

CHAPTER 21.14: RULES OF CONSTRUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

21.14.010 INTERPRETATIONS

A. General

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

B. Record of Interpretations

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

C. Appeal

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

21.14.020 RULES OF CONSTRUCTION AND INTERPRETATION

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

A. Meanings and Intent

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

B. Purpose Statements

Statements of purpose or intent in this title are provided to guide interpretation and understanding of the legislative intent behind the substantive regulations of this title. Purpose and intent statements are not substantive requirements, but rather provide a context whereby the provisions of this title are understood.

C. Headings, Text, and Illustrations

1. Headings and Text

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

2. Illustrations

Unless otherwise indicated, illustrations in this title are provided for purposes of describing, clarifying, or providing examples. Such illustrations are not to scale and do not replace, limit, or expand the meaning of the text.

D. Lists and Examples

Unless otherwise specifically indicated, lists of items or examples that use terms such as "for example," "including," and "such as," or similar language are intended to provide examples and are not exhaustive lists of all possibilities. Unless stated otherwise, a list does not imply a priority or chronological order.

1 **E. Computation of Time**

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

7 **F. Title 21 User's Guide**

8 The user's guide is a non-regulatory document, with the exception of the fees and submittal
9 requirements. It provides explanations, examples, and illustrations to assist with usage and
10 interpretation of the code, but it shall not contain additional land use and development
11 requirements.

12 **G. References to Other Regulations/Publications**

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

16 **H. Delegation of Authority**

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

19 **I. Technical and Non-Technical Terms**

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

23 **J. Public Officials and Agencies**

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

26 **K. Mandatory and Permissive Terms**

27 The word "shall" is mandatory in nature, establishing an obligation or duty to comply with the
28 particular provision. The word "may" is permissive, indicating compliance is optional. The word
29 "should" indicates that compliance is highly recommended and encouraged, but not mandatory.

30 **L. Conjunctions**

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

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

35 **M. Tenses, Plurals, and Gender**

36 Words used in the present tense include the future tense. Words used in the singular number
37 include the plural number and the plural number includes the singular number, unless the context
38 of the particular usage clearly indicates otherwise. Words used in the masculine gender include
39 the feminine gender, and vice versa.

N. Measurement of Distances For Separation of Land Uses

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

O. Fractions

1. Generally

Except where stated otherwise, when any calculation for determining a number of items (such as parking spaces, trees, etc.) results in a fraction, any fraction less than one-half (0.5) shall be rounded down to the preceding whole number, and any fraction of one-half (0.5) or greater shall be rounded up to the next consecutive whole number. Where the calculation results in a fraction less than one, the fraction shall be rounded up to one.

2. Dimensions

When any calculation for determining required minimum or allowed maximum dimensions (such as height, lot coverage, open space, etc.) results in a fraction, the dimension shall be measured to the nearest inch. Any fraction of an inch shall be rounded as provided in O.1. above.

3. Floor Area Ratio

Any calculation for determining required minimum or allowed maximum floor area ratio shall be rounded to two numbers past the decimal point. For example, 2.4287 is rounded to 2.43, and 4.5324 is rounded to 4.53.

21.14.030 COMMON ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAC	Alaska administrative code	gfa	Gross floor area
AC	Asphalt concrete	HLB	Heritage Land Bank
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	HUD	US department of housing and urban development
ADT	Average daily trips	HVAC	Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
ADU	Accessory dwelling unit	LED	Light emitting diode
AIM	Assembly informational memorandum	MHC	Manufactured home community
AMC	Anchorage municipal code	NESC	National Electrical Safety Code
AMCR	Anchorage municipal code of regulations	NFPA	National Fire Protection Act
AO	Assembly ordinance	NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
AR	Assembly resolution	OSHP	<i>Official Streets and Highways Plan</i>
AS	Alaska statute	OV	Overlay district
ATV	All terrain vehicle	PB	Platting board
BLM	Bureau of land management	PCC	Portland cement concrete
BOA	Board of adjustment	PUD	Planned unit development
CATV	Community Access Television (cable TV)	PZC	Planning and zoning commission
CCRC	Community correctional residential center	RAP	Recycled Asphaltic ?
CFR	Code of federal regulations	RFP	Request for proposals
CMU	Concrete masonry unit	ROW	Right-of-way
CRI	Color rendering index	RV	Recreational vehicle
dBA	Decibel adjusted	sf	Square feet
DBH	Diameter at breast height	SL	Special limitation
du	Dwelling unit	TDU	Thermal desorption unit
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	TIA	Traffic impact analysis
FAR (in 21.04.080C.)	Federal aviation regulations	UDC	Urban design commission
FAR	Floor area ratio	USC	United States code
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Administration	WECS	Wind energy conversion system

GAAB	Greater Anchorage area borough	ZBEA	Zoning board of examiners and appeals
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2 **21.14.040 DEFINITIONS**

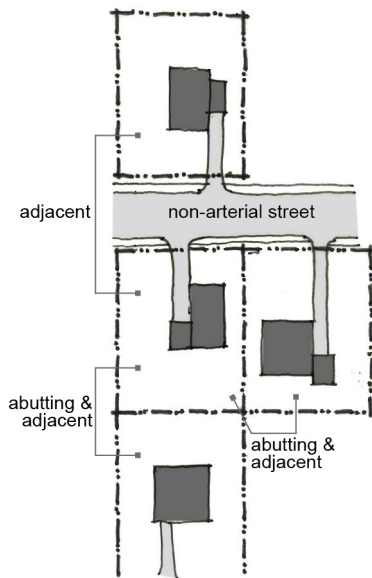
3 When used in this title, the following words and terms shall have the meaning set forth in this section,
4 unless other provisions of this title specifically indicate otherwise.

5 **Abutting**
6 Touching or bordering. (See illustration under “adjacent”)

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 **Adjacent**
12 Abutting or across an alley, a street (public or private, local and collector classification on the *Official*
13 *Streets and Highways Plan*), or pedestrian right-of-way.



14

15 **Adjacent Lots**
16 Two lots are adjacent where they have a common lot line (abutting) or where they are separated only by
17 an alley or a local or private street or pedestrian right-of-way.

18 **Affordable Housing**
19 See **Housing, Affordable**.

20 **Airport Elevation**
21 The highest point of an airport's usable landing area, measured in feet above mean sea level.

22 **Aisle, Circulation**
23 A private travel way within a parking facility, providing motor vehicle access to parking bays.

1 **Aisle, Parking**

2 A circulation aisle that abuts parking spaces, providing automobile access and permitting maneuvering of
3 automobiles entering and leaving such spaces.

4 **Alley**

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

6 **AMC**

7 Anchorage Municipal Code.

8 **Amortization**

9 A process where a nonconformity is required to be brought into compliance with the requirements of this
10 title after a specified period of time. Amortization allows the owner of a legal nonconformity to recoup the
11 value of the nonconformity within the particular time period. After that time, the municipality may require
12 the owner to come into compliance without the payment of compensation.

13 **Antenna or Antenna Array**

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

18 **Approach, Transitional, Horizontal, and Conical**

19 Surfaces or zones that are airspace zones defined as set forth in FAR part 77, subpart C, paragraph
20 77.25.

21 **Appurtenance**

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

23 **Architectural Feature** (as used in chapter 21.11, *Signs*)

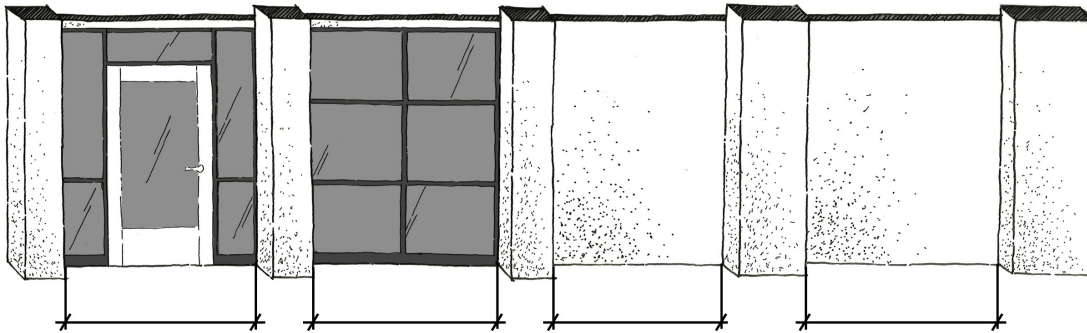
24 Any construction attendant to, but not an integral part of the sign, which may consist of landscape,
25 building, or structural forms that enhance the site in general; also, graphic stripes and other architectural
26 painting techniques applied to a structure that serves a functional purpose, or when the stripes or other
27 painting techniques are applied to a building provided such treatment does not include lettering, logos or
28 pictures.

29 **Architectural Feature**

30 A part, portion, or projection that contributes to the aesthetic quality of a building or structure, exclusive of
31 signs, that is not necessary for the structural integrity of the building structure or to make the building or
32 structure habitable.

33 **Architectural Bay**

34 A spatial division of a wall, roof, or other part of a building. It is usually repeated at intervals as part of a
35 series, and is defined as the zone or wall plane between the outside edges of engaged columns,
36 pilasters, posts, or projecting vertical wall areas. In an exterior building façade, a bay is often simply an
37 opening in a wall, usually occupied by windows or a doorway.

