



# ADU's Summary Brief

#### • ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT •

#### Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's)

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) are an additional, self-contained housing unit that are secondary to a main residence. ADU's are sometimes referred to as "mother-in-law" apartments or "granny flats," since their origins were to provide space for extended family members.

ADU's can take many forms such as attachments or additions to the main home, use of basement areas, a second-story over an detached garage, or separate backyard building.

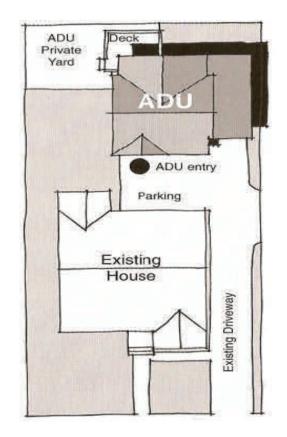
#### **Purpose of ADU's**

The intent or use of ADU's is often to provide places for the elderly to be taken care of by family members, places for newly married or return of adult children, or even perhaps to supplement a mortgage payment. ADU's are typically used in singe-family areas when the following conditions exist:

- Excess space within the primary dwelling or above a garage exists that can be conveniently converted into living quarters.
- An under-utilized or odd lot exists and further division of land is not feasible or is prohibited.
- The housing stock is located near a college or educational institution.
- A shortage and/or demand for affordable housing exists in a particular area.

### **Typical ADU Regulations**

- Ownership and occupancy restrictions
- Maximum dwelling sizes
- Setback modifications



- Maximum lot area coverage
- Parking space and location requirements
- Building orientation standards
- Building exterior standards

#### Potential Drawbacks of ADU's

- Establishing acceptable densities
- ADU's building compatibility and aesthetics
- Excessive parking of vehicles
- Introduction of excessive rental properties within a stable neighborhood.
- ADU's construction costs & fees
- Zoning Enforcement problems





# Considering ADU's

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#### Why Consider Allowing ADU's

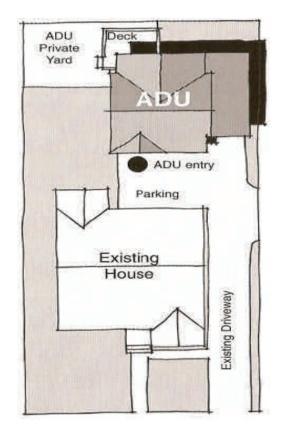
- Provide opportunities for people moving through life's stages to be able to live and/ or grow up in the same community.
- Increase opportunities for redevelopment to reduce the demand for new extensions of utility lines and services.
- Encourage the development of sustainable and/or walkable neighborhoods, where employment, goods, and services can be obtained with less driving distances.
- Encourage opportunities for establishing a variety of housing types in keeping with the income ranges of more families.

#### Who Typically Chooses to Build ADU's

- Older Singles/Couples
- Younger Singles/Couples
- Middle-aged Empty Nesters
- Single Person Households
- People that Travel Often/Extended Periods

#### Who Benefits From ADU's

- *Home Owners* creating a "home based" supplemental income
- *Aging Persons* ability to prolong their normal living arrangements
- *Local Businesses* provides a larger client base to provide needed services
- *Local Contactors* provides opportunities to construct significant home improvements
- Lending Institutions provides a base for home improvement loans
- *Real Estate Firms* potentially provides slightly higher priced housing resale stock



#### Utah Counties/Cities Currently Allowing ADU's\*

- Orem City
- Draper City
- Lindon City
- Sandy City
- Mapleton City
- Eagle Mountain
- Murray City
- Alpine City
- Bountiful City
- West Point
- Provo City
- Payson City
- Taylorsville

- Centerfield
- Salt Lake City
- Grand County
- Summit County
- Toole County
- Weber County

\* As found using internet search engines





# Types Guide to ADU's

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#### **Types of ADU's**

There are five (5) main types of ADU's. These types are:

- Dwelling created in a portion of an existing single family (e.g. basements, attics)
- Dwelling created as a dedicated addition to an existing single family home
- Dwelling created as a free-standing accessory building (e.g. guest house, or cottage)
- Dwelling created from by converting the garage into livable space
- Dwelling purposely designed into the layout of new construction.

