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1 **CHAPTER 21.14: RULES OF CONSTRUCTION AND DEFINITIONS**

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2 **21.14.010 INTERPRETATIONS**

3 **A. General**

4 The director has final authority to determine the interpretation or usage of terms used in this title,  
5 pursuant to this section. Any person may request an interpretation of any term by submitting a  
6 written request to the director, who shall respond in writing within 30 days. The director's  
7 interpretation shall be binding on all officers and departments of the municipality.

8 **B. Record of Interpretations**

9 The director shall maintain a file of all interpretations made pursuant to this subsection.

10 **C. Appeal**

11 Any person may appeal an interpretation by the director regarding a term used in this title to the  
12 zoning board of examiners and appeals in accordance with section 21.03.050B.

13 **21.14.020 RULES OF CONSTRUCTION AND INTERPRETATION**

14 The following rules shall apply for construing or interpreting the terms and provisions of this chapter.

15 **A. Meanings and Intent**

16 All provisions, terms, phrases, and expressions contained in this chapter shall be construed  
17 according to the general purposes set forth in section 21.01.030 and the specific purpose  
18 statements set forth throughout this chapter. When, in a specific section of this chapter, a  
19 different meaning is given for a term defined for general purposes in this chapter 21.14, the  
20 specific section's meaning and application of the term shall control.

21 **B. Headings, Illustrations, and Text**

22 In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the text of this chapter and any heading,  
23 caption, figure, illustration, table, or map, the text shall control.

24 **C. Lists and Examples**

25 Unless otherwise specifically indicated, lists of items or examples that use terms such as "for  
26 example," "including," and "such as," or similar language are intended to provide examples and  
27 are not exhaustive lists of all possibilities.

28 **D. Computation of Time**

29 The time in which an act is to be done shall be computed by excluding the first day and including  
30 the last day. If a deadline or required date of action falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday  
31 observed by the municipality, the deadline or required date of action shall be the next day that is  
32 not a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday observed by the municipality. References to days are  
33 calendar days unless otherwise stated.

1 **E. References to Other Regulations/Publications**

2 Whenever reference is made to a resolution, ordinance, statute, regulation, or document, it shall  
3 be construed as a reference to the most recent edition of such regulation, resolution, ordinance,  
4 statute, regulation, or document, unless otherwise specifically stated.

5 **F. Delegation of Authority**

6 Any act authorized by this chapter to be carried out by a specific official of the municipality may  
7 be carried out by a designee of such official.

8 **G. Technical and Non-Technical Terms**

9 Words and phrases shall be construed according to the common and approved usage of the  
10 language, but technical words and phrases that have acquired a peculiar and appropriate  
11 meaning in law or practice shall be construed and understood according to such meaning.

12 **H. Public Officials and Agencies**

13 All public officials, bodies, and agencies to which references are made are those of the  
14 municipality, unless otherwise indicated.

15 **I. Mandatory Terms**

16 The word "shall" is mandatory in nature, establishing an obligation or duty to comply with the  
17 particular provision.

18 **J. Conjunctions**

19 Unless the context clearly suggests the contrary, conjunctions shall be interpreted as follows:

- 20 1. "And" indicates that all connected items, conditions, provisions or events apply; and  
21 2. "Or" indicates that one or more of the connected items, conditions, provisions or events  
22 apply.

23 **K. Tenses, Plurals, and Gender**

24 Words used in the present tense include the future tense. Words used in the singular number  
25 include the plural number and the plural number includes the singular number, unless the context  
26 of the particular usage clearly indicates otherwise. Words used in the masculine gender include  
27 the feminine gender, and vice versa.

28 **L. Measurement of Distances For Separation of Land Uses**

29 Except where stated otherwise, whenever this title requires measurement of distance between  
30 use types, development sites, or lots, such measurement shall be made from the nearest  
31 property line of the first reference point to the property line of the second reference point.

32 **M. Fractions**

33 Except where stated otherwise, any calculation with a fractional result shall be rounded up to the  
34 next consecutive whole number.

1 **21.14.030 DEFINITIONS**

2 When used in this title, the following words and terms shall have the meaning set forth in this section,  
3 unless other provisions of this title specifically indicate otherwise.

4 **Abutting**

5 Touching or bordering.

6  
7 **Abutting Lots**

8 Two lots abut when they share a common lot line.

9 **Access**

10 A way or means of approach to provide vehicular or pedestrian physical entrance to a property.

11 **Accessibility**

12 The extent to which a property is easily accessed or approached.

13  
14 **Adjacent**

15 Abutting or across an alley or a local or private street or pedestrian right-of-way. *[Illustration*  
16 *Recommended]*

17  
18 **Adjacent Lots**

19 Two lots are adjacent where they have a common lot line (abutting) or where they are separated only by  
20 an alley or a local or private street or pedestrian right-of-way.

21 **Affordable Housing**

22 See **Housing, Affordable**.

23 **Airport Elevation**

24 The highest point of an airport's usable landing area, measured in feet above mean sea level.

25 **Alley**

26 A permanent service right-of-way providing a secondary means of access to abutting properties.

27 **AMC**

28 Anchorage Municipal Code.

29 **Amortization**

30 A process where a nonconformity is required to be brought into compliance with the requirements of this  
31 title over a period of time with sufficient length to allow the owner of the legal nonconformity to realize any  
32 reasonable investment-backed expectations regarding the legal nonconformity.

33 **Antenna or Antenna Array**

34 Any exterior transmitting or receiving device mounted on a tower, building, or structure and used in  
35 communications that radiate or capture electromagnetic waves, digital signals, analog signals, radio  
36 frequencies (excluding radar signals), amplitude modulation arrays, wireless telecommunications signals,  
37 or other communications signals.

38 **Approach, Transitional, Horizontal, and Conical**

39 Surfaces or zones that are airspace zones defined as set forth in FAR part 77, subpart C, paragraph  
40 77.25.

41 **Appurtenance**

42 The visible, functional, or ornamental objects accessory to, and part of, building or structures.

- 1 **Architectural Feature** (as used in chapter 21.11, *Signs*)  
2 Any construction attendant to, but not an integral part of the sign, which may consist of landscape,  
3 building, or structural forms that enhance the site in general; also, graphic stripes and other architectural  
4 painting techniques applied to a structure that serves a functional purpose, or when the stripes or other  
5 painting techniques are applied to a building provided such treatment does not include lettering, logos or  
6 pictures.
- 7 **Architectural Feature**  
8 A part, portion, or projection that contributes to the aesthetic quality of a building or structure, exclusive of  
9 signs, that is not necessary for the structural integrity of the building structure or to make the building or  
10 structure habitable.
- 11 **Architectural Bay**  
12 A spatial division of a wall, usually repeated at intervals as part of a series, marked off by vertical  
13 supports of a structure.
- 14 **Area, Building**  
15 The total of areas taken on a horizontal plane in plan view of the principal building and all accessory  
16 buildings or structures exclusive of exterior steps.
- 17 **Area Lighting**  
18 Lighting located on public or private property that is designed to light outdoor spaces. Area lighting does  
19 not include façade or landscape lighting.
- 20 **Assembly**  
21 The assembly of the municipality.
- 22 **Attendant Parking** (also **Valet Parking**)  
23 A parking facility that relies on attendants (or valets) to park and retrieve vehicles rather than on drivers to  
24 park and retrieve their own vehicles.
- 25 **Average**  
26 The equaling of an arithmetic mean.
- 27 **Average Slope**  
28 Average slope is calculated by the following formula:
- 29  $S = (I \times L \times 0.0023) / A$
- 30 Where:
- 31 S = Average slope of lot or tract in percent.
- 32 I = Contour interval (20 feet or less).
- 33 L = Sum of the length of all contours on lot or tract in feet.
- 34 A = Area of the lot or tract in acres.
- 35 **Backlight**  
36 For an exterior luminaire, flux radiated in the quarter-sphere below horizontal and in the opposite direction  
37 of the intended orientation of the luminaire. For luminaries with symmetric distribution, backlight will be  
38 the same as frontlight.

- 1 **Base Flood (100-Year)**  
2 The flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
- 3 **Basement**  
4 See **Story Below Grade Plane**.
- 5 **Billboard**  
6 A sign structure advertising an establishment, merchandise, event, service or entertainment that is not  
7 sold, produced, manufactured or furnished at the property on which the sign is located. Any other  
8 outdoor advertising prohibited by the provisions of Alaska statutes sections 19.25.075 – 19.25.180 shall  
9 also be considered billboards.
- 10 **Block**  
11 A block is defined by an area of land bounded by streets, or a combination of streets, railroad utility  
12 corridor, shorelines of waterways, or municipal boundary lines.
- 13 **Block Length**  
14 The distance between intersections of through streets, such distance being measured along the longest  
15 street bounding the block and from right-of-way line to right-of-way line of the two intersecting streets.
- 16 **Board of Adjustment**  
17 The board of adjustment of the municipality.
- 18 **Board of Examiners and Appeals**  
19 The zoning board of examiners and appeals of the municipality.
- 20 **Brightness**  
21 The human perception of luminance. See **Luminance** and **Candela**.
- 22 **Buffer, Perimeter**  
23 A unit of land and any plants and structures (i.e., walls, fences) thereon that is used to separate land uses  
24 from each other.
- 25 **BUG**  
26 A luminaire classification system that evaluates backlight (B), uplight (U), and glare (G).
- 27 **Building**  
28 Any structure built for the support, shelter, or enclosure of persons, animals, chattels, or property of any  
29 kind.
- 30 **Building, Accessory**  
31 A building or structure that is on the same lot as, and of a nature customarily incidental and subordinate  
32 to, a principal building or structure, and the use of which is clearly incidental and subordinate to that of the  
33 principal building or structure.
- 34 **Building Code**  
35 The building code which is adopted in the AMC title 23.
- 36 **Building Envelope**  
37 The three-dimensional space within which a structure is permitted to be built on a lot and which is defined  
38 by regulations governing setbacks, maximum height and bulk; by other regulations; or any combination  
39 thereof.
- 40 **Building, Principal**  
41 A structure in which is conducted the main use of the lot on which the structure is situated.

1 **Building Permit**

2 See **Permit, Building**.

3 **Building Wall** (as used in chapter 21.11, *Signs*)

4 Any vertical surface of a building or structure (other than a pitched roof) that is integral to and could  
5 reasonably be constructed as part of the architecture of the building when a sign(s) is not being  
6 contemplated. Examples of building walls include but are not limited to: awnings, canopies, marquees,  
7 the vertical portion of gable roofs, parapets, mechanical penthouses, etc.

8 **Business**

9 An enterprise that for consideration will provide for the sale or the rental of any article, substance, or  
10 commodity, including but not limited to business services and personal services.