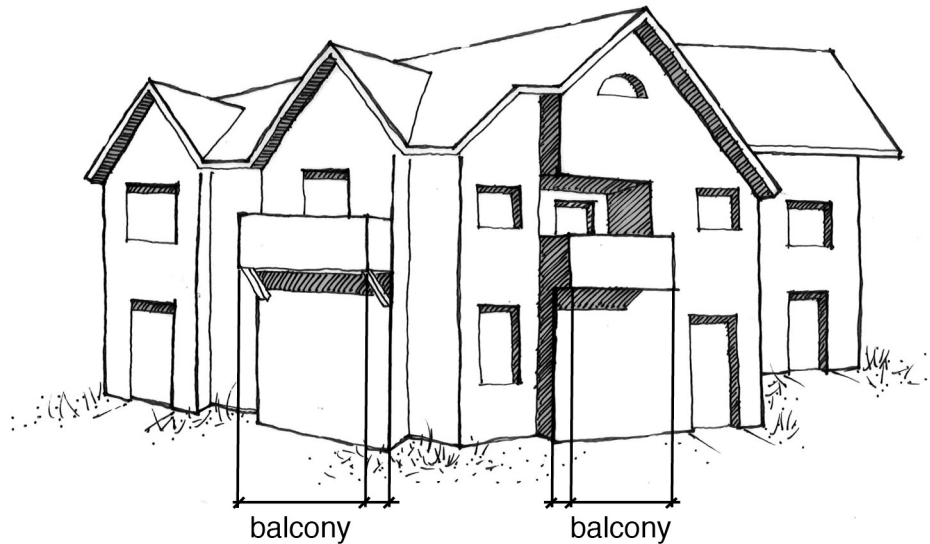


four architectural bays

- 1
- 2 **Area, Building**
- 3 The total of areas taken on a horizontal plane in plan view of the principal building and all accessory
- 4 buildings or structures exclusive of exterior steps.
- 5 **Area Lighting**
- 6 Lighting located on public or private property that is designed to light outdoor spaces. Area lighting does
- 7 not include façade or landscape lighting.
- 8 **Assembly**
- 9 The assembly of the municipality.
- 10 **Attendant Parking (also Valet Parking)**
- 11 A parking facility that relies on attendants (or valets) to park and retrieve vehicles rather than on drivers to
- 12 park and retrieve their own vehicles.
- 13 **Average**
- 14 The arithmetic mean.
- 15 **Average Slope**
- 16 Average slope is calculated by the following formula:
- 17 $S = (I \times L \times 0.0023) / A$
- 18 Where:
- 19 S = Average slope of lot or tract in percent.
- 20 I = Contour interval (20 feet or less).
- 21 L = Sum of the length of all contours on lot or tract in feet.
- 22 A = Area of the lot or tract in acres.
- 23 **Backlight**
- 24 For an exterior luminaire, flux radiated in the quarter-sphere below horizontal and in the opposite direction
- 25 of the intended orientation of the luminaire. For luminaires with symmetric distribution, backlight will be
- 26 the same as frontlight.

1 **Balcony**

2 An elevated platform projecting from the wall of a building, enclosed by a railing or parapet, and
3 supported entirely by the building without support on the ground by posts, columns, or similar structural
4 members. For the purposes of this title, common access passageways are not balconies.



5 **Base Flood (100-Year)**

6 The flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

7 **Basement**

8 See **Story Below Grade Plane**

9 **Bay Window**

10 A window or series of windows projecting outward from the wall plane of a building and forming a
11 habitable space such as a bay or alcove in a room within.

12 **Billboard**

13 A sign structure advertising an establishment, merchandise, event, service or entertainment that is not
14 sold, produced, manufactured or furnished at the property on which the sign is located. Any other
15 outdoor advertising prohibited by the provisions of Alaska statutes sections 19.25.075 – 19.25.180 shall
16 also be considered billboards.

17 **Blank Wall**

18 Any portion of a wall that is not a window or a primary entrance.

19 **Block**

20 A block is defined by an area of land bounded by streets, or a combination of streets, railroad utility
21 corridor, shorelines of waterways, or municipal boundary lines.

22 **Block Length**

23 The distance between intersections of through streets, such distance being measured along the longest
24 street bounding the block and from right-of-way line to right-of-way line of the two intersecting streets.

- 1 **Brightness**
2 The human perception of luminance. See **Luminance** and **Candela**
- 3 **Buffer, Perimeter**
4 A unit of land and any plants and structures (i.e., walls, fences) thereon that is used to separate land uses
5 from each other.
- 6 **BUG**
7 A luminaire classification system that evaluates backlight (B), uplight (U), and glare (G).
- 8 **Building**
9 Any structure built for the support, shelter, or enclosure of persons, animals, chattels, or property of any
10 kind.
- 11 **Building, Accessory**
12 A building that is on the same lot as, and of a nature customarily incidental and subordinate to, a principal
13 building or structure, and the use of which is clearly incidental and subordinate to that of the principal
14 building or structure.
- 15 **Building Code**
16 The building code which is adopted in the AMC title 23.
- 17 **Building Envelope**
18 The three-dimensional space within which a structure is permitted to be built on a lot and which is defined
19 by regulations governing setbacks, maximum height and bulk; by other regulations; or any combination
20 thereof.
- 21 **Building Interface Zone**
22 The space located between the pedestrian movement zone of an enhanced sidewalk and the street-
23 facing building façade. The building interface zone protects pedestrians walking on the sidewalk from
24 opening doors and objects protruding from buildings. It can accommodate window shopping and building
25 egress and ingress. It may also provide space for features along the building wall such as seating,
26 foundation landscaping, or residential front stoops.
- 27 **Building, Principal**
28 A structure in which is conducted the main use of the lot on which the structure is situated.
- 29 **Building Permit**
30 See **Permit, Building**
- 31 **Building Wall** (as used in chapter 21.11, *Signs*)
32 Any vertical surface of a building or structure (other than a pitched roof) that is integral to and could
33 reasonably be constructed as part of the architecture of the building when a sign(s) is not being
34 contemplated. Examples of building walls include but are not limited to: awnings, canopies, marquees,
35 the vertical portion of gable roofs, parapets, mechanical penthouses, etc.
- 36 **Business**
37 An enterprise that for consideration will provide for the sale or the rental of any article, substance, or
38 commodity, including but not limited to business services and personal services.
- 39 **Caliper**
40 The diameter of a tree trunk measured at six inches above the ground, unless this dimension exceeds
41 four inches; then the diameter is measured at four and one-half feet above the ground.

- 1 **Camper**
2 A portable structure mounted on a truck or truck chassis or a converted hearse, bus, station wagon or
3 panel truck designed for use as a temporary travel dwelling.
- 4 **Candela**
5 A unit measuring luminous intensity of a lighting source. An ordinary candle has a luminous intensity of
6 one candela. See **Luminance**
- 7 **Canopy**
8 A fixed and permanent roof-like structure; either an architectural element projecting out from the wall of a
9 building or a freestanding cover that shelters an outdoor area from precipitation or wind.
- 10 **CATV**
11 A utility that operates non-broadcast facilities that distribute to subscribers the signals of one or more
12 television broadcast stations.
- 13 **Certificate to Plat**
14 A certificate prepared by a title company authorized by the laws of the state to write the title, showing the
15 names of all persons having any record title interest in the land to be platted, together with the nature of
16 their respective interests therein.
- 17 **Certificate of Occupancy**
18 A certificate of zoning compliance issued by the municipality allowing the occupancy or use of a building
19 in the building safety service area, and certifying that the structure or use has been constructed and will
20 be used in compliance with all applicable municipal codes and ordinances.
- 21 **Certificate of On-Site Systems Approval**
22 A written confirmation signed by an engineer and the development services department certifying that the
23 on-site sewer and water system serving a single-family dwelling is functional and complies with all state
24 and local regulations and codes.
- 25 **Certificate of Zoning Compliance**
26 A document issued by the municipality indicating that a structure or use meets the applicable zoning
27 requirements at the time of issuance. A certificate of occupancy is considered a certificate of zoning
28 compliance.
- 29 **Certificate of Zoning Compliance, Conditional**
30 A temporary certificate of zoning compliance, issued before the completion of the entire work covered by
31 the land use permit, providing that the building or portions of the building may be occupied safely.
- 32 **Certified Lighting Professional**
33 A professional who is Lighting Certified (LC) by the National Council on Qualifications for the Lighting
34 Professions.
- 35 **Change of Use**
36 A change of use occurs when the type of use is not the same as the immediate prior use type, as
37 determined by table 21.05-1, *Table of Allowed Uses*, or table 21.05-3, *Table of Accessory Uses*.
- 38 **Characteristic of Use**
39 Improvements or amenities required by this title in relation to specified uses of land, water areas,
40 structures, or premises such as parking, lighting, landscaping, or other such features.
- 41 **Civil Penalty**
42 A fine levied by the municipality for a violation of this title.

1 Class A Districts

2 A group of zoning districts where more dense population and/or intensive development exists or is
3 allowed, requiring a more urbanized level of improvements. See subsection 21.08.050B.

4 Class B Districts

5 A group of zoning districts that are less densely populated and/or intensively developed, requiring a less
6 urbanized level of improvements. See subsection 21.08.050B.

7 Clear Width, Walkway

8 See **Walkway Clear Width**

9 Clearing

10 The removal of woody plants over six inches above the ground using any method that does not disturb
11 the vegetative mat.

12 Collocation

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

15 Color Rendering Index (of a light source) (CRI)

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

19 Commercial

20 An enterprise involved in the production, processing, or merchandising of a commodity for, usually but not
21 necessarily, a profit. Generally, wholesale, retail trade, and services are considered commercial.

