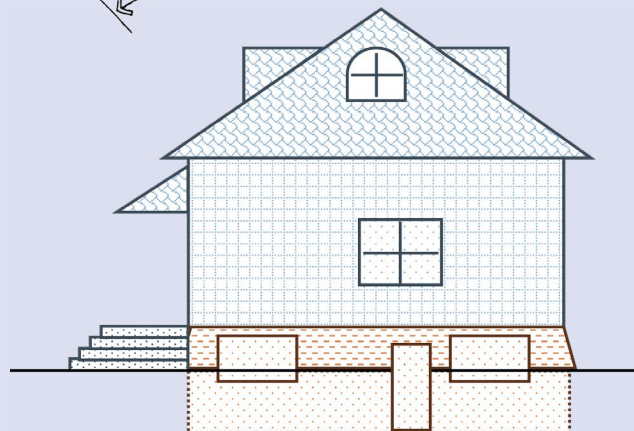
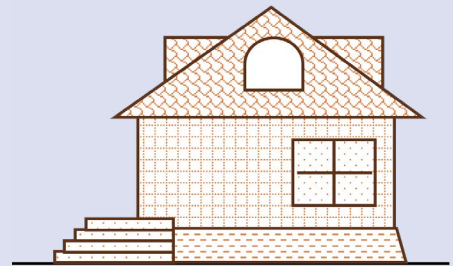
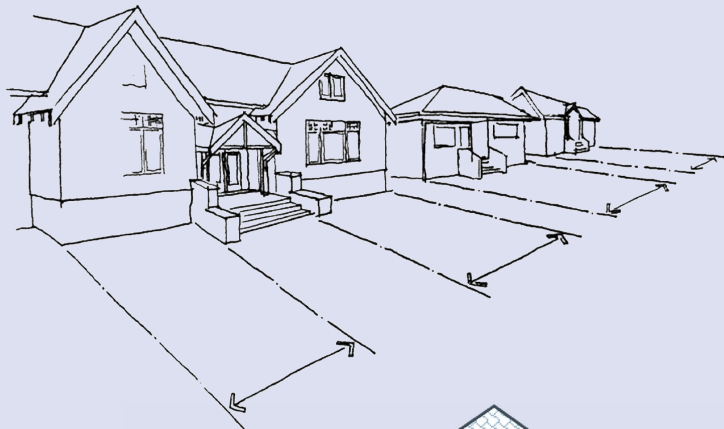


# Rebuilding Guide

A guide to rebuilding structures within Jasper townsite following the Jasper Wildfire Complex

October 2024



Parks Canada  
Parcs Canada



MUNICIPALITY OF  
**JASPER**

## Introduction

The Rebuilding Guide is a starting point for people rebuilding lost structures within the townsite of Jasper during the 2024 Jasper wildfire. You'll find four steps to consider as you design your rebuild. You'll also find a summary of the changes that were recently made to the development policies in Jasper to make rebuilding easier, increase the community's housing supply, and improve the community's wildfire and climate resilience.

The Municipality of Jasper is a mountain national park community located within Jasper National Park, which is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site and has five National Historic Sites within its boundaries. The park spans over 11,000 square kilometres and is the largest and most northerly Canadian national park in the Rocky Mountains.

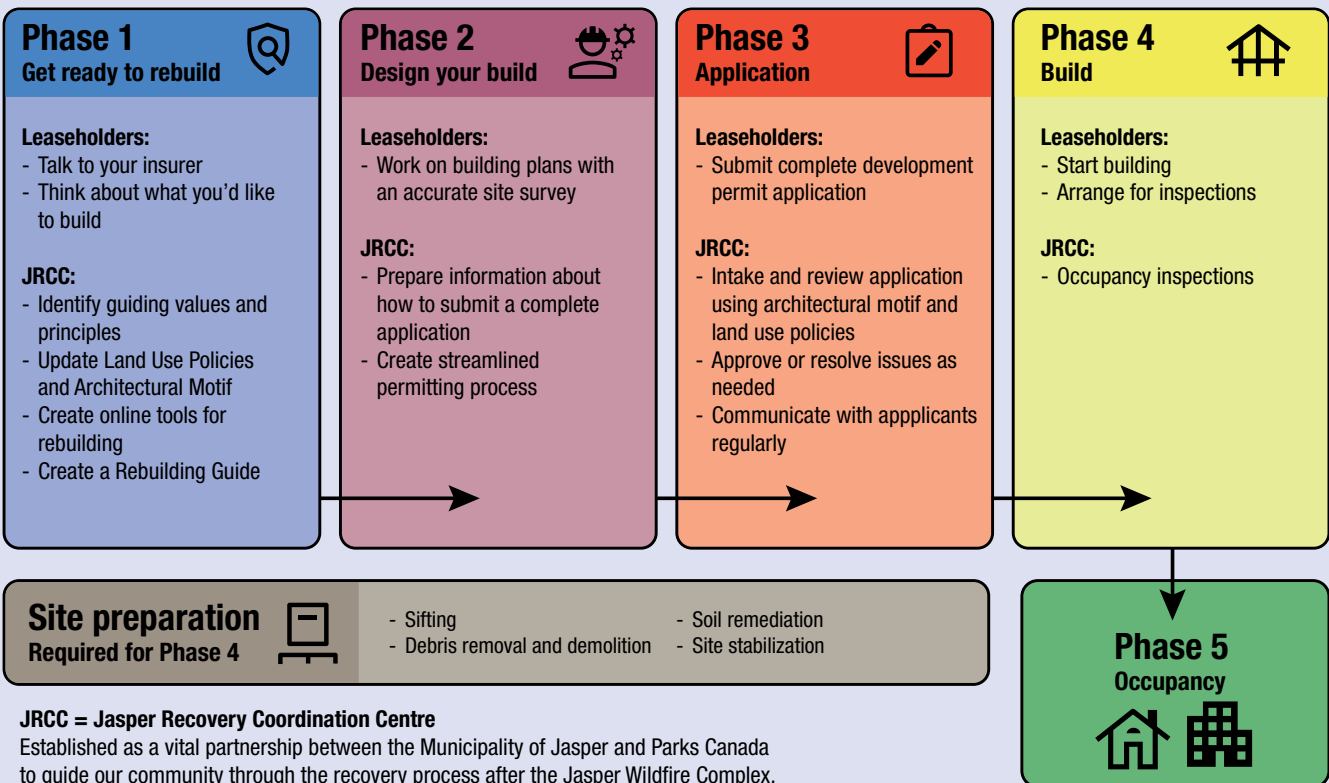
To support rebuilding this national park community Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper have outlined a 5-phase approach to Rebuilding Jasper. In Phase 1, values and principles were identified to guide the update to the policies that apply to