11 **Caliper**

12 The diameter of a tree trunk measured at six inches above the ground, unless this dimension exceeds  
13 four inches; then the diameter is measured at four and one-half feet above the ground.

14 **Camper**

15 A portable structure mounted on a truck or truck chassis or a converted hearse, bus, station wagon or  
16 panel truck designed for use as a temporary travel dwelling.

17 **Candela**

18 A unit measuring luminous intensity of a lighting source. An ordinary candle has a luminous intensity of  
19 one candela. See **Luminance**.

20 **Canopy**

21 A permanent architectural element projecting out from a building façade over a sidewalk or walkway.

22 **CATV**

23 A utility that operates non-broadcast facilities that distribute to subscribers the signals of one or more  
24 television broadcast stations.

25 **Certificate to Plat**

26 A certificate prepared by a title company authorized by the laws of the state to write the title, showing the  
27 names of all persons having any record title interest in the land to be platted, together with the nature of  
28 their respective interests therein.

29 **Certificate of Occupancy**

30 A certificate of zoning compliance issued by the municipality allowing the occupancy or use of a building  
31 in the building safety service area, and certifying that the structure or use has been constructed or will be  
32 used in compliance with all applicable municipal codes and ordinances.

33 **Certificate of On-Site Systems Approval**

34 A written confirmation signed by an engineer and the development services department certifying that the  
35 on-site sewer and water system serving a single-family dwelling is functional and complies with all state  
36 and local regulations and codes.

37 **Certificate of Zoning Compliance**

38 A document issued by the municipality indicating that a structure or use meets the applicable zoning  
39 requirements at the time of issuance. A certificate of occupancy is considered a certificate of zoning  
40 compliance.

41 **Certified Lighting Professional**

42 A professional who is Lighting Certified (LC) by the National Council on Qualifications for the Lighting  
43 Professions.

1 **Change of Use**

2 A change of use occurs when the type of use is not the same as the immediate prior use type, as  
3 determined by tables 21.05-1 and -2, *Tables of Allowed Uses*, or tables 21.05-3 and -4, *Tables of*  
4 *Accessory Uses*.

5 **Characteristic of Use**

6 Improvements or amenities required by this title in relation to specified uses of land, water areas,  
7 structures, or premises such as parking, lighting, landscaping or other such features.

8 **Civil Penalty**

9 A fine levied by the municipality for a violation of this title.

10 **Clearing**

11 The removal of woody plants over six inches above the ground, without disturbing the vegetative mat,  
12 using any method.

13  
14 **Collocation**

15 The location of antennae on existing structures, including but not limited to towers occupied by another  
16 provider, buildings, water towers, utility substations, utility poles, and church steeples.

17  
18 **Color Rendering Index (of a light source) (CRI)**

19 A measure of the degree of color shift that objects undergo when illuminated by the light source as  
20 compared with those same objects when illuminated by a reference source of comparable color  
21 temperature.

22 **Commercial**

23 An enterprise involved in the production, processing, or merchandising of a commodity for, usually, but  
24 not necessarily, a profit.

25  
26 **Commercial Parking**

27 See **Parking, Commercial**.

28  
29 **Commercial Tract Site Plan**

30 A map of a commercial tract depicting building footprints, parking areas, landscaping, driveway access  
31 points to the property, site drainage and any fragment lots to be contained within the commercial tract.

32 **Common Areas and Facilities**

33 Those areas of a subdivision, building, planned unit development or condominium, including the property  
34 upon which it is located, that are for the common use and enjoyment of the owners and occupants of the  
35 subdivision, building, planned unit development or condominium. The areas may include the land, roofs,  
36 main walls, elevators, staircases, lobbies, halls, parking space, open space, and communal facilities.

37 **Community Council**

38 Nonprofit, voluntary, self-governing associations composed of residents, property owners, business  
39 owners, and representatives from nonprofit associations and other entities located within geographical  
40 areas designated as districts by the assembly. Residents, for the purpose of this chapter, are defined as  
41 residents, property owners, and representatives from nonprofit associations and other entities located  
42 within geographical areas designated as districts by the assembly.

43 **Compatible**

44 The characteristics of different uses, activities, or design that, in terms of development intensity, building  
45 coverage, architectural elements, bulk and occupancy, traffic generation, parking requirements, access  
46 and circulation, site improvement, and public facilities and service demands, is consistent with, maintains  
47 the character of, and does not create adverse impacts on neighboring uses.



1 **Comprehensive Plan**

2 The collection of long-range municipal planning documents and maps that serves as the official policy  
3 guide for the long-range physical, social, and economic development of the municipality, including the  
4 provision of its public infrastructure and services. The comprehensive plan is comprised of a series of  
5 distinct plans adopted by the assembly as elements of the comprehensive plan, that each deal with  
6 separate aspects of community planning. The term "comprehensive plan" as used in this title refers to  
7 any or all of these long-range plans that taken together constitute the comprehensive plan for the  
8 municipality.

9 **Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Cosmetic**

10 An amendment that affects the appearance, style, wording, or presentation of the comprehensive plan,  
11 but does not alter its meaning, interpretation, or recommendations. Examples of cosmetic amendments  
12 include, but are not limited to: revising map or document style, format, or layout to enhance clarity;  
13 revising map or text content to accurately reflect additions to municipal facilities or revisions to adjoining  
14 jurisdictions' adopted plans; adding explanatory text or labels; and correcting spelling or grammar.

15 **Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Substantive**

16 An amendment that affects the intent of the comprehensive plan. Examples of substantive amendments  
17 include, but are not limited to: revising text to address a new policy direction or the addition of a new  
18 zoning district.

19 **Comprehensive Plan Map**

20 An element of the Anchorage Comprehensive Plan, comprised of one or more land use plan maps,  
21 residential intensity maps, and other maps, as well as supporting text and tables. The comprehensive  
22 plan map provides a geographically explicit statement of the adopted plan's policies for future land use  
23 and growth. It designates the ultimate future location, density, and general character of land uses in the  
24 community. It also serves as a guide for the official zoning map.

25  
26 **Construction**

27 On-site fabrication, installation, alteration, erection, or placement of materials in a permanent fashion for  
28 an improvement.

29 **CRI**

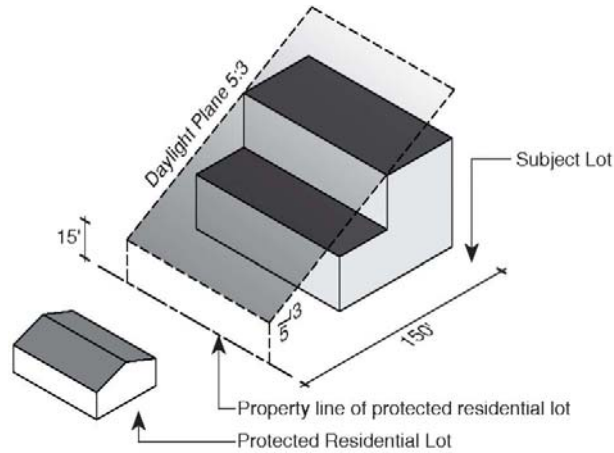
30 See **Color Rendering Index**.

31 **Cupola**

32 A small roof tower, usually rising from the roof ridge.

33 **Daylight Plane**

34 A virtual sloping plane that begins at a specified height and rises inward over a site at a specified ratio of  
35 vertical distance to horizontal distance. It is designed to provide light, air and openness to the sky at  
36 ground floor level, and shall not be penetrated by a building as set forth in this title. It may limit the height  
37 or horizontal extent of structures at any specific point on the site where the daylight plane is more  
38 restrictive than the height limit or the minimum setback applicable at such point on the site.  
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**Decision-Making Body**

The person, board, or commission with the authority to approve, modify, or deny an entitlement application, as stated in section 21.02.020 and elsewhere in this title.

**Dedication**

The devotion of land to a public use by the owner manifesting the intention that it shall be accepted and used presently or in the future for such public purpose. A dedication by the owner under the terms of this subsection is a conveyance of an interest in property, which shall be deemed to include the warranties of title listed in AS 34.15.030. The dedication of streets, alleys, sidewalks, or public open space shall convey a fee interest in the area dedicated. The dedication of all other public rights-of-way, including utility rights-of-way, shall be deemed to create an easement in gross to perform the indicated function in the area depicted.

**Defined Bank**

The usual boundaries, not the flood boundaries, of a stream channel.

**Density, Gross**

The total number of dwelling units per acre within any defined geographic area.

**Density, Net**

The total number of dwelling units per acre on a particular tract or parcel of land, not taking into account portions of the tract or parcel that contain rights-of-way for streets, water bodies, wetlands, or other areas restricted from developed.

**Department**

Unless otherwise indicated in the text of this code, the planning department of the municipality.

**Depth**

When viewed from the front of an object or a three-dimensional space, the measurement from a forward plane to a rearward plane.

**Developer**

That person or entity improving or developing land, who may or may not be the owner of the property.

**Development**

The initiation, construction, change, or enlargement of any use or structure, the disturbance of land, or the division of land into two or more parcels. "Development" shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Construction or enlargement of a building or structure;

- 1 • Change in the type of use of a building, structure, or land;
- 2 • Material increase in the intensity of use of land, such as an increase in the number of businesses,  
3 offices, manufacturing establishments, or dwelling units located in a building or structure or on the  
4 land;
- 5 • Commencement or expansion of resource extraction, agricultural, horticultural, or forestry activities on  
6 a parcel of land;
- 7 • Demolition of a structure or the removal of vegetation from a parcel of land;
- 8 • Deposition of refuse, solid or liquid waste, or fill on a parcel of land;
- 9 • Alteration, either physically or chemically, of the shore, bank, or channel of any stream, lake, or other  
10 body of water or alteration of any wetland; and
- 11 • Any land-disturbing activity that adds to or changes the amount of impervious or partially impervious  
12 cover on a land area or which otherwise decreases the infiltration of precipitation into the soil.

13 **Director**

14 Unless otherwise indicated in the text of this code, the director of the planning department or designee.

15 **Double-Frontage Lot**

16 See **Lot, Double-Frontage**.

17  
18 **Drainageway**

19 A watercourse that does, or under developed conditions is likely to, convey storm water flows for short  
20 durations. Drainageways include constructed channels and conduits (including storm drain pipes),  
21 ephemeral streams, and non-channelized drainage paths along topographic flow lines whether  
22 constructed or natural, vegetated or non vegetated.

23  
24 **Dwelling**

25 A building or portion of a building designed or used exclusively as the living quarters for one family.

26 **Dwelling Unit**

27 A structure or portion thereof providing independent and complete cooking, living, sleeping and toilet  
28 facilities for one family.

