

Staff Report for Decision

File Number: DP1198

Edit

DATE OF MEETING July 26, 2021

AUTHORED BY LISA BRINKMAN, PLANNER, CURRENT PLANNING

SUBJECT DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NO. DP1198

- 361 ALBERT STREET

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To present for Council's consideration, a development permit application for a five-storey building with 22 residential units and a live/work studio at 361 Albert Street.

Recommendation

That Council issue Development Permit No. 1198 at 361 Albert Street with one variance to increase the maximum allowable building height from 11.2m to 14.0m.

BACKGROUND

A development permit application, DP1198, was received from Douglas R. Johnson Architect Ltd. on behalf of Gagan Sharma for a five-storey building with 22 residential units and a live/work studio to be located at 361 Albert Street.

Subject Property and Site Context

Zoning	DT9 Old City Central		
Location	The subject property is located in the downtown area on the east end of Albert Street between Cavan Street and Robarts Street.		
Total Area	0.1ha		
Official Community Plan (OCP)	Map 1 – Future Land Use Plan - Neighbourhood Map 3 – Development Permit Area No. 9 - Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Multiple Family and Mixed Commercial/Residential development; and Development Permit Area No. 8 – Old City Neighbourhood		
Old City Neighbourhood Concept Plan	Sub Area 5 - Central Commercial		
Relevant Design Guidelines			

The subject property is a vacant, sloping site located in the Old City Neighbourhood. The site has a 14m grade change from the northwest corner of the site to the southeast corner. The property is surrounded by a mix of commercial and office uses located on Albert Street, as well as multi-family uses located on Hecate Street.



DISCUSSION

Proposed Development

The applicant is proposing a five-storey building with 22 residential units, a live/work studio, and partial underground parking. The subject property is zoned DT9, which permits a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 1.1 when parking spaces are provided fully or partially underground. A FAR of 1.1 is proposed for the development.

Unit Type	Number of Units	Units Sizes
Live/Work studio	1	36m ²
One bedroom	21	37m ² – 50m ²
Two bedroom	1	69m ²
Total	23 units	

Site Design

The building will front onto Albert Street with a partially underground parking level built into the slope of the land. Street-level pedestrian access is provided to the primary entrance lobby and to the live/work studio on the main level. The driveway access to the parking garage is at the centre of the building. A common outdoor amenity area for residents is proposed on the top of the parking structure at the rear of the property, and is accessed from the second level of the building. Four stepped retaining walls with landscaping are proposed at the rear of the property to provide a gradual transition to the grade changes.

Building Design

The proposed five-storey building will face Albert Street, with four storeys visible from the rear of the parcel. The building is a contemporary design with generous glazing, a flat roof, and balconies for each unit. The exterior façade materials consist of cement panel and horizontal siding. The primary building entrance is accented by a glass canopy with steel supports. The door to the parking garage will be steel frame with frosted glass panels. The parking garage will contain one electric vehicle charger (with rough-in for two additional charging stations), indoor bike storage room with an electrical bike charger, garbage and recycling room, and parking spaces. The upper four storeys consist of residential units with covered outdoor balconies. The proposed design meets the City's design guidelines.

Landscape Design

There is a level pedestrian access from the sidewalk to the primary building entrance, and the front yard area contains a bench, bike rack, and landscaping. The live/work studio can also be accessed from the sidewalk, and generous landscaping screens the outdoor patio space from the public realm. The outdoor amenity area for residents at the rear of the property will contain vegetable garden plots, an outdoor kitchen, play area for children, and plantings. The set of cement retaining walls at the rear will be landscaped with Douglas fir, magnolia trees, various maple trees, and a variety of shrubs and grasses. Concrete steps are located along the south side property line to provide access to the retaining wall landscape areas. At the rear of the property, a railing will be located on the retaining wall along the side and rear property lines. Exterior lighting will be provided at building entrances and within the amenity area.



Design Advisory Panel

The Design Advisory Panel (DAP), at its meeting held on 2020-SEP-10, accepted DP001198 as presented with support for the proposed variance. The following recommendations were provided:

- Consider the incorporation of Staff comments, particularly with respect to the side elevations.
- Consider the roof material and colour selection to respect the significant overlook by neighbouring properties.
- Consider reducing the parkade length and number of parking stalls to allow for a stepped retaining wall at the rear of the property.

The applicant responded to the DAP recommendations by improving the visual interest on the side elevations of the building with the addition of a pattern of coloured panels in complementary colours. A pattern of artificial grass is proposed on the roof to provide visual interest with a low-maintenance product. The rear yard area was also improved with the addition of stepped retaining walls to create an attractive environment in the rear yard, and to accommodate the change in elevation.

