



TO: Denver Planning Board
FROM: Francisca Penafiel, Associate City Planner
DATE: January 26, 2022
RE: Official Zoning Map Amendment Application #2021I-00211

Staff Report and Recommendation

Based on the criteria for review in the Denver Zoning Code, Staff recommends approval for Application #2021I-00211.

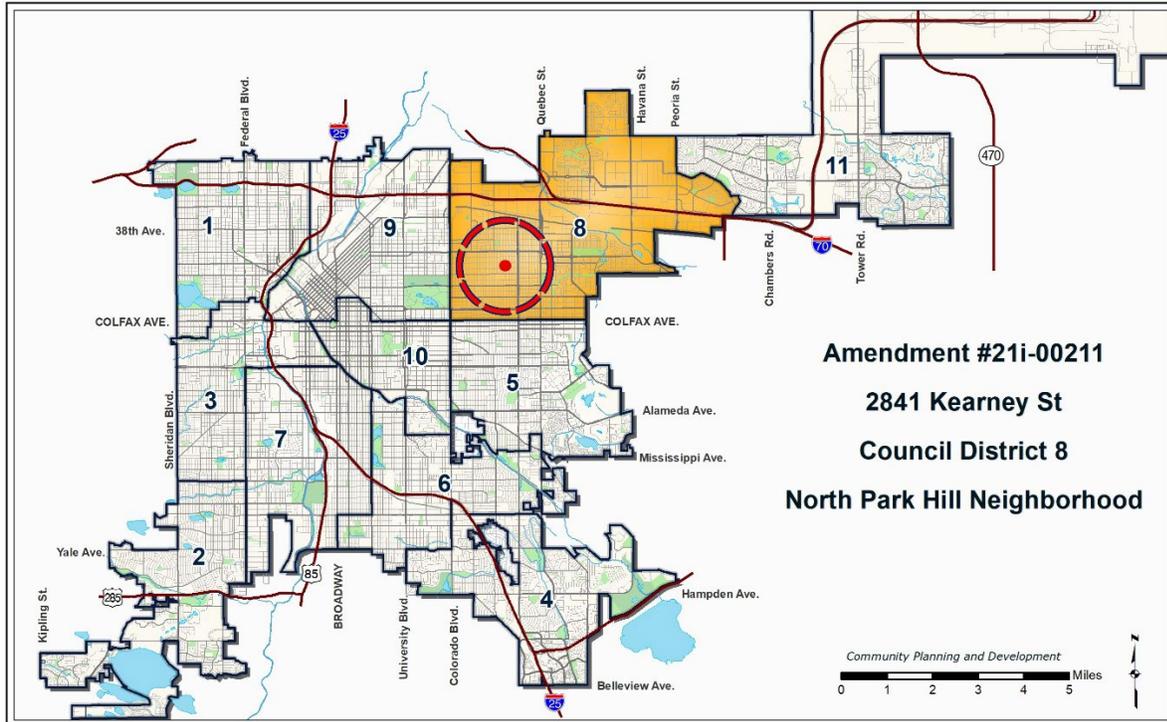
Request for Rezoning

Address:	2841 North Kearney Street
Neighborhood/Council District:	North Park Hill/ Council District 8 – Christopher Herndon
RNOs:	Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC), East Denver Residents Council, District 8 Neighborhood Coalition, Inc., United Northeast Denver Residents, Greater Park Hill Community, Inc., Opportunity Corridor Coalition of United Residents, Denver for ALL, City Park Friends and Neighbors, Opportunity Corridor Coalition of United Residents
Area of Property:	6,200 square feet or ~0.14 acres
Current Zoning:	E-SU-Dx
Proposed Zoning:	E-SU-D1x
Property Owner(s):	Samuel Stonberg
Owner Representative:	None