29 **Easement**

30 An interest in land owned by another that entitles the easement holder to a specified limited use or  
31 enjoyment.

32 **Elevation, Building**

33 A flat scale drawing of the front, rear, or side of a building.

34  
35 **Encroachment**

36 The projection or intrusion of a building, structure, or other land-disturbing activity into an area where  
37 such projections or intrusions are typically prohibited.

38 **Engineer**

39 A registered professional civil engineer authorized to practice engineering in the state of Alaska.

1 **Entitlement**

2 Any permit or approval granted under this title, including, but not limited to zoning map amendments,  
3 conditional use permits, preliminary or final plat approval, site plan approval, and variances. For  
4 purposes of administering and enforcing this title, the term also includes building and land use permits.

5 **Entrance, Primary**

6 A principal entry through which people, including customers, residents, or members of the public enter a  
7 building. For any commercial or institutional establishment which serves the visiting public, a primary  
8 entrance is open to the public during all business hours and directly accesses lobby, reception, retail, or  
9 other interior areas designed to receive the public. Fire exits, service doors, and employee entrances are  
10 not primary entrances. A building or establishment may have more than one primary entrance.

11  
12 **Ephemeral Stream**

13 A natural drainageway that is channelized over part or all of its length. Ephemeral streams are  
14 transitional to streams but lack the overall geomorphic, hydrologic, and biologic characteristics commonly  
15 associated with stream features. Prolonged flow may occur along very short and isolated segments of an  
16 ephemeral channel but taken as a whole ephemeral channels convey surface water flows for short  
17 durations only.

18  
19 **Erosion**

20 The wearing away of land surface by the action of wind, water, gravity, or any combination thereof.

21 **Erosion Control**

22 A measure, structure, or device that controls the soil material within the land area under responsible  
23 control of the person conducting a land-disturbing activity.

24 **Existing Vegetation**

25 Vegetation that predates a development application by at least two years.

26 **Extent Reasonably Feasible**

27 Under the circumstances, reasonable efforts have been undertaken to comply with the regulation, that the  
28 costs of compliance clearly outweigh the potential benefits to the public, or would unreasonably burden  
29 the proposed project, and reasonable steps have been undertaken to minimize any potential harm or  
30 adverse impacts resulting from noncompliance with the regulation.

31 **Façade, Building**

32 A vertical plane of a structure.  
33

34 **Family**

35 One or more persons occupying premises and living as a single housekeeping unit, as distinguished from  
36 a group occupying a roominghouse, club, fraternity house, or hotel.

37 **FAR**

38 See **Floor Area Ratio**.  
39

40 **Feature, Architectural**

41 See **Architectural Feature**.

42 **Fence**

43 A constructed barrier which is erected to enclose, screen, buffer, enhance, or separate areas.  
44

45 **Fence, Open**

46 A fence constructed with openings between materials used in its construction, such that three-fourths  
47 (75%) or more of a visual image or light source may be seen through the fence.

- 1 **Fence, Ornamental**  
2 A fence that utilizes wood, metal, or other permanent materials and is primarily designed for its beauty, or  
3 for decorative purposes, although it may also serve other purposes, such as a screening structure.  
4 Ornamental fences do not include chain link fences.
- 5 **Fence, Semi-Open**  
6 A fence constructed with openings between materials used in its construction, such that less than 75% of  
7 a visual image or light source may be seen through the fence.
- 8 **Fence, Screening (Opaque)**  
9 A fence, including any gates, constructed of solid material, typically consisting of wood, through which no  
10 visual images or light sources may be seen.
- 11 **Final Acceptance**  
12 Acceptance by the municipality, at the successful completion of the warranty period, of a public  
13 improvement, constructed under terms of a subdivision agreement.
- 14 **Flag**  
15 Any fabric, banner or bunting containing distinctive colors, patterns or symbols, used as a symbol of a  
16 government, political subdivision, corporate or commercial entity, or institution. A corporate or  
17 commercial, or institutional flag may only display the name, trademark, or logo of the business or  
18 institution on the parcel and such flag may not be used for other business or advertising purposes.
- 19 **Flag Lot**  
20 See **Lot, Flag**.
- 21  
22 **Fleet Vehicle**  
23 A group of vehicles owned or operated as a unit.  
24
- 25 **Flood and Flooding**  
26 A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:
- 27 • The overflow of inland or tidal waters.
- 28 • The unusual or rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.
- 29 • Mudslides that are proximately caused or precipitated by accumulations of water on or under the  
30 ground.
- 31 • The collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or other body of water as a result of  
32 erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels or  
33 suddenly caused by an unusually high water level in a natural body of water, accompanied by a  
34 severe storm, or by an unanticipated force of nature, such as a flash flood or an abnormal tide surge,  
35 or by some similarly unusual or unforeseeable event which results in flooding as defined in this  
36 subsection.
- 37 **Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)**  
38 The official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated both areas of special flood  
39 hazards and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.
- 40 **Flood Insurance Study**  
41 The official report provided by the Federal Insurance Administration that includes flood profiles, the flood  
42 boundary/floodway map, and the water surface elevation of the base flood.

1 **Flood Hazard Area**

2 Land adjacent to a watercourse that includes the streambed, floodway, flood fringe, and the floodplain.

3 **Floodplain**

4 That area of land adjoining the channel of a river, stream or other similar body of water which may be  
5 inundated by a flood that can reasonably be expected to occur. The floodplain, shall include all the land  
6 within the limits of the 100-year flood, and the floodway within it if such floodway is delineated.

7 **Floodproofing**

8 Any combination of structural and nonstructural additions, changes or adjustments to structures which  
9 reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities,  
10 structures and their contents.

11 **Floodway, Regulatory**

12 The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to  
13 discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot.  
14 The boundaries of this area shall be established on the basis of the maps and reports adopted by section  
15 21.04.060D., *Flood Hazard Overlay District*.

16 **Floodway Fringe**

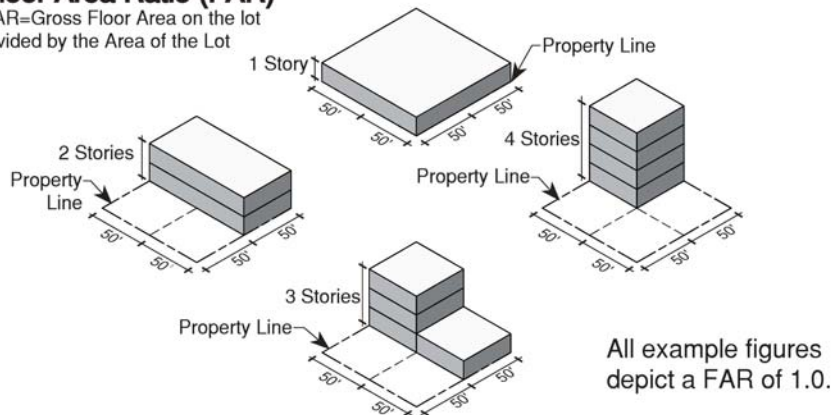
17 That area of land lying between the outer limit of the regulatory floodway and the outer limit of the base  
18 flood elevation. The boundaries of this area shall be established on the basis of the maps and reports  
19 adopted by section 21.04.060D., *Flood Hazard Overlay District*.

20 **Floor Area Ratio (FAR)**

21 The ratio of total building gross floor area to the area of its lot. FAR is calculated by dividing the total  
22 gross floor area of all buildings on a lot or parcel by the area of the lot or parcel. For example, a floor  
23 area ratio of 1.0 yields 12,000 square feet of building gross floor area on a lot with an area of 12,000  
24 square feet. A floor area ratio of 2.0 on the same lot would yield 24,000 square feet of building gross floor  
25 area.

**Floor Area Ratio (FAR)**

FAR=Gross Floor Area on the lot  
divided by the Area of the Lot



26

27 **Footcandle**

28 A unit of measure of the intensity of light falling on a surface, equal to one lumen per square foot and  
29 originally defined with reference to a standardized candle burning at one foot from a given surface.

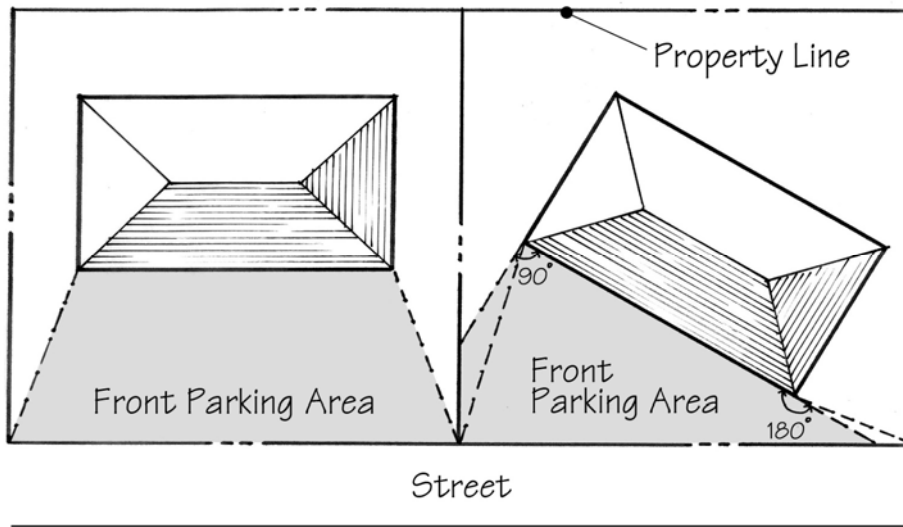
1 **Fragment Lot**

2 A division of a commercial tract for purposes of facilitating construction or financing of a commercial  
3 development requiring multiple phases of construction. The term "fragment lot" does not include  
4 properties outside of the boundaries of an approved commercial tract. Fragment lots may be described in  
5 metes and bounds descriptions.

6 **Front Parking Area**

7 The portion of a site's parking areas that are between the façade of the principal building and an abutting  
8 street. The front parking area shall be determined by drawing a line from the front corners of the building  
9 to the nearest property corners. If any such line, when connected to the plane of the front façade of the  
10 building, creates an angle that is greater than 180 degrees, then the line shall be adjusted to create an  
11 angle of 180 degrees. If any such line, when connected to the plane of the front façade of the building,  
12 creates an angle that is less than 90 degrees, then the line shall be adjusted to create an angle of 90  
13 degrees when connected to the plane of the front façade of the building. The front parking area includes  
14 all parking spaces that fall at least halfway into the boundaries of the front parking area, and all parking  
15 spaces associated with any pad sites located within the front parking area boundaries.