Proposed Variance

Building Height

The maximum allowable building height is 11.2m in the DT9 zone, and the proposed building height is 14.0m; a proposed variance of 2.8m.

The subject property has a significant grade change of approximately 14m from Albert Street to the rear of the property. The surrounding residential properties are at higher elevations, and the grade of the residential properties to the rear are approximately level with the upper storey of the proposed building. The rear façade of the proposed building is a four-storey presentation, and the front façade is a five-storey presentation.

In addition, the proposed building has a reduced footprint and is sited closer to the front lot line in the lowest portion of the property, with an amenity area and landscaped area proposed for the rear half of the property. Also, the wall face of the upper storey of the building is recessed to allow for larger balconies, reducing the size of the upper storey. A six-storey office building is located directly across the street at 495 Dunsmuir Street.

Thus, the topography of the neighbourhood, the siting of the building, the reduced building footprint, the recessed upper storey, and the amenity and landscaped area at the rear half of the property all contribute to preserving the public view corridors for the area.

Staff support the proposed variance.



SUMMARY POINTS

- Development Permit Application No. DP1198 is for a development with 22 residential units and a live/work studio.
- A variance is requested for the building height from 11.2m to 14.0m.
- The proposed development addresses the City's design guidelines, and Staff support the proposed variance.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Permit Terms and Conditions

ATTACHMENT B: Context Map ATTACHMENT C: Location Plan

ATTACHMENT D: Site and Parking Plans

ATTACHMENT E: Building Elevations and Details

ATTACHMENT F: Building Renderings

ATTACHMENT G: Landscape Plan and Details

ATTACHMENT H: Aerial Photo

Submitted by:

Concurrence by:

Lainya Rowett Jeremy Holm

Manager, Current Planning Director, Development Approvals

Dale Lindsay

General Manager, Development Services

ATTACHMENT A PERMIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TERMS OF PERMIT

The "City of Nanaimo Zoning Bylaw 2011 No. 4500" is varied as follows:

1. Section 7.6.1 – Size of Buildings – to increase the maximum allowable principal building height from 11.2m to 14.0m.

CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

- 1. The subject property shall be developed generally in accordance with the proposed Site and Parking Plans prepared by Douglas R. Johnson Architect Ltd., dated 2021-JUN-01, as shown on Attachment D.
- 2. The development is in substantial compliance with the proposed Building Elevations and Details prepared by Douglas R. Johnson Architect Ltd., dated 2021-JUN-01, as shown on Attachment E.
- 3. The subject property is developed in substantial compliance with the proposed Landscape Plan and Details prepared by PMG Landscape Architects., dated 2021-MAY-18, as shown on Attachment G.

