

April 19, 2021

Re: Advisory determination of use – photovoltaic systems as an accessory structure

The City of St. Louis Park wishes to encourage the use of accessory photovoltaic systems and confirm for property owners that such systems are allowed in all zoning districts when conforming to certain requirements.

The City of St. Louis Park controls the use and placement of buildings and structures on land through the establishment of the zoning ordinance. The zoning ordinance does not specifically list photovoltaic systems as an accessory structure, however, the ordinance does generally define a structure as “...anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires a location on the ground, or attached to something having a location on the ground, including but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, advertising signs, billboards and fences.”

Accessory structures are permitted in all zoning districts when they are accessory to a principal structure already existing on the property and when they comply with all other regulations pertaining to structures and uses in the zoning ordinance. Therefore, photovoltaic systems are permitted as accessory structures in all zoning districts.

Determination: Photovoltaic systems that are incidental to the principal building or structure located on the property are treated as accessory structures and will be permitted by right in all zoning districts within the City of St. Louis Park.

Authority: With this advisory determination, I am confirming the interpretation that solar panels are permitted by right in all zoning districts as an accessory structure to a permitted primary use or structure already existing on a property.

Signed:



Sean Walther, AICP
Planning and Zoning Supervisor