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37 **Frontage Road**

38 A street adjacent to an arterial or higher order street that is intended to serve lots adjacent to the arterial.

39 **Full Cutoff**

40 See **Luminaire, Full Cutoff**.

41 **Full Membership**

42 The total number of seats on a board or commission.

43

44 **Geotechnical Advisory Commission**

45 The geotechnical advisory commission of the municipality.

46 **Glare**

47 Lighting that causes visual discomfort or reduced visibility.

48 **Grade**

49 The elevation of the surface of the ground, paving or sidewalk around a building or structure.

- 1 **Grade Plane**  
2 The elevation of the highest adjoining sidewalk or ground surface within a five-foot horizontal distance  
3 from the exterior wall of the building, when such sidewalk or ground surface is not more than ten feet  
4 above lowest grade within a five-foot horizontal distance from the exterior wall of the building or;
- 5 An elevation ten feet higher than the lowest grade when the sidewalk or ground described above, is more  
6 than ten feet above the lowest grade. (illustration)
- 7 **Greenbelt**  
8 A linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley, or  
9 ridge line, or over land along a railroad utility corridor converted to recreational use, a canal, a scenic  
10 road, or other route.
- 11 **Grid**  
12 The 100-scale grid designation as established by the municipality.
- 13 **Gross Floor Area**  
14 The total horizontal area of all of the floors of a building, measured from exterior to exterior, including  
15 interior balconies, mezzanines, stairwells, elevator shafts and ventilation shafts, etc.
- 16 **Ground Cover**  
17 Grasses or other low-growing plants and landscaping.
- 18 **Ground Level**  
19 That portion of a building that is the first story above grade plane.
- 20 **Ground Level Wall Area**  
21 Exterior wall areas up to 9 feet above finished grade.
- 22 **Grubbing**  
23 Removal by any method of stumps, roots, and vegetative matter from the ground surface after clearing,  
24 exposing bare soil.  
25
- 26 **Guest**  
27 Any person hiring or occupying a room for living or sleeping purposes.
- 28 **Guestroom**  
29 A room intended or designed to be used for sleeping purposes.
- 30 **Height** (as used in section 21.04.060C., *Airport Height Overlay District*)  
31 For the purpose of the airport height map, the distance above mean sea level, unless otherwise specified.
- 32 **Height**  
33 When viewed from the front of an object or a three-dimensional space, the measurement from a  
34 horizontal plane to another horizontal plane.  
35
- 36 **Height, Building**  
37 The vertical distance above a grade plane measured to the highest point of a flat roof, not including a  
38 parapet, or to the deck line of a mansard roof, or to the midpoint of the highest gable of a pitched or  
39 hipped roof.
- 40 **High Rise**  
41 A building or portion of a building that exceeds 75 feet in building height.



- 1 **Household**  
2 A domestic unit consisting of the members of a family who live together along with any non-relatives and  
3 having common access to, and common use of, all living areas and all areas and facilities for the  
4 preparation and storage of food within the dwelling unit.
- 5 **Housing, Affordable**  
6 Housing renting for a monthly rent of not more than 30% of the total monthly household income of low-  
7 income households or housing that may be purchased with monthly payments including: principal,  
8 interest, taxes, insurance, homeowners association fees, and assessments that do not add up to more  
9 than 30% of the total monthly household income of low income households. Low income households are  
10 defined to be a household earning less than 80% of the median annual income for the Anchorage  
11 metropolitan statistical area (MSA), adjusted for household size, as determined by the United States  
12 Department of Housing and Urban Development. A deed restriction ensures the preservation of the  
13 affordable housing unit as an obligation that runs with the land and is binding on subsequent owners for  
14 the lifetime of the unit or building.
- 15  
16 **Housing, Senior**  
17 Housing designed for, and occupied by at least one person 62 years of age or older per dwelling unit, and  
18 which has significant facilities and services specifically designed to meet the physical or social needs of  
19 older persons as described in §100.306, "Significant Facilities and Services Specifically Designed for  
20 Older Persons," 24 C.F.R. part 100 (Department of Housing and Urban Development – Housing for Older  
21 Persons) or any amendments thereto.
- 22  
23 **IESNA**  
24 Illuminating Engineering Society of North America.
- 25  
26 **Illuminance**  
The measure of light intensity striking a surface, measured in footcandles.
- 27  
28 **Impervious Surface**  
29 An area of ground that, by reason of its physical characteristics or the characteristics of materials  
30 covering it, does not absorb rain or surface water. All parking areas, driveways, roads, sidewalks and  
31 walkways, whether paved or not, and any areas covered by buildings or structures, concrete, asphalt,  
brick, stone, wood, ceramic tile or metal, shall be considered to be impervious surfaces.
- 32  
33 **Improvement Areas**  
34 Portions of the municipality divided up into geographic areas for the purposes of determining public  
improvement requirements.
- 35  
36 **Improvements**  
37 Any construction incident to servicing or furnishing facilities for a subdivision, such as grading, street  
38 surfacing, curb and gutter, driveway approaches, sidewalks, crosswalks, water mains and lines, sanitary  
39 sewers, storm sewers, culverts, bridges, utilities, waterways, lakes, bays and other appropriate items with  
an appurtenant construction.
- 40  
41 **Industrial**  
42 An activity including manufacturing, processing, warehousing, storage, distribution, shipping and other  
related uses.
- 43  
44 **Industrial Development**  
A planned industrial area designed specifically for industrial use.
- 45  
46 **Initial Lamp Lumens**  
47 Lumen rating of a lamp when the lamp is new and has not depreciated in light output (rated lamp  
lumens). Light loss factor equals 1.0.

- 1 **Inside Dimension**  
2 Inside dimensions of an area do not include the width of walls, fences, railings, or other physical  
3 boundaries defining the perimeter of the area.
- 4 **Joint Trench**  
5 A trench excavated for the underground placement of utility distribution lines owned or operated by two or  
6 more utilities.
- 7 **Junk**  
8 Any worn-out, wrecked, scrapped, partially or fully dismantled, discarded tangible material, or  
9 combination of materials or items, including junk vehicles as defined in section 15.20.010. Also included  
10 are machinery, metal, rags, rubber, paper, plastics, chemicals and building materials which cannot,  
11 without further alteration and reconditioning, be used for their original purpose.
- 12 **LED**  
13 See **Light Emitting Diode**.
- 14 **Land-Disturbing Activity**  
15 Any use of the land by any person for any activity that results in a change in the natural cover or  
16 topography and that may cause or contribute to sedimentation. Within watershed management areas,  
17 land-disturbing activity shall include the clear cutting of trees unless specifically exempted by this title.
- 18 **Landowner**  
19 Any owner of a legal or equitable interest in real property, including the heirs, devisees, successors,  
20 assigns, and agent or personal representative of the owner. The person shown on the records at the  
21 Anchorage recording district shall be presumed to be the person in control of the property.
- 22 **Landscaping**  
23 Trees, shrubs, ground covers, and related improvements, including furniture and other facilities intended  
24 to enhance public activity spaces both within and outside the affected development. This definition shall  
25 include spaces of varying degrees of enclosure from interior spaces to transitional spaces and outdoor  
26 spaces.
- 27 **Landscaping Maintenance**  
28 Includes but is not limited to appropriate watering, pruning, weeding, insecticide spraying, fertilizing, plant  
29 replacement and other necessary functions as required to keep all plant materials in a vigorous healthy  
30 growing condition.
- 31 **Legal Access**  
32 Having legal access means being contiguous to a roadway as described in AMC section 9.04.010.
- 33 **Legal Nonconforming Status**  
34 A state or condition where a documented nonconforming use, structure, lot, or sign, is allowed to remain  
35 and be maintained pursuant to chapter 21.12, *Nonconformities*.
- 36 **Light Emitting Diode (LED)**  
37 A semiconductor device that emits visible light when an electric current passes through it.
- 38 **Light Trespass**  
39 Unwanted light that falls on neighboring properties or produces glare or distraction for observers away  
40 from the area for which the light is intended (also called "nuisance glare").
- 41 **Loading Space, Off-Street**  
42 A space located on premises for pickup and delivery at the premises.

1 **Lot**

2 A parcel of land shown as an individual unit on the most recent plat of record. The term "lot" includes  
3 "plot," "parcel," or "tract."

4 **Lot Area**

5 The amount of horizontal land area contained inside the lot lines of a lot or site.

6 **Lot Coverage**

7 That percentage of the total lot area covered by buildings, except as provided in subsection  
8 21.06.030B.2., *Structures Not Considered in Measuring Lot Coverage*.

9 **Lot, Corner**

10 A lot located at the intersection of two or more streets. A lot abutting on a curved street shall be  
11 considered a corner lot if straight lines drawn from the foremost points of the side lot lines to the foremost  
12 point of the lot meet at an interior angle of less than 135 degrees.

13 **Lot, Depth of**

14 The mean horizontal distance between the front and rear property lines of a lot, measured in the general  
15 direction of its side property lines between the midpoint of such lines, except that such measurement shall  
16 not extend outside the lot lines of the lot being measured.

17 **Lot, Flag**

18 An irregularly shaped lot in which the buildable section typically has no street frontage, but has an arm  
19 that provides street access, called the "flag pole." The width of the arm does not meet the minimum lot  
20 width standards in the zoning district in which it is located.

21 **Lot, Front**

22 The front of a lot shall be construed to be the portion nearest the street.

23 **Lot Frontage**

24 All property abutting the right-of-way of a dedicated street, private street, or road easement, measured  
25 along the right-of-way between side lot lines of a lot. In no case shall the line along an alley be  
26 considered as lot frontage.

27 **Lot, Interior**

28 A lot other than a corner lot, with frontage only on one street.

29 **Lot Line**

30 The fixed boundaries or property lines of a lot described by survey located on a plat filed for record.

31 **Lot Line, Front**

32 That boundary of a lot measured along the edge of the right-of-way of a dedicated street, private street or  
33 road easement that abuts that line. In the case of a corner lot, all lines that meet this description are front  
34 lot lines.

35 **Lot Line, Rear**

36 That boundary of a lot that is most parallel to the front lot line and does not intersect the front lot line.

37 **Lot Line, Side**

38 That boundary of a lot that is neither a front or rear lot line.

39 **Lot, Nonconforming**

40 A lot that met all legal requirements when it was platted or otherwise recorded but that does not comply  
41 with the minimum lot area or minimum lot dimensions of this title, or a subsequent amendment hereto, for  
42 the zoning district in which it is located.

1 **Lot of Record**

2 A lot that is recorded by the district recorder's office.

3 **Lot, Double-Frontage**

4 A lot other than a corner lot with frontage on more than one street.

5 **Lot, Townhouse**

6 A lot subdivided for the purposes of accommodating townhouse-style attached single-family residential  
7 dwelling units.

