriculture (except dairying)
- Small family day care home
- Residential care facility, small family home

\*Additional uses may be allowed if a **Conditional Use Permit (CUP)** is approved. Please contact the Community Development Department for further information.

**What are the density requirements?**

The HR zones are categorized into the following 4 density ranges:

1. HR-1 (1 to 5 acres for each dwelling unit)
2. HR-2½ (2½ to 10 acres for each dwelling unit)
3. HR-5 (5 to 40 acres for each dwelling unit)
4. HR-20 (20 to 160 acres for each dwelling unit)

**How is minimum land area calculated for subdivisions?**

The slope-density regulation will be utilized to assist in relating the intensity of the development to the steepness of the terrain in order to minimize grading, removal of vegetation, runoff, erosion, geologic hazards and fire hazards. The minimum land area required for each dwelling unit in any subdivision is determined by the following density regulations:

1) The average slope of land proposed to be subdivided is determined according to the formula:

$$S = .0023 IL / A$$

Where:

**S** is the average slope in percent (ex 40% is written 40.0).  
**I** is the contour interval in feet.  
**L** is the combined length of contour lines in feet.  
**A** is the gross area in acres of the parcel (not including the right-of-way of existing public roads).

2) The minimum land area for each dwelling shall not be less than the slope density as determined by the following formulae:

- HR-1**  $a = 1/(1-.016(s))$
- HR-2½**  $a = \text{the greater of } 1/ (.6893-.011786(S)) \text{ or } 2.5$
- HR-5**  $a = 1/ (.24375 - .004375(S))$
- HR-20**  $a = 1/ (.0609375-.00109375(S))$

Where:

**a** is the slope density.  
**S** is the average slope.

**Note:**

When the average slope (S) is in excess of 50%, the minimum land area for each dwelling unit is as follows:

HR-1.....	5 acres
HR-2½.....	10 acres
HR-5.....	40 acres
HR-20.....	160 acres

3) The maximum number of dwelling units allowed in a subdivision is determined by dividing the land area by the required minimum land area for each dwelling unit and rounding the number down to the next whole number.

4) In calculating the allowable number of dwelling units in any subdivision, no parcel which can be further subdivided under this section shall be included in the net land area used to determine the maximum number of dwelling units allowed. However if the development rights beyond 1 dwelling unit for such parcel are dedicated to the Town of Los Gatos, the parcel may be included.

5) Where any part of the land slopes more than 50%, that part may be treated separately and the number of dwelling units permissible on that part may be added to the number permissible on the rest of the land to compute the number of allowed dwelling units.

6) Once a map has been recorded showing a parcel of land subdivided under any of the HR zones, further subdivision of any lot or parcel included in that subdivision is restricted. The current HR formula is used to determine the number of dwelling units (and by derivation, lots) which may be obtained by further subdivision. The formula is applied to the entire parcel originally subdivided under the HR rules, regardless of whether lots in the HR subdivision have been sold or improved. Transactions in which one or more portions of the entire parcel are reverted to acreage are not exempt from this restriction.

**Note:**

The provisions of the above section are intended to be a continuation and not a liberalization of the rules in the "density requirements".

**Are there other subdivision requirements?**

Yes, for more information please contact the Community Development Department.

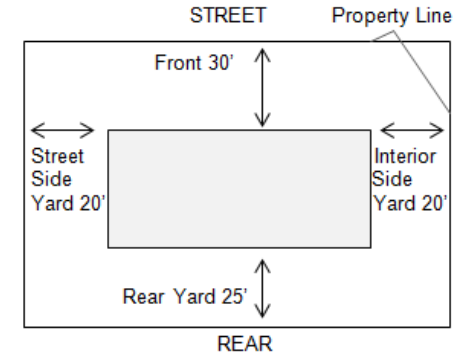
**Is there a minimum lot area?**

Yes, the minimum lot area in the HR zone is 40,000 S.F. (not to be confused with the required minimum land area for each dwelling unit for subdivisions).

**What are the minimum front, side and rear yard setback requirements for the principle building?**

Front .....	30'
Side .....	20'
Rear .....	25'
Street side .....	20'

**Example Illustration of setbacks for HR Zoned lot:**



**What is the minimum lot width requirement?**

The minimum lot width within the HR zone is 100'.

**What are the height requirements for buildings?**

The maximum height of a principle building in the HR zone is 25' (measured from the natural or finished grade, whichever is lower and creates a lower profile, to the uppermost point of the roof edge, wall, parapet, mansard, or other point directly above the grade.,).

**Note:**

The maximum height for accessory building is 15' (measured from the natural or finished grade, whichever is lower and creates a lower profile). Please contact the Community Development Department for more information.

**Are there any landscaping requirements along the scenic road?**

Yes, landscaping is required in yards in the HR zone abutting scenic roads. Existing vegetation and land forms abutting scenic roads shall be left in a natural state unless modification is found to be necessary for a specific use. To enhance the scenic corridor, additional landscaping may be required.

**What are the requirements if trails exist in a HR zone?**

When the General Plan or any specific plan shows trails in a HR zone, the development plans shall include those provisions which are found necessary by the deciding body for the development of such trails.

**What are the requirements for access to remote areas:**

Roadways and trails for vehicles shall not be constructed without architecture and site approval. Approval shall not be granted unless the deciding body finds that the roadway or trail is indispensable for an activity allowed in this zone and that the roadway or trail will be compatible with the terrain.

**Other requirements?**

For Development Standards, see the "Standards for the Review of Architecture and Site Application in the Los Gatos Hillside areas."

**Design**

Check the Hillside Development Standards and Guidelines (available online at [www.losgatosca.gov/Hillside](http://www.losgatosca.gov/Hillside)).

For answers to other questions on topics such as parking requirements, driveway requirements, or architectural requirements, you may contact the Community Development Department.

Town of Los Gatos  
Community Development  
Department



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[www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov)

**HR Zoning District**  
(Hillside Residential Zone)

**Summary Handout**