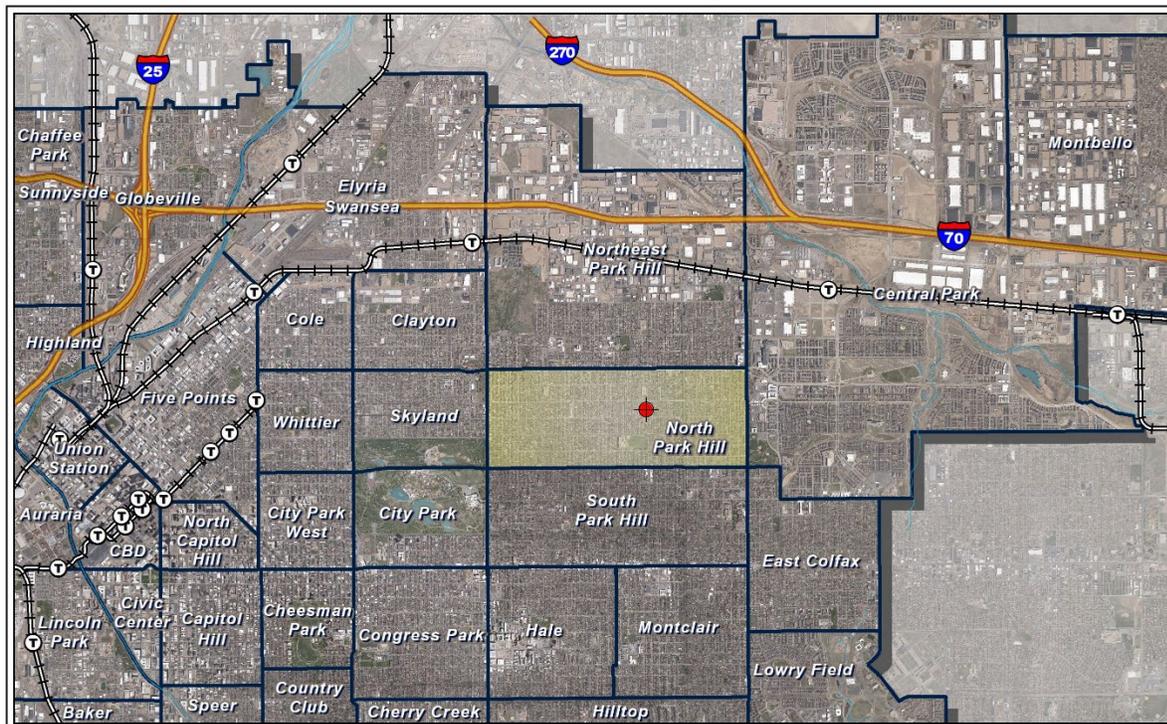
Summary of Rezoning Request

- The subject property contains a single-story, single-unit dwelling built in 1947, the property is located between East 28th and East 29th Avenue, along North Kearney Street.
- The property owner is proposing to rezone the property to allow an accessory dwelling unit (ADU).
- The proposed E-SU-D1x, Urban **E**dge, **S**ingle-**U**nit, **D1x** district allows suburban houses, urban houses and detached accessory dwelling units in the rear yard with a minimum zone lot area of 6,000 square feet. The district is intended for use in the Urban Edge Neighborhood Context, which is characterized by a mix of elements from both the Urban and Suburban Neighborhood Contexts. The Urban Edge Neighborhood Context is primarily single-unit and two-unit residential uses. Single-unit residential structures are typically the Urban House and Suburban House building forms. Single and two-unit residential uses are primarily located along local and residential arterial streets. The maximum height of the Urban House building form is 30 to 35 feet for the front 65% of the zone lot and 17 to 19 feet in the rear 35% of the zone lot while the maximum height of the Suburban House building form is 30 to 35 feet. The Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit form can be a maximum height of 24 feet. Further details of the requested zone district(s) can be found in the proposed zone district section of the staff report (below) and in Article 4 of the Denver Zoning Code (DZC).

