
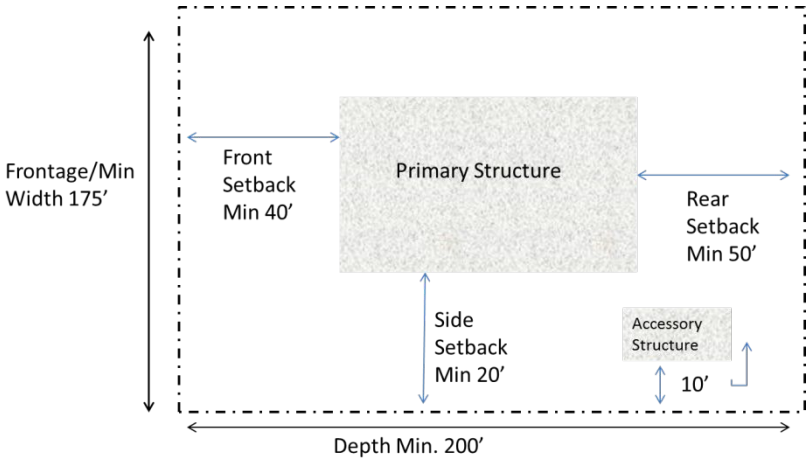


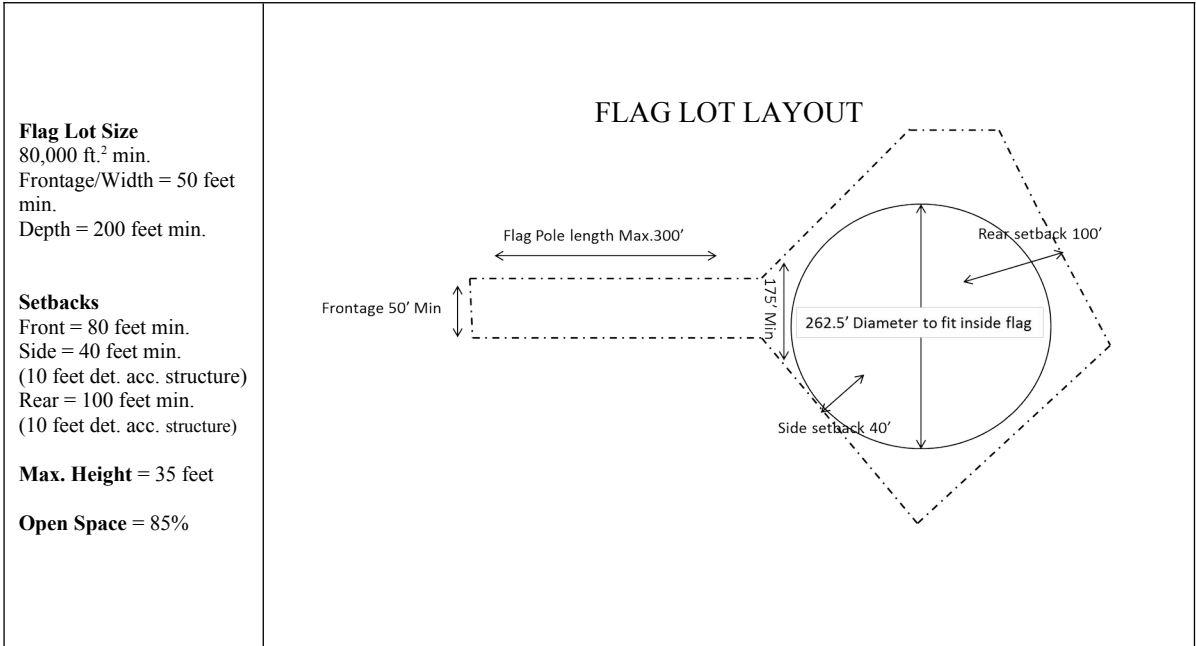
ZONING

350 Attachment 4

**City of Northampton  
Table of Use and Dimensional Regulations  
[Amended 9-4-2025 by Ord. No. 25.300; 9-18-2025 by Ord. No. 25.315]**