**The authority for development approval currently rests with Parks Canada. All permit applications should continue to be made to Parks Canada.**

development in Jasper: making rebuilding easier, rebuilding with wildfire in mind, increasing housing options, climate resilience, and sustainability. A summary of changes is included in this guide.

Now entering Phase 2, with the information you need to design your building available, planners from both Parks Canada and the Municipality are ready to meet with you to support this design work. Parks Canada continues to receive applications to rebuild and is making changes to improve the application process, knowing that there will be much more demand. More information on updated processes will be shared at the end of Phase 2.

# Rebuilding Phases



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*\* This guide is intended as an additional resource and does not replace the requirements outlined in the official policies that apply. In the event of a discrepancy between this document and official policies, the requirements outlined in the official policies shall take precedence.*

You can reach Parks Canada  
for more information at  
[jasperdevelopment@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jasperdevelopment@pc.gc.ca)  
or (780) 852-6123.

## Where to Find More Information

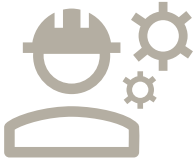
Please reach out if you have questions about the rules that apply to your building project, how to interpret land use and architectural policies, how to submit a permit application or any other questions related to project permits.

Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper recognize that more people are needed to process development applications as quickly as possible. We are adding people to our teams to be able to support the needs of our community. Please be patient as we grow our capacity to respond to questions and review permit applications. Stay tuned for additional ways to contact us or receive information updates.

**Information will be posted online on Parks Canada and Municipality of Jasper websites.**

### Other resources that may be helpful:

<b>Insurance Information</b>	Insurance Bureau of Canada	<a href="https://www.abc.ca/stay-protected/severe-weather-centre/wildfire-season">https://www.abc.ca/stay-protected/severe-weather-centre/wildfire-season</a> or <a href="mailto:AskIBCWest@abc.ca">AskIBCWest@abc.ca</a>
<b>Contractor Support</b>	Public Registry of Builder & Property Information	<a href="https://residentialprotection.alberta.ca/public-registry/Builder">https://residentialprotection.alberta.ca/public-registry/Builder</a>
	Canadian Association of Homebuilders	<a href="http://www.chba.ca/finding-a-renovator/">www.chba.ca/finding-a-renovator/</a>
<b>Planning and Development Questions</b>	Parks Canada Contacts	For questions related to specific land use policies and individual applications: <a href="mailto:jasperdevelopment@pc.gc.ca">jasperdevelopment@pc.gc.ca</a>
<b>Lease Questions</b>	Parks Canada Contacts	<a href="mailto:jasperrealtymunicipalservices@pc.gc.ca">jasperrealtymunicipalservices@pc.gc.ca</a>
<b>Other Resources</b>	Canadian Red Cross	<a href="http://www.redcross.ca/albertawildfires">www.redcross.ca/albertawildfires</a>
	Local Community Supports	<a href="https://jasper-alberta.ca/p/residentsupport">https://jasper-alberta.ca/p/residentsupport</a>



# Designing your Building

The following steps will guide you as you design your building.

---

## Step 1: Understand What Your Insurance Will Cover

*If you haven't already done so, contact your insurance provider and start a claim.*

It's important to consider what your policy includes and what you may need to pay for out of pocket. Review your homeowner's insurance policy to check the coverage limits and specific details. If you are unsure about the details, contact your insurance provider for a clear breakdown of what's included. This will help you make informed decisions and avoid unexpected costs as you begin the rebuilding process.

If you have questions, contact your insurance representative or visit the Insurance Bureau of Canada's dedicated [Wildfires and Insurance webpage](#). You can also call IBC's Consumer Information Centre at 1-844-2ASK-IBC (1-844-227-5422) or email [AskIBCWest@ibc.ca](mailto:AskIBCWest@ibc.ca).