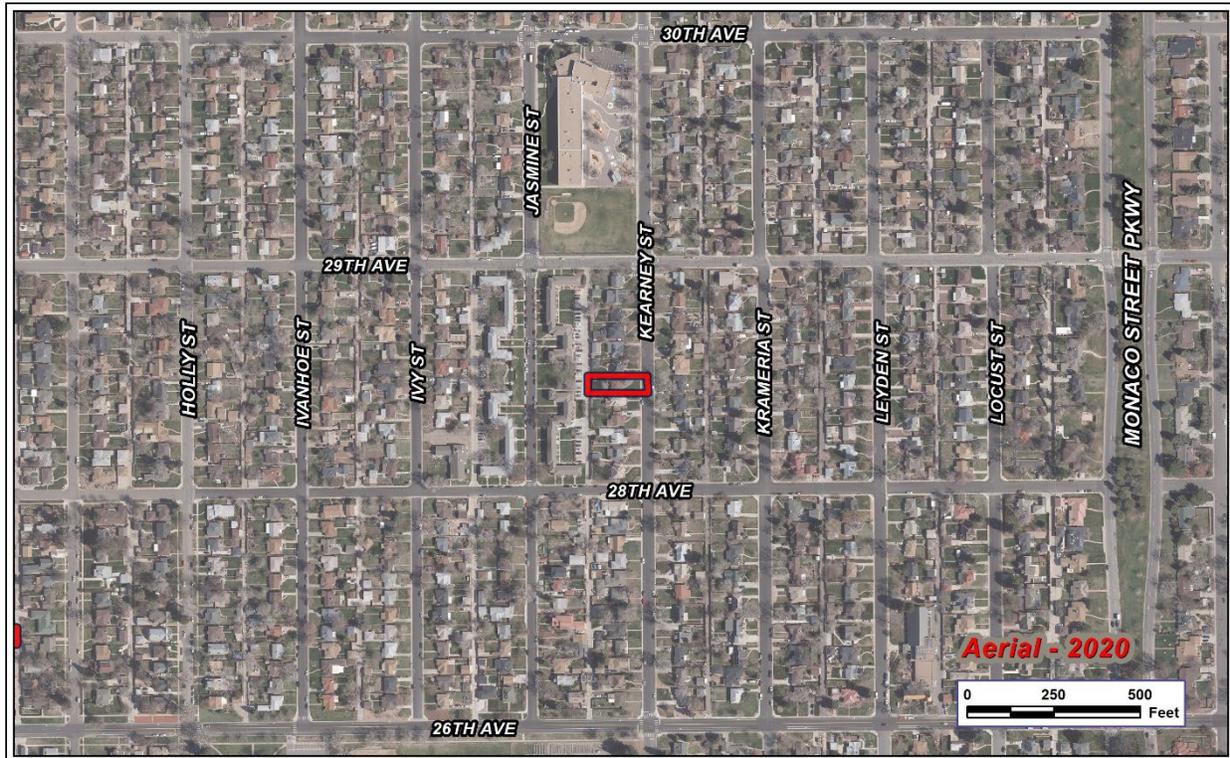
City Location



Neighborhood Location – North Park Hill Neighborhood



Existing Context



The subject property is in the North Park Hill neighborhood, which is characterized by predominately single-unit residential uses with embedded two-unit residential, multi-unit residential, commercial/retail, and public/quasi-public uses throughout. The subject property is located one block south of Hallett Academy and two blocks north of McAuliffe International School. Bus Route 28 runs along 29th Avenue, directly north of the site with a 60-minute headway.

The following table summarizes the existing context proximate to the subject site:

	Existing Zoning	Existing Land Use	Existing Building Form/Scale	Existing Block, Lot, Street Pattern
Site	E-SU-Dx	Single-unit Residential	1-story house with detached accessory structure in the rear	Generally regular grid of streets; Block sizes and shapes are consistent and rectangular with alleys. Garages are rear, side and front loaded with On-Street vehicle parking. Sidewalks are generally attached.
North	E-SU-Dx	Single-unit Residential	1-story house with a detached garage with alley access	
South	E-SU-Dx	Single-unit Residential	1.5-story house with a detached garage with alley access	
East	E-SU-Dx	Single-unit Residential	1-story house with driveway access on North Kearney Street	
West	E-RH-2.5	Multi-unit Residential	2-story multi-unit development with off-street parking along the alley	

2. Existing Land Use Map



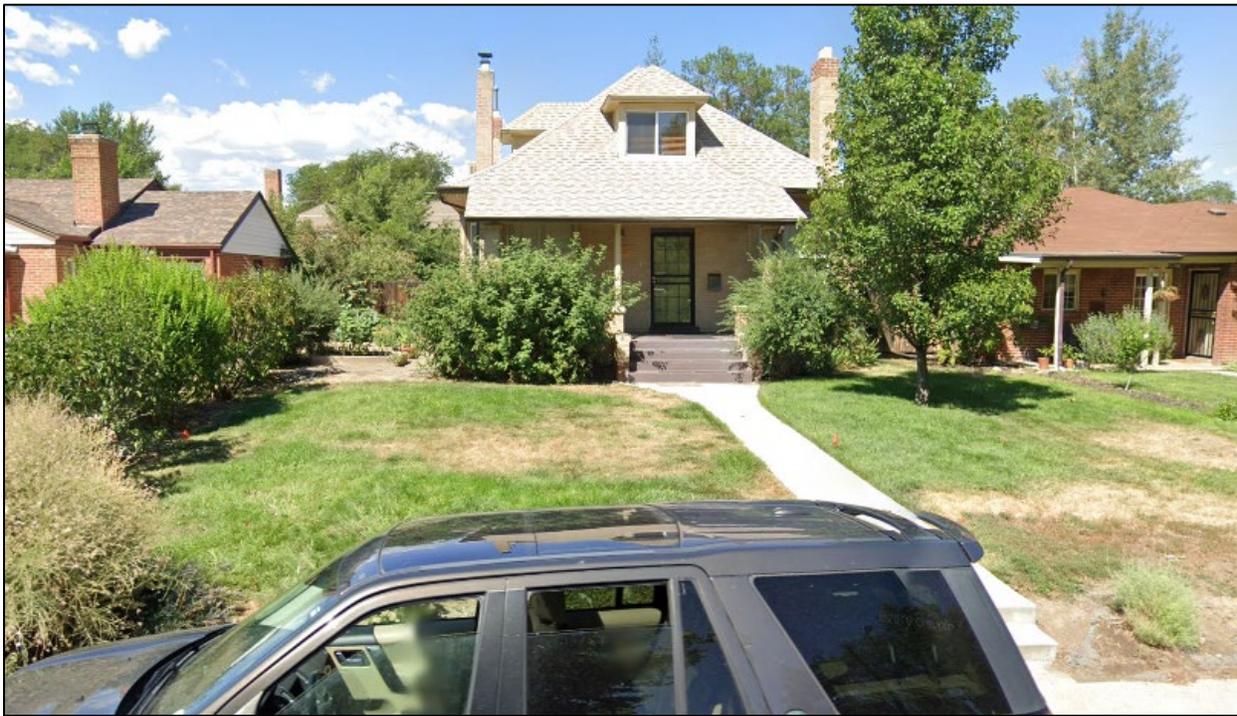
3. Existing Building Form and Scale (source: Google Maps)