<b>RR District</b>	
<p><b>Description:</b> Primarily low-density residential and agricultural land. Pristine forested and wildlife habitat where, if developed, conservation cluster design is encouraged. Area is within the outermost portion of the City. Mostly served by private water and sewer systems. Within transect-based zoning, RR is a T2 Rural zone.</p>	<p><b>Example Uses/Structures</b></p> 
<p><b>Lot Dimension Requirements</b></p> <p><b>Lot Size - Standard</b> 40,000 ft.<sup>2</sup> min. (80,000 ft.<sup>2</sup> if both private water and private sewer) Frontage/Width = 175 feet min. Depth = 200 feet min.</p> <p><b>Setbacks [principal and detached accessory structures (det. acc.)]</b> Front = 40 feet min. Side = 20 feet min. (10 feet det. acc. structure) Rear = 50 feet min. (10 feet det. acc. structure) Side and Rear = 0 feet for conversion of existing historic accessory structures to residential use. See § 350-6.14.</p> <p><b>Max. Height</b> = 35 feet (20 feet det. acc. structure)</p> <p><b>Open Space</b> = 80%</p>	<p><b>Layout/Setbacks</b></p> 

# NORTHAMPTON CODE



**Design Standards Illustrated**

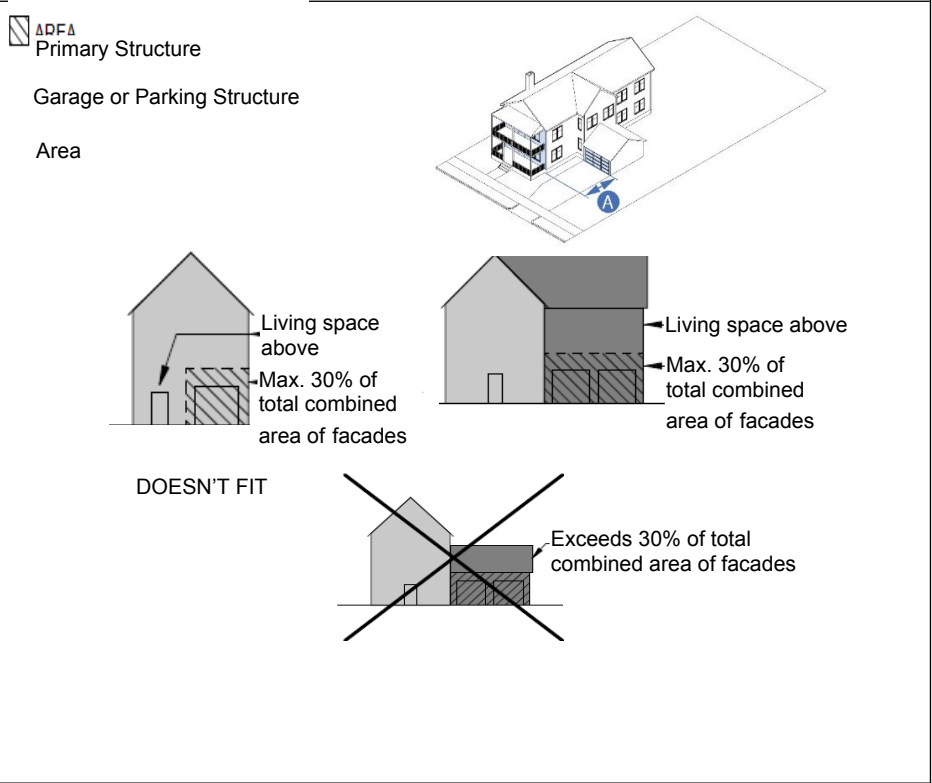
- PRINCIPLE STRUCTURE
- GARAGE OR PARKING STRUCTURE

1. For attached garages/ parking structures that face the street:

- a) The front face of the garage must be stepped back 10 feet from the house façade; and
- b) The garage shall comprise no more than 30% of the front facade of the primary structure, unless the garage is stepped back from the façade by 20 feet (A).