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## Step 2: Consider Retaining Professionals

Engaging professionals to assist with the design and construction process will help you navigate the building process.

Help to find qualified and reputable designers and contractors can be found here:

- The [Alberta Association of Architects](#)
- The Government of Alberta [registry of licenced home-builders](#)
- [Canadian Association of Home Builders](#)

The types of professionals needed depend on the project. For a new build, you will likely need an architect (or architectural technologist) and a builder. You might also need to hire an engineer if your building has features that need to be engineered for safety features like significant retaining walls, if there are steep slopes on your site, or if your building has underground parking.

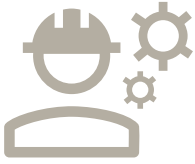
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## Step 3: Start Designing your Building

Development projects in the Jasper townsite are required to comply with the [Land Use Policy](#) and the [Architectural Motif Guidelines](#).

The **Land Use Policy** contains specific information related to what a building can look like (e.g., building height, setbacks from property lines) and what the land can be used for (e.g., commercial business, tourist accommodation, residential use, etc.). The document also contains information on parking and landscaping requirements.

The **Architectural Motif Guidelines** set out requirements on site layout, and architectural style requirements to protect and promote Jasper's iconic Mountain Architecture within the townsite.



### **Step 3: Start Designing your Building continued...**

#### **To start:**

1. **Check the zoning of your property.** Review the Town of Jasper Land Use [Map](#) to identify what land use district your property is in.
2. **Review the development rules** on the [Parks Canada website](#). This page has information about the rules that apply to different types of development. You can find information about the rules that apply to each of the following types of development:
  - a. [Residential homes](#)
  - b. [Commercial buildings](#)
  - c. [Garages](#)
  - d. Mobile Homes
  - e. [Secondary Suites](#)
  - f. [Fences](#)
3. **Review updated [exterior building materials](#)** permitted in Jasper. Exterior materials are restricted for wildfire resiliency, and other climate hazards and to preserve Jasper's mountain architecture.
4. **Work with your project professionals** to design your building, taking into consideration your budget and ensuring your proposed design complies with the Land Use Policy and Architectural Motif.
5. **Contact Parks Canada** if you have questions. We recommend that you contact the Parks Canada Development Office to set up a meeting before submitting a permit application. This can help prevent delays that come with an incomplete application or an application that needs changes to meet development requirements.

**Development Officers are available for in-person or virtual meetings on a by-appointment basis.** Setting up an appointment allows us to review your file before the meeting to make sure that you get the best guidance and answers to your questions. To set up a meeting, please email at [jasperdevelopment@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jasperdevelopment@pc.gc.ca) or call at (780) 852-6123.



## Step 4: Submit A Permit Application

Once you have reviewed the requirements for your property, the next step is to work with, prepare and submit an application for a [development permit](#).

### Understanding the Permit Process

There are two main permits that you will need to start construction of your new building: a development permit and a building permit. In most cases, the process will be to:

1. **Apply for and obtain a Parks Canada Development Permit.**

An approved Development Permit confirms that a development proposal complies with the criteria and specifications set out in all relevant Parks Canada policies, acts and regulations.

The Parks Canada Development Website includes [checklists of information](#) you need to provide based on the type of development proposed. **Please make sure you review these checklists carefully before submitting an application.** Incomplete applications are one of the biggest causes of delays in reviewing permit applications.

The development permit application is your opportunity to provide the clearest possible picture of the proposed project. The more detailed information you provide, the fewer questions the Development Office may have. Review and approval timelines depend on the quality and complexity of the submission.

2. **Apply for and Obtain a Parks Canada Building Permit.**

A building permit confirms your project complies with relevant provincial building safety codes. **A building permit enables you to begin construction.**

[This webpage](#) has more information on the building permit process, including the [application form](#) and [application checklist](#).

### Fees

There are fees associated with permits. For more information on what fees may apply to projects, please contact the Development Office.

### Timelines

Projects submitted to the Development Office are reviewed in the order they are received. Review and approval timelines will depend on the complexity of what is being submitted.



# New Development Policies

In preparing for the rebuild, planners from Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper completed a review of Parks Canada's existing development policies for the Town of Jasper. After seeking feedback from the Municipality of Jasper's Mayor and Council, updated policies were approved by the Superintendent on October 28, 2024.

These policy updates were guided by the following values and principles:

1. **Simplify the development review and approval process** to make building easier for lessees.
2. **Rebuild with wildfire in mind**, using the latest FireSmart research to improve Jasper's resilience to fire.
3. **Increase housing options** for Jasperites, to ensure our actions now assist with housing supply in the long term.
4. **Rebuild with climate resilience in mind**, supporting our efforts to be a community at the forefront of sustainability efforts.
5. **Enhance Jasper's built-form character**, to ensure the unique qualities of Jasper are maintained.

The policy updates are simple changes to make rebuilding easier. More significant changes will take place later, with community discussion and exploration, once rebuilding is underway. Red-lined versions of the updated policies are available on request by contacting [jasperdevelopment@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jasperdevelopment@pc.gc.ca).

