

Development in the City is guided by the Community Plan, Zoning Bylaw, and Servicing Bylaw.

The City's Development Procedures Bylaw outlines the process for Development Approvals. You may require one or more approvals before beginning a project or applying for a Building Permit. These include:

Development Permits are required if you are planning a multi-unit residential, commercial, or industrial project, or your property is in a hazardous or environmentally sensitive Development Permit Area identified by the City's Community Plan.

Development Variance Permits or Board of Variance Decisions may be requested if you are unable to meet setbacks, height, sign, parking or servicing requirements of the City's Zoning Bylaw, Sign Bylaw, or Servicing Bylaw. You can apply to the Board of Variance if you feel compliance with the bylaw would cause undue hardship. For example, if a rock outcrop on your property makes it difficult to position a building to meet the required setbacks.

Temporary Use Permits are an option if your planned use isn't permitted under your property's zoning and is intended to be temporary or seasonal. A Temporary Use Permit may be issued for up to three (3) years and may be renewed once at the discretion of the City.

Zoning Amendments are an option if your planned use isn't permitted under your property's zoning. Your request must fit with the City's Community Plan and may sometimes need changes to the Plan. If approved, this change is permanent, unlike a Temporary Use Permit, which is only in place for a limited time.

Where Can I Find Out More

Copies of the City's Bylaws can be found at City Hall or online at castlegar.ca/bylaws. Additional information, guides, and applications are available at castlegar.ca/developmentapproval.

Application Timelines

The City aims to process development approvals as quickly as possible. Timelines vary depending on the type of application, the number of applications being processed, and available staff resources. Delays often occur when applications are incomplete, or when plans and drawings are missing information, or are of low quality.

What does a Development Approval Cost?

Fees for development approvals are set by the City's Procedures Bylaw and are paid at the time of application submission. Additional fees may include servicing, utilities, development and amenity cost charges, and performance security. These fees are usually charged when your building permit is issued.

How do I Apply?

You can make an application either in person, by mail, or by emailing Development Services at devserv@castlegar.ca. City Hall is open Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed on holidays), and is located at **460 Columbia Avenue, Castlegar, BC V1N 1G7**.

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REQUIRED DOCUMENTS	NOTES
Application Form	Fill out the application form. If you are not the property owner, please fill out the agent authorization section. Make sure the property owner has signed the authorization.
Agent Authorization Form	Use this form when a property has more than one owner or you need more than one approval.
Title	Provide a copy of your property title, issued by the BC Land Title Office within the past thirty (30) days.
Business Summary	If the property is owned by a company or corporation, you will need to provide a Business Summary from BC Registries.
Site Disclosure Statement Form	You must include a site disclosure statement, even if no industrial or commercial activities have taken place on the property.
Project Proposal	Provide a letter that explains your project and how you plan to use the use the property. Explain how your project supports the goals of the City's Community Plan and note any benefits or potential impacts on adjacent properties, City services, or local infrastructure.
Site Plan	<p>Your site plan must be drawn to scale and should clearly show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The layout of your project including setback distances from property lines and percentage of the lot your project will cover. ▪ Any required parking, landscaping, fencing or screening, signs, lighting and any other improvements. ▪ Any existing and proposed services, including water, sewer and on-site drainage systems. ▪ Any rights-of-way, easements, or restrictive covenant areas that apply to the property. ▪ Clearly label any features that are associated with the new use. <p>The City may ask for a site plan prepared by a qualified professional, like a BC Land Surveyor or draftsman.</p>
Building Plans	Building plans should be easy to read, drawn to scale and show key details like exterior dimensions, interior layout, unit numbering, floor area, and the type of exterior materials and colours you intend to use. Please mark clearly the parts of your project that are associated with the new use.

<p>Additional Requirements</p>	<p>The City may require supporting documents to assist us in the review of your application. These could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Traffic, geotechnical, infrastructure, or environmental assessments. ▪ Landscape plans, grading and drainage plans, servicing plans, or civic address plans.
<p>PROCESS FOR AMENDMENTS</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Property Information: Before you start planning your project, visit castlegar.ca/propertyinfo to find your property's zoning, servicing, and other key details. 2. Pre-Application Meeting: Book a meeting with City staff for guidance on application requirements and timelines at castlegar.ca/developmentapproval. 3. Submit Application: Once your application is received, it will be reviewed to make sure nothing is missing. It will be processed when all required information has been provided. 4. Application Review: Once your complete application is received, staff will review it, share it with other departments or agencies for feedback, and let you know if any additional approvals, requirements, or conditions—such as covenants—are required. 5. Notification: The City will notify the community that Council is considering an amendment application before making a final decision. This includes notification of neighbours and requiring you to post a sign (or signs) on your property. 6. Application Consideration: Amendment applications are considered by City Council over the course of several Council meetings and may include an opportunity for community input before making a final decision. In some cases, Provincial approval may also be required before Council can make a final decision. <p>OTHER APPROVALS</p> <p>Provincial: Projects within 800 m of a controlled-access highway, commercial or industrial buildings exceeding 4,500 m², or projects affecting a heritage site may require additional Provincial approvals. To learn if your project will need a Provincial approval, contact the Ministry of Transportation & Transit (WKD@gov.ca or 250-354-6400) and the BC Archaeology Branch (archaeology@gov.bc.ca or 250-953-3334).</p>	
<p>ESTIMATED TIMELINES</p>	
<p>Amendments to the Zoning Bylaw or Community Plan usually take about three (3) to four (4) months to process. This timeline reflects the steps required for community input and Council consideration.</p>	

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Applications for amendments include community input so residents and other interested parties have an opportunity to share their views.

Amendments are processed through the adoption of a bylaw, where Council is required to formally “read” the bylaw at least three times before making a final decision. Community input can be made either in writing or where there is a public hearing, in-person.

When does Community Input happen?

The City will notify neighbours of an application after Council has completed the initial “readings” of the amending bylaw. Community input is best shared with the City in writing. All feedback is provided to Council for their information.

A public hearing is required when an application is not consistent with the City’s Community Plan.

A public hearing gives residents and other interested parties an opportunity to let Council know whether they support the application before a final decision is made. The community can participate by speaking at the public hearing or by sending in written comments during the input period. Additional feedback on an application can not be accepted once a public hearing is closed, so it is important to participate before or during the public hearing.

You’ll be notified of community input opportunities in one or more ways:

- Signs posted on the property
- A letter delivered to neighbours
- Notices published in the local newspaper
- Online via the City’s website

Sometimes the City will send a notice simply to let the community know that a public hearing is *not* required. This happens when a proposed amendment already aligns with the City’s Community Plan. In some cases, Provincial legislation does not allow the City to hold a public hearing—when the amendment’s main purpose is to enable a project that is consistent with the Community Plan and is at least half residential.