Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
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105-00 - GENERAL PURPOSES

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LAST AMENDED
2/2/2005

The "Special Natural Area District" (hereinafter also referred to as the "Special District"), established in this Resolution, is designed to promote and protect public health, safety and general welfare. These general goals include, among others, the following specific purposes:

(a) to guide development in areas of outstanding natural beauty in order to protect, maintain and enhance the natural features of such areas;

(b) to preserve land having qualities of exceptional recreational or educational value to the public;

(c) to protect aquatic, biologic, botanic, geologic and topographic features having ecological and conservation values and functions;

(d) to reduce hillside erosion, landslides and excessive storm water runoff associated with development by conserving vegetation and protecting natural terrain;

(e) to preserve hillsides having unique aesthetic value to the public; and

(f) to promote the most desirable use of land and the direction of building development in accordance with a well-considered plan, to promote stability of residential development, to promote the character of the district and its peculiar suitability for particular uses, to conserve the value of land and buildings and thereby protect the City's tax revenues.

105-01 - Definitions

LAST AMENDED

Definitions specially applicable to this Chapter are set forth in this Section. The definitions of other defined terms are set forth in Section 12-10 (DEFINITIONS).

Area of no disturbance

An "area of no disturbance" is an area designated on the site plan that is protected from all types of intrusion, including: #site alteration#, operation of construction equipment, storage of construction materials, excavation or regrading, tunneling for utilities, removal of trees, #topsoil# or any living vegetation, or construction of driveways, #private roads#, parking areas, patios, decks, swimming pools, walkways or other impervious surfaces, including any surfaces with permeable paving. #Areas of no disturbance# shall include #steep slopes#, #steep slope buffers# and the #critical root zone# of each tree proposed for preservation.

Average percent of slope

The "average percent of slope" of a #zoning lot# is the average slope of all portions of a #zoning lot# excluding #steep slopes# and shall be determined according to the following equation:

$$S = \frac{IL}{A} \times 100$$

Where: S - #average percent of slope#

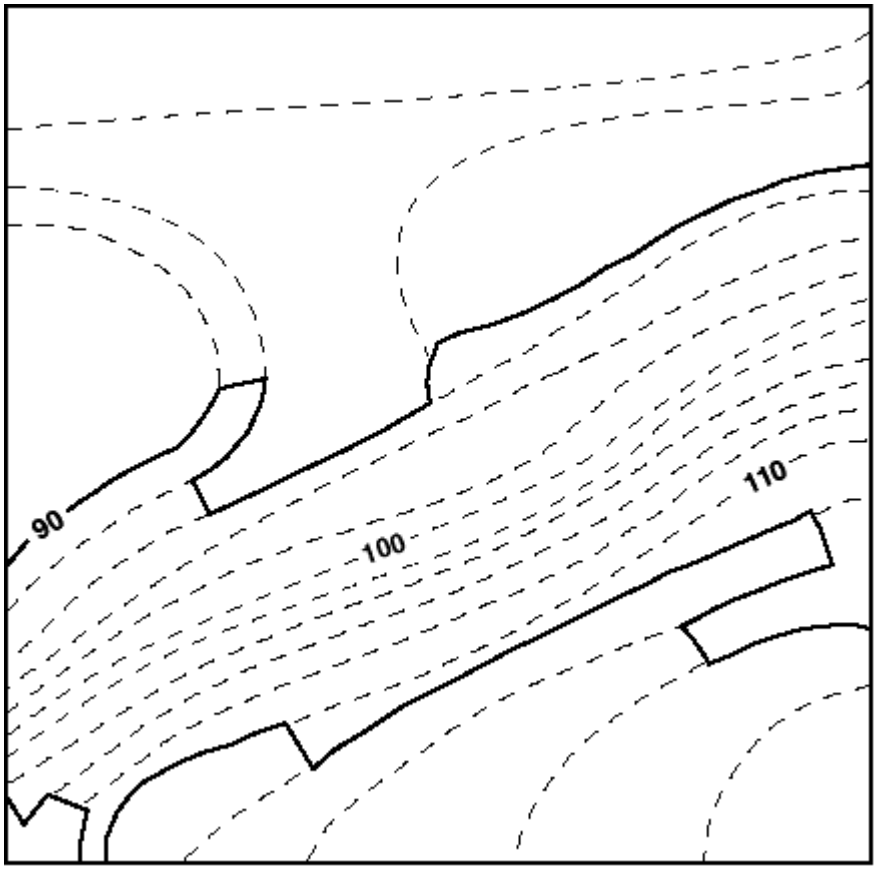
I - contour interval in feet

L - combined length of contour lines in feet, excluding those portions bordering or lying within areas having a slope of 25 percent or greater and meeting the definition of #steep slope#