**For more information:**  
[Land Use Policy](#)  
[Architectural Motif Guidelines](#)

## Key Changes to Improve Wildfire Resilience

Development policies play an important role in keeping communities safe. Specific policies to improve wildfire resilience of individual buildings help reduce the potential impact a wildfire will have on a community.

Buildings lost to wildfires are often first ignited by embers. Once one building catches on fire, it can then spread from building to building across a community. By reducing the susceptibility of a building to catching on fire, the chances of a building—and all the neighbouring buildings—surviving a wildfire are greatly increased.

After review and engagement with Natural Resources Canada on the latest wildfire-urban interface fires best practices, like those adopted in [FireSmart](#) guidelines, several key changes were made to Jasper's development policies to improve the community's future resilience to wildfire to ensure community safety:

1. **Prohibiting new wood siding or roofing.** Wood has historically been a key feature of Jasper architecture but is highly flammable. Moving forward, wood other than heavy timber will no longer be permitted. Heavy timber, metal, fibre-cement board, stucco, and masonry will continue to be permitted as they are less flammable and less susceptible to melting.
2. **Requiring a 1.5 m buffer zone of non-flammable materials around a home.** This 'immediate ignition zone' is the area most vulnerable to embers. Flammable materials in this buffer zone can act like a wick— if they catch on fire, the fire can spread to the home.

Under the new policies:

- a. **Wooden fences** are still permitted, but they must be separated at least 1.5 m from the edge of a structure to reduce the risk of a fence catching a home on fire. This could be managed by having a metal gate or non-combustible panel closest to the building.
- b. **Wooden decks** will still be permitted, but decks, porches, or steps within the 1.5 m buffer zone must be made of non-flammable material or surfaced with non-flammable material. The spaces under decks should be kept clear of debris and flammable material and should be skirted to stop debris from accumulating there.
- c. **Only non-flammable landscaping** options will be permitted within the first 1.5 m of the buffer zone. Planners will work with you to find options that are suitable for you and are in alignment with the FireSmart guidelines, among other things such as approved planting lists and water conservation.



## Key Changes to Improve Wildfire Resilience continued...

3. **Requiring that new coniferous trees be planted at least 10 m away from a building** to reduce the flammability of the yard. This is important because these types of trees are highly flammable and if combustible landscaping ignites it can produce embers that may ignite combustible materials and increase the chance of direct flame spreading to the home.

### A Word on Wood

Wood is an important part of the architecture in Jasper. Plentiful in the early days, it became a common part of the local architecture and an iconic part of important buildings. Since the 1990s, the Architectural Motif Guidelines largely supported this, promoting wood siding and roofing, wooden detailing and wood's use in everything from signs to lamp posts.

Wood siding and roofing is a major risk both to individual structures and to the community as a whole and is no longer allowed for new developments in Jasper. This is a significant change and necessary to help protect Jasper in the long term.

Heavy timber log construction, or the use of wood detailing in the form of heavy timbers, is still allowed and aligns with the bold, robust detailing that is emblematic of mountain architecture.

The [FireSmart Home Development Guide](#) has information on how to design or retrofit buildings and yards to provide protection from fire.

## Key Changes to Increase Housing

Housing has been a concern in Jasper for many years. Since 2007, the residential vacancy rate for Jasper has been between 0 and 0.4%. Over the last few decades, community consultations have consistently identified additional housing as a priority for the Jasper community.

To create potential for additional housing in Jasper and to give leaseholders more flexibility, the following changes were made to Jasper's development policies:

1. **Leaseholders with lots formerly zoned for single-detached dwellings can now build either one or two primary dwelling units on a lot.** Leaseholders will now have the option to build a duplex on most residential lots in Jasper. Leaseholders still have the option to build a single detached home. This builds on previous work to allow secondary suites and garage suites in many residential areas.
2. **Parking requirements have been reduced.** Under the new rules, only one parking stall is required per primary dwelling unit. Parking takes up a lot of space. For example, four parking spaces side-by-side on a surface parking lot require a similar amount of space as a one-bedroom apartment. Reducing parking requirements creates more space on a lot for housing. Leaseholders can build more parking on their lot if they choose.
3. **More options for accessory dwelling units.** Leaseholders can now build garden suites on residential lots—a source of long-term rental income and increase housing density. A garden suite is a self-contained home that can be built in the rear yard of a residential property instead of a garage.
4. **Subdivision was made easier.** Subdividing one lot into two or more lots that can be bought or sold will be easier in two ways: 1) subdivision is now permitted in areas where it used to be prohibited, and 2) minimum lot widths have been eliminated. This means that leaseholders can now build a duplex, divide the lot in two, and sell the other half of the duplex.

# Possibilities when Designing Your Building

The updated rules for residential buildings in Jasper allow for a wider range of housing options. These options improve the financial feasibility of rebuilding and allow more housing for Jasperites.

The following section shows some of the housing options allowed in Jasper.