View of the subject property looking west.



View of the property to the north, looking west.



View of the property to the south, looking west.



View of the property to the west (across the alley), looking west.

Proposed Zoning

The applicant is requesting to rezone to E-SU-D1x, which allows the Suburban House and Urban House building forms on a zone lot with a minimum area of 6,000 square feet. The intent of the district is to promote and protect residential neighborhoods within the character of the Urban Edge Neighborhood Context. The E-SU-D1x district allows for the same uses and building forms as the current E-SU-Dx district, with the addition of the accessory dwelling unit use and Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (DADU) building form, to be located in the rear 35 percent of the lot. The Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit building form has a maximum height of 1.5 stories or 24 feet. A bulk plane that rises 10 feet vertically from the side interior or side street zone lot line, then slopes 45 degrees, also applies to the DADU building form. This form allows an exemption from the 37.5% building coverage standard, allowing the lesser of 50% or 500 square feet. For zone lots greater than 6,000 square feet and up to 7,000 square feet the ADU building footprint may be a maximum of 864 square feet. The district does not require any off-street vehicular parking for single-unit dwellings or accessory dwelling units, but if provided, parking for the DADU must be accessed from the alley; street access is allowed when no alley is present.

The building forms allowed in the existing zone district and the proposed zone district are summarized below.

Design Standards	E-SU-Dx (Existing)	E-SU-D1x (Proposed)
Primary Building Forms Allowed	Urban House; Suburban House	Urban House; Suburban House
Maximum Height in Stories/Feet, Front 65% of Zone Lot*	2.5 stories / 30 feet	2.5 stories / 30
Maximum Height in Stories/Feet, Rear 35% of Zone Lot*	Urban House: 1 story / 19 feet Suburban House: 2.5 stories / 30 feet	Urban House: 1 story / 19 feet Suburban House: 2.5 stories / 30 feet
DADU Maximum Height in Stories / Feet	DADUs not permitted	1.5 stories / 24 feet
Zone Lot Size (Min.)	6,000 square feet	6,000 square feet
Zone Lot Width (Min.)	50 feet	50 feet
Primary Street Block Sensitive Setback Required / If not	Yes / 20 feet	Yes / 20 feet
Side Street Setback (Min.)*	5 feet	5 feet
Side Interior Setback (Min.)*	5 feet	5 feet
Primary Structure Rear Setback, Alley / No Alley	12 feet / 20 feet	12 feet / 20 feet
DADU Rear Setback	DADUs not permitted	5 feet
Building Coverage per Zone Lot including all accessory structures (Max.), not including exceptions	37.5 %	37.5%
Detached Accessory Building Forms Allowed	Detached Garage, Other Detached Accessory Structures	Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit, Detached Garage, Other Detached Accessory Structures

*Based on subject property width of 50 feet

Summary of City Agency Referral Comments

Assessor: Approved – No Response.

Asset Management: Approved – No Comments.

Denver Public Schools: Approved – No Response.

Development Services - Fire: Approved – No Response.

Development Services – Project Coordination: Approved – Will require additional information at Site Plan Review

- 1) New development will need to comply with zoning district and building form standards.
- 2) Zoning will be reviewed by the Residential review team.
- 3) Construction plans will need to be reviewed and approved prior to construction beginning.