8 **Lot Width**

9 The distance between straight lines connecting the front and rear lot lines at each side of the lot,  
10 measured between the midpoints of such lines, provided that such measurement shall extend to the side  
11 property lines and shall not extend beyond the lot lines of the lot being measured. Flag-shaped lot width  
12 shall be measured at the midpoint of the lot excluding the flagpole area of the lot.

13 **Lowest Floor**

14 The lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area, including basement or crawl space. An unfinished or flood  
15 resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage, in any area other  
16 than a basement area, is not considered a building's lowest floor, provided that such enclosure is not built  
17 so as to render the structure in violation of the application nonelevation design requirements of section  
18 21.04.060D.

19 **Lumen**

20 The unit of luminous flux (radiant energy): a measure of the amount of light emitted by a lamp. See also  
21 **Illuminance**.

22 **Luminaire**

23 A complete lighting unit consisting of one or more electric lamps, the lamp holder, reflector, lens, ballast,  
24 and/or other components and accessories.

25 **Luminaire, Full Cutoff**

26 A luminaire emitting a light distribution where zero candela intensity occurs at or above an angle of 90  
27 degrees above nadir. Additionally, the candela per 1,000 lamp lumens does not numerically exceed 100  
28 (10%) at a vertical angle of 80 degrees above nadir. This applies to all lateral angles around the  
29 luminaire.

30 **Luminance**

31 The luminous intensity (photometric brightness) of a light source or reflecting surface, measured in  
32 candelas per square meter.

33 **M.A.S.S.**

34 An abbreviation for the "*Municipality of Anchorage Standard Specifications*," which is a manual that  
35 identifies the approved common construction practices associated with subdivision development and  
36 public works projects.

37 **Maintenance Easement**

38 An easement appurtenant to a lot or parcel permitting entry upon another lot or parcel for the purpose of  
39 maintaining, repairing, or reconstructing a structure on the former lot or parcel.

40 **Major Drainageway**

41 That portion of any drainageway, constructed or natural, that either does, or will under full development,  
42 carry a significant peak flow; all ephemeral streams and all constructed or natural drainageways with total  
43 contributing areas larger than 40 acres are major drainageways.

- 1 **Manufactured Home**  
2 A transportable, factory-built dwelling unit constructed entirely in a controlled factory environment, built to  
3 the federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards (aka HUD code).  
4
- 5 **Manufactured Home Community**  
6 A parcel, or contiguous parcels, of land divided into two or more mobile home or manufactured home lots  
7 for rent or sale.
- 8 **Mean Sea Level**  
9 The average height of the sea for all states of the tide. Datum is Greater Anchorage Area Borough, Post  
10 Quake, U.S. Geodetic Survey of 1972.
- 11 **Mechanical Penthouse**  
12 An enclosed structure above the roof of a building used exclusively for the shelter of mechanical  
13 equipment or shelter of vertical shaft openings in the roof.
- 14 **Maximum Extent Feasible**  
15 That no feasible and prudent alternative exists, and all possible efforts to comply with the regulation or  
16 minimize potential harm or adverse impacts have been undertaken.
- 17 **Minor Amendment**  
18 An amendment to an approved permit or other form of approval granted under this title that involves a  
19 relatively smaller amount of change from the original approval. Specific rules for granting minor  
20 amendments are set forth in chapter 21.03, *Review and Approval Procedures*.
- 21 **Minor Modification**  
22 A minor deviation from otherwise applicable standards of this title approved under section 21.03.120.
- 23 **Monument**  
24 A permanent survey control point.
- 25 **Mounting Height**  
26 The height of a luminaire above grade.
- 27 **Municipal Attorney**  
28 The official legal representative for the municipality.
- 29 **Municipality**  
30 The municipality of Anchorage.  
31
- 32 **New Structures** (as used in section 21.04.060D., *FHO: Flood Hazard Overlay District*)  
33 Structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after September 25, 1979. The start of  
34 construction means the first placement of a permanent foundation and appropriate structural framing.
- 35 **Nonconforming Lot**  
36 A lot, the area and/or dimensions of which were lawful prior to the adoption, revision, or amendment of  
37 the zoning ordinance but that fail by reason of such adoption, revision, or amendment to conform to the  
38 present requirements of the zoning district.
- 39 **Nonconforming Structure**  
40 A structure or building, the size, dimensions, and/or location of which were lawful prior to the adoption,  
41 revision, or amendment of the zoning ordinance but that fail by reason of such adoption, revision, or  
42 amendment to conform to the present requirements of the zoning ordinance.

- 1 **Nonconforming Use**  
2 A use or activity that was lawful prior to the adoption, revision, or amendment of the zoning ordinance but  
3 that fails by reason of such adoption, revision, or amendment to conform to the present requirements of  
4 the zoning district.
- 5 **Nonconformity**  
6 Any legally approved structure, lot, sign, or use of land that no longer conforms with the requirements of  
7 this title.
- 8 **Nursing Facility**  
9 Has the same meaning as set forth in Alaska Statutes chapter 18.20.
- 10 **OS&HP**  
11 *Official Streets and Highways Plan.*
- 12 **Obstruction** (as used in section 21.04.060D., *FHO: Flood Hazard Overlay District*)  
13 Any dam, wall, embankment, levee, dike, pile, abutment, projection, excavation, channel modification,  
14 bridge, conduit, culvert, building, wire, fence, rock, gravel, refuse, fill, structure or matter in, along, across  
15 or projecting into any channel, watercourse or regulatory flood hazard area which may impede, retard or  
16 change the direction of the flow of water, either in itself or by catching or collecting debris carried by such  
17 water, or that is placed where the flow of water might carry the material downstream to the damage of life  
18 or property.
- 19 **On-Site Remediation**  
20 Removal of volatile and semi-volatile contaminants from soils, sediments, slurries and filter cakes within  
21 300 feet of the location where the material was originally contaminated.
- 22 **Open Space, Common**  
23 Open space for the common use and enjoyment of the owners and occupants of the subdivision, building,  
24 planned unit development or condominium. Common means shared by all tenants and is distinguished  
25 from space designated for private use.
- 26 **Overlay District**  
27 A unique set of zoning regulations that are superimposed on one or more established zoning districts and  
28 shown on the zoning map, and subsequently impose in addition to or in place of the regulations of the  
29 underlying district. The overlay district may be used to impose supplemental restrictions on uses in these  
30 districts, permit uses otherwise disallowed, or implement some form of site or architectural design  
31 program. Developments within an overlay district must conform to the requirements of the underlying  
32 district as modified by the overlay district and as set forth in the enacting ordinance.
- 33 **Owner**  
34 Any person, agent, firm, corporation, or partnership that alone, jointly, or severally with others:
- 35 1) Has legal or equitable title to any premises, dwelling, or dwelling unit, with or without  
36 accompanying actual possession thereof; or
- 37 2) Has charge, care, or control of any premises, dwelling, or dwelling unit, as agent of the owner  
38 or as executor, administrator, trustee, or guardian of the estate of the beneficial owner. The  
39 person shown on the records of the district recorders office of the state of Alaska to be the  
40 owner of a particular property shall be presumed to be the person in control of that property.
- 41 **Parapet**  
42 A low, protective wall at the edge of a roof that is part of an exterior wall, fire wall, or party wall that rises  
43 above the roof.

- 1 **Parcel**  
2 See **Lot**.
- 3 **Parking Angle**  
4 The angle formed by a parking space and the wall or centerline of the facility, ranging from ninety degrees  
5 (perpendicular) to thirty degrees.
- 6 **Parking Bay**  
7 The section of a parking facility containing a driving aisle and one or two rows of parking spaces on one  
8 or both sides of the aisle.
- 9 **Parking Cash Out**  
10 Allowing commuters to choose cash instead of a free parking space. For example, a commuter who is  
11 offered a parking cash-out might be able to choose to receive \$50 per month in cash if they use an  
12 alternative mode besides a single-occupancy vehicle.  
13
- 14 **Parking, Commercial**  
15 Parking operated as a commercial enterprise for which users pay a direct fee.
- 16 **Parking Facility**  
17 An area for off-street parking of motor vehicles, either surface parking or structured parking.
- 18 **Parking Lot**  
19 An area for parking motor vehicles.
- 20 **Parking, On Street Curb**  
21 Parking spaces within the street right-of-way and abutting the curb of a street.
- 22 **Parking, Shared**  
23 A parking facility that serves multiple uses or destinations.
- 24 **Parking, Stacked**  
25 Vehicles parked one above the other using a mechanical car stacker.
- 26 **Parking Structure, Automated**  
27 A parking structure operated by automatic mechanical parking equipment such as automobile elevator or  
28 lift systems.
- 29 **Parking, Structured**  
30 A parking facility that is a multistory building or structure, under a building or structure, or a portion of a  
31 building, such as occupying a story within a multifamily building. Structured parking may be either on,  
32 above, or below grade.
- 33 **Parking, Surface (or Parking Lot)**  
34 A parking facility built directly on the ground.
- 35 **Parking, Tandem**  
36 One vehicle parked behind another.
- 37 **Parking, Unbundled**  
38 Parking rented and sold separately from building space, so occupants only pay for the amount of parking  
39 they want.

1 **Permeable Surface**

2 An area of ground that, by reason of its physical characteristics and the characteristics of materials  
3 covering it, is able to absorb rain or surface water at a rate equal or greater than that of lawn turf.  
4 Examples include natural vegetation, lawn turf, landscape beds, gardens, mulch, decorative gravel, and  
5 some types of porous pavements.

6 **Permit, Building**

7 A land use permit issued by the municipality pursuant to the municipal code and the state building code  
8 authorizing the erection, construction, reconstruction, restoration, alteration, enlargement, conversion,  
9 remodeling, demolition, moving, or repair of a building or structure within the building safety service area.

10 **Permit, Land Use**

11 An official document issued by the municipality pursuant to this title required for the erection, construction,  
12 establishment, moving, alteration, enlargement, repair, placement, or conversion of any building,  
13 structure, or land in any district established under this title.

14 **Permit, Sign**

15 An official document issued by the municipality pursuant to this title required for the construction,  
16 installation, maintenance, and operation of signs within the municipality.

17 **Permit, Flood Hazard**

18 An official document issued by the municipality pursuant to this title for uses, structures, or activities listed  
19 in the floodplain regulations.

20 **Person**

21 Any individual, lessee, firm, partnership, association, joint venture, corporation, or agent of the  
22 aforementioned groups, or the state of Alaska or any agency or political subdivision thereof.

23 **Physical Access**

24 Having physical access means being adjacent to a road suitable for travel by passenger automobiles that  
25 is connected to the publicly dedicated and improved transportation network of the municipality.