## Housing Forms

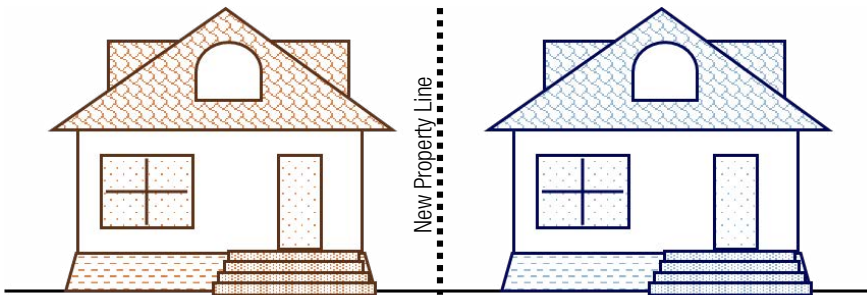
## Districts Allowed

### One-Unit Dwellings

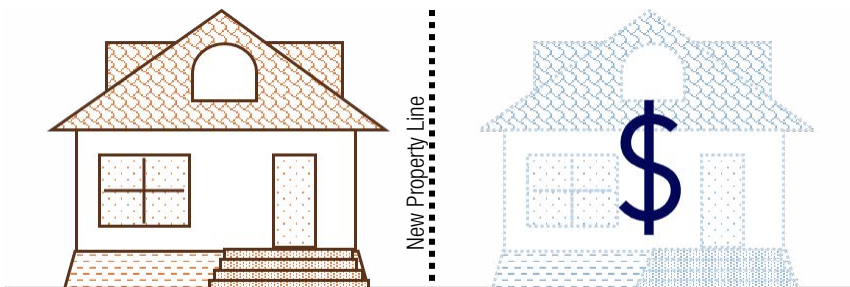
One-Unit Dwelling — Rebuild a single home.



Subdivide an existing lot and construct one or more detached homes.



You could also build one side and sell the other.



R1, R2, R2H,  
R3a, R3b, R4

## Housing Forms

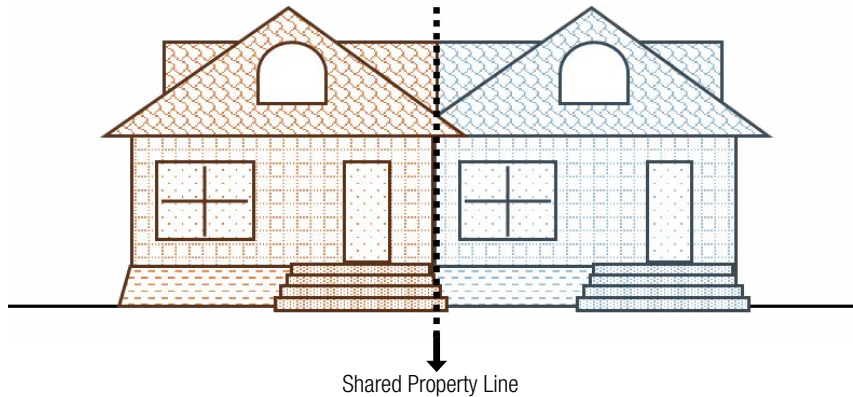
## Districts Allowed

### Two-Unit Dwellings (aka duplex, semi-detached homes)

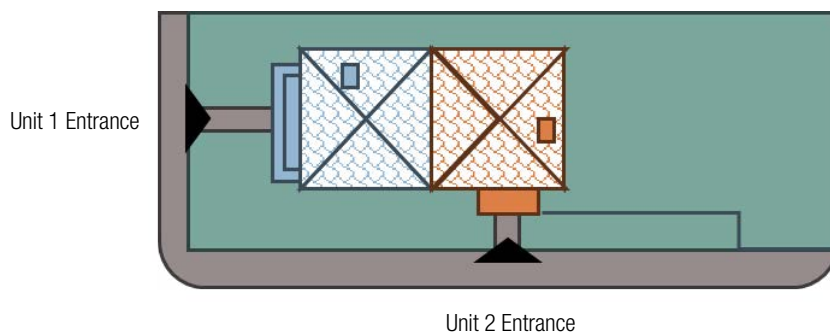
Side-by-side duplex: If you're thinking about building a duplex, you could sell a 1/2 interest in your lease and work with the other owner to build a duplex together.



Zero-lot line two-unit dwellings: If you're thinking about building a duplex, you could also subdivide your lease and submit a development permit with the adjacent landowners.



Front-back duplexes: If you're thinking about building a duplex on a corner lot, you could design a building with two primary units, one facing each street.



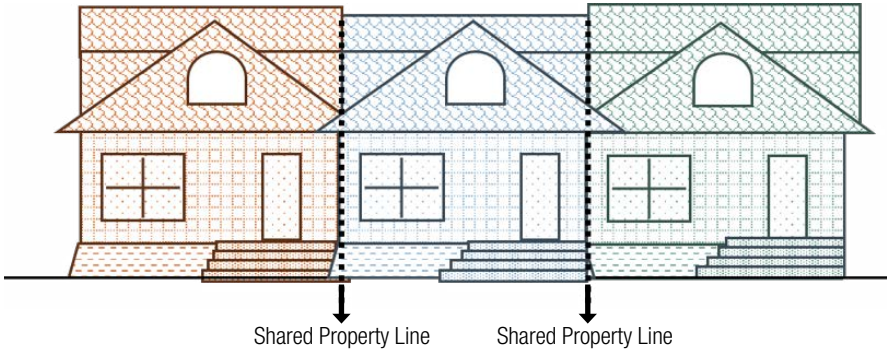
R1, R2, R2H,  
R3a, R4

**Housing Forms**

**Districts Allowed**

**Multi-Unit Developments**

Rowhouse units (3+ units): Rowhouses could be built either as a multi-unit development on a single lot, by subdividing a single lot, or by working with neighbours to build separate units up to the shared property lines.