Development Services - Transportation: Approved – No Response.

Development Services – Wastewater: Approved – See Comments Below.

There is no objection to the rezone. Application noted an addition and ADU. Upon rezoning applicant will need to obtain a building permit. Please note Denver does have flow depth mapping for stormwater adjacent to the parcel. Please see link or google “Denver Potential Inundation Area” select Floodplain and under “What is My Flood Risk” select the Potential Inundation Area map
<https://geospatialdenver.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=12500a3b06b34bfc2c297697a64c4de>

Independent sanitary service lines may be required, historical drainage paths must be maintained. Approval of this rezone on behalf of Wastewater does not state, or imply, public storm/sanitary infrastructure can, or cannot, support the proposed zoning. Commitment to serve proposed structure will be based on permit issuance.

Parks and Recreation: Approved – No Comments.

Public Health and Environment: Approved – No Comments.

Department of Transportation & Infrastructure – City Surveyor: Approved – See Comments Below.

Legal Description revised by Survey reviewer and saved.

Public Review Process

	Date
CPD informational notice of receipt of the rezoning application to all affected members of City Council, registered neighborhood organizations, and property owners:	12/09/2021
Property legally posted for a period of 15 days and CPD written notice of the Planning Board public hearing sent to all affected members of City Council, registered neighborhood organizations, and property owners:	01/18/2022
Planning Board public hearing:	02/02/2022
CPD written notice of the Land Use, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting sent to all affected members of City Council and registered neighborhood organizations, at least ten working days before the meeting:	02/01/2022 (tentative)
Land Use, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee of the City Council:	02/15/2022 (tentative)
Property legally posted for a period of 21 days and CPD notice of the City Council public hearing sent to all affected members of City Council and registered neighborhood organizations:	03/28/2022 (tentative)
City Council Public Hearing:	04/18/2022 (tentative)

- **Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs)**
 - To date, staff has not received comment letters from Registered Neighborhood Organizations.
- **Other Public Comment**
 - To date, staff has not received letters from the public.

Criteria for Review / Staff Evaluation

The criteria for review of this rezoning application are found in DZC, Sections 12.4.10.7 and 12.4.10.8, as follows:

DZC Section 12.4.10.7

1. Consistency with Adopted Plans
2. Uniformity of District Regulations and Restrictions
3. Public Health, Safety and General Welfare

DZC Section 12.4.10.8

1. Justifying Circumstances
2. Consistency with Neighborhood Context Description, Zone District Purpose and Intent Statements

1. Consistency with Adopted Plans

The following adopted plans apply to this application:

- Denver Comprehensive Plan 2040 (2019)
- Blueprint Denver (2019)
- Park Hill Neighborhood Plan

Denver Comprehensive Plan 2040

The proposed rezoning is consistent with many of the adopted *Denver Comprehensive Plan 2040* strategies, including:

- Equitable, Affordable and Inclusive Goal 2, Strategy A – Create a greater mix of housing options in every neighborhood for all individuals and families (p. 28).

E-SU-D1x allows for an additional dwelling unit that is accessory to the primary single-unit dwelling use and introduces a new housing type to a largely single-unit neighborhood. Accessory dwelling units can provide housing for individuals or families with different incomes, ages, and needs compatible with the single-unit homes that characterize most of the North Park Hill neighborhood.

- Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods Goal 1, Strategy B – Ensure neighborhoods offer a mix of housing types and services for a diverse population (p. 34).

The proposed rezoning would allow infill development appropriate for the surrounding neighborhood that broadens the range of housing types available.

- Environmentally Resilient Goal 8, Strategy A – Promote infill development where infrastructure and services are already in place (p. 54).

The proposed map amendment will allow an additional housing unit on the site of an existing home where infrastructure and services such as water, stormwater, and streets already exist. This allows Denver to grow responsibly and promotes land conservation.