A - gross area in square feet of the #zoning lot#, excluding those portions of the #zoning lot# having a slope of 25 percent or greater and meeting the definition of #steep slope#. For a proposed #site alteration# on a tract of land not within a #zoning lot#, the portion of such tract of land owned by the applicant shall be considered to be part of the #zoning lot#

100 - factor which yields slope as a percentage

CALCULATING AREAS HAVING A SLOPE EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 25 PERCENT (ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE)



Example:

$$X = \frac{\text{Contour interval in feet}}{0.25} = \frac{2}{0.25} = 8.0 \text{ feet}$$

Where: X - distance between contour lines which indicates a slope of 25 percent

In order to calculate the area having a slope equal to or greater than 25 percent, one can use a map with two-foot contour intervals and a scale of one inch equals 20 feet, as shown in the map in this Section. A 25 percent slope, on a map with two-foot contour intervals, is indicated by contour lines that are 8.0 feet apart, rounded to the nearest tenth (0.1) of a foot. On a map whose scale is one inch to

20 feet, 8.0 feet is represented by 0.4 of an inch, rounded to the nearest tenth (0.1) of an inch. Identify where the contour lines are 0.4 of an inch or less apart. Connect these contour lines (as indicated by the heavy lines on the map) and calculate the area.

Caliper (of a tree)

"Caliper" of a tree is the diameter of a tree trunk measured 4 feet, 6 inches from the ground. If a tree splits into multiple trunks below 4 feet, 6 inches from the ground, the trunk is measured at its most narrow point beneath the split.

Critical root zone

The "critical root zone" of a tree is the area containing the roots of a tree that must be maintained and protected to ensure the tree's survival. The area of the #critical root zone# is measured as one radial foot for every #caliper# inch of the tree, with a required minimum of four radial feet and maximum of 22 radial feet, measured from the surface of the tree trunk at grade.

Hillside

A "hillside" is ground where the ratio of change in elevation to horizontal distance results in a 10 percent or greater slope or #average percent of slope#.

Natural feature

A "natural feature" is a specific natural feature belonging to one of the types listed in Section 105-10 (NATURAL FEATURES) and existing within a #Special Natural Area District#.

Site alteration

A "site alteration" is an alteration on any vacant tract of land, #land with minor improvements# or any tract of land containing #buildings or other structures# which includes land contour work, topographic modifications, removal of #topsoil#, vegetation, excavating, filling, dumping, changes in existing drainage systems, improvements in public rights-of-way, relocation of erratic boulders or modification of any other #natural features#, whether or not a permit is required from the Department of Buildings, the Department of Transportation or other public agencies.

Staging area

A "staging area" is any area on a #zoning lot# used during the construction of a #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# for the purposes of stockpiling soil or construction materials; storing, cleaning or servicing construction equipment, vehicles or tools; or storing leachable construction products, gases or other materials used to clean or service vehicles, equipment or tools.

Steep slope

A "steep slope" is a portion of a #zoning lot# with an incline of 25 percent or greater. However, a portion of a #zoning lot# with an incline of 25 percent or greater shall not be considered a #steep slope# if it occupies an area of less than 200 square feet or has a dimension of less than 10 feet, measured along the horizontal plane, unless such portions in the aggregate equal 10 percent or more of the area of the #zoning lot#.

Steep slope buffer

A "steep slope buffer" is a 15-foot wide area having a slope of less than 25 percent that adjoins the entire length of the crest of a #steep slope#.

Tier I site

A "Tier I site" is a #zoning lot# or other tract of land having an #average percent of slope# of less than 10 percent.

Tier II site

A "Tier II site" is a #zoning lot# or other tract of land having an #average percent of slope# equal to or greater than 10 percent.

Topsoil

"Topsoil" is soil containing undisturbed humus and organic matter capable of sustaining vigorous plant growth and is generally the top six inches of soil.

Tree credit

A "tree credit" is a credit for preserving an existing tree of six-inch #caliper# or more that is counted towards a tree preservation requirement or a credit for a newly planted tree of three-inch #caliper# or more that is counted towards a tree planting requirement.