Small Apartments (up to 6 units allowed in R3a)

Larger Apartments (6+ units)

**CCWc, R3a, R3b**  
and most other residential areas with permission of neighbours

**R3a, R3b**

**R3b**

**Questions?**

[jasperdevelopment@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jasperdevelopment@pc.gc.ca) or (780) 852-6123

**Accessory Dwelling Units**

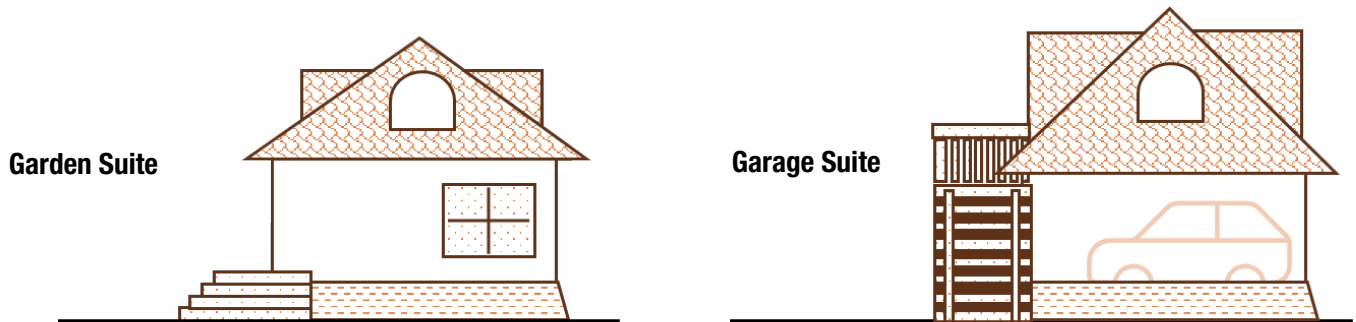
An accessory dwelling is a second, smaller home on the same lot as a main house. This can include a unit attached to or within the main house (secondary suite).

A primary dwelling with:  
**Basement Suite**



*Accessory Dwelling Units  
continued...*

Accessory dwellings can also include an apartment over a separate garage (garage suite), or a small home on a foundation in the backyard (garden suite).



In most residential zones in Jasper, leaseholders are allowed to build up to 1 secondary suite and/or 1 garage or garden suite per primary dwelling on a site (subject to site coverage rules).





### *Accessory Dwelling Units continued...*

Building a house with an accessory dwelling unit – or designing it so that it has the potential for an accessory unit in the future – can provide additional housing in Jasper and give you potential rental income without adding significantly to your building costs.

Some examples of this could include:

On a site with a single detached home, the leaseholder decides to rebuild a home. Five years after construction, the leaseholder saved enough money to build a garage and decides to put a suite above that garage.



On a site with a duplex in Cabin Creek, the owner of Side A decides to build a secondary suite above the attached garage, and the owner of Side B decides to build a wheelchair-accessible suite on the main floor of their unit.



**\*Non-residential buildings:** If you are building a commercial property, please reach out to the Parks Canada Development Office to discuss site development options for your property.



## What else can I do?

The Architectural Motif Guidelines and Land Use Policy set minimum expectations for development in Jasper. As a national park community located within a national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site, these rules balance the need for architectural quality with affordability and flexibility for individual leaseholders while also ensuring the unique qualities of Jasper are maintained. If you would like to go beyond the minimum expectations when considering things like FireSmart, climate resilience, housing or architectural character the resources in the next section are available to help.

### Building with Wildfire in Mind

FireSmart Canada has many resources that are available to help residents and landowners develop their properties to help protect them from wildfires. These resources are available on the [FireSmart Canada website](#). Additional information on wildland-urban interface fire best practices specific to commercial and multi-unit residential structures is available. Please contact Parks Canada directly for more information.

Specific resources that might be useful include:

- [FireSmart Homeowner Resources](#)
- [FireSmart Begins at Home Guide](#)
- [FireSmart Home Development Guide](#)
- [FireSmart Guide to Landscaping \(Second Edition\)](#)

#### **Lessees are encouraged to implement additional FireSmart best practices for existing and new buildings:**

- Install a metal roof on your home or business
- Install vent and exhaust covers with 3 mm non-combustible screening
- Install tempered glass or thermal multi-paned windows
- Install eavestrough covers to stop embers
- Make sure to keep eavestroughs clear of debris and leaves
- Replace your deck with non-combustible materials
- Screen the base of your deck with lattice or non-combustible materials to stop debris and embers from accumulating
- Pick fire-resistant plants identified in the FireSmart Guide to Landscaping and aligned with Parks Canada's planting lists
- Provide more space between your building and any downslope vegetation
- Clear branches from conifers to a minimum height of 3.0 metres
- Provide a minimum of 3.0 m separation between trees



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## Rebuild with Climate Resilience in Mind

Changes have been made to the Architectural Motif Guidelines to better align building and site designs with best practices in Climate Resilience, but more ambitious climate resilience actions have generally been left to individual leaseholders to implement.