ATTACHMENT B CONTEXT MAP

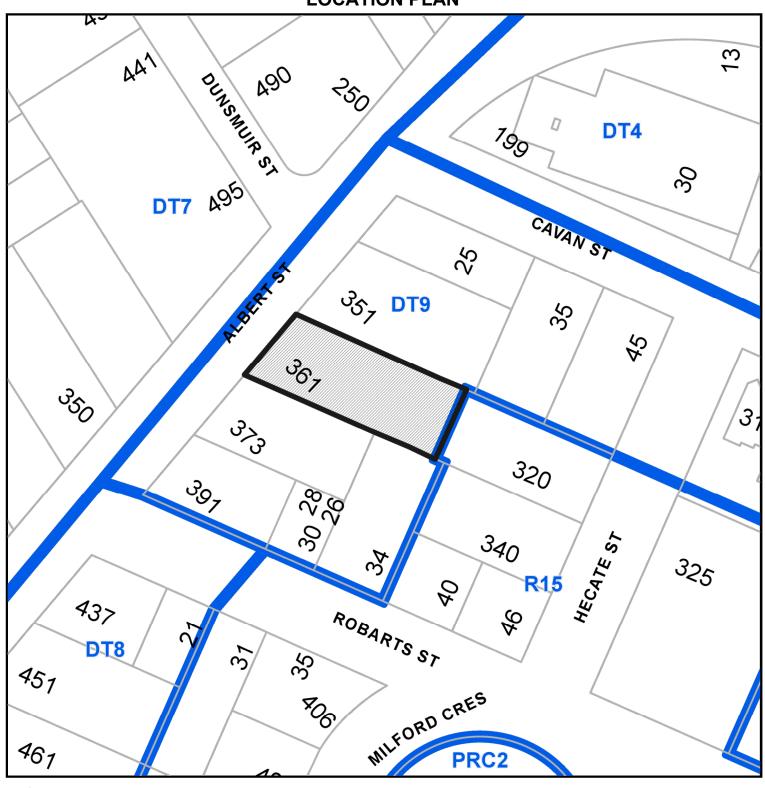


DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NO. DP001198





ATTACHMENT C LOCATION PLAN





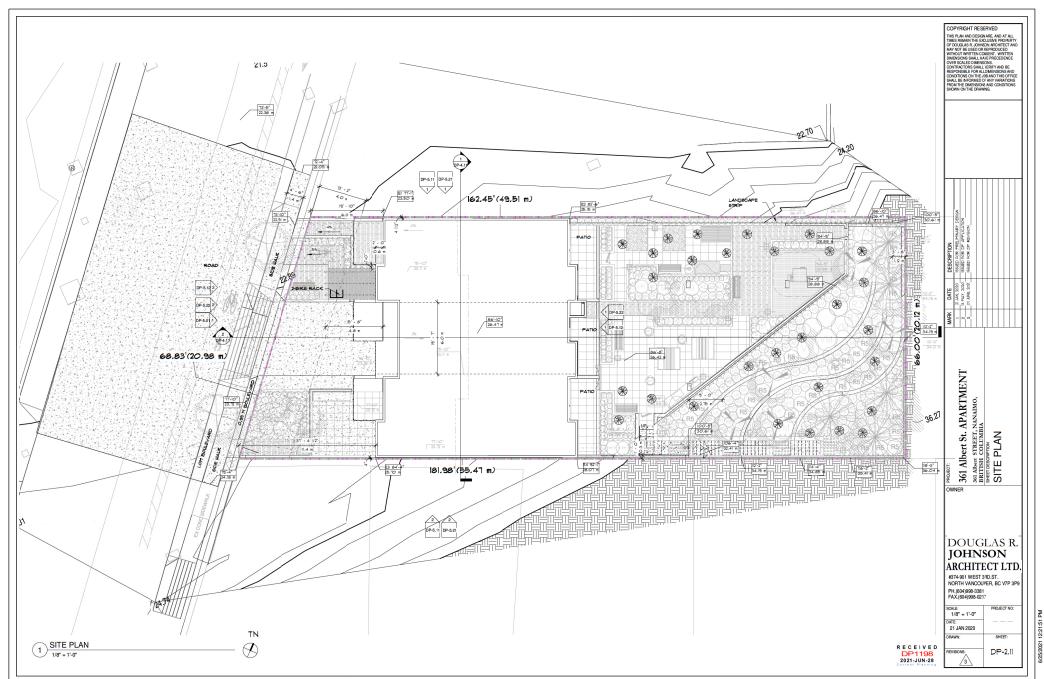
DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NO. DP001198