26 **Pillow**

27 A sleeping accommodation for one person.

28 **Plan, Landscape**

29 A plan, drawn to scale, showing dimensions and details of the portion of a site devoted to planting  
30 materials and their maintenance.

31 **Plan, Master**

32 The maps, illustrations, and supporting text associated with a planned development which conveys the  
33 allowable uses, densities, non-residential intensities, and arrangement of uses within the boundaries of  
34 the planned development along with any associated conditions, phasing schedules, and other  
35 agreements.

36 **Plan, Site**

37 A plan depicting the proposed development of a property, in terms of the location, scale, and  
38 configuration of buildings, uses, and other features containing all the information required by this title. A  
39 site plan may include but is not limited to lot lines, adjacent lots and streets, building sites, reserved open  
40 space, buildings, interior vehicular and pedestrian access, parking lot design (calculations and layout),  
41 signage, lighting, and screening devices, existing and proposed landscaping, topography, drainage, and,  
42 depending on requirements, floor plans, building elevations and locations of proposed utility services and  
43 lines, and any other information that reasonably may be required in order that an informed decision can  
44 be made by the approving authority.



- 1 **Plan, Subdivision**  
2 A proposed plan of development to establish a subdivision that contains all information such as lot lines,  
3 streets, easements, and other features required by this title.
- 4 **Planning Commission**  
5 The planning and zoning commission of the municipality.
- 6 **Plat**  
7 A map document prepared by a registered surveyor representing a tract of land showing the boundaries  
8 and location of individual properties, streets, and other related items for identifying property.
- 9 **Plat, Final**  
10 A map of a subdivision of land made up in final form ready for approval and recording.
- 11 **Plat, Preliminary**  
12 A map showing the salient features of a proposed subdivision of land submitted to the platting authority  
13 for purposes of preliminary consideration and approval.
- 14 **Platting Authority**  
15 The municipal platting board, director, or any other board so designated by the assembly.
- 16 **Plot**  
17 See **Lot**.
- 18 **Pre-Application Conference**  
19 A meeting between an applicant and the municipal staff intended to familiarize both parties with  
20 conceptual plans or proposals presented by the applicant.
- 21 **Prisoner**  
22 The same meaning as defined in AS 33.30.901 as to state prisoners, and includes persons convicted of a  
23 felony described in AS 11.41, *Offenses Against the Person*, in Alaska or of an offense with the same or  
24 substantially similar elements in another jurisdiction until they have successfully completed all conditions  
25 of parole and probation and are no longer under the supervision of the court, the Alaska department of  
26 corrections, another state or municipal agency, or contractor to those entities. The term "prisoner" also  
27 includes federal offenders in the custody, control or under the care of supervision of the United States  
28 attorney general or the bureau of prisons.
- 29 **Private Enforcement Action**  
30 A process by which a private individual, homeowner's association, or community council can request that  
31 the administrative hearings officer hear and investigate charges that another person or owner of land has  
32 violated the requirements of this title.
- 33 **Profession**  
34 An occupation, such as law, medicine, or engineering, which requires considerable training and  
35 specialized study.
- 36 **Property Line**  
37 A demarcation limit of a lot dividing it from right-of-way, or other lots or parcels of land.
- 38 **Public Enforcement Action**  
39 An action brought by the municipality against owners or users of land for violating the provisions of this  
40 title.

- 1 **Public Facility**  
2 Any buildings and structures (including streets and highways) owned or leased by a government agency  
3 not exempt by law from municipal land use regulation
- 4 **Public Use Easement**  
5 A right of use over portion(s) of real property granted by a property owner for specific present or future  
6 uses of land by the public, or governmental entity, that is reserved, conveyed, or dedicated through the  
7 recording of a plat, deed, or easement document.  
8
- 9 **Public Utility**  
10 Any person or organization subject to regulation under AS 42.05.
- 11 **Publicly Accessible**  
12 Open to the general public during regular business hours.  
13
- 14 **Record of Survey Map**  
15 A map prepared by a professional land surveyor that reestablishes survey controls, boundaries, locations  
16 of improvements, or the alignment of right-of-ways for recording
- 17 **Recreational Vehicle**  
18 A vehicular type unit primarily designed as temporary living quarters for travel, camping, recreational or  
19 vacation usage, which either has its own motive power or is mounted on or drawn by another vehicle.  
20 The basic entities are travel trailer, camping trailer, pickup truck camper, fifth-wheel and motor home.
- 21 **Redevelopment**  
22 The removal and replacement, rehabilitation, or adaptive reuse of an existing structure or structures, or of  
23 land from which previous improvements have been removed.
- 24 **Reflectance**  
25 The fraction of solar radiation reflected by a material.  
26
- 27 **Regulatory Floodway**  
28 See **Floodway, Regulatory**.
- 29 **Reinforcement**  
30 Repair, replacement, or addition of a crossarm, guy, pole, stub, or conductor for a utility distribution  
31 facility.
- 32 **Relocation** (as used in section 21.07.050, *Utility Distribution Facilities*)  
33 A change in alignment of more than six spans.
- 34 **Reserve Strips**  
35 Narrow strips of privately-owned land adjacent and parallel to a street.
- 36 **Residential**  
37 Activity involving the occupation of buildings for living, cooking, sleeping, and recreation.
- 38 **Residential Subdivision**  
39 A subdivision, or that part of a subdivision, that is within an R-1, R-1A, R-2A, R-2D, R-2F, R-2M, R-3, R-4,  
40 R-4A, R-5, R-6, R-7, R-8, R-9, R-10 or TA zoning district.
- 41 **Rezoning (Zoning Map Amendments)**  
42 An amendment to the map and/or text of this title to effect a change in the boundaries of any zoning  
43 district or the zone classification of any parcel of land in the municipality.

1 **Right-of-Way**

2 Streets, avenues, ways, boulevards, drives, circles, courts, alleys, sidewalks, walkways, trails, and other  
3 such areas granted or dedicated for the use of the public for the placement of utilities and/or for the  
4 passage of vehicles and/or pedestrians, including the space above and beneath such areas.

5 **Runway**

6 A defined area on land or water prepared for use for landing and takeoff of aircraft.

7 **Salvageable Improvements**

8 As used in section 21.08.060, *Subdivision Agreements*, and describes those portions of street  
9 improvements constructed within a dedicated right-of-way that are usable as a part of the finally  
10 constructed street. Salvageable improvements include such items of work as clearing and grubbing,  
11 removal of unsuitable material and placement of classified backfill, but do not include temporary surfacing  
12 and other work that would not be usable or beneficial to final street construction. This definition applies  
13 only to those streets that are not, during their initial construction, improved to the final paved standard of  
14 the municipality.

15 **Secondary Building**

16 A building detached from a principal building located on the same lot and customarily incidental and  
17 subordinate to the principal building or use.

18 **Senior Housing**

19 See **Housing, Senior**.

20 **Setback**

21 The minimum distance required between any building or structure and a street right-of-way or lot line, or  
22 from some other feature or object from which a separation distance is required.

23 **Setback, Front**

24 A setback that extends across the full frontage of a lot or tract on a public or private street. The front  
25 setback is defined by the front lot line.

26 **Setback, Rear**

27 A setback that extends across the full rear of a lot or tract. The rear setback is defined by the rear lot  
28 line. Corner lots, double-frontage lots, and three-sided lots do not have rear setbacks.

29 **Setback, Side**

30 Any setback that is not a front or rear setback. Generally, side setbacks extend from the inner boundary  
31 of the front setback (or from the front property line of the lot or tract where no front setback is required) to  
32 the inner boundary of the rear setback (or to the rear property line of the lot or tract where no rear setback  
33 is required.) For corner and double-frontage lots, setbacks remaining after front setbacks have been  
34 established shall be considered side setbacks.

35 **Service Connection**

36 Conductors transmitting utility service from a utility distribution line to a customer's riser or service  
37 entrance.

38 **Shrub**

39 A woody perennial plant having more than one main stem at the ground, usually attaining a height of less  
40 than 15 feet.

41 **Sidewalk**

42 An improved right-of-way for pedestrian circulation that is part of the street right-of-way.

- 1 **Sight Distance Triangle**  
2 A triangular shaped portion of land established at street, driveway, or alley intersections which is  
3 regulated so that the visibility of motorists entering or leaving the intersection is not obstructed.
- 4 **Sign**  
5 Any visual communication display, object, device, graphic, structure or part, situated indoors or outdoors,  
6 or attached to, painted on or displayed from a building or structure, in order to direct or attract attention to,  
7 or to announce or promote, an object, product, place, activity, person, institution, organization, or  
8 business or the like, by means of letters, words, model, banner, flag, pennant, insignia, device, designs,  
9 colors, symbols, fixtures, images, illuminations or representation used as, or which is in the nature of an  
10 announcement, direction, or advertisement.
- 11 **Sign, Animated**  
12 A sign that contains animation or animated effects, changeable copy, flashing, or moving parts.
- 13 **Sign, Banner**  
14 A sign made of lightweight fabric or similar material with no enclosing framework that is mounted to a  
15 building or other structure at one or more edges.
- 16 **Sign, Building**  
17 Any sign attached to any part of a building and including wall, awning, canopy, and projecting signs. A  
18 wall sign is a building sign that is parallel to and does not extend from the wall more than 12 inches.
- 19 **Sign, Changeable Copy**  
20 A portion of a sign with letters, characters, or graphics that are not permanently affixed to the structure,  
21 framing, or background allowing the letters, characters or graphics to be modified from time to time  
22 manually or by electronic or mechanical devices, such as a bulletin board or electronic message board.  
23 Changeable copy signs may not be used to display commercial messages relating to products or services  
24 that are not offered on the property.
- 25 **Sign, Construction**  
26 A temporary sign identifying a project or facility during the time of construction. Such signs typically  
27 include the name of an architect, engineer, and/or contractor for a building or project located on the  
28 parcel.
- 29 **Sign, Entrance or Exit**  
30 A sign located at the driveway entrance or exit and intended to provide for safe ingress and egress.
- 31 **Sign, Freestanding**  
32 A sign supported from the ground and not attached to any building. A freestanding sign may be  
33 supported by one or more poles or a solid base. Pole signs are considered freestanding signs.
- 34 **Sign, Historic**  
35 Any sign that has been designated as historic by the urban design commission.
- 36 **Sign, Ideological or Political**  
37 Any temporary sign displaying or advocating an idea, opinion, or position on any social, cultural, religious,  
38 or political issue and containing no commercial message.
- 39 **Sign, Illuminated**  
40 Any sign which is partially or entirely illuminated internally or externally so as to make the sign more  
41 visible.