The criteria above do not apply to residential structures that are either behind another principal structure which is along the street front or if the structure is set back 50 feet or more from the lot line.

See additional specific criteria for two-family homes.



## ZONING

<p><b>Minimum parking for residential uses</b></p> <p>For other uses see table in § 350-8.2</p>	<p>1 space per unit.</p> <p>Front yard setback may only have parking for a maximum of 2 vehicles.</p>
---	---

### RR USES ALLOWED

**Uses Allowed By Right:**

- Single-family residence
- Two-family so long as all elements of § 350-6.11 are met.
- Two single-family dwellings on a lot so long as all elements of § 350-6.11 are met. One of the dwellings is not to exceed 1,800 square feet of gross living area.
- Home business up to 25 visits per week as defined in § 350-2.1
- Preexisting nonconforming uses (may trigger ZBA permit)
- Accessory uses to residential:
  - Tag sales - temporary sales of personal and household articles
  - Pets/Animals (see § 350-5.3)
- Accessory structures - detached (but no larger than 1,000 ft.<sup>2</sup> of lot coverage or 3% of lot area, whichever is greater, unless it is used for agricultural purposes). See also § 350-6.7.
- Family day care (registration w/Building Commissioner required)
- Cemetery, including any crematory therein
- Temporary event as defined in § 350-2.1
- Agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, noncommercial forestry, the growing of all vegetables and a temporary (not to exceed erection or use for a period of four months in any one year) greenhouse or stand for retail sale of agricultural or farm products raised primarily on the same premises. The use described above includes the following only when licensed by the License Commission or with a Mayoral license:
  1. Service of alcoholic beverages produced on site; and/or
  2. Accessory events and entertainment unrelated to on-site production, not to exceed 12 such events in one year.
- Rooftop solar hot water and photovoltaic
- Solar photovoltaic of any size, ground-mounted over any legal parking lot or driveway
- Accessory solar photovoltaic (PV) ground-mounted on a parcel with any building/use, provided that the PV is sized to generate no more than 200% of the annual projected electric use of the non-PV building/use or 12 KW, whichever is greater. The setbacks for such a PV shall be the same as for detached accessory structures as set forth in the table above.
- Essential facilities
- Municipal facility
- Short-term rental: allowed only upon annual registration with the City. Use as a registered rental is only valid for the year in which registration is completed and expires December 31 each year.

**Site Plan Approval Required for the Following:**

- Two-family where a waiver is requested from § 350-6.11.

## NORTHAMPTON CODE

- Two single-family dwellings on a lot, where a waiver is requested from § 350-6.11. One of the dwellings is not to exceed 1,800 square feet of gross living area per unit.
- Any construction (other than for a single-family home) greater than 2,000 ft.<sup>2</sup>
- Educational use: nonprofit, any religious use, day care, school-aged child-care program (as permitted by state statute)
- Reuse of historic educational or religious building(s) for: any residential use, live/work space, or office; provided, however, that no more than 20% of the floor space of the building(s) shall be used for medical, banking or any offices where a primary function is to provide services to retail customers or individuals. All such uses approved under this provision shall be within the footprint of existing building(s) and may only be approved contingent upon protection of all historically contributing portions of the building with an historic preservation restriction granted to the City of Northampton in a form acceptable to the Planning Board, with input from the Historical Commission, as preserving the key character-defining features visible from the road (and not necessarily meeting federal or state preservation standards for the entire building). The existing building may be expanded to accommodate elevators and stairwells. Portions of the building that are not part of the original architecture of the building and which do not contribute to the historical or architectural significance of the building as determined by the Planning Board, with input from the Historical Commission, may be demolished.
- Parking off site and combined parking. See §§ 350-8.5 and 350-8.7.
- Creation or expansion of six or more parking spaces.
- Parking requirement reduction. See § 350-8.10F.
- Residential shared driveways. See § 350-8.8R.
- Year-round greenhouse/stand for wholesale and retail sale of agricultural farm products raised on site. The use described above includes the following only when licensed by the License Commission or with a Mayoral license:
  1. Accessory events and entertainment unrelated to on-site production exceeding 12 such events per year.
- Telecommunication antennas which are located on existing telecommunications towers or other structures which do not require the construction of a new tower (in accordance with § 350-10.9)
- Open/Outdoor marijuana cultivation.
  1. All security fencing that includes razor wire or other physical security measures that are not typically residential in character must be screened with vegetation so that it is not visible from public ways nor from other principal residential structures within 300 feet.
  2. If a fence or other security structure is planned within a FEMA-mapped floodplain, it must be shown to be engineered to withstand expected floodwaters or it must be engineered to include a breakaway that opens during flood conditions.
- Any other solar photovoltaic (PV), large-scale ground-mounted not listed above, where less than two acres of tree removal is planned. The removal of significant trees on the subject parcel(s) must be replaced in accordance with § 350-12.3 and includes tree removal that occurs within 12 months immediately prior to an application for installation of such a system.