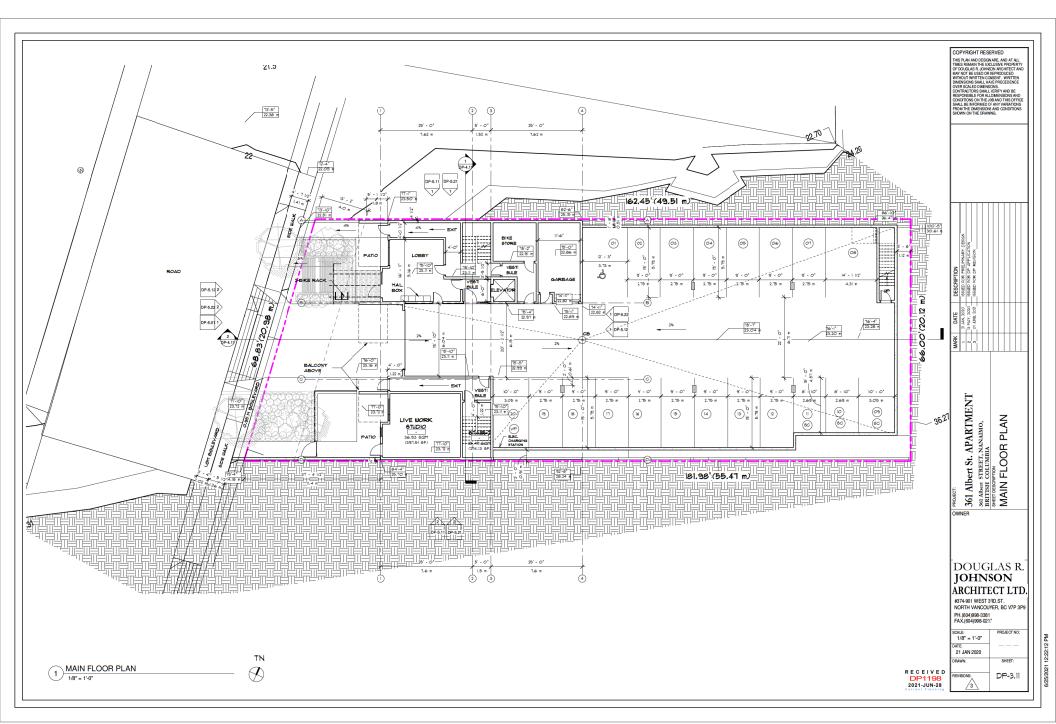
Subject Property

CIVIC: 361 ALBERT STREET

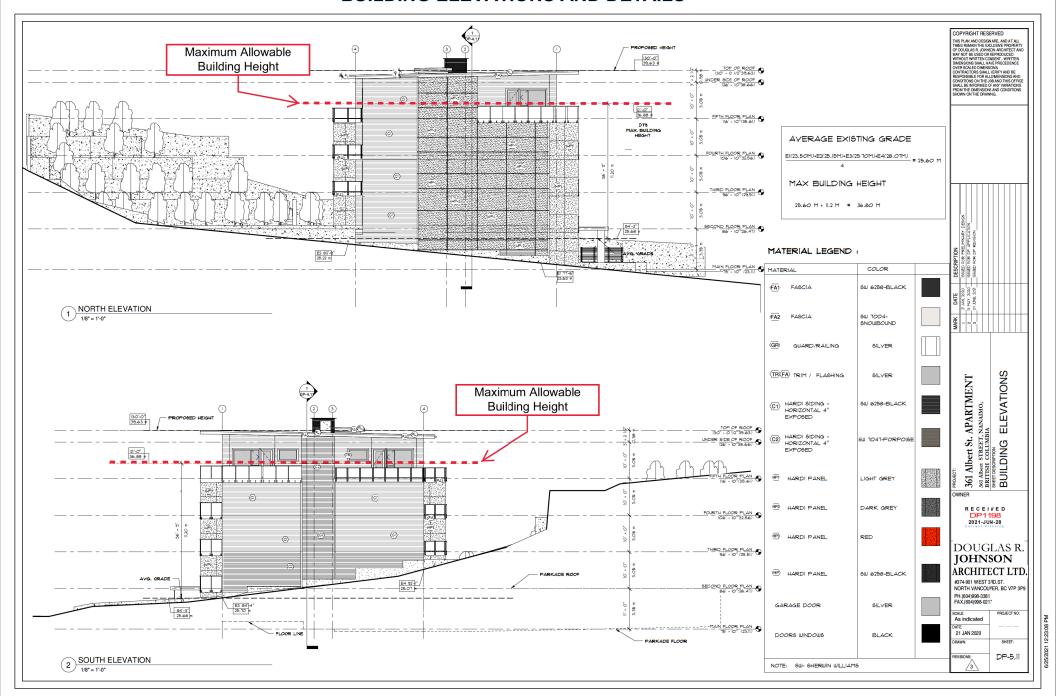
LEGAL: LOT 1, SECTION 1, NANAIMO DISTRICT, PLAN EPP93852