22 Community Council

23 Established as part of Anchorage municipal government in Anchorage Charter Article VIII to 'afford
24 citizens the opportunity for maximum community involvement and self determination', community councils
25 are nonprofit, voluntary, self-governing associations composed of residents, property owners, business
26 owners, and representatives from nonprofit associations and other entities located within geographical
27 areas designated as districts by the assembly.

28 Compatible (or Compatibility)

29 The characteristics of different uses, activities, or designs which allow them to be located near or next to
30 each other in harmony. Some elements affecting compatibility include the height, scale, mass, bulk, and
31 setbacks of structures. Other characteristics include traffic, parking, access and circulation, landscaping
32 and buffering, drainage and storm water runoff, exterior lighting, dust, noise, hours of operation, and
33 demand on public facilities and services. Compatible does not necessarily mean "the same as." Rather,
34 compatibility refers to the sensitivity of development proposals in maintaining the character of the
35 surrounding context and avoiding adverse impacts on neighboring uses.

36 Comprehensive Plan

37 The adopted official statement(s) of the municipal assembly that sets forth (in words, maps, illustrations,
38 and/or tables) a collection of goals, objectives, policies, and strategies to guide the physical, social, and
39 economic development of the municipality, including the provision of its public infrastructure and services.
40 The comprehensive plan is comprised of a series of distinct plans adopted by the assembly as
41 comprehensive plan elements, each of which address specific geographic management areas or specific
42 functional aspects of community planning. When practically applied to decision-making, the term is
43 intended to mean those comprehensive plan elements that are applicable and pertinent to the decision at
44 hand, in terms of specific geographic area and/or functional topic.

1 **Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Cosmetic**

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

7 **Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Substantive**

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

11 **Comprehensive Plan Map**

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

17 **Construction**

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

20 **CRI**

21 See **Color Rendering Index**

22 **Cupola**

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

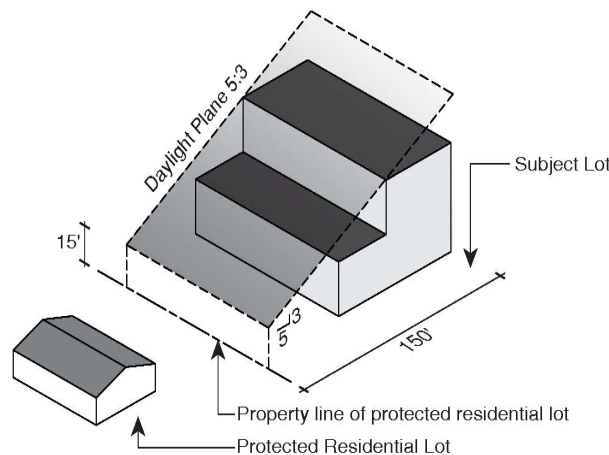
24 **Date of Service**

25 The date that the secretary mails or otherwise distributes the summary of action or approved resolution to
26 the applicant.

27 **Daylight Plane**

28 A virtual sloping plane that begins at a specified height and rises inward over a site at a specified ratio of
29 vertical distance to horizontal distance. It is designed to provide light, air and openness to the sky at
30 ground floor level.

31



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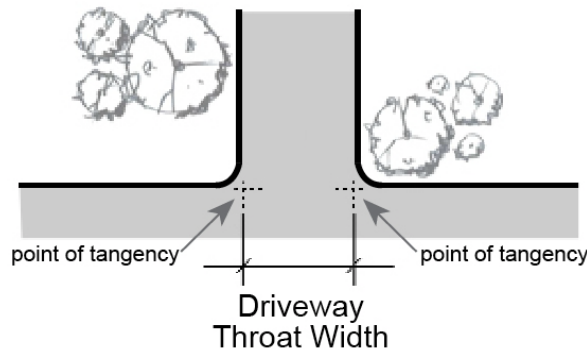
- 1 **Decision-Making Body**
2 The person, board, or commission with the authority to approve, modify, or deny an entitlement
3 application, as stated in section 21.02.020 and elsewhere in this title.
- 4 **Deck**
5 A platform, either freestanding or attached to a building, and supported on the ground by pillars, posts,
6 columns, or similar structural members.
- 7 **Dedication**
8 The devotion of land or an interest in land by the owner to a public use, which is accepted and used
9 presently or in the future for such public purpose.
- 10 **Defined Bank**
11 The usual boundaries, not the flood boundaries, of a stream channel.
- 12 **Density, Gross**
13 The total number of dwelling units per acre within any defined geographic area.
- 14 **Density, Net**
15 The total number of dwelling units per acre on a particular tract or parcel of land, not taking into account
16 portions of the tract or parcel that contain rights-of-way for streets, water bodies, wetlands, or other areas
17 restricted from development.
- 18 **Department**
19 Unless otherwise indicated in the text of this code, the planning department (or successor organization) of
20 the municipality.
- 21 **Developer**
22 That person or entity improving or developing land, who may or may not be the owner of the property.
- 23 **Development**
24 The initiation, construction, change, or enlargement of any use or structure, the disturbance of land, or the
25 division of land into two or more parcels. "Development" shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- 26 • Construction or enlargement of a building or structure;
27 • Change in the type of use of a building, structure, or land;
28 • Material increase in the intensity of use of land, such as an increase in the number of businesses,
29 offices, manufacturing establishments, or dwelling units located in a building or structure or on the
30 land;
31 • Commencement or expansion of resource extraction, agricultural, horticultural, or forestry activities on
32 a parcel of land;
33 • Demolition of a structure or the clearing of vegetation from a parcel of land;
34 • Deposition of refuse, solid or liquid waste, or fill on a parcel of land;
35 • Alteration of the shore, bank, or channel of any stream, lake, or other body of water or alteration of
36 any wetland; and
37 • Any land-disturbing activity that adds to or changes the amount of impervious or partially impervious
38 cover on a land area or which otherwise decreases the infiltration of precipitation into the soil.
- 39 **Director**
40 Unless otherwise indicated in the text of this code, the director of the planning department or designee.

1 **Double-Frontage Lot**
2 See **Lot, Double-Frontage**

3 **Drainageway**
4 A watercourse that does, or under developed conditions is likely to, convey storm water flows for short
5 durations. Drainageways include constructed channels and conduits (including storm drain pipes),
6 ephemeral channels, and non-channelized drainage paths along topographic flow lines whether
7 constructed or natural, vegetated, or non vegetated.

8 **Driveway**
9 A private travel way providing motor vehicle access from a parking space or parking facility to a street. A
10 driveway is not a street. It does not provide primary frontage or address for buildings, nor is it primarily
11 designed for non-motorized pedestrian access.

12 **Driveway Throat Width**
13 The width of a driveway at the property line or street curb, measured from face of curb to face of curb (or,
14 where there are no curbs, between the edges of the driveway travel way surface), at the point of
15 tangency. The measurement does not include any medians contained in the driveway. For driveways
16 with a curb return design at the opening of the street curb, the measurement does not include additional
17 width at the driveway opening created by the curb return radii.



18
19 **Dwelling or Dwelling Unit**
20 A building or portion thereof designed or used exclusively as the separate residence for one household
21 and providing independent and complete living facilities, generally including provisions for sleeping,
22 eating, cooking, and sanitation.

23 **Easement**
24 A non-possessory interest in land owned by another that entitles the easement holder to a specified
25 limited use or enjoyment.

26 **Efficiency Dwelling**
27 A dwelling unit that has only one combined living and sleeping room. The dwelling may have a separate
28 room containing only kitchen facilities, and a separate room containing only sanitary facilities.

29 **Elevation, Building**
30 A scale drawing of one side or view angle of a building, such as the front, rear, or side.

31 **Encroachment**
32 The projection or intrusion of a building, structure, or other land-disturbing activity into an area where
33 such projections or intrusions are typically prohibited.

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 community establishment which serves the visiting public, a primary
8 entrance is open to the public during all regular business hours and directly accesses lobby, reception,
9 retail, or other interior areas designed to receive the public. Fire exits, service doors, vehicle entrances,
10 doors leading directly into a garage or storage space accessory to the use, and employee entrances are
11 not primary entrances. A building or establishment may have more than one primary entrance.

12 **Ephemeral Channel**

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

17 **Erosion**

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

19 **Erosion Control**

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

22 **Existing Vegetation**

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

24 **Extent Reasonably Feasible**

25 Feasible in light of overall project purposes after considering cost, existing technology, and logistics of
26 compliance with the standard. Under the circumstances, reasonable efforts have been undertaken to
27 comply with the regulation; the costs of full compliance clearly outweigh the potential benefits to the public
28 and would unreasonably burden the proposed project based on the percentage of total project costs; and
29 reasonable steps have been undertaken to minimize any potential harm or adverse impacts resulting from
30 noncompliance with the regulation.