#### **Existing Home Renovation – (example)**

#### ADU Guest House/Cottage — (example)

Potential Location of ADU



#### **Garage Conversion – (example)**

Potential Location of ADU



Potential Location of ADU

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**Dedicated ADU Additions** — (example)



#### **Integrated New Construction** — (example)

Potential Location of ADU





### Typical Regulations for ADU's

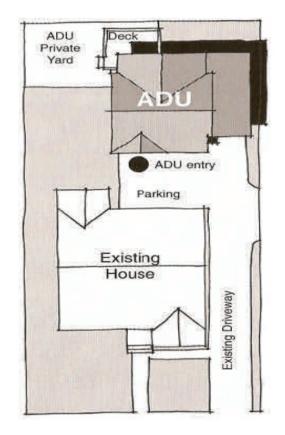
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#### **Requirements for Allowing ADU's**

- Owner occupancy (at least 6 months) of either the home or the ADU. Owner is defined as a person with at least 50% or greater interest in the property
- Owner must sign a owner-occupancy covenant in order to construct or use an ADU
- Occupancy limit for unrelated persons for both units
- Limit one (1) ADU within single family zones
- Limitation of ADU unit sizes (minimums/ maximums) based on lot sizes of a residential zone.
- Detached ADU setback/height restrictions
- Entry Door Orientations for ADU's
- Providing for additional parking stalls
- Minimum pervious surface requirements for entire property.
- Building & safety regulations for sleeping areas, kitchens, etc. for the use of ADU's

#### **Ordinance Enforcement for ADU's**

- Receiving some type of official City approval for construction and use of ADU's
- Recordation of ADU covenants for the property.
- Establishing procedures for the sale or transfer of ownership for properties containing ADU's
- Removal of select features (e.g. kitchen) within ADU's, if no longer desired or abandoned.
- Establishing legalizing procedures for existing illegally developed ADU's or their



#### removal

• Requirements for submittal, approval, and permit issuance to establish ADU's

#### **Ordinance Exceptions For ADU's**

- Waiver of parking requirements based on location in relation to mass transit, goods & services, historic preservation, etc.
- Temporary Owner Absence Allowance due to job dislocation, sabbatical leave, educa-tional pursuits, illness, etc.
- Encouraging affordability through exemptions or reductions of approval fees, building permit fees, and/or impact fees.



# Additional Information about ADU's

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#### **State & Local Planning Policies (examples)**

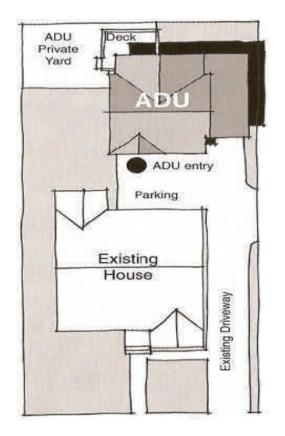
- <u>UCA 10-9a-403</u>, "in drafting the moderate income housing element [cities] shall consider the Legislature's determination that cities shall facilitate a reasonable opportunity for a variety of housing types
- <u>Centerville City General Plan</u>, Moderate Income Housing, See Strategy 6-D.4

#### Planning Toolkits About ADU's (examples)

- <u>Urban Planning Tools for Quality Growth</u>, Chapter 2, Page 36, an Envision Utah Publication (www.envisionutah.org/Urban% 20Planning%20Tools%20for%20QG\_ch2\_1.pdf)
- <u>Getting to Smart Growth</u>, 100 Policies for Implementation, Chapter 3, Section 3, a ICMA Smart Growth Publication (<u>www.smartgrowth.org/pdf/gettosg.pdf</u>)
- <u>Smart Growth/Smart Energy Toolkit</u>, Accessory Dwelling Units (*www.mass.gov/envir/smart\_growth\_toolkit/pages/mod-adu.html*)

#### **ADU Publications & Studies (examples)**

- <u>Accessory Dwelling Units</u>: Case Study, by the US. Department of Housing and Urban Development (<u>http://www.huduser.org/portal/</u> <u>publications/adu.pdf</u>)
- <u>Granny Flats Add Flexibility and Afforda-</u> <u>bility</u>, Better Cities & Towns (*http:// bettercities.net/article/granny-flats-add-flexibility* • *-and-affordability*)
- <u>Missouri Gerontology Institute</u>, Accessory Apartments <u>(http://extension.missouri.edu/</u> *publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=GG14*)



#### Local Newspaper Articles (examples)

- <u>Salt Lake Tribune</u>, Mother-in-law apartments back in fashion?, 03-10-2013
- Daily Herald, Poll—Should Utah valley cities allow accessory apartments?, 02-10 2013
- Ezine @articles, Orem Utah Accessory Apartment 2012 Update, Denise C. Martin, 07-18-2012
- <u>Daily Herald</u>, Pleasant Grove says no to accessory apartments, Laura Giles, 04-20-2010
- <u>Deseret News</u>, Check zoning laws on building apartment in family's house, 05-09-1993