If you want to take climate action and wish to reduce energy costs and improve energy conservation during your building design, some of the following actions can be taken.

- Designing your home to net-zero or net-zero-ready standards can significantly reduce your long-term carbon emissions and also mitigate the impacts of changes in energy costs. Resources from Efficiency Canada are an effective tool to help design your home to [Net Zero Standards](#).
- Consider implementing principles of [Passive House Design](#), which can help to dramatically reduce the heating and cooling needs of your home by implementing higher levels of insulation, actively designing for energy efficiency and taking advantage of sun and shadow on your property.
- Wildfire is not the only climate risk that Jasper will face in the coming years, more information on expected climate risks can be found in the [Municipality of Jasper's Climate Risk Assessment Report](#).



## Next Steps

While you are designing your building, Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper are now focused on improving the development application review process, including preparing our teams to handle a large volume of applications and streamline processing times so you can start construction when you're ready.

As you use the guide, please provide us with feedback about how to make the guide more useful. Further, if you have questions about how the new development rules apply to your redevelopment, please contact us at [jasperdevelopment@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jasperdevelopment@pc.gc.ca) or (780) 852-6123.

***Best wishes to you and your building!***

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## General Questions

### **How can I get a copy of my lease or the original plans for my building?**

Jasper National Park's Realty and Municipal Service Office is available to assist you. If you need lost documents, such as copies of leases, Real Property Reports and plans, please reach out to [jasperrealtymunicipalservices@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jasperrealtymunicipalservices@pc.gc.ca)

### **Where can I find more information on the demolition and site preparation work?**

Additional information on the bulk debris removal program can be found on the [Municipality of Jasper website](#).

Those who are undertaking demolition and debris removal on an individual site can find more information about demolition permits on the [Rebuilding Jasper Parks Canada website](#).

### **I used to operate a home-based business at my property that was destroyed.**

#### **Do I need to re-apply for permission to operate my business?**

To make it easier for business operators, home-based businesses in buildings that were destroyed in the fire are not required to re-apply for business licensing permits during the rebuild process.

### **Can I build exactly the same building that I lost?**

Similar to before the fire, all new development, even if it is to replace a structure that was destroyed, must be built in accordance with the current [Land Use Policy](#), [Architectural Motif](#), and [Safety Codes](#). This may mean that some structures may not be able to be built exactly as they were before. If you would like to build a similar structure to what you had before, but the current policies would prevent you from doing so, please talk to the Parks Canada Development Office to discuss what options are available to you.

### **What if I don't want to or can't feasibly rebuild?**

We understand rebuilding is not the best decision for everyone, please reach out to [jasperrealtymunicipalservices@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jasperrealtymunicipalservices@pc.gc.ca) or (780) 852-6220 to talk about the options that are available to you.

### **What changes were made to the Land Use Policy and Architectural Motif?**

Information on important changes to the Land Use Policy and Architectural Motif are found earlier in the Rebuild Guide. If you would like a detailed summary or redline copies of the changes made to the Architectural Motif and Land Use Policy, please reach out to the Parks Canada Development Office.

### **Do these development policy updates mean I need to make changes to my existing home?**

Existing homes are not required to make changes to align with the updated development policies. When it comes time to replace roofs, siding or other areas, depending on the scope of the renovations, as was the case before the wildfire, leaseholders may be required to bring their development into alignment with modern policies and code.

As always, leaseholders are encouraged to undertake simple maintenance actions like keeping firewood and other combustible materials away from buildings, pruning bushes and trees away from buildings, and regularly cleaning leaves and other combustible materials away from roofs, eaves and under decks.

## *General Questions continued...*

### **When will the Municipality take over authority for planning and development from Parks Canada?**

Bill C-76, an Act to amend the *Canada National Parks Act*, received royal assent on October 3, 2024. The bill enables Parks Canada to transfer some of the authorities for land use planning and development to the Municipality of Jasper.

The transfer of specific authorities for the management of day-to-day administration of land use planning and development will take place after a number of steps occur (e.g. establishment of a community plan and land use bylaw). Until that time, Parks Canada remains the land use planning and development authority and will continue to accept and consider applications for development in the townsite of Jasper.

### **What are Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper working on next?**

Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper are committed to the following:

- Making changes to the approved planting lists to incorporate FireSmart best practices
- Creating a new community plan for Jasper<sup>1</sup>
- Creating a land use bylaw for Jasper<sup>1</sup>
- Creating new architectural standards and guidelines for Jasper<sup>1</sup>
- Completing the transfer of specific land use planning and development authorities from Parks Canada to the Municipality of Jasper

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## **Residential Buildings**

### **I have a double lot—does that mean I can build two homes?**

This will depend on how your lease is structured. If you have a single leasehold on a double lot and would like to build a home on each lot, you will need to subdivide your lease. Talk to the Development Office at [jasperrealtymunicipalservices@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jasperrealtymunicipalservices@pc.gc.ca) for more on this.

### **Can I subdivide my property?**

One of the changes to the land use policy was to remove the minimum site width allowed for each district. This means that where development is feasible, lots and leases could be subdivided to accommodate additional lots and development.