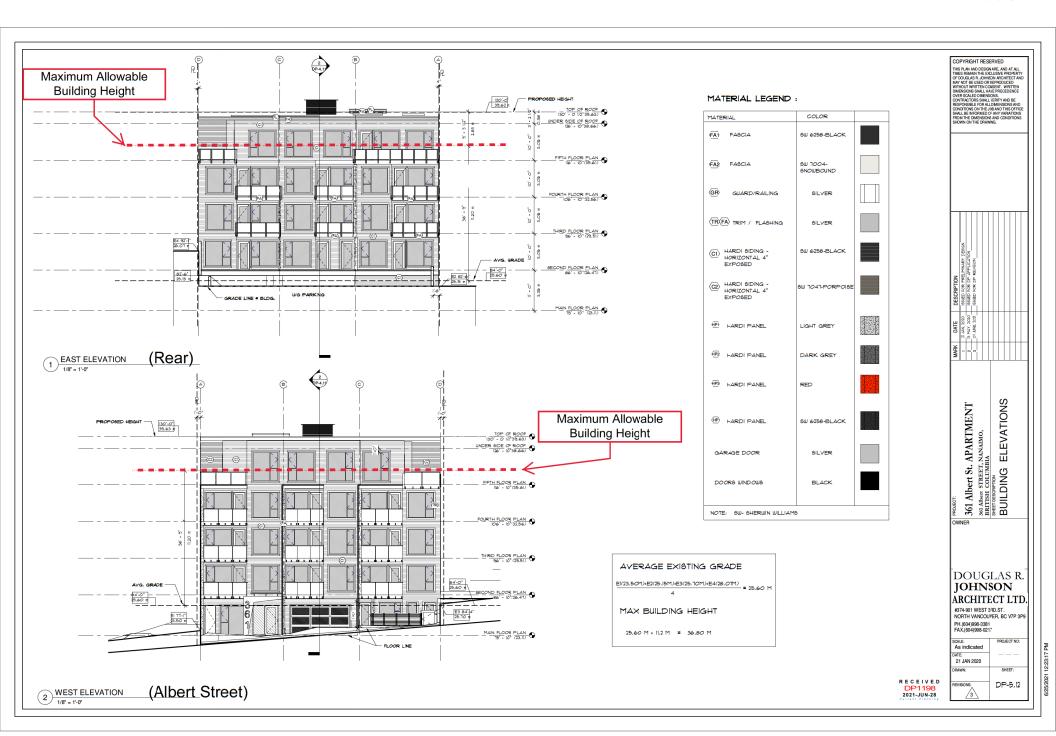
ATTACHMENT D SITE AND PARKING PLANS





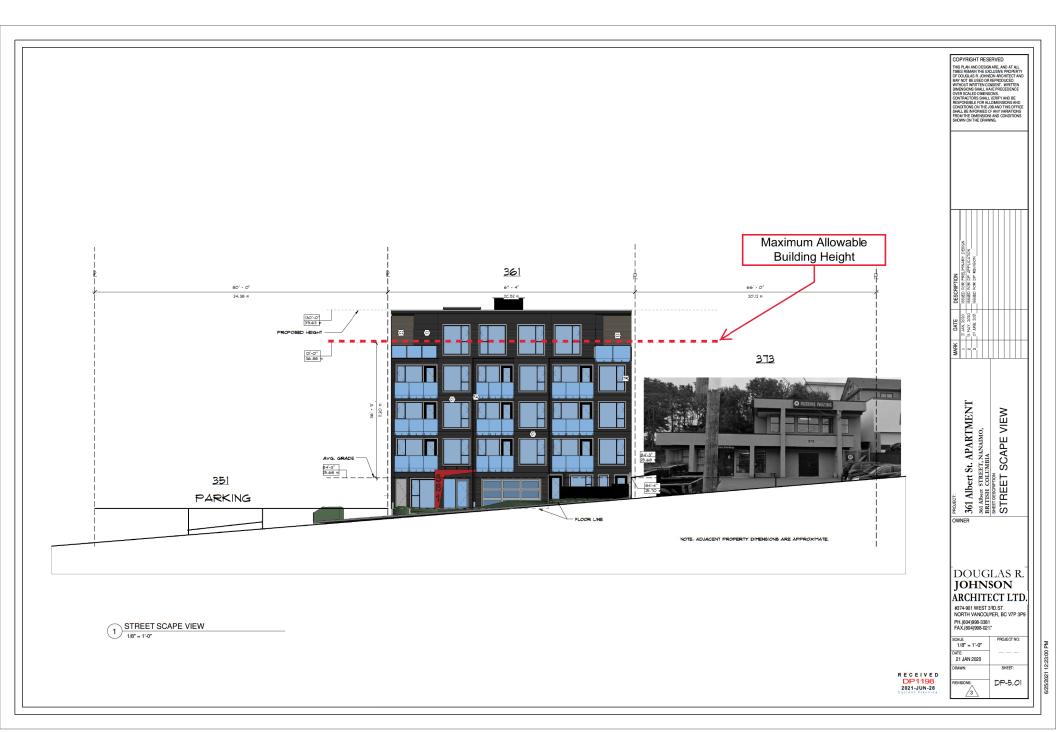
ATTACHMENT E BUILDING ELEVATIONS AND DETAILS