- 1 **Sign, Inflatable**  
2 Any inflatable shape or figure designed or used to attract attention to a business event or location.  
3 Inflatable promotional devices shall be considered to be temporary signs under the terms of this chapter  
4 and, where applicable, subject to the regulations thereof.
- 5 **Sign, Instructional**  
6 A sign that has a purpose secondary to the use on the lot and that is intended to instruct employees,  
7 customers, or users as to matters of public safety or necessity such as specific parking requirements, the  
8 location or regulations pertaining to specific activities on the site or in the building, and including a sign  
9 erected by a public authority, utility, public service organization, or private industry that is intended to  
10 control traffic; direct, identify or inform the public; or provide needed public service as determined by the  
11 rules and regulations of governmental agencies or through public policy.
- 12 **Sign, Nonconforming**  
13 A sign which was legally erected, but which is no longer in compliance with the requirements of this title.
- 14 **Sign, Off-Premises**  
15 See **Billboard**.
- 16 **Sign Plate**  
17 A building sign which does not exceed two square feet indicating the street number, the name of the  
18 person, business, profession or activity occupying the lot, building, or part thereof; or other information  
19 pertaining to the use on the lot.
- 20 **Sign, Portable**  
21 Any sign that is not permanently attached to the ground or other permanent structure, or a sign designed  
22 to be transported on wheels, skids, a bench, runners, brackets, or has a frame to which wheels, skids,  
23 runners, brackets, or similar mechanical devices can be attached to or support the sign. A portable sign  
24 also includes inflatable devices and mobile signs such as parked trailers or vehicles, which include signs  
25 which are visible from the public right-of-way unless such vehicle is used in the normal day-to-day  
26 operations of the business.
- 27 **Sign, Pole**  
28 A sign that is mounted on a freestanding pole or poles, or other support structure that is visible.
- 29 **Sign, Projecting**  
30 A sign that is attached to a building wall and extending perpendicular to (or approximately perpendicular  
31 to) the building wall and 12 inches or more beyond the face of the wall.
- 32 **Sign, Roof**  
33 A sign, or any portion thereof, erected, constructed, painted, placed, or projecting upon or extending  
34 above the roof or parapet wall of any building whether the principal support for the sign is on the roof, wall  
35 or any other structural element of the building.
- 36 **Sign, Temporary**  
37 A sign that is designed to be used only temporarily and is not intended to be permanently attached to a  
38 building, structure or permanently installed in the ground. These include, but are not limited to, political  
39 signs, special event signs, and for sale or leasing signs. Mobile and portable signs are temporary signs.  
40 Temporary signs may be displayed as window signs.
- 41 **Sign, Traffic**  
42 A sign indicating federal, state, or municipal regulations for automobile, truck, bicycle, and/or pedestrian  
43 movement.

- 1 **Sign, Window**  
2 A sign that is applied or attached to a window or door, or a sign located near a window within a building  
3 for the purpose of being visible to and read from the outside of the building except for signs that are not  
4 legible from a distance of more than three feet beyond the building in which such sign is located.
- 5 **Site**  
6 A lot or group of contiguous lots that is proposed for development and is in single ownership or has  
7 multiple owners, all of whom join in an application for development.
- 8 **Site Plan**  
9 See **Plan, Site**.
- 10 **Site Plan Review**  
11 The process whereby the reviewing authority reviews the site plans and maps of a developer to ensure  
12 that they meet the stated purposes and standards of the zone, provide for the necessary public facilities  
13 such as roads and schools, and protect and preserve topographic features and adjacent properties  
14 through appropriate siting of structures and landscaping.
- 15 **Site Selection**  
16 The process by which the municipality shall review and decide the selection of a site for specified public  
17 facilities.
- 18 **Skylight**  
19 An opening in a roof or ceiling, glazed with a transparent or translucent material, for admitting daylight.
- 20 **Slope**  
21 The vertical elevation of a land area divided by the horizontal distance, expressed as a percentage.
- 22 **Solar Access (Sunlight Access)**  
23 The availability of, or access to, unobstructed direct sunlight.
- 24 **Solar Orientation**  
25 A south facing orientation of a property line, street frontage, right-of-way, fence, building wall, or window  
26 surface where the line, frontage, wall, or window faces within 30 degrees of south. This orientation of a  
27 surface in relation to the path of the sun may be used to maximize the amount of sunlight and heat gained  
28 from solar radiation.  
29
- 30 **Space** (as used in section 21.05.030A.8., *Manufactured Home Community*)  
31 A defined land area in a manufactured home community on which a mobile home or manufactured home  
32 may be placed and which is described by boundary lines measured in terms of:
- 33 • Its depth expressed as a mean distance between the front and rear of the space, measured in the  
34 general direction of the side space lines.
- 35 • Its width expressed as a mean distance between the side lines of the space, measured in the general  
36 direction of the front and rear space lines.
- 37 **Space, Reverse-Frontage** (as used in section 21.05.030A.8., *Manufactured Home Community*)  
38 A space which abuts a local street on one side and a street of Class I or greater classification on the  
39 opposite side.  
40
- 41 **Special Hazard Area**  
42 An area having special flood, mudslide, or flood-related erosion hazards.

1 **Special Limitation**

2 A provision adopted by ordinance which restricts the permitted principal uses and structures otherwise  
3 allowed in a zoning district or which requires compliance with design standards not otherwise required by  
4 zoning district regulations or other sections of this title.

5 **Start of Construction**

6 Includes substantial improvement, and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the  
7 actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, placement or other improvement was within 180 days  
8 of the permit date. The actual start means either the first placement of permanent construction of a  
9 structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of  
10 columns or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured home on a  
11 foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading and  
12 filling; nor does it include the installation of streets or walkways; nor does it include excavation for a  
13 basement, footings, piers or foundation, or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the  
14 installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling  
15 units or not part of the main structure.

16 **Storm Water**

17 Surface water runoff originating from surface water, rain, snowmelt, wash waters, street wash, subsurface  
18 drainage, or other drainage but excludes wastewater as defined in AMC title 15.

19 **Story**

20 That portion of a building included between the upper surface of a floor and the upper surface of the next  
21 floor or roof above.

22 **Story Above Grade Plane**

23 Any story having its finished floor surface entirely above finished grade plane, except that a basement  
24 shall be considered as a story above grade plane where the finished surface of the floor above the  
25 basement is:

- 26 a. More than six feet above grade plane; or  
27 b. More than 12 feet above the finished grade at any point.

28  
29 **Story Below Grade Plane**

30 That portion of a building that is a story below grade plane.

31 **Stream**

32 A watercourse perennially or intermittently conveying surface waters not solely the result of constructed  
33 subsurface drainage. When a stream does flow it conveys more water than that contributed from a single  
34 storm runoff event and includes natural ground water discharge as a component in its flow. A stream  
35 may be intermittent but when flows do occur a prolonged, hydraulic connection must exist continuously  
36 either along the surface or at shallow depths. A stream shall retain its identity as a single continuous  
37 feature over its whole length, across perennial and intermittent reaches, through underground passages,  
38 or across other surface water bodies, even though its surface flow may periodically break up or disappear  
39 along its alignment, either in time or in space.

40 Though some of these features may not be present locally where flow is spatially or temporally  
41 intermittent, or where the stream has been piped or otherwise substantially modified, overall a stream  
42 displays distinctive geomorphic, hydrologic and biologic characteristics. The core defining characteristics  
43 include:

- 44 • Unique geometric, channel, sedimentary and other physical characteristics, including bed  
45 and banks, along part or all of the stream's alignment;

- 1 • Prolonged flow along continuous or periodic open channel segments, and hydraulic  
2 continuity along the stream's entire length; and
- 3 • Overall biologic characteristics representative of prolonged surface flows.

4 **Stream Bed**

5 That portion of a stream utilized for water flow during nonflood periods, normally extending from the  
6 thalweg (low point) to each bank.

7 **Street**

8 A right-of-way improved for vehicular and pedestrian travel permanently open to general use that affords  
9 the principal means of access to abutting property, such as an avenue, place, drive, boulevard, highway  
10 and any other similar public thoroughfare, except an alley.

11 **Street, Access**

12 A street constructed to provide physical access to a subdivision.

13 **Street, Arterial**

14 Higher order streets with controlled access that are intended for through or regional traffic moving  
15 between urban centers and not intended for local or residential neighborhood traffic. These streets have  
16 multiple travel lanes, provide access to regional travelways, and carry high volumes of traffic.

17 **Street, Collector**

18 Streets that penetrate various land use classifications to provide both land access and mobility within  
19 neighborhoods and commercial areas. Their primary function is traffic service, collecting traffic from  
20 intersecting streets and funneling it to major thoroughfares. A major collector roadway/street has limited  
21 direct access from individual lots/parcels. A minor collector roadway/street allows direct access of  
22 individual lots/parcels.

23 **Street, Cul-de-Sac**

24 A street having only one outlet, with provision for a turnaround at its termination, and which is not  
25 intended to be extended or continued to serve future subdivisions or adjacent land.

26 **Street, Dead End**

27 A right-of-way that terminates without a cul-de-sac or a temporary turnaround and the terminus of which  
28 has the same width as the width of the right-of-way.

29 **Street, Half**

30 A portion of a right of way, including the street pavement that is directly adjacent to a lot's frontage as  
31 measured from the ultimate street centerline.

32 **Street, Interior**

33 A street contained entirely within the boundaries of a subdivision.

34 **Street, Loop**

35 A street that originates and terminates at intersections with the same street.

36 **Street, Peripheral**

37 A street parallel to the boundary of a subdivision and whose right-of-way abuts that boundary.

38 **Street, Local**

39 An interior street in a subdivision designed and intended to serve local areas. Local streets feed traffic  
40 into collector and arterial street systems.



1 **Street, Stub**

2 A dead-end interior street provided for eventual extension onto unplatted land.

3 **Structure**

4 Anything that is constructed or erected and located on or under the ground, or attached to something  
5 fixed to the ground, including a walled and roofed building, and/or a gas or liquid storage tank that is  
6 principally above ground.

7 **Subdivider**

8 A person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, governmental unit, or combination of any of these  
9 that may hold any recorded or equitable ownership interest in land being subdivided. The terms shall  
10 also include all heirs, assigns, or successors in interest, or representatives of the subdivider, owner,  
11 proprietor, or developer.

12 **Subdivision**

13 The division of a tract or parcel of land into two or more lots, sites or other divisions for the purpose,  
14 whether immediate or future, of sale, lease or building development, including any combining or  
15 resubdivision, and, when appropriate to the context, the process of subdividing or the land subdivided.

16 **Subdivision Agreement**

17 A document which is approved by the department of project management and engineering which  
18 specifies the tentative location, construction schedule, and estimated costs of public improvements to be  
19 constructed as part of subdivision development.