31 **Façade, Building**

32 A vertical wall plane of a building.

33 **Family**

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

36 **FAR**

37 See **Floor Area Ratio**

38 **Feature, Architectural**

39 See **Architectural Feature**

40 **Fence**

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

42 **Fence, Open**

43 A fence constructed with openings between materials used in its construction, such that 75 percent or
44 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, Screening (Opaque)**
6 A fence, including any gates, constructed of solid material, typically consisting of wood, through which no
7 visual images or light sources may be seen.
- 8 **Fence, Semi-Open**
9 A fence constructed with openings between materials used in its construction, such that less than 75
10 percent of a visual image or light source may be seen through the fence.
- 11 **Fence, Sight Obscuring**
12 A fence constructed such that less than 25 percent of a visual image or light source may be seen through
13 the fence. Openings in such fence shall not exceed 25 percent in any one square foot of vertical surface
14 area that is more than eight inches above grade.
- 15 **Final Acceptance**
16 Acceptance by the municipality, at the successful completion of the warranty period, of a public
17 improvement, constructed under terms of a subdivision agreement or development agreement.
- 18 **Flag**
19 Any fabric, banner or bunting containing distinctive colors, patterns or symbols, used as a symbol of a
20 government, political subdivision, corporate or commercial entity, or institution. A corporate or
21 commercial, or institutional flag may only display the name, trademark, or logo of the business or
22 institution on the parcel and such flag may not be used for other business or advertising purposes.
- 23 **Flag Lot**
24 See Lot, Flag
- 25 **Fleet Vehicle**
26 A group of vehicles owned or operated as a unit, used for operation of an establishment, and often
27 parked and/or maintained on the premises. Examples include tow trucks, taxis, buses, limousines,
28 commercial trucks or vans, and police and fire vehicles.
- 29 **Flood and Flooding**
30 A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:
31 • The overflow of inland or tidal waters.
32 • The unusual or rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.
33 • Mudslides that are proximately caused or precipitated by accumulations of water on or under the
34 ground.
35 • The collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or other body of water as a result of
36 erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels or
37 suddenly caused by an unusually high water level in a natural body of water, accompanied by a
38 severe storm, or by an unanticipated force of nature, such as a flash flood or an abnormal tide surge,
39 or by some similarly unusual or unforeseeable event which results in flooding as defined in this
40 subsection.
- 41 **Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)**
42 The official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated both areas of special flood
43 hazards and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

1 **Flood Insurance Study**

2 The official report provided by the Federal Insurance Administration that includes flood profiles, the flood
3 boundary/floodway map, and the water surface elevation of the base flood.

4 **Flood Hazard Area**

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

6 **Floodplain**

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

10 **Floodproofing**

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

14 **Floodway, Regulatory**

15 The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to
16 discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot.
17 The boundaries of this area shall be established on the basis of the maps and reports adopted by section
18 21.04.070E., *Flood Hazard Overlay District*.

19 **Floodway Fringe**

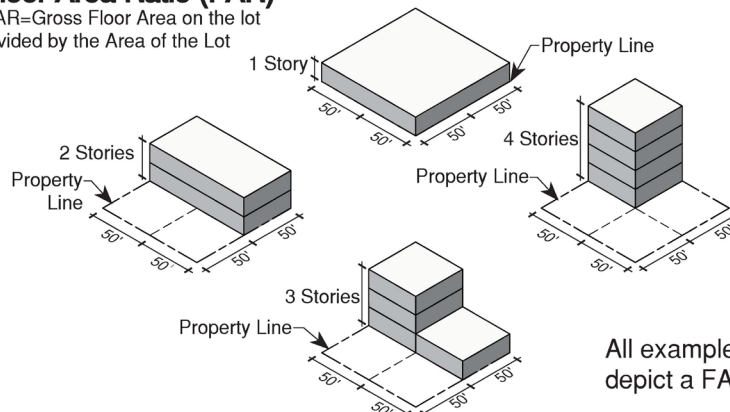
20 That area of land lying between the outer limit of the regulatory floodway and the outer limit of the base
21 flood elevation. The boundaries of this area shall be established on the basis of the maps and reports
22 adopted by section 21.04.070E., *Flood Hazard Overlay District*.

23 **Floor Area Ratio (FAR)**

24 The ratio of the total gross floor area of all building(s) on a lot, to the area of the lot. Floor area ratio is
25 calculated by dividing the total gross floor area of all buildings on a lot by the area of the lot. For
26 example, a floor area ratio of 1.0 yields 12,000 square feet of building gross floor area on a lot with an
27 area of 12,000 square feet. A floor area ratio of 2.0 on the same lot would yield 24,000 square feet of
28 building gross floor area.

Floor Area Ratio (FAR)

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



29

30 **Floor Plate**

31 The total indoor and outdoor horizontal floor area of any given story of a building, measured to the
32 exterior of the wall, terrace, or balcony, and including the horizontal area of any open air interior space
33 such as a multistory atrium that is open to the floor(s) below.

1 **Footcandle**

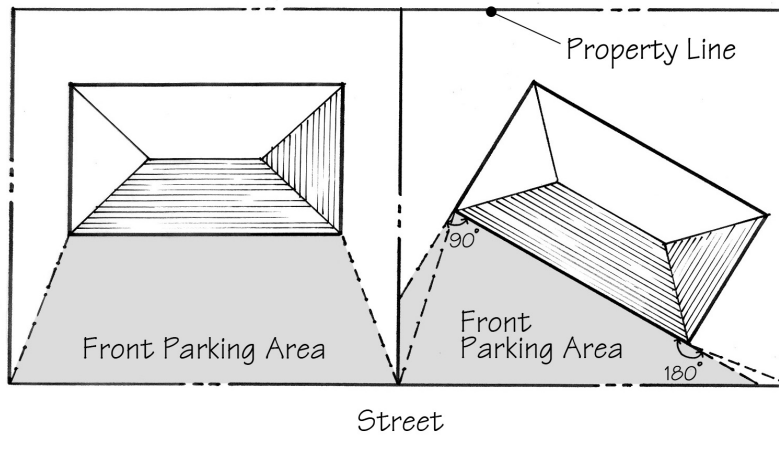
2 A unit of measure of the intensity of light falling on a surface, equal to one lumen per square foot and
3 originally defined with reference to a standardized candle burning at one foot from a given surface.

4 **Fragment Lot**

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

9 **Front Parking Lot**

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



36 **Frontage**

37 The edge of something, usually a lot, building, or parking lot, that abuts a street. Also see **Frontage, Lot**.

38 **Frontage, Lot**

39 All property abutting a street or road easement, measured as the uninterrupted length of the lot line along
40 the right-of-way between the side lot lines of a lot. The measurement of lot frontage in the case of a
41 corner lot shall extend to the point of intersection of the front lot lines abutting the rights-of-way. In no
42 case shall the line along an alley be considered as frontage.

43 **Frontage Road**

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

45 **Frontage, Street**

46 See **Frontage, Lot**

47 **Full Cutoff**

48 See **Luminaire, Full Cutoff**

- 1 **Full Membership**
2 The total number of seats on a board or commission.
- 3 **Glare**
4 Lighting that causes visual discomfort or reduced visibility.
- 5 **Grade**
6 The elevation of the surface of the ground, paving, or sidewalk around a building or structure.
- 7 **Grade, Existing**
8 The elevation of the surface of the ground or paving around a building or structure, prior to land-disturbing
9 activity or grading.
- 10 **Grade, Finished**
11 The final elevation of the surface of the ground or paving around a building or structure, after grading or
12 completion of a development.
- 13 **Grade Plane**
14 The reference plane representing the average grade around a structure, as measured in subsection
15 21.06.030D., which is used to determine the height of the structure.
- 16 **Grading**
17 Any stripping, cutting, excavation, filling, or stockpiling of earth or land, including the land in its cut or filled
18 conditions, to create a new grade.
- 19 **Grid**
20 The 100-scale grid designation as established by the municipality.
- 21 **Gross Floor Area**
22 The total horizontal area of all of the floors of a building, measured to the exterior of the wall, including
23 mezzanines, stairwells, hallways, elevator shafts, and ventilation shafts, etc.
- 24 **Ground Cover**
25 Grasses or other low-growing plants and landscaping.
- 26 **Ground Floor**
27 That portion of a building that is the first story above grade plane.
- 28 **Ground Floor Wall Area**
29 Exterior wall areas up to the ceiling height of the first floor, or 10 feet above finished grade, whichever is
30 less.
- 31 **Grubbing**
32 Removal, by any method. of stumps, roots, and vegetative matter from the ground surface, exposing bare
33 soil.
- 34 **Guest**
35 Any person hiring or occupying a room for living or sleeping purposes.
- 36 **Guest Parking Space**
37 See **Parking Space, Guest**
- 38 **Guestroom**
39 A room intended or designed to be used for sleeping purposes.