Tree protection plan

A "tree protection plan" is a plan that modifies the #area of no disturbance# around a tree proposed for preservation while protecting and preserving the tree during construction. A #tree protection plan# is prepared by an arborist certified by the International Society of Arborculturists (ISA) or equivalent professional organization that includes:

(a) a survey of the current condition and health of such trees of six-inch #caliper# or more;

(b) methods for tree protection and preservation based on best management practices, including the prevention of damage due to compaction, grade and drainage pattern changes and tunneling for utilities;

(c) a schedule for site monitoring during construction;

(d) a procedure to communicate protection measures to contractor and workers; and

(e) post-construction treatment.

105-02 - General Provisions

LAST AMENDED
10/7/2021

In harmony with the general purpose and intent of this Resolution and the general purposes of the #Special Natural Area District#, the regulations of the districts upon which this Special District is superimposed are supplemented or modified in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter, in order to protect outstanding #natural features# described herein. Except as modified by the express provisions of this Chapter, the regulations of the underlying district remain in effect.

The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to:

(a) any #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration#;

(b) any subdivision of a #zoning lot# existing on the effective date of the Special District designation into two or more #zoning lots#; and

(c) any public improvement projects located within the #Special Natural Area District#, which shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 105-92 (Special Provisions for City-owned Land) and 105-93 (Inter-agency Coordination), except for any such projects which were approved by the Board of Estimate prior to the effective date of the Special District designation.

Prior to issuance by the Department of Buildings or other City or State agencies, of a permit for any #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# within a #Special Natural Area District#, or for any #site alteration# for which no permit is required by the Department of Buildings or other City or State agencies, an application shall be submitted to the City Planning Commission for review and approval pursuant to Section 105-40 (SPECIAL REVIEW PROVISIONS), except those #developments#, #enlargements# and #site alterations# that are not subject to the provisions of Section 105-40, as specified in Section 105-021 (Actions not requiring special review).

Any authorization or special permit granted by the City Planning Commission after July 18, 1995, pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter, may be started or continued, in accordance with the terms thereof, or as such terms may be subsequently modified, pursuant to the regulations in effect at the time such authorization or special permit was granted, subject to the provisions of Sections 11-42 (Lapse of Authorization or Special Permit Granted by the City Planning Commission Pursuant to the 1961 Zoning Resolution) and 11-43 (Renewal of Authorization or Special Permit).

When a #zoning lot# existing on the effective date of the Special District designation is subdivided into two or more #zoning lots#, an application shall be submitted to the Commission for review and approval pursuant to Section 105-90 (FUTURE SUBDIVISION).

For #transit-adjacent sites#, as defined in Section 66-11 (Definitions), in the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Chapter and the provisions of Article VI, Chapter 6 (Special

Regulations Applying Around Mass Transit Stations), the provisions of Article VI, Chapter 6 shall control.

In #flood zones#, in the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Chapter and the provisions of Article VI, Chapter 4 (Special Regulations Applying in Flood Zones), the provisions of Article VI, Chapter 4, shall control.

105-021 - Actions not requiring special review

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2005

The special review requirements of Section 105-40 (SPECIAL REVIEW PROVISIONS) of this Chapter shall not apply to the following:

(a) a #site alteration# on a #zoning lot# containing #buildings or other structures#, or a #development# or #enlargement# on any #zoning lot#, provided that such #zoning lots# shall have:

(1) not more than 10,000 square feet of #lot area#;

(2) an #average percent of slope# of less than 10 percent;

(3) no significant #natural features#, and the resulting #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# can satisfy the requirements of Section 105-30 (PRESERVATION OF NATURAL FEATURES), inclusive;

(4) the resulting #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# not exceed 2,500 square feet of #lot coverage#; and

(5) no Notice of Restriction or Restrictive Declaration recorded against the title of such property;

(b) any #site alteration#, on a #zoning lot# containing a #residential building# in existence on the effective date of the Special District designation, involving a structure that does not require a permit from the Department of Buildings, including, but not limited to swimming pools, garden sheds and fences, provided that:

(1) any modification of topography for the footprint, foundation or grading around the footprint of such structure shall not exceed two feet of cut or fill; and

(2) no tree of six-inch #caliper# or greater shall be removed and the #critical root zone# of such tree shall be an #area of no disturbance# on any #zoning lot#.

105-022 - Requirements for application

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

An application to the City Planning Commission for certification, authorization or special permit and to the Department of Buildings respecting any #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration#, to be made within any #Special Natural Area District#, shall include the following:

(a) a survey map prepared by a registered surveyor showing topography at two-foot contour intervals and indicating the #average percent of slope#, the existing slope of the land, as it occurs, in categories of 10–14 percent, 15–19 percent, 20–24 percent, 25 percent and greater; the location of existing #buildings or other structures#, patios, decks, swimming pools, walkways, driveways and #private roads#, including sidewalks and other impervious surfaces; and the location, #caliper# and species of all trees of six-inch #caliper# or more on the #zoning

lot# and in the sidewalk area of the adjacent #streets#, location of geologic features, aquatic features and botanic environments, as en–umerated in Section 105-11 (Description of Natural Features);

(b) photographs showing the location and condition of such #natural features# for verification with pre-existing aerial survey and/or other photographs for each #Special Natural Area District#;

(c) a site plan prepared by a registered architect or professional engineer indicating the location of all existing #buildings or other structures#; the location of all proposed #buildings or other structures#; the location of existing and proposed patios, decks, swimming pools, walkways, driveways and #private roads#, including sidewalks and other impervious surfaces; the location of any #steep slopes#, #steep slope buffer# areas and the #staging area#; and the location, #caliper# and species of all trees of six-inch #caliper# or more on the #zoning lot# and in the sidewalk area of the adjacent #streets#. The site plan shall identify those trees proposed to be removed and those trees proposed to be preserved, indicating, for the latter, the #critical root zone# and in addition, for #Tier II sites#, the location of any other #area of no disturbance#;

(d) a drainage plan and soil report prepared by a professional engineer, when necessary to assess whether or not there will be major impact on #natural features#. The drainage plan shall describe the temporary (during construction) and permanent measures to collect, direct and discharge stormwater drainage from the site, indicating the direction of drainage flow and providing detailed plans and locations of all surface and subsurface drainage devices, walls, dams, sediment basins, stormwater storage (detention and retention) facilities, and other drainage facilities and protective devices. Such report shall include an estimate of runoff from the site after completion of any proposed #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# and provide a description with supporting information of the manner in which the proposed #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# complies with the requirements of Local Law 103 of 1989;

(e) a grading plan showing all existing and proposed contours at two-foot intervals, critical spot elevations, tops and bottoms of proposed slopes over 10 percent gradient and will indicate at least one longitudinal and one latitudinal cross-section showing both the original and proposed final ground surfaces, with grades, slopes and elevations noted;

(f) a landscaping and revegetation plan, prepared by a registered landscape architect, indicating the extent of vegetation and #topsoil# removal required for site preparation and development and the location and species of all new plantings;

(g) any other information necessary to evaluate the request; and

(h) for #developments#, #enlargements# and #site alterations# on #Tier II sites#, the application shall also include:

(1) an alignment and paving plan for any #private road# with a typical cross-section; and

(2) a construction plan prepared by a registered landscape architect, registered architect, licensed surveyor or professional engineer showing the proposed location for the #staging area#, the proposed method for protecting trees, understory shrubs and ground cover during construction, as well as a description of the equipment to be employed in processing and disposing of soil and other material to be removed from the site; and if the #critical root zone# is proposed to be modified, a #tree protection plan# for any tree proposed for preservation.

For a #site alteration#, #enlargement# or #development# within any #Special Natural Area District#, the Commission may modify one or more requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) through (h) of this Section, when such modification is requested by the applicant in writing and when the Commission determines that the requirements are unnecessary for evaluation purposes.

Appendix B of this Chapter should be used as a guide to assist in identifying the #natural features# on the survey required in this Section.

The applicant's submission shall also include a statement admitting authorized Department of City Planning personnel to the site for the purposes of recording or verifying survey data.

Where a permit is required for a #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# within a #Special Natural Area District# from any City or State agency, an application for such permit shall be filed simultaneously with such agency and the Commission.

105-023 - Relationship to public improvement projects

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2005

In all cases, the City Planning Commission shall deny an application, whenever the #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# will interfere with a public improvement project (including highways, public #buildings# or facilities, redevelopment or renewal projects, or rights-of-way for sewers, transit or other public facilities) that has been approved by the City Council or the City Planning Commission.

105-03 - District Plan

LAST AMENDED
1/19/2016

The regulations of this Chapter are designed to implement the #Special Natural Area District# Plan. The District Plan includes the following:

Appendix A - Special Natural Area District Plan Maps

Appendix B – Glossary

Appendix C - Selection List for Ground Covers and Shrubs

Appendix D - Tree Selection List for On-site Trees

Appendix E - Tree Selection List for Street Trees

These maps and lists are hereby incorporated and made part of this Resolution for the purpose of specifying locations where the special regulations and requirements set forth in this Chapter shall apply.