20 **Survey, As-Built**

21 A plan showing the true and actual location and nature of buildings, structures, plant materials, utility  
22 easements, and other features or improvements that have been installed on or off the property pursuant  
23 to a site and/or subdivision plan approved under this title, to be used to determine compliance with the  
24 requirements of this title.

25 **Surveyor**

26 A land surveyor who is registered in the state.

27 **Substantial Improvement**

28 Any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the  
29 market value of the structure either:

- 30
- Before the improvement or repair is started; or
  - If the structure has been damaged and is being restored, before the damage occurred. For the  
31 purposes of this definition, substantial improvement is considered to occur when the first  
32 alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of the building commences, whether or  
33 not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the structure. The term does not, however,  
34 include either:  
35
    - 36 1. Any project for improvement of a structure to comply with existing state or local health,  
37 sanitary or safety code specifications which are solely necessary to ensure safe living  
38 conditions; or
    - 39 2. Any alteration of a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places or a state  
40 inventory of historic places.

- 1 **Surrounding Development**  
2 Immediately adjacent development on the same block face or on facing blocks as the subject site, as well  
3 as prevalent patterns established in the existing neighborhood located within one-quarter mile of the  
4 subject development site.
- 5 **Take Action**  
6 To approve, approve with conditions, deny, refer to another body, or postpone a decision on an  
7 application for entitlement.  
8
- 9 **Target Area**  
10 An area designated under section 21.07.050 as a location in which overhead distribution lines are to be  
11 placed underground as provided in this chapter.
- 12 **Topographic Flow Line**  
13 A topographically-defined surface drainage path; a line of continuous fall in elevation across a land  
14 surface that will tend to accumulate and concentrate overland runoff from an area; the local flow path  
15 likely to be taken across a land surface by surface runoff as it integrates into a concentrated flow; any  
16 actual line of major surface flow conveyance. A topographic flow line is present solely as a result of the  
17 topography of the land surface itself and exists independent of the infiltration characteristics of the land  
18 surface or the presence or absence of vegetation along the flow line.
- 19 **Topographic Map**  
20 A map showing the landform by the use of contour lines.
- 21 **Tower, Amateur Radio**  
22 An antenna and structure of any type used exclusively by a licensed amateur operator which is part of  
23 federally licensed amateur radio station for radio communication for the purpose of self-training,  
24 intercommunication, and technical investigations carried out by amateurs solely with a personal aim and  
25 without pecuniary interest.  
26
- 27 **Tower, Community Interest**  
28 Any structure principally designed to support an antenna(e) where the height of the structure (not  
29 including any building height, if installed on top of a building) exceeds 100 feet, measured to the top of  
30 any antennae.  
31
- 32 **Tower, Local Interest**  
33 Any structure principally designed to support antennae and not meeting the definition of a community  
34 interest tower.  
35
- 36 **Tower Site**  
37 A lot, tract, or aggregate of abutting lots or tracts that has been planned and coordinated for development  
38 with separate community interest towers and/or local interest towers in any combination, including  
39 subordinate and related equipment and buildings in accordance with the applicable zoning district.  
40
- 41 **Townhouse Unit**  
42 One of three or more attached dwelling units where each unit is on its own lot.
- 43 **Tract**  
44 A unit, or contiguous units, of land under single ownership.
- 45 **Traffic Control Device**  
46 Includes all physical, mechanical and electrical equipment that directs, channelizes, commands or  
47 controls traffic movement. These devices include but are not limited to signs (including street name  
48 signs), channelization, signals, and striping.

- 1 **Trail**  
2 A way designed and used for equestrian, pedestrian, cross country skiing and /or cycling or other similar  
3 forms of non-motorized transport.  
4
- 5 **Trailer**  
6 Has the same meaning as set forth in AMC title 9.  
7
- 8 **Travel Trailer**  
9 A motor vehicle, or portable vehicular structure capable of being towed on the highways by a motor  
10 vehicle, designed and intended for casual or short-term human occupancy for travel, recreational and  
11 vacation uses, identified by a model number, serial number and vehicle registration number, equipped  
12 with limited water storage and other self-contained living facilities.
- 13 **Tree**  
14 A woody perennial plant having a single main stem.
- 15 **Tree, Deciduous**  
16 A tree that loses its leaves annually.
- 17 **Tree, Evergreen**  
18 A tree that retains its leaves.
- 19 **Tree, Landmark**  
20 A healthy tree with at least a 12 inch caliper; or a tree that has significant historical or cultural value.  
21
- 22 **Tree Protection Zone**  
23 The area around a tree or grouping of trees in which no grading or construction activity may occur,  
24 including the storage of materials. The minimum tree protection zone is measured as a radius around the  
25 tree or grouping of trees which is a minimum of 1.5 feet from the trunk of a tree for every one inch of tree  
26 caliper.
- 27 **Tributary**  
28 Any branch, fork, or channel that flows into and connects to a stream and also meets the basic definition  
29 of a stream.
- 30 **Unified Sign Plan**  
31 A comprehensive site plan where contiguous lots and or tracts are considered as a single site for the  
32 purposes of determining the size, number, and placement of freestanding signs.
- 33 **Uplight**  
34 For an exterior luminaire, flux radiated in the hemisphere at or above a horizontal plane.
- 35 **Urban Design Commission**  
36 The urban design commission of the municipality.
- 37 **Use, Accessory**  
38 As applied to a use, building, or structure, customarily subordinate or incidental to and located on the  
39 same lot with a principal use, building, or structure.
- 40 **Use, Conditional**  
41 A use or occupancy of a structure, or a use of land, permitted only upon issuance of a conditional use  
42 permit and subject to the limitations and conditions specified therein.
- 43 **Use, Principal**  
44 Any main activity permitted by this title.

1 **Use, Temporary**

2 Those land uses and structures that are needed or are in place for only short periods of time.

3 **Use District**

4 See **Zoning District**.

5 **Utility**

6 A public utility as defined in Alaska Statutes title 42.

7 **Utility Distribution Line**

8 All or any part of a conductor and supports owned or operated by a utility and used:

- 9
- To transmit no more than 69 kilovolts of energy; or
- 10
- To transmit messages, impressions, pictures, or signals by means of electricity or electromagnetic waves; between a distribution substation or central office and the lot line of a customer's premises, excluding auxiliary equipment such as aboveground transformers, switching devices, pad-mounted distribution facilities, and CATV power supplies.
- 11  
12  
13

14 **Vacation**

15 The act of making legally void any right-of-way, easement, public area, or other public interest.

16 **Variance**

17 A grant of relief from the requirements, or a relaxation of the strict application of the terms of this chapter  
18 that permits construction in a manner that would otherwise be prohibited by this chapter. This definition  
19 shall not be construed to permit a use in any district which use is prohibited therein.

20 **Verification of Nonconforming Status**

21 A document issued by the municipality confirming the legal nonconforming status of a use, structure, or  
22 characteristic of use.

23 **Violator**

24 A violator of this title is a person who:

- 25
- Occupies, maintains, alters, constructs, or establishes a structure, or use of land or a structure, in violation of this title;
- 26
- 27
- Owns, controls, or has the right to control land or a structure where a structure, or use of land or a structure, is occupied, maintained, altered, constructed, or established in violation of this title; or
- 28
- 29
- As principal or agent, violates this title under section 21.13.030, *Violations*.

30 **Walkway**

31 A surface, either improved or not, for the purpose of pedestrian and other non-motorized use, which  
32 connects two points and is not aligned along a vehicular public right-of-way.

33

34 **Walkway, Clear Width**

35 That portion of the total width of a walkway, trail, or sidewalk cross-section which is unobstructed and  
36 kept clear for pedestrian movement.

37 **Walkway, Primary Pedestrian**

38 A walkway designed for pedestrians to access a primary entrance to a building from a right-of-way.

1 **Wall**

2 The vertical exterior surface of a building or structure, or a constructed barrier typically consisting of  
3 masonry or stone, which is also used to enclose, screen, buffer, enhance, or separate areas.

4 **Wall, Ornamental**

5 A freestanding wall that is primarily designed for its beauty or decorative purposes, although it may also  
6 serve other purposes such as a screening structure. Ornamental walls do not include smooth-faced  
7 concrete masonry units.

8  
9 **Warranty Acceptance**

10 Agreement by the municipality, at the completion of construction of a public improvement, constructed  
11 under terms of a subdivision agreement, that the project is ready to be placed on warranty.

12  
13 **Warranty Period**

14 The period for which a subdivider's warranty remains in effect under section 21.08.060, *Subdivision*  
15 *Agreements*.

16 **Water Body**

17 A pond, lake, or other natural or artificial collection of water, whether permanent or temporary, not  
18 including wetlands or watercourses.

19 **Watercourse**

20 A natural channel or other surface pathway produced wholly or in part by the flow of surface water or that  
21 is likely to carry flows at or very near the surface, or any artificial channel or surface pathway constructed  
22 for the conveyance of surface water. Also any topographic flow line that either does, or under developed  
23 conditions is likely to, accumulate and convey storm water runoff as a concentrated flow. Also any  
24 conveyance, whether an open channel or closed conduit, constructed wholly or in part for the transport of  
25 storm water runoff. Watercourses include all surface water conveyance features and are further classified  
26 as either "streams" or "drainageways".

27 **Water-Dependent**

28 Any use or activity whose primary purpose requires direct access to a water body, or which can be carried  
29 out on, in or adjacent to a water body only. The activity or use would not be possible if located away from  
30 water sites or without direct water access.

31 **Water-Related**

32 Any use or activity which is not directly dependent upon access to a water body, but which provides  
33 goods or services that are directly associated with water dependence or provide direct physical or visual  
34 public access or use of the municipal waterfront, and which, if not located adjacent to a water body, would  
35 result in a public loss of quality in goods or services offered or public access to the waterfront.

36 **Width**

37 When viewed from the front of an object or a three-dimensional space, the measurement from a vertical  
38 plane to another vertical plane.

39  
40 **Window, Providing Visual Access**

41 Windows that allow views into working areas, lobbies, entrances, sales areas, other public areas, or  
42 indoor merchandise displays or art. The window is transparent enough to permit the view of activities  
43 within a building from nearby streets and sidewalks, and so that objects beyond or behind the window can  
44 be distinctly seen. Display cases less than three feet deep and/or attached to the outside wall are not  
45 windows providing visual access.

46 **Zoning Board of Examiners and Appeals**

47 The zoning board of examiners and appeals of the municipality.

1 **Zoning District**

2 A specifically delineated area or district within which uniform standards govern the use, placement,  
3 spacing, size, and form of land and buildings.

4 **Zoning Map**

5 The map or maps that are a part of this title and that delineate the boundaries of all mapped zoning  
6 districts within the physical boundaries of the municipality.

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