- 1 **Habitable Floor Area**
2 In the case of residential uses, habitable floor area means floor area designed and used for living,
3 sleeping, eating or cooking, or combinations thereof. Bathrooms, closets, storage rooms, unfinished
4 attics, utility spaces and similar areas are not considered habitable floor area. In the case of non-
5 residential uses, habitable floor area means building space, such as office, industrial or retail floor space,
6 which use involves human presence, excluding parking garages, storage facilities, utility rooms,
7 bathrooms, or display windows separated from retail activity.
- 8 **Hard Surfaced**
9 Covered with a material that provides a flat and stable surface. Concrete, asphalt, brick pavers, large
10 stone pavers, and wood pavers are examples of hard surfacing. Gravel, river rock, mulch, and bare dirt
11 are not hard surfacing.
- 12 **Hardscape**
13 For the purposes of the exterior lighting section in 21.07.100, paved areas of a site, including but not
14 limited to parking lots, driveways, plazas, sidewalks, steps, and similar construction.
- 15 **Hardscape Area**
16 For the purposes of the exterior lighting section in 21.07.100, area in square feet of all hardscape
17 including any medians, walkways, and landscape areas 10 feet or less in width within the hardscape
18 area, which is used to calculate allowed lumens for the complete site method.
- 19 **Hardscape Perimeter**
20 For the purposes of the exterior lighting section in 21.07.100, perimeter in linear feet of all site hardscape
21 plus perimeter of landscape areas, buildings, and structures that are greater than 10 feet in width, which
22 is used to calculate allowed lumens for the complete site method.
- 23 **Height** (as used in section 21.04.070C., *Airport Height Overlay District*)
24 For the purpose of the airport height map, the distance above mean sea level, unless otherwise specified.
- 25 **Height**
26 When viewed from the front of an object or a three-dimensional space, the measurement of the vertical
27 distance from a horizontal plane to another horizontal plane.
- 28 **Height, Building**
29 The height of a building as measured in subsection 21.06.030D.
- 30 **High Rise**
31 A building or portion of a building that exceeds 75 feet in building height.
- 32 **Household**
33 A domestic unit consisting of a person or group of people who share living arrangements. Members of a
34 household have common access to, and common use of, all living areas and all facilities within the
35 dwelling unit. A household occupies a single dwelling unit, so that its members live and eat separately
36 from any other persons in the building, and have access to the outside of the building either directly or
37 through a common hall.
- 38 **Housing, Affordable**
39 Housing that has a sales price or rental amount that is within the means of a household with a low or
40 moderate income as defined by federal code. In the case of dwelling units for rent, affordable housing
41 means housing for which the rent and utilities constitute no more than 30 percent of the gross annual
42 income of households earning less than 80 percent of the median annual income adjusted for household
43 size, as determined by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. In the case of
44 dwelling units for sale, affordable housing means housing for which principal, interest, taxes, insurance,
45 homeowners association fees, and assessments are no more than 30 percent of the gross annual income

1 of households earning less than 80 percent of the median annual income, adjusted for household size, as
2 determined by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

3 **Housing, Senior**

4 Senior housing is defined as follows, or according to successor portions of the federal code of definitions
5 as adopted by the planning department. Housing that is (a) provided under any State or Federal program
6 that the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development determines is specifically designed and
7 operated to assist elderly persons (as defined in the State or Federal programs); or (b) intended for and
8 solely occupied by persons 62 years of age or older; or (c) intended and operated for occupancy by
9 persons 55 years of age or older and at least 80 percent of the occupied units are occupied by at least
10 one person who is 55 years of age or older. A housing facility or community meets the definition of
11 category (c) only if it publishes and adheres to policies and procedures that demonstrate the intent of
12 category (c), and complies with rules issued by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban
13 Development for verification of occupancy (which shall provide for verification by reliable surveys and
14 affidavits) and includes examples of the types of policies and procedures relevant to a determination of
15 compliance with such rules issued by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

16 **IESNA**

17 Illuminating Engineering Society of North America.

18 **Illuminance**

19 The measure of light intensity striking a surface, measured in footcandles.

20 **Impervious (or Impermeable) Surface**

21 A surface that permits insignificant or no infiltration of runoff water over the duration of a single rainfall or
22 water runoff event; any surface with little or no capacity to transmit water.

23 **Improvement Areas**

24 Portions of the municipality divided up into geographic areas for the purposes of determining public
25 improvement requirements and providing public services.

26 **Improvements**

27 Any construction incident to servicing or furnishing facilities for a subdivision, such as grading, street
28 surfacing, curb and gutter, driveway approaches, sidewalks, crosswalks, water mains and lines, sanitary
29 sewers, storm sewers, culverts, bridges, utilities, waterways, lakes, bays and other appropriate items with
30 an appurtenant construction.

31 **Industrial**

32 An activity which may involve manufacturing, processing, warehousing, storage, distribution, shipping,
33 and/or other related or similar uses.

34 **Initial Lamp Lumens**

35 Lumen rating of a lamp when the lamp is new and has not depreciated in light output (rated lamp
36 lumens). Light loss factor equals 1.0.

37 **Inside Dimension**

38 The minimum dimensions of an area or space such as a private open space or parking space, not
39 including the width of walls, fences, railings, or other physical boundaries defining the perimeter of the
40 area. For example, a private open space with a minimum inside dimension of 15 feet is such that a 15 by
41 15 foot square will fit entirely within it.

42 **Joint Trench**

43 A trench excavated for the underground placement of utility distribution lines owned or operated by two or
44 more utilities.

- 1 **Junk**
2 Any worn-out, wrecked, scrapped, partially or fully dismantled, discarded tangible material, or
3 combination of materials or items, including junk vehicles as defined in AMC 15.20.010. Also included
4 are machinery, metal, rags, rubber, paper, plastics, chemicals, and building materials which cannot,
5 without further alteration and reconditioning, be used for their original purpose.
- 6 **LED**
7 See **Light Emitting Diode**
- 8 **Land-Disturbing Activity**
9 Any use of the land by any person for any activity that results in a change in the natural cover or
10 topography and that may cause or contribute to sedimentation or other forms of environmental
11 degradation.
- 12 **Landowner**
13 Any owner of a legal or equitable interest in real property, including the heirs, devisees, successors,
14 assigns, and agent or personal representative of the owner. The person shown on the records at the
15 Anchorage recording district shall be presumed to be the person in control of the property.
- 16 **Landscaping**
17 Trees, shrubs, ground covers, and related improvements, including furniture and other facilities intended
18 to enhance public activity spaces both within and outside the affected development. This definition shall
19 include spaces of varying degrees of enclosure from interior spaces to transitional spaces and outdoor
20 spaces.
- 21 **Large Domestic Animal**
22 Domestic or semi-domestic animals such as horses, ponies, miniature ponies, cows, pigs, llamas, musk
23 oxen, and other similar animals of similar size, but not dogs (*canis familiaris*).
- 24 **Legal Access**
25 Having legal access means abutting a vehicular right-of-way.
- 26 **Legal Nonconforming Status**
27 A state or condition where a documented nonconforming use, structure, lot, or sign, is allowed to remain
28 and be maintained pursuant to chapter 21.12, *Nonconformities*.
- 29 **Light Emitting Diode (LED)**
30 A semiconductor device that emits visible light when an electric current passes through it.
- 31 **Light Trespass**
32 Unwanted light that falls on neighboring properties or produces glare or distraction for observers away
33 from the area for which the light is intended (also called “nuisance glare”).
- 34 **Loading Space, Off-Street**
35 A space located on premises for pickup and delivery at the premises.
- 36 **Lot**
37 A unit of land within a subdivision, bounded by streets and/or other lots, that is described and fixed on the
38 most recent plat of record.
- 39 **Lot Area**
40 The amount of horizontal land area contained inside the lot lines of a lot or site.
- 41 **Lot Coverage**
42 That percentage of the total lot area covered by buildings, except as provided in subsection
43 21.06.030B.2., *Structures Not Considered in Measuring Lot Coverage*.

- 1 **Lot, Corner**
2 A lot located at the intersection of two or more streets. A lot abutting on a curved street shall be
3 considered a corner lot if straight lines drawn from the foremost points of the side lot lines to the foremost
4 point of the lot meet at an interior angle of less than 135 degrees.
- 5 **Lot, Depth of**
6 The mean horizontal distance between the front and rear property lines of a lot, measured in the general
7 direction of its side property lines between the midpoint of such lines, except that such measurement shall
8 not extend outside the lot lines of the lot being measured.
- 9 **Lot, Double-Frontage**
10 A lot other than a corner lot with frontage on more than one street.
- 11 **Lot, Flag**
12 An irregularly shaped lot in which the buildable section typically has no street frontage, but has an arm
13 that provides street access, called the “flag pole.” The width of the arm does not meet the minimum lot
14 width standards in the zoning district in which it is located.
- 15 **Lot Frontage**
16 See **Frontage, Lot**
- 17 **Lot, Interior**
18 A lot other than a corner lot, with frontage only on one street.
- 19 **Lot Line**
20 The fixed boundaries or property lines of a lot described by survey located on a plat filed for record.
- 21 **Lot Line, Front**
22 Any boundary line of a lot along the edge of a right-of-way of a dedicated street, private street or road
23 easement that abuts that line.
- 24 **Lot Line, Rear**
25 That boundary of a lot that is most parallel to the front lot line and does not intersect the front lot line.
- 26 **Lot Line, Side**
27 That boundary of a lot that is neither a front or rear lot line.
- 28 **Lot Line, Street**
29 A lot line abutting a street.
- 30 **Lot, Nonconforming**
31 A lot that met all legal requirements when it was platted or otherwise recorded but that does not comply
32 with the minimum lot area or minimum lot dimensions of this title, or a subsequent amendment hereto, for
33 the zoning district in which it is located.
- 34 **Lot of Record**
35 A lot that is recorded by the district recorder’s office.
- 36 **Lot, Townhouse**
37 A lot subdivided for a townhouse use.
- 38 **Lot Width**
39 The distance between straight lines connecting the front and rear lot lines at each side of the lot,
40 measured between the midpoints of such lines, provided that such measurement shall extend to the side
41 property lines and shall not extend beyond the lot lines of the lot being measured. Flag-shaped lot width
42 shall be measured at the midpoint of the lot excluding the flagpole area of the lot.