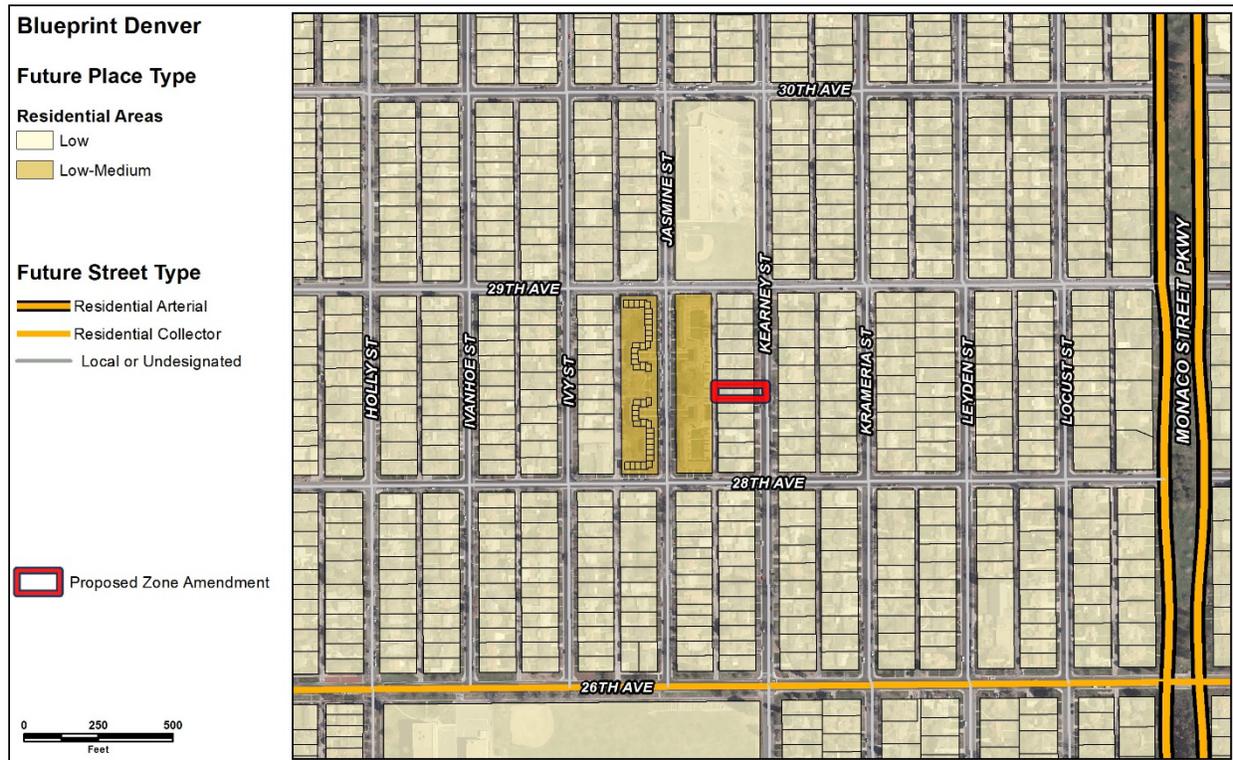
Blueprint Denver

Blueprint Denver was adopted in 2019 as a supplement to *Comprehensive Plan 2040* and establishes an integrated framework for the city’s land use and transportation decisions. *Blueprint Denver* identifies the subject property as part of a Low Residential future place within the Urban Edge future neighborhood Context and provides guidance on the future growth strategy for the city.

Blueprint Denver Future Neighborhood Context



In *Blueprint Denver*, future neighborhood contexts are used to help understand differences between land use, built form, and mobility at a high scale, between neighborhoods. The subject property is shown on the context map as an Urban Edge Neighborhood Context, the description of which is used to guide appropriate zone districts (p. 66). *Blueprint Denver* describes the Urban Edge neighborhood context as follows: “Residential areas generally are single-unit and two-unit uses, with some low-scale multi-unit embedded throughout. Commercial nodes are generally found along key corridors or at intersections. Block patterns are generally a mix of suburban and urban elements—streets may be rectangular or curved and alleys are sometimes present. Multi-unit buildings and commercial nodes are generally low-scale” (p. 206). E-SU-D1x is a zone district within the Urban Edge Neighborhood Context in the Denver Zoning Code. The Urban Edge residential zone districts are intended “to promote and protect residential neighborhoods within the character of the Urban Edge Neighborhood Context” and “the building form standards, design standards and uses work together to promote desirable residential areas” (DZC 4.2.2.1). E-SU-D1x is consistent with *Blueprint Denver’s* future neighborhood context of Urban Edge because it will promote the residential character of the neighborhood by allowing single-unit residential uses and a small-scale ADU that will be compatible with the existing residential area.