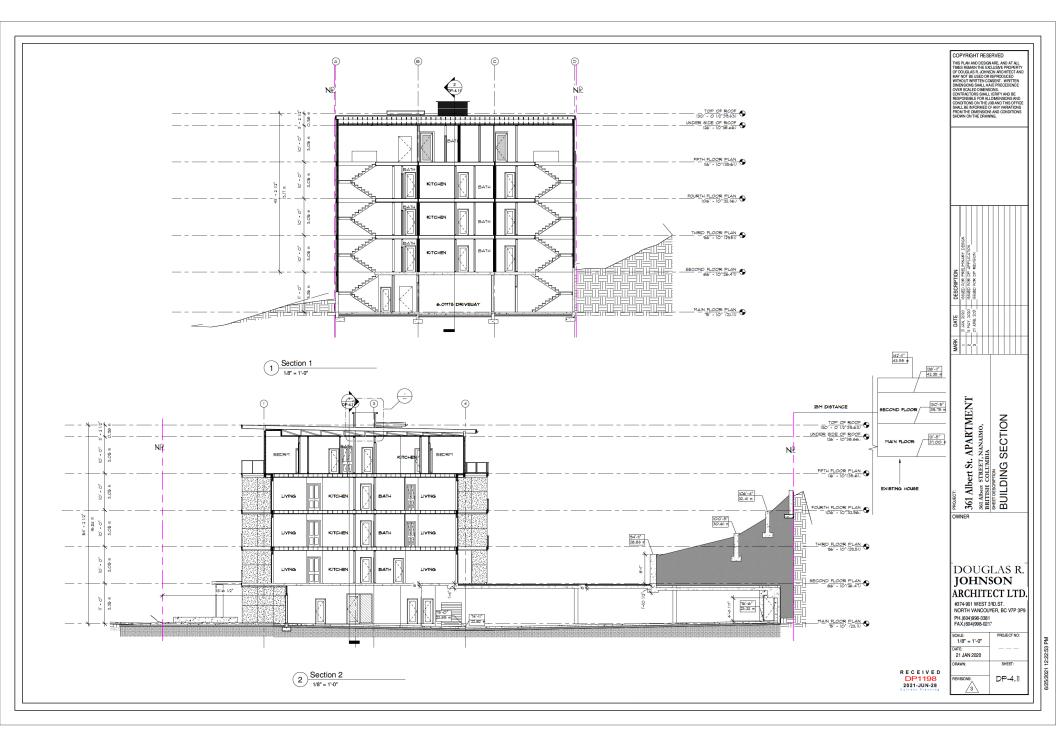












ATTACHMENT F BUILDING RENDERINGS

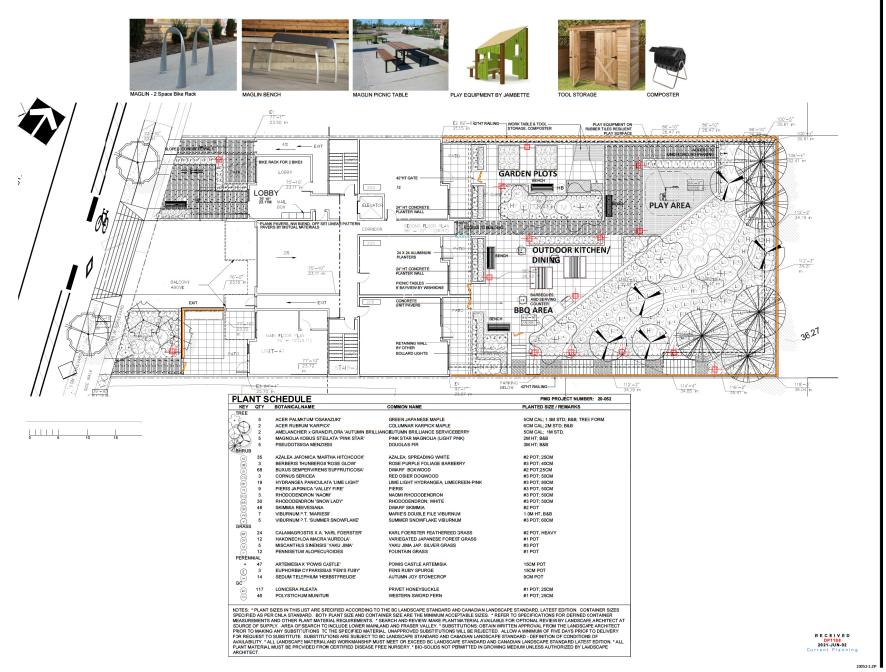


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ATTACHMENT G LANDSCAPE PLAN AND DETAILS



1 of 3 Suite C100 - 4185 Still Creek Drive Burnaby, British Columbia, V5C 6GS p: 604 294-0011 ; f: 604 294-0022 SEAL: REVISION DESCRIPTION

4-STOREY APARTMENT

20-052

BUILDING

NANAIMO

PLAN

DATE: SCALE: DRAWN:

DESIGN:

CHKD:

PMG PROJECT NUMBER

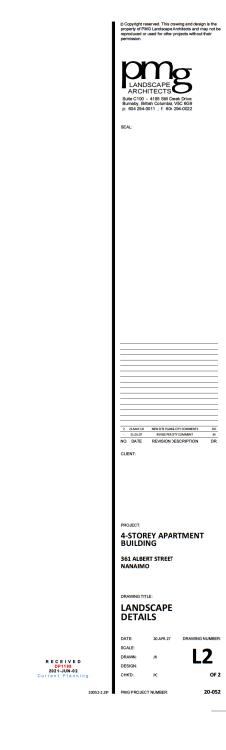
361 ALBERT STREET

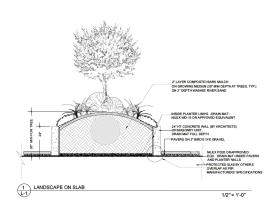
LANDSCAPE

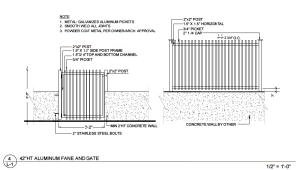
PLANT SCHEDULE				PMG PROJECT NUMBER: 20-052
KEY	QTY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	PLANTED SIZE / REMARKS
TREE				
+ 2+	5	ACER PALMATUM 'OSAKAZUKI'	GREEN JAPANESE MAPLE	5CM CAL; 1.5M STD; B&B TREE FORM
4	2	ACER RUBRUM 'KARPICK'	COLUMNAR KARPICK MAPLE	6CM CAL; 2M STD; B&B
M	2	AMELANCHIER x GRANDIFLORA 'AUTUMN BRIL	5CM CAL; 1M STD.	
	5	MAGNOLIA KOBUS STELLATA 'PINK STAR'	PINK STAR MAGNOLIA (LIGHT PINK)	2M HT; B&B
CUPIID	5	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	DOUGLAS FIR	3M HT; B&B
47	35	AZALEA JAPONICA 'MARTHA HITCHCOCK'	AZALEA; SPREADING WHITE	#2 POT; 25CM
(AZ) (BE)	3	BERBERIS THUNBERGII 'ROSE GLOW'	ROSE PURPLE FOLIAGE BARBERRY	#3 POT; 40CM
	68	BUXUS SEMPERVIRENS 'SUFFRUTICOSA'	DWARF BOXWOOD	#2 POT:25CM
8	3	CORNUS SERICEA	RED OSIER DOGWOOD	#3 POT; 50CM
(B) (CS) (HY)	19	HYDRANGEA PANICULATA 'LIME LIGHT'	LIME LIGHT HYDRANGEA; LIMEGREEN-PINK	#3 POT; 80CM
(PI)	9	PIERIS JAPONICA 'VALLEY FIRE'	PIERIS	#3 POT; 50CM
(R3)	3	RHODODENDRON 'NAOMI'	NAOMI RHODODENDRON	#3 POT; 50CM
PI R3 R5 SK VM	30	RHODODENDRON 'SNOW LADY'	RHODODENDRON; WHITE	#3 POT; 50CM
(SK)	48	SKIMMIA REEVESIANA	DWARF SKIMMIA	#2 POT
(VM)	7	VIBURNUM P.T. 'MARIESII'	MARIE'S DOUBLE FILE VIBURNUM	1.0M HT, B&B
\sim	5	VIBURNUM P.T. 'SUMMER SNOWFLAKE'	SUMMER SNOWFLAKE VIBURNUM	#3 POT; 60CM
GRASS				
KF	24	CALAMAGROSTIS X A. 'KARL FOERSTER'	KARL FOERSTER FEATHEREED GRASS	#2 POT, HEAVY
(GR)	12	HAKONECHLOA MACRA 'AUREOLA'	VARIEGATED JAPANESE FOREST GRASS	#1 POT
(M)	5	MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'YAKU JIMA'	YAKU JIMA JAP. SILVER GRASS	#3 POT
P	12	PENNISETUM ALOPECUROIDES	FOUNTAIN GRASS	#1 POT
PERENN	NIAL			
+	47	ARTEMESIA X 'POWIS CASTLE'	POWIS CASTLE ARTEMISIA	15CM POT
(E)	3	EUPHORBIA CYPARISSIAS 'FEN'S FUBY'	FENS RUBY SPURGE	15CM POT
	14	SEDUM TELEPHIUM 'HERBSTFREUDE'	AUTUMN JOY STONECROP	9CM POT
GC				
(LO)	117	LONICERA PILEATA	PRIVET HONEYSUCKLE	#1 POT; 25CM
(PO)	46	POLYSTICHUM MUNITUM	WESTERN SWORD FERN	#1 POT; 25CM