- 1 **Lowest Floor**
2 The lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area, including basement or crawl space. An unfinished or flood
3 resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage, in any area other
4 than a basement area, is not considered a building's lowest floor, provided that such enclosure is not built
5 so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable nonelevation design requirements of section
6 21.04.070E.
- 7 **Lumen**
8 The unit of luminous flux (radiant energy): a measure of the amount of light emitted by a lamp. See also
9 **Illuminance**
- 10 **Luminaire**
11 A complete lighting unit consisting of one or more electric lamps, the lamp holder, reflector, lens, ballast,
12 and/or other components and accessories.
- 13 **Luminaire, Full Cutoff**
14 A luminaire emitting a light distribution where zero candela intensity occurs at or above an angle of 90
15 degrees above nadir. Additionally, the candela per 1,000 lamp lumens does not numerically exceed 100
16 (10 percent) at a vertical angle of 80 degrees above nadir. This applies to all lateral angles around the
17 luminaire.
- 18 **Luminance**
19 The luminous intensity (photometric brightness) of a light source or reflecting surface, measured in
20 candelas per square meter.
- 21 **M.A.S.S.**
22 An abbreviation for the "*Municipality of Anchorage Standard Specifications*," which is a manual that
23 identifies the approved common construction practices associated with subdivision development and
24 public works projects.
- 25 **Maintenance Easement**
26 An easement on a lot or parcel permitting entry to that lot or parcel for the purpose of maintaining,
27 repairing, or reconstructing a structure or other feature on the lot or parcel, or an abutting lot or parcel.
- 28 **Major Drainageway**
29 That portion of any drainageway, constructed or natural, that either does, or will under full development,
30 carry a significant peak flow; all ephemeral channels are major drainageways; all constructed or natural
31 drainageways with total contributing areas larger than 40 acres are major drainageways.
- 32 **Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)**
33 The most current manual or successor document(s) addressing the design and use of traffic control
34 devices, as published, amended and/or interpreted by the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- 35 **Manufactured Home**
36 A transportable, factory-built dwelling unit constructed after June 15, 1976, in conformance with the
37 federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards, as evidenced by an affixed certification
38 label in accordance with 24 CFR 3280.11.
- 39 **Manufactured Home Community**
40 A parcel, or contiguous parcels, of land which is used for occupancy by more than two mobile homes or
41 manufactured homes.
- 42 **Maximum Extent Feasible**
43 That no feasible and prudent alternative exists, and all possible efforts to comply with the regulation or
44 minimize potential harm or adverse impacts have been undertaken. "Feasible and prudent" means
45 consistent with sound engineering practice and not causing environmental, social, or economic problems

1 that outweigh the public benefit to be derived from compliance with the standard which is modified by the
2 term “feasible and prudent.”

3 **Mean Sea Level**

4 The average height of the sea for all states of the tide. Datum is Greater Anchorage Area Borough, Post
5 Quake, U.S. Geodetic Survey of 1972.

6 **Mechanical Penthouse**

7 An enclosed structure above the roof of a building used exclusively for the shelter of mechanical
8 equipment or shelter of vertical shaft openings in the roof.

9 **Minor Amendment**

10 An amendment to an approved permit or other form of approval granted under this title that involves a
11 relatively small amount of change from the original approval. Specific rules for granting minor
12 amendments are set forth in chapter 21.03, *Review and Approval Procedures*.

13 **Minor Modification**

14 A minor deviation from otherwise applicable standards of this title approved under section 21.03.120.

15 **Mixed-Use Development**

16 A single building containing two or more residential units and another classification of land use (office,
17 retail, community use, etc.) or a single development of more than one building which includes at least two
18 residential units and another use (office, retail, community use, etc.), where the uses of different
19 classifications (office, retail, community use, etc.) are in a compact urban form, planned as a unified
20 complementary whole, and functionally integrated to facilitate the use of shared vehicular and pedestrian
21 access and parking lots.

22 **Modify Fuels**

23 Reduce the amount of non-fire-resistant vegetation or alter the type of vegetation to reduce the fire risk.

24 **Monument**

25 A permanent survey control point.

26 **Mounting Height**

27 The height of a luminaire above grade.

28 **Multimodal**

29 Having or involving more than one mode of transportation.

30 **Municipal Attorney**

31 The official legal representative for the municipality.

32 **Municipal Engineer**

33 The chief engineer of the municipality; often the director of the public works department.

34 **Municipality**

35 The municipality of Anchorage.

36 **National Electrical Safety Code (NESC)**

37 The most current national electrical safety code or successor code, as published, amended, and/or
38 interpreted by the federal government.

39 **New Structures** (as used in section 21.04.070E., *FHO: Flood Hazard Overlay District*)

40 Structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after September 25, 1979. The start of
41 construction means the first placement of a permanent foundation and appropriate structural framing.

- 1 **Nonconforming Lot**
2 A lot, the area and/or dimensions of which were lawful prior to the adoption, revision, or amendment of
3 the zoning ordinance but that fail by reason of such adoption, revision, or amendment to conform to the
4 present requirements of the zoning district.
- 5 **Nonconforming Structure**
6 A structure or building, the size, dimensions, and/or location of which were lawful prior to the adoption,
7 revision, or amendment of the zoning ordinance but that fail by reason of such adoption, revision, or
8 amendment to conform to the present requirements of the zoning ordinance.
- 9 **Nonconforming Use**
10 A use or activity that was lawful prior to the adoption, revision, or amendment of the zoning ordinance but
11 that fails by reason of such adoption, revision, or amendment to conform to the present requirements of
12 the zoning district.
- 13 **Nonconformity**
14 Any legally approved structure, lot, sign, or use of land that no longer conforms with the requirements of
15 this title.
- 16 **Nursing Facility**
17 Has the same meaning as set forth in Alaska Statutes chapter 18.20.
- 18 **OS&HP**
19 *Official Streets and Highways Plan.*
- 20 **Obstruction** (as used in section 21.04.070E., *FHO: Flood Hazard Overlay District*)
21 Any dam, wall, embankment, levee, dike, pile, abutment, projection, excavation, channel modification,
22 bridge, conduit, culvert, building, wire, fence, rock, gravel, refuse, fill, structure or matter in, along, across
23 or projecting into any channel, watercourse or regulatory flood hazard area which may impede, retard or
24 change the direction of the flow of water, either in itself or by catching or collecting debris carried by such
25 water, or that is placed where the flow of water might carry the material downstream to the damage of life
26 or property.
- 27 **Off-Street**
28 Located outside the street or the right-of-way of a street.
- 29 **On-Site Remediation**
30 Removal of volatile and semi-volatile contaminants from soils, sediments, slurries and filter cakes within
31 300 feet of the location where the material was originally contaminated.
- 32 **Open Space, Common**
33 Open space for the common use and enjoyment of the owners and occupants of the subdivision, building,
34 planned unit development or condominium. Common means shared by all tenants and is distinguished
35 from space designated for private use.
- 36 **Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM)**
37 The line on a shore or bank of a body of water established by the normal fluctuations of water and
38 indicated by a relatively abrupt change in observable physical, hydrologic, and biologic characteristics
39 above and below the line. For a stream or lake the OHWM is approximately equivalent to the 'bank.' For
40 a marine shoreline, the OHWM is approximately equivalent to the 'mean high water line.' In all cases, an
41 appropriate mix of indicators used to establish the OHWM at a particular location are selected using
42 means and methods that consider the type of water body and the characteristics of the surrounding area.
- 43 **Outdoor Trash Container**
44 A container used for the temporary storage of rubbish, pending collection, that is stored outside of a
45 walled structure for one or more nights per week.

1 **Overlay District**

2 A unique set of zoning regulations that are superimposed on one or more established zoning districts and
3 shown on the zoning map, and subsequently impose additional or replacement regulations to those of the
4 underlying district. The overlay district may be used to impose supplemental restrictions on uses in these
5 districts, permit uses otherwise disallowed, or implement some form of site or architectural design
6 program. Developments within an overlay district must conform to the requirements of the underlying
7 district as modified by the overlay district and as set forth in the enacting ordinance.

8 **Owner**

9 Any person, agent, firm, corporation, or partnership that alone, jointly, or severally with others:

- 10 1) Has legal or equitable title to any parcel, premises, dwelling, or dwelling unit, with or without
11 accompanying actual possession thereof; or
- 12 2) Has charge, care, or control of any parcel, premises, dwelling, or dwelling unit, as agent of
13 the owner or as executor, administrator, trustee, or guardian of the estate of the beneficial
14 owner. The person shown on the records of the district recorders office of the state of Alaska
15 to be the owner of a particular property shall be presumed to be the person in control of that
16 property.

17 **Parapet**

18 A low, protective wall at the edge of a roof that is part of an exterior wall, fire wall, or party wall that rises
19 above the roof.

20 **Parcel**

21 A generic descriptive term used to refer to a lot, a tract, a group of lots and/or tracts, or a contiguous
22 quantity of land, under the same ownership.

23 **Parking Angle**

24 The angle formed by a parking space and the wall or centerline of the facility, ranging from ninety degrees
25 (perpendicular) to zero degrees (parallel).

26 **Parking Bay**

27 A section or module of a parking facility that consists of a parking aisle and a row of parking spaces on
28 one or both sides of the aisle. Parking bays are not loading berths.

29 **Parking Cash-Out**

30 Allowing commuters to choose cash instead of a free parking space. For example, a commuter who is
31 offered a parking cash-out might be able to choose to receive \$50 per month in cash if they use an
32 alternative mode besides a single-occupancy vehicle.

33 **Parking District, Municipally Recognized**

34 An area recognized or designated by the municipal Assembly in which a central authority such as an area
35 improvement district or a parking authority supplies one or more centralized parking facilities, manages
36 the parking supply and/or implements other parking management strategies to serve the area, rather than
37 each individual development site having to supply all of its own parking.