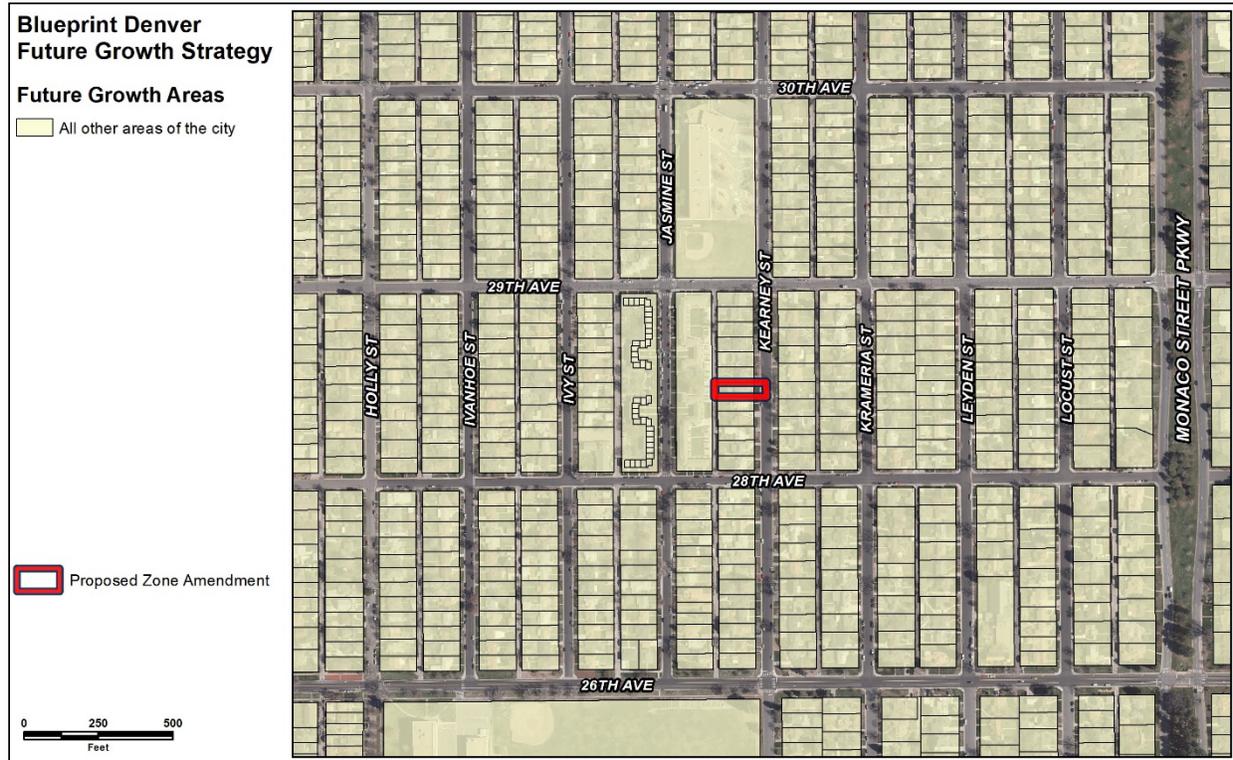


Within the Urban Edge Neighborhood Context, the subject property is categorized as a Residential Low Future Place with a land use and built form defined by *Blueprint Denver* as “predominately single- and two-unit uses on small or medium lots. Accessory dwelling units and duplexes are appropriate and can be thoughtfully integrated where compatible. Low to medium building coverage. Buildings are generally up to 2.5 stories in height” (p. 214). The proposed E-SU-D1x zone district, allowing a 1.5-story detached ADU on the rear of a small lot, is compatible with this Future Place designation.

Blueprint Denver Future Street Types

In *Blueprint Denver*, Future Street Types work in concert with the Future Places to evaluate the appropriate intensity of adjacent development (p. 67). *Blueprint Denver* classifies North Kearney Street as a Local or Undesignated Future Street Type, which “can vary in their land uses and are found in all neighborhood contexts. They are most often characterized by residential uses.” (p. 161). The proposed E-SU-D1x district is consistent with this street type because it allows for primarily residential uses.

Blueprint Denver Growth Strategy



Blueprint Denver's growth strategy map is a version of the future places map, showing the aspiration for distributing future growth in Denver (p. 51). The subject property is part of the "All other areas of the city" growth area. These areas anticipate experiencing around 20% of new housing growth and 10% of new employment growth by 2040 (p. 51). This growth area contains "mostly residential areas with embedded local centers and corridors (that) take a smaller amount of growth intended to strengthen the existing character of our neighborhoods" (p. 49). The proposed E-SU-D1x zone district which would allow an ADU is appropriate in this growth area as it will minimally contribute to development intensity in the neighborhood while maintaining the area's single-unit residential character.

Blueprint Denver Strategies

Blueprint Denver provides additional recommendations related to rezoning to allow for ADUs.