Setbacks:  
Front = 50 feet  
Side = 50 feet  
Rear = 50 feet  
Maximum height = 30 feet  
Open space = 20%

## ZONING

1. A planted buffer to abutting residential property shall be at least 15 feet in width along the property boundary. It shall contain a screen of plantings in the center of the strip not less than three feet in width and six feet in height at the time of occupancy of such lot. Individual shrubs shall be planted not more than five feet on center, and individual trees thereafter shall be maintained by the owner or occupants so as to maintain a dense screen year-round. At least 50% of the plantings shall be evenly spaced. Whenever possible, existing trees and ground cover should be preserved in this strip, reducing the need to plant additional trees. Trees may not be cut down in this strip without site plan approval.
2. The owner or operator shall remove the installation no more than 150 days after the date of discontinued operations. Removal shall consist of:
  - a. Removal of all structures, equipment, security barriers, transmission lines, conduits, poles.
  - b. Disposal of all waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations.
  - c. Stabilization or revegetation of the site as necessary to minimize erosion.

If the owner/operator fails to remove the installation in accordance with the requirements of this section, the City shall have the right to exercise or call the bond/performance guarantee in order to cover the cost of removal.

3. Performance guarantee: Applicants shall submit an itemized cost estimate for complete decommissioning of the array as specified above. Prior to beginning construction, the applicant shall post a performance guarantee in the form of a bond or escrow or other guarantee approved by the Planning Board for the amount to cover decommissioning, including a twenty-percent contingency and calculated with twenty-year inflation factor.

### **Special Permit Approval required for the following uses by Planning Board unless otherwise noted:**

- Two single-family dwellings per lot, both of which are 1,800 square feet or greater of gross living area per unit. See also [§ 350-6.11](#).
- Home business for personal service business by appointment only or home business more than 25 visits etc. See § 350-10.12 for other criteria—Zoning Board of Appeals Special Permit
- Flag lots. See § 350-6.10.
- Bed-and-breakfast
- Commercial stable or kennel in which all animals, fowl, or other forms of life are completely enclosed in pens or other structures. See § 350-10.8 and exemptions MGL c. 40A.
- Outdoor commercial recreational use, miniature golf, temporary carnival
- Any other private school, college or university
- Historical association or society and nonprofit museum (may include the residence of a caretaker)
- Private utility or substation, small-scale hydroelectric generation
- New telecommunications facility in accordance with §§ 350-2.1 and 350-10.9.
- Parking lot access for nonresidential uses across a residential lot. See § 350-8.9.
- Processing and treating of raw materials, including operations appurtenant to the taking, such as grading, drying, sorting, crushing, grinding and milling operations. See § 350-10.3.
- Removal of sand, gravel, quarry, or other raw material. See § 350-10.3.
- Filling of any land. See § 350-10.4. Filling of water or any wet area. See § 350-10.3.
- Private bridge, tunnel
- Railroad passenger terminal
- Municipal facility
- Heavy public use. See § 350-10.7—City Council Special Permit

## NORTHAMPTON CODE

- Membership club operated as a not-for-profit corporation, as defined by MGL c. 180, excluding any adult establishments which display live nudity—City Council Special Permit
- Cluster residential development. See § 350-10.5.