38 **Parking Facility**

39 An area for off-street parking of motor vehicles, either a surface parking lot or structured parking, and
40 including associated driveways, circulation and parking aisles, parking spaces, queuing lanes, and
41 passenger loading areas.

42 **Parking Lot**

43 An at-grade, surface parking facility built directly on the ground.

- 1 **Parking, On Street**
2 Parking spaces within the street or street right-of-way and abutting the curb of a street.
- 3 **Parking, Shared**
4 A parking facility that serves multiple uses or destinations.
- 5 **Parking Space**
6 A space for the parking of one automobile.
- 7 **Parking Space, Bicycle**
8 An area and facility such as a rack or locker used for parking and securing one bicycle.
- 9 **Parking Space, Guest**
10 A parking space that is intended for use by guests in a residential development, and not exclusive to or
11 physically associated with any individual dwelling.
- 12 **Parking, Stacked**
13 Vehicles parked one above the other using a mechanical car stacker.
- 14 **Parking Structure, Automated**
15 A parking structure operated by automatic mechanical parking equipment such as automobile elevator or
16 lift systems.
- 17 **Parking, Structured**
18 A parking facility that is a multistory building or structure, under a building or structure, or a portion of a
19 building, such as occupying a story within a multifamily building. Structured parking may be either on,
20 above, or below grade.
- 21 **Parking, Tandem**
22 One vehicle parked behind another.
- 23 **Parking, Unbundled**
24 Parking rented and sold separately from building space, so occupants only pay for the amount of parking
25 they want.
- 26 **Party of Interest**
27 The applicant, the owner of the subject property, the owner of property within the notification area for the
28 subject application, and anyone that presented oral testimony at a public hearing or written testimony on
29 the application.
- 30 **Pathway**
31 A stable surface, usually paved, located along a roadway, for multiple pedestrian and non-motorized uses
32 and purposes.
- 33 **Pedestrian Feature**
34 A permanent object that provides pedestrians with increased convenience, comfort, and utility, and which
35 is publicly accessible and not limited to a tenant or establishment such as seating for a restaurant.
36 Pedestrian features include:
- 37 • Seating such as benches accommodating several people;
38 • Secondary/informal seating opportunities such as steps, pedestals, low walls, or edges of fountains,
39 accommodating several people;
40 • A space for standing with objects to lean against, such as bollards, short fences, or irregular building
41 facades, accommodating several people;

- 1 • A tree or raised planter;
- 2 • A work of art such as a water feature, sculpture, cultural exhibit, or clock feature;
- 3 • A winter city feature such as a wind screen, or outdoor stove or space heater; or
- 4 • Other object supporting pedestrian utility, such as a gazebo or kiosk.

5 **Pedestrian Movement Zone**

6 The middle portion of an enhanced sidewalk, located between the sidewalk's street interface and building
7 interface zones. The pedestrian zone provides for the primary function of sidewalks, and is kept clear of
8 any obstructions to pedestrian movement.

9 **Pedestrian Oriented**

10 A characteristic of a development or district that emphasizes the street sidewalk and/or connecting
11 pedestrian access to the site and building(s), such that a person can comfortably walk from one location
12 to another, and optional pedestrian activities such as strolling, window shopping, or relaxing can take
13 place. Pedestrian oriented characteristics include: buildings placed within a short setback distance from
14 the sidewalk; primary entrances and windows on building facades which face the street; a mix of civic,
15 commercial, and/or residential uses; shared open spaces and plazas; architectural details and visual
16 interest at the pedestrian scale; pedestrian features such as wide walkways, seating, bicycle facilities,
17 public art, landscaping, lighting, and wayfinding signs; and northern climate features such as atriums,
18 canopies, transit shelters, wind protection, and orientation for sunlight access.

19 **Permit, Building**

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

23 **Permit, Land Use**

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

27 **Permit, Sign**

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

30 **Permit, Flood Hazard**

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

33 **Person**

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

36 **Pharmacy**

37 An establishment offering only to prepare, preserve, compound, and dispense prescribed and
38 nonprescribed medication and drugs, medical supplies, and health care items.

39 **Physical Access**

40 For the purposes of chapter 21.08, having physical access means being adjacent to a street suitable for
41 travel by passenger automobiles that is connected to the publicly dedicated and improved transportation
42 network of the municipality.

43 **Pillow**

44 A sleeping accommodation for one person.

- 1 **Plan, Landscape**
2 A plan, drawn to scale, showing dimensions and details of the portion of a site devoted to planting
3 materials and their maintenance.
- 4 **Plan, Master**
5 The maps, illustrations, and supporting text associated with a planned development which conveys the
6 allowable uses, densities, non-residential intensities, and arrangement of uses within the boundaries of
7 the planned development along with any associated conditions, phasing schedules, and other
8 agreements.
- 9 **Plan, Site**
10 A plan depicting the proposed development of a property, in terms of the location, scale, and
11 configuration of buildings, uses, and other features containing all the information required by this title. A
12 site plan may include but is not limited to lot lines, adjacent lots and streets, building sites, required open
13 space, buildings, interior vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle access, parking lot design (calculations and
14 layout), signage, lighting, screening devices, existing and proposed landscaping, topography, drainage,
15 and, depending on requirements, floor plans, building elevations and locations of proposed utility services
16 and lines, and any other information that reasonably may be required in order that an informed decision
17 can be made by the approving authority.
- 18 **Plan, Subdivision**
19 A proposed plan of development to establish a subdivision that contains all information such as lot lines,
20 streets, easements, and other features required by this title.
- 21 **Planning Commission**
22 The planning and zoning commission of the municipality.
- 23 **Plat**
24 A map and associated text prepared by a registered surveyor that delineates property lines and related
25 information, prepared in compliance with the regulations of this title.
- 26 **Plat, Final**
27 A map and associated text of a subdivision of land, meeting all the requirements of this code, and ready
28 for approval and recording.
- 29 **Plat, Preliminary**
30 A map and associated text prepared by a registered surveyor showing the required features of a
31 proposed subdivision of land and submitted to the platting authority for purposes of preliminary
32 consideration and approval.
- 33 **Platting Authority**
34 The platting officer, municipal platting board, or any other board so designated by the assembly.
- 35 **Porch**
36 A covered or partially enclosed exterior entrance space projecting from the façade of a building, having a
37 floor and roof, and forming a covered approach or vestibule to an entrance doorway. The front of the
38 porch is open, with only supporting posts, railings, and roof, or partially enclosed with solid walls or
39 railings up to 36 inches high measured from the floor of the porch.
- 40 **Pre-Application Conference**
41 A meeting between an applicant and the municipal staff intended to familiarize both parties with
42 conceptual plans or proposals presented by the applicant and applicable code provisions.
- 43 **Primary Pedestrian Walkway**
44 A walkway meeting the standards of subsection 21.07.060F.4.

- 1 **Principal Building/Structure**
2 A building/structure in which is conducted the main use of the lot on which the building/structure is
3 located.
- 4 **Prisoner**
5 The same meaning as defined in AS 33.30.901 as to state prisoners, and includes persons convicted of a
6 felony described in AS 11.41, *Offenses Against the Person*, in Alaska or of an offense with the same or
7 substantially similar elements in another jurisdiction until they have successfully completed all conditions
8 of parole and probation and are no longer under the supervision of the court, the Alaska department of
9 corrections, another state or municipal agency, or contractor to those entities. The term "prisoner" also
10 includes federal offenders in the custody, control or under the care of supervision of the United States
11 attorney general or the bureau of prisons.
- 12 **Private Enforcement Action**
13 A process by which a private individual, homeowner's association, or community council can request that
14 the administrative hearings officer hear and investigate charges that another person or owner of land has
15 violated the requirements of this title.
- 16 **Profession**
17 An occupation, such as law, medicine, or engineering, which requires considerable training and
18 specialized study.
- 19 **Projection, Wall Plane**
20 A portion of a building wall—i.e., a wall plane or façade wall—that extends outward beyond the face of the
21 adjacent wall plane or façade wall on the building, so as to create articulation of the building wall.
- 22 **Property Line**
23 A demarcation limit of a lot dividing it from right-of-way, or other lots or parcels of land.
- 24 **Public Enforcement Action**
25 An action brought by the municipality against owners or users of land for violating the provisions of this
26 title.
- 27 **Public Facility**
28 Any buildings and structures (including streets and highways) owned or leased by a government agency
29 not exempt by law from municipal land use regulation
- 30 **Public Utility**
31 Any person or organization subject to regulation under AS 42.05.
- 32 **Publicly Accessible**
33 Open to the general public during regular business hours.
- 34 **Quonset Hut**
35 A prefabricated structure usually made of corrugated metal, in the shape of a longitudinal half cylinder.
- 36 **Recess, Wall Plane**
37 A portion of a building wall—i.e., a wall plane or façade wall—which is set back from the adjacent wall
38 plane or façade wall on the building, creating articulation of the building wall.
- 39 **Record of Survey Map**
40 A map prepared by a professional land surveyor that reestablishes survey controls, boundaries, locations
41 of improvements, or the alignment of right-of-ways for recording.