NOTES: * PLANT SIZES IN THIS LIST ARE SPECIFIED ACCORDING TO THE BC LANDSCAPE STANDARD AND CANADIAN LANDSCAPE STANDARD, LATEST EDITION. CONTAINER SIZES SPECIFIED AS PER CNLA STANDARD. BOTH PLANT SIZE AND CONTAINER SIZE ARE THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE SIZES. * REFER TO SPECIFICATIONS FOR DEFINED CONTAINER MEASUREMENTS AND OTHER PLANT MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS. * SEARCH AND REVIEW: MAKE PLANT MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR OPTIONAL REVIEW BY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT AT SOURCE OF SUPPLY. AREA OF SEARCH TO INCLUDE LOWER MAINLAND AND FRASER VALLEY. * SUBSTITUTIONS: OBTAIN WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT PRIOR TO MAKING ANY SUBSTITUTIONS TO THE SPECIFIED MATERIAL. UNAPPROVED SUBSTITUTIONS WILL BE REJECTED. ALLOW A MINIMUM OF FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO DELIVERY FOR REQUEST TO SUBSTITUTE. SUBSTITUTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO BE LANDSCAPE STANDARD AND CANADIAN LANDSCAPE STANDARD - DEFINITION OF CONDITIONS OF AVAILABILITY. * ALL LANDSCAPE MATERIAL AND WORKMANSHIP MUST MEET OR EXCEED BC LANDSCAPE STANDARD AND CANADIAN LANDSCAPE STANDARD LATEST EDITION. * ALL PLANT MATERIAL MUST BE PROVIDED FROM CERTIFIED DISEASE FREE NURSERY. * BIO-SOLIDS NOT PERMITTED IN GROWING MEDIUM UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.

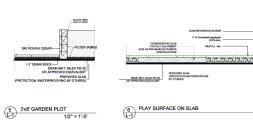
(Excerpt from Landscape Plan, Page 1 of 3)







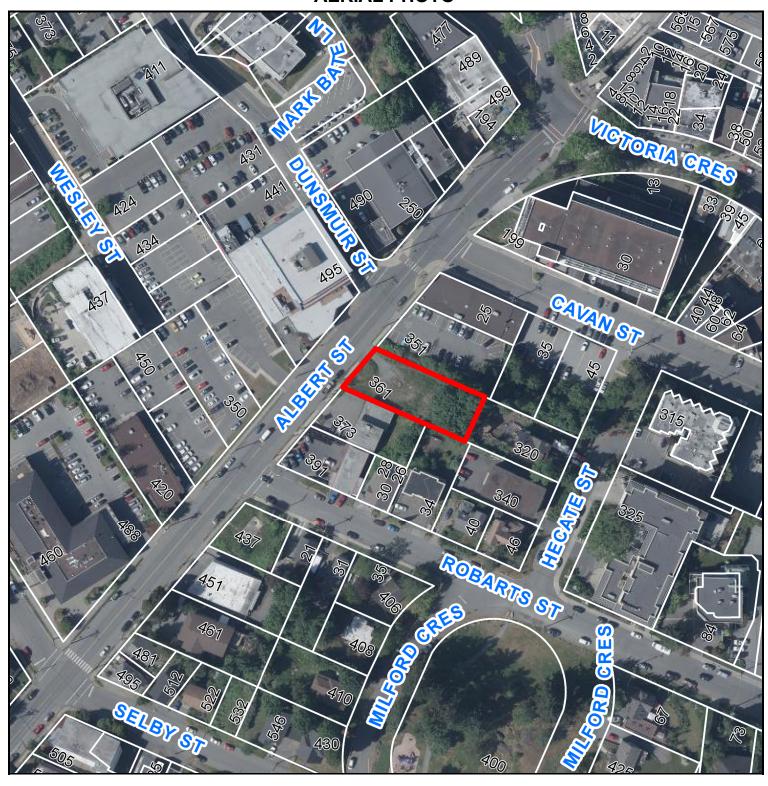




1/2" = 1'-0"



ATTACHMENT H AERIAL PHOTO





DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NO. DP001198



Delegation Request

Delegation's Information:

Piyusha Sharma has requested an appearance before Council.

City: Nanaimo Province: BC

Delegation Details:

The requested date is July 26, 2021.

The requested meeting is:

Council

Bringing a presentation: No

Details of the Presentation:

Available to respond to questions.