### **Cluster Development Layout Standards**

- a. Project lot = 4-acre minimum
- b. Project frontage = 175 feet
- c. Project depth = 200 feet
- d. Setbacks from project boundary:
  - Front = 40 feet
  - Side = 20 feet
  - Rear = 50 feet
- e. Individual lot frontage, setbacks, frontage = 0 feet
- f. Maximum height = 35 feet
- g. Project open space = 75%
- h. Design: Planning Board to review layout to ensure project transitions between existing neighborhood along street and proposed project. For new buildings, setback, scale, massing should fit within the area. Mature specimen trees shall be preserved unless shown to be infeasible. No minimum setbacks, lot size, frontage, or open space for internal lots. More than one structure may be located on a single lot.

Projects resulting in more than two acres of canopy removal shall submit the following additional information to that which is required by site plan for large-scale ground-mounted solar above with their application. The Board must find that the removal of trees will not negatively impact the health safety and welfare of the residents of Northampton by maintaining a robust and diverse ecosystem for the residents while also creating renewable energy systems. In order for the Board to make such finding, the applicant shall submit an analysis of the proposed project's impact relative to the benefit of the solar installation as follows:

1. Analysis showing that tree removal which occurs on more than one acre of slopes greater than 20% will not cause erosion of top soil and will not increase siltation of any streams present on the site or within 200 feet of the property boundary.
2. Analysis of the forest type and relevant habitat that will be lost. This analysis must include the structure and diversity of the canopy, midstory and understory of the forested area to be cleared. Analysis must be performed by an individual with a master's degree in wildlife biology or ecological science from an accredited college/university or other competent professional with at least two years of experience in wildlife habitat evaluation.
  - a. Any forested area within which certifiable vernal pools are found, must be identified and a permit from the Conservation Commission must be granted prior to review by the Planning Board.
  - b. Any forested area containing clusters of five or more healthy trees of 20 inches diameter breast height or greater that are not in decline shall be preserved in order to continue to provide high value ecological benefit to the community. Connection of these larger trees to surrounding stands of trees shall be maintained.
  - c. As part of the forest type analysis, the report shall contain information regarding the abundance and distribution of habitats within the region and of the specific site and any historical information on the extent and quality of these habitats and impact of clearing on these habitats. The applicant must show through analysis that habitat is not fragmented and that connectivity remains in the proposed conditions.
3. Analysis by a qualified third party showing that the project will be carbon-neutral over the first 10 years of operation. The applicant shall provide the following calculations:
  - a. The total volume of trees to be removed (provided by an independent certified forester) and the projected volume of trees over a ten-year period of additional growth.

## ZONING

- b. Subtracting the estimated live-wood in replacement trees provided under the significant tree section of this zoning ordinance 10 years after planting.
  - c. Conversion of the net live-wood to be removed to short tons of carbon (using research from the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science or other methodology after approval by the permit granting authority).
  - d. Subtraction of the carbon offsets (short tons of carbon) provided by the solar photovoltaic project over 10 years of operation, including the calculation of potential carbon stored had the trees continued to thrive in that same ten-year window.
  - e. If there is any net release of carbon with the above calculations, the applicant shall assign Renewable Energy Credits (REC) to the City to match or exceed said release of carbon. However, RECs may not be used to fund biomass projects.
4. At least 50% of the property shall be protected from tree clearing and future development for the duration of the operation of the solar array installation and until such time as the system is decommissioned and removed.
  5. Within the area beyond the first two acres of canopy removed, stumps for removed trees must remain in place and no excavation/soil disturbance is allowed other than what would be required to bore support posts for the PV panels.
  6. Electrical transformers for utility interconnections may be aboveground only if required by the utility provider. Power and telecommunications poles and equipment shall not be visible from the public way.
- \* No minimum lot size, depth, or frontage required for essential services or municipal facilities as defined in § 350-2.1. Minimum setbacks for principal buildings as part of municipal facilities are the same as other principal uses in table above and are the only dimensional lot requirements necessary to be met.