- 1 **Recreational Vehicle**
2 A vehicle primarily designed as temporary living quarters for travel, camping, recreational, or vacation
3 usage, which either has its own motive power or is mounted on or drawn by another vehicle. The basic
4 entities are travel trailer, camping trailer, pickup truck camper, fifth-wheel, and motor home.
- 5 **Redevelopment**
6 The rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, or removal and replacement of an existing structure or structures, or of
7 land from which previous improvements have been removed.
- 8 **Reflectance**
9 The fraction of solar radiation reflected by a material.
- 10 **Regulatory Floodway**
11 See **Floodway, Regulatory**
- 12 **Reinforcement**
13 Repair, replacement, or addition of a crossarm, guy, pole, stub, or conductor for a utility distribution
14 facility.
- 15 **Relocation** (as used in section 21.07.050, *Utility Distribution Facilities*)
16 A change in alignment of more than six spans.
- 17 **Reserve Strips**
18 Narrow strips of privately-owned land adjacent and parallel to a street.
- 19 **Residential**
20 Activity involving the occupation of buildings for living, cooking, sleeping, and recreation.
- 21 **Residential Subdivision**
22 A subdivision, or that part of a subdivision, in a residential zoning district.
- 23 **Restoration**
24 Putting or bringing back into a former, normal, or unimpaired state or condition.
- 25 **Rezoning (Zoning Map Amendments)**
26 An amendment to the official zoning map to effect a change in the boundaries of any zoning district or the
27 zone classification of any parcel of land in the municipality.
- 28 **Right-of-Way**
29 A defined area of land, reserved or dedicated for a street, alley, walkway, trail, utility, or other public
30 purpose.
- 31 **Roof**
32 The cover of any building or structure, including the eaves and similar projections.
- 33 **Runway**
34 A defined area on land or water intended for use for landing and takeoff of aircraft.
- 35 **Salvageable Improvements**
36 As used in section 21.08.060, *Subdivision Agreements*, and describes those portions of street
37 improvements constructed within a dedicated right-of-way that are usable as a part of the finally
38 constructed street. Salvageable improvements include such items of work as clearing and grubbing,
39 removal of unsuitable material and placement of classified backfill, but do not include temporary surfacing
40 and other work that would not be usable or beneficial to final street construction. This definition applies
41 only to those streets that are not, during their initial construction, improved to the final paved standard of
42 the municipality.

- 1 **Senior Housing**
2 See **Housing, Senior**
- 3 **Setback**
4 The horizontal distance between any structure and a lot line, or some other feature or object. A required
5 setback establishes a minimum required separation distance with the exception that a required maximum
6 setback establishes a maximum allowed separation distance.
- 7 **Setback, Front**
8 A setback that extends across the frontage of a lot or tract on a right-of-way of a street.
- 9 **Setback, Rear**
10 A setback that extends across the full rear of a lot or tract. The rear setback is defined by the rear lot
11 line. Lots with two or more frontages do not have rear setbacks.
- 12 **Setback, Side**
13 Any setback that is not a front or rear setback. Generally, side setbacks extend from the inner boundary
14 of the front setback (or from the front property line of the lot or tract where no front setback is required) to
15 the inner boundary of the rear setback (or to the rear property line of the lot or tract where no rear setback
16 is required.) For lots with two or more frontages, setbacks remaining after front setbacks have been
17 established shall be considered side setbacks.
- 18 **Service Connection**
19 Conductors transmitting utility service from a utility distribution line to a customer's riser or service
20 entrance.
- 21 **Sidewalk**
22 A concrete surface within a vehicular right-of-way, aligned with a road and constructed either adjacent to
23 the curb or separated from the curb, for multiple pedestrian and non-motorized uses and purposes.
24 Sidewalks are generally found in class A zoning districts.
- 25 **Sight Distance Triangle**
26 The land area regulated to ensure unobstructed visibility for motorists entering or leaving an intersection
27 or driveway.
- 28 **Sight Obscuring**
29 As applied to landscaping, sight obscuring means that within three years of installation, the landscaping
30 shall visually obscure the target to the extent that the majority of the field of view is plant material, rather
31 than the target.
- 32 **Sign**
33 Any visual communication display, object, device, graphic, structure or part, situated indoors or outdoors,
34 or attached to, painted on or displayed from a building or structure, in order to direct or attract attention to,
35 or to announce or promote, an object, product, place, activity, person, institution, organization, or
36 business or the like, by means of letters, words, model, banner, flag, pennant, insignia, device, designs,
37 colors, symbols, fixtures, images, illuminations or representation used as, or which is in the nature of an
38 announcement, direction, or advertisement.
- 39 **Sign, Animated**
40 A sign that contains animation or animated effects, changeable copy, flashing, or moving parts.
- 41 **Sign, Banner**
42 A sign made of lightweight fabric or similar material with no enclosing framework that is mounted to a
43 building or other structure at one or more edges.

- 1 **Sign, Building**
2 Any sign attached to any part of a building and including wall, awning, canopy, and projecting signs. A
3 wall sign is a building sign that is parallel to and does not extend from the wall more than 12 inches.
- 4 **Sign, Changeable Copy**
5 A portion of a sign with letters, characters, or graphics that are not permanently affixed to the structure,
6 framing, or background allowing the letters, characters or graphics to be modified from time to time
7 manually or by electronic or mechanical devices, such as a bulletin board or electronic message board.
- 8 **Sign, Construction**
9 A temporary sign identifying a project or facility during the time of construction. Such signs typically
10 include the name of an architect, engineer, and/or contractor for a building or project located on the
11 parcel.
- 12 **Sign, Entrance or Exit**
13 A sign located at the driveway entrance or exit and intended to provide for safe ingress and egress.
- 14 **Sign, Freestanding**
15 A sign supported from the ground and not attached to any building. A freestanding sign may be
16 supported by one or more poles or a solid base. Pole signs are considered freestanding signs.
- 17 **Sign, Historic**
18 Any sign that has been designated as historic by the urban design commission.
- 19 **Sign, Ideological or Political**
20 Any temporary sign displaying or advocating an idea, opinion, or position on any social, cultural, religious,
21 or political issue and containing no commercial message.
- 22 **Sign, Illuminated**
23 Any sign which is partially or entirely illuminated internally or externally so as to make the sign more
24 visible.
- 25 **Sign, Inflatable**
26 Any inflatable shape or figure designed or used to attract attention to a business event or location.
27 Inflatable promotional devices shall be considered to be temporary signs under the terms of this chapter
28 and, where applicable, subject to the regulations thereof.
- 29 **Sign, Instructional**
30 A sign that has a purpose secondary to the use on the lot and that is intended to instruct employees,
31 customers, or users as to matters of public safety or necessity such as specific parking requirements, the
32 location or regulations pertaining to specific activities on the site or in the building, and including a sign
33 erected by a public authority, utility, public service organization, or private industry that is intended to
34 control traffic; direct, identify or inform the public; or provide needed public service as determined by the
35 rules and regulations of governmental agencies or through public policy.
- 36 **Sign, Nonconforming**
37 A sign which was legally erected, but which is no longer in compliance with the requirements of this title.
- 38 **Sign, Off-Premises**
39 See **Billboard**
- 40 **Sign Plate**
41 A building sign which does not exceed two square feet indicating the street number, the name of the
42 person, business, profession or activity occupying the lot, building, or part thereof; or other information
43 pertaining to the use on the lot.

- 1 **Sign, Portable**
2 Any sign that is not permanently attached to the ground or other permanent structure, or a sign designed
3 to be transported on wheels, skids, a bench, runners, brackets, or has a frame to which wheels, skids,
4 runners, brackets, or similar mechanical devices can be attached to or support the sign. A portable sign
5 also includes inflatable devices and mobile signs such as parked trailers or vehicles, which include signs
6 which are visible from the public right-of-way unless such vehicle is used in the normal day-to-day
7 operations of the business.
- 8 **Sign, Pole**
9 A sign that is mounted on a freestanding pole or poles, or other support structure that is visible.
- 10 **Sign, Projecting**
11 A sign that is attached to a building wall and extending perpendicular to (or approximately perpendicular
12 to) the building wall and 12 inches or more beyond the face of the wall.
- 13 **Sign, Roof**
14 A sign, or any portion thereof, erected, constructed, painted, placed, or projecting upon or extending
15 above the roof or parapet wall of any building whether the principal support for the sign is on the roof, wall
16 or any other structural element of the building.
- 17 **Sign, Temporary**
18 A sign that is designed to be used only temporarily and is not intended to be permanently attached to a
19 building, structure or permanently installed in the ground. These include, but are not limited to, political
20 signs, special event signs, and for sale or leasing signs. Mobile and portable signs are temporary signs.
21 Temporary signs may be displayed as window signs.
- 22 **Sign, Traffic**
23 A sign indicating federal, state, or municipal regulations for automobile, truck, bicycle, and/or pedestrian
24 movement.
- 25 **Sign, Window**
26 A sign that is applied or attached to a window or door, or a sign located near a window within a building
27 for the purpose of being visible to and read from the outside of the building except for signs that are not
28 legible from a distance of more than three feet beyond the building in which such sign is located.
- 29 **Single-Family Style Structure**
30 A residential building containing one dwelling unit for one household and not attached to any other
31 dwelling by any means—i.e., a house.
- 32 **Site**
33 A lot or group of contiguous lots that is proposed for development and is in single ownership or has
34 multiple owners, all of whom join in an application for development.
- 35 **Site Plan**
36 See **Plan, Site**
- 37 **Site Plan Review**
38 The review of a site plan of a project, public or private, to ensure compliance with the development and
39 design standards and provisions of this title, to ensure consistency with previous approvals, to minimize
40 or mitigate negative impacts on adjacent properties, and to encourage quality development reflective of
41 the goals, policies, and objectives of the comprehensive plan.
- 42 **Site Selection**
43 The process by which the municipality shall review and decide the selection of a site for specified public
44 facilities.

- 1 **Skylight**
2 An opening in a roof or ceiling, glