

Mackenzie Residential Parking Regulations

FACT SHEET



May 2019



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FOREWORD:

The District of Mackenzie Zoning Bylaw outlines the parking rules and regulations for residential parking of vehicles, recreational equipment, as well as for any derelict/unlicensed vehicles. This fact sheet will provide details regarding the purpose of land-use planning and how it ties into parking, the current rules and recent changes, and how you can find more information and provide your feedback in future District bylaw changes.

Background

Off-street parking is regulated by Section 5 of the District's Zoning Bylaw #1368. What is a Zoning Bylaw you may ask? Every municipality in BC is required by law to adopt a Zoning Bylaw which controls the use of land and states exactly:

- how land may be used;
- where buildings and other structures can be located;
- the types of buildings that are permitted and how they may be used;
- the lot sizes and dimensions, parking requirements, building heights and setbacks from the street.

In 2016 the District began its major review and update of Mackenzie's Zoning Bylaw. Typically this bylaw is reviewed and updated every 5-10 years depending on a number of factors including but not limited to:

- the amount of growth and development taking place in the community;
- whether there have been a number of Provincial or Federal law changes;
- include solutions to any bylaw issues that have presented themselves over the last 5 years; and
- help expand on new and arising economic and social support opportunities.

When updating or changing the document, there are strict public consultation requirements such as hosting public hearings, sending out public notices, and if the changes are extensive, conducting community surveys as well as hosting open houses and focus group activities to gather input from all residents and businesses in the community.

Prior to final adoption in 2017, the District hosted a number of open houses, community meetings, as well as conducted surveys to receive feedback from the community regarding all aspects of the document, including residential vehicle parking regulations. At that time, no major concerns were voiced regarding any of the new regulations. The final regulations were adopted and Zoning Bylaw #1368 came into effect in October 2017.

Why Did We Change The Parking Rules in 2019?

The intent of the parking regulations adopted in 2017 were to encourage residents to park all vehicles (licensed, unlicensed, recreational, etc.) on a driveway or improved driveway and not on their front lawns. This was in response to feedback received from residents that the community's residential areas were in need of beautification to encourage relocation and home sales.

In the preparation of the 2017 bylaw, **licensed vehicles** were missed in the list of vehicles and recreational vehicles/equipment that could **not** be parked on front lawns. This seemingly minor error has created issues with enforcement, thus it was recommended that we amend the bylaw.

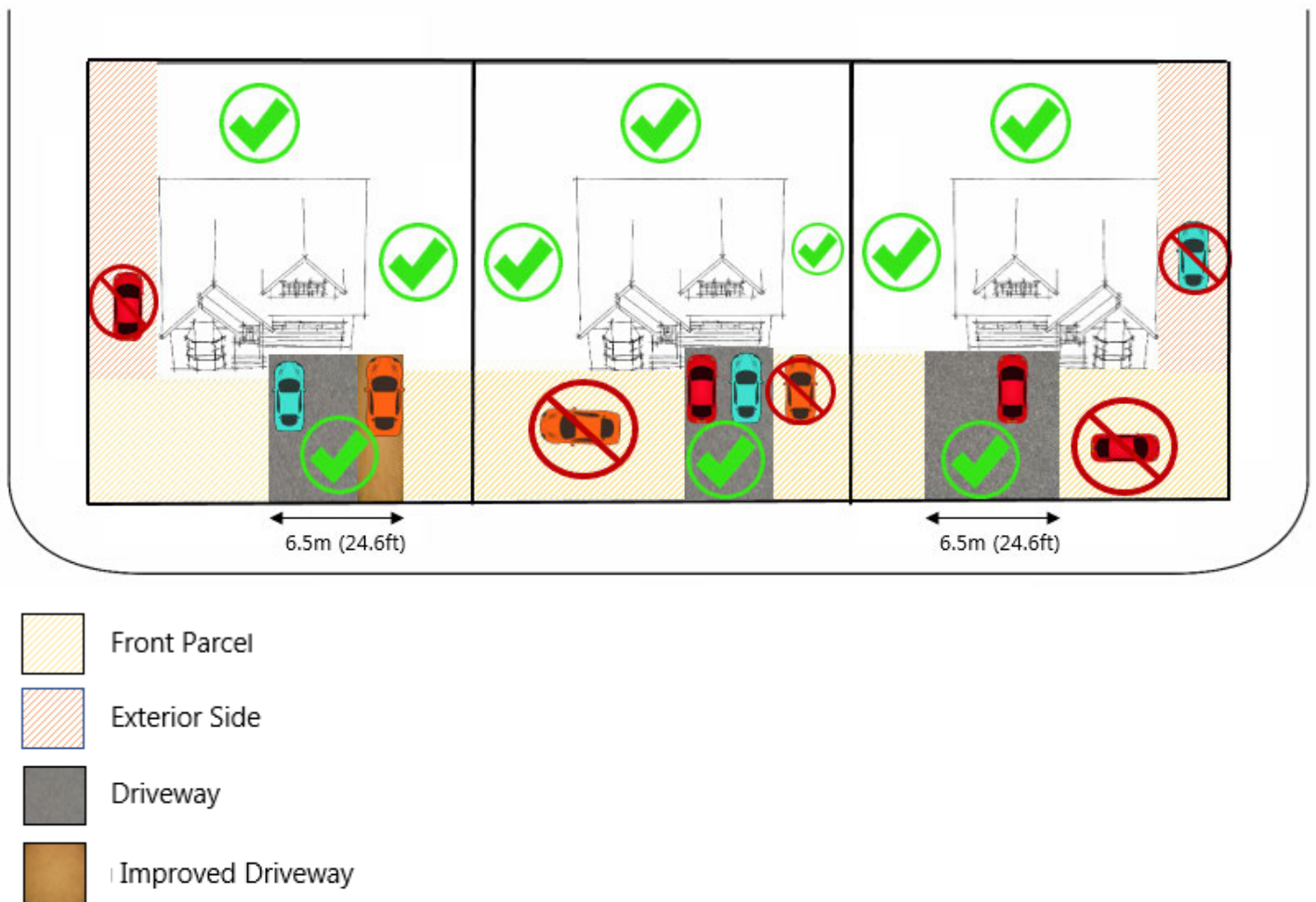
Based on resident feedback and practical use of the bylaw for enforcement, it was also made clear that the bylaw required clarification when it came to what a "front yard" actually meant in Mackenzie, especially in the case of corner lots, which essentially have two front lawns. The change to include "**side exterior yards**" was to clarify what was already intended in the 2017 regulations.

All Said & Done - Where Can We Park?

Simply put:

- in your driveway;
- on an improved driveway;
- in the backyard; or
- in an enclosed garage/shed; and
- **NOT** on your front or side lawns.

The below diagram gives a very simple view of where one can park however we recognize that not everyone's lot and driveway are set up this way, nor do they have backyard access. Please contact the District if you have concerns regarding your individual parking needs on your lot. Our staff is happy to visit your property to answer questions and discuss solutions.



Questions?

Feel free to contact the District at 250-997-3221 or stop by the office at 1 Mackenzie Blvd. Copies of the zoning bylaw and its amendments are available in-office or on the District of Mackenzie website at

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