- Housing Policy 4 Strategy E – "A citywide approach to enable ADUs is preferred. Until a holistic approach is in place, individual rezonings to enable ADUs in all residential areas, specifically where proximate to transit, are appropriate. Unless there is a neighborhood plan supporting ADUs, rezonings should be small in area in order to minimize impacts to the surrounding residential area" (p. 84).

In this case, the requested rezoning is a single zone lot in a residential area, within one block of an RTD bus route. This rezoning to an ADU zone district will have minimal impacts on the character of the surrounding neighborhood and is consistent with *Blueprint Denver* recommendations.

Small Area Plan: Park Hill Neighborhood Plan (2000)

The request meets the following goal and recommendation from the *Park Hill Neighborhood Plan*:

- **Land Use and Zoning Goal:** “Maintain the existing integrity of the residential character of Park Hill. Assure that continued growth and development in Park Hill results in a balanced and compatible mix of housing types and densities” (p. 32).
- **Land Use and Zoning Action Recommendation 3:** “Create and maintain a mix of housing types and sizes that are attractive and affordable to a diversity of ages, incomes, household types, sizes, cultural and ethnic backgrounds” (p. 33).

The proposed rezoning would maintain the existing integrity of North Park Hill and increase the mix of housing options in the neighborhood, which is comprised of single-unit, two-unit, and multi-unit dwellings, and is thereby consistent with the small area plan.

2. Uniformity of District Regulations and Restrictions

The proposed rezoning to E-SU-D1x will result in the uniform application of zone district building form, use and design regulations.

3. Public Health, Safety and General Welfare

The proposed official map amendment furthers the public health, safety, and general welfare of the city through implementation of the city’s adopted land use plan (*Blueprint Denver* p.84) which recommends “the expansion of accessory dwelling units throughout all residential areas”. The proposed rezoning would provide the benefit of an additional housing unit that is compatibly integrated into the surrounding neighborhood. Additionally, the rezoning would bring a new type of housing unit to a largely single-unit residential area, which will increase housing diversity in the North Park Hill neighborhood. The building form standards and allowed uses of the proposed zone district promote compatibility with the building forms and uses allowed in the surrounding area.

4. Justifying Circumstance

The application identifies the adoption of *Blueprint Denver* as the Justifying Circumstance under DZC Section 12.4.10.8.A.4, “Since the date of the approval of the existing Zone District, there has been a change to such as degree that the proposed rezoning is in the public interest. Such a change may include: Changed or changing conditions in a particular area, or in the city generally; or a city adopted plan; or that the city adopted the Denver Zoning Code and the property retained Former Chapter 59 zoning.”

As discussed above, *Blueprint Denver* specifically recommends the city diversify housing choice through the expansion of accessory dwelling units throughout all residential areas. The plan was adopted after the date of approval of the existing zone district. Therefore, this is an appropriate justifying circumstance for the proposed rezoning.

5. Consistency with Neighborhood Context Description, Zone District Purpose and Intent Statements

The requested E-SU-D1x zone district is within the Urban Edge Neighborhood Context, which “is primarily single-unit and two-unit residential uses” and “single-unit residential structures are typically the Urban House and Suburban House building forms” (DZC, Section 4.1.1). This context “consists of a regular pattern of block shapes” and “a mixed presence of alleys” (DZC, Section 4.1.2). The residential area of the North Park Hill neighborhood consists mostly of single-unit residential uses in rectangular blocks with alley access. The proposed rezoning to E-SU-D1x is consistent with the neighborhood context description.

The general purpose of residential zone districts in this context is “to promote and protect residential neighborhoods within the character of the Urban Edge Neighborhood Context” (DZC Section 4.2.2.1.A). “The building form standards, design standards, and uses work together to promote desirable residential areas” (DZC Section 4.2.2.1.B). Common residential characteristics are recognized but variation is accommodated. The proposed E-SU-D1x district is consistent with the context description and the zone district general purpose because it will help preserve the existing single-unit use, form, and streetscape of the immediate area while allowing a small-scale ADU in the rear yard.

The specific intent of the E-SU-D1x zone district “is a single unit district allowing suburban houses, urban houses and detached accessory dwelling units with a minimum zone lot area of 6,000 square feet. Setbacks and lot coverage standards accommodate front and side yards similar to E-SU-Dx and allow a detached accessory dwelling unit in the rear yard” (DZC Section 4.2.2.2.F.). The subject property at 2841 North Kearney Street contains a single-unit dwelling on a lot of 6,200 square feet. Adopted plans recommend allowing detached accessory dwelling units and limited growth in this area compatible with the existing character. Therefore, rezoning this site would be consistent with the specific intent of the requested zone district.

Attachments

1. Application