Subdivision involves two processes—subdividing the land and subdividing your lease. For more information on the lease subdivision process and associated fees, please contact [jasperrealtymunicipalservices@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jasperrealtymunicipalservices@pc.gc.ca).

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<sup>1</sup> Existing Parks Canada policies in many cases may be adopted/used as a starting point in establishing municipal bylaws and standards.

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## Mobile Homes

### Can I replace my destroyed mobile home with a new one?

Mobile homes are only allowed on lots in the R4 District subject to the Land Use Policies in Section 7.15. Property owners who lost a mobile home are permitted to replace it with another mobile home subject to safety code requirements and the requirements of the [Land Use Policy](#). Mobile homes are not permitted elsewhere in the Jasper townsite.

### I want to buy a new mobile home – are there any restrictions I need to know?

The [Land Use Policy](#) requirements for the replacement of mobile homes are based on the requirements that were established for mobile homes in Jasper in 1992 and were updated to: a) grant more flexibility to mobile home owners, b) align with requirements for permanent structures in the land use district, and c) align with modern safety codes.

Any mobile home placed on a lot in Jasper must comply with applicable safety codes. We strongly encourage you to contact a [safety codes officer](#) before purchasing a used mobile home to verify it meets the current code. To avoid any issues, please do not purchase a new mobile home before confirming that the mobile home meets current building code requirements for mobile homes.

As with all districts, The [Land Use Policy](#) establishes restrictions on the size of a mobile home, setbacks, site coverage, and parking to maintain the character of the neighbourhood.

### Can I buy a used mobile home?

Any mobile home placed on a lot in Jasper must comply with applicable safety codes. We strongly encourage you to contact a [safety codes officer](#) before purchasing a used mobile home to verify it meets the current code. All mobile homes will be required to have a minimum 4:12 roof pitch and meet Architectural Motif Requirements regarding siding and roofing. Vinyl siding is not permitted.

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## Commercial Buildings

### How does the commercial floor area cap impact building a commercial building impacted by fire?

Under the *Canada National Parks Act*, the amount of floor area that can be developed for commercial purposes is limited in the Town of Jasper. This is to ensure there are enough residential lands available to provide a comfortable living community for the national park visitor service centre, with a limited land base that is fixed in law.

The commercial floor area cap is allocated on a lot-by-lot basis. Redevelopment of buildings that had been allocated commercial floor area before the fire can build up to their pre-fire commercial area allocation.

If you are a commercial leaseholder who is not interested in rebuilding, please reach out to Parks Canada to indicate what your plans are for the site.

## *Commercial Buildings continued...*

### **Can I construct a larger building than what I had before?**

There is currently 2,091 square metres (22,500 square feet) of commercial floor area remaining to be allocated in the Jasper townsite. There is no remaining commercial floor area to be allocated in the industrial park.

If you would like to expand the commercial floor area of your building, your first step is to apply to the Parks Canada Development Office for additional commercial floor area. Commercial floor area is limited, and applications may not be successful. Applications are taken once per year. The deadline for applications for 2024 is November 30<sup>th</sup>. More information on this process can be [found here](#).

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## **Application Questions**

### **How long will it take for my permit application to be reviewed?**

Timelines will vary depending on the complexity of the application. The Parks Canada Development Office is currently experiencing an unprecedented volume of inquiries and applications. We are actively working to bring in additional resources to speed up application review timelines. We appreciate your patience as we review your application.

### **What can I do to speed up the application process?**

To speed up the process, make sure you are submitting a complete application by following the appropriate [checklist for your development](#).

Incomplete applications cause delays in reviewing permit applications. If an application is incomplete, development officers will let you know what is missing and pause their review of your file until the missing information is submitted.

Make sure you have:

- All the required drawings and plans
- Label all the plans with dimensions in metric
- Provide as much detail as possible

### **Do I need a Landscape Plan?**

We have allowed flexibility to make rebuilding easier, therefore approved landscape plans are required prior to issuing a final occupancy permit.

### **I submitted an application before the policies were updated. How will my application be reviewed?**

All applications submitted after the new rules come into effect will be reviewed based on the updated policies. Applicants with ongoing applications will be notified of the changes, and their alignment will be discussed with the Development Office. For in-progress applications, Parks Canada is committed to working collaboratively with applicants to ensure that those applications can continue to proceed in a timely manner.

*Application questions  
continued...*

**What is a variance, and am I eligible for one?**

A variance means a relaxation to the planning, architectural, siting or other requirements of the Land Use Policy due to unique site conditions or built heritage resource factors. This can be reducing a required setback or allowing a building to be built slightly taller than the height limit for the land use district.

The Superintendent has the ability to approve development permits with variances **only if**:

- the proposed development would not unduly interfere with the amenities of the area or the use, enjoyment, safety, aesthetics, or value of neighbouring properties; **and**
- an unusual site configuration, soil conditions, or other factors, which are peculiar to the site and not the result of actions of the applicant, may result in unnecessary hardship or practical difficulties for the proposed development; or
- approval of the variance would likely improve the quality of the design.

To apply for a variance, please [review the guidance on the Parks Canada website](#), then submit [this form](#) to the development office. Major decisions will go through the standard process of community notification.

**For more frequently asked questions  
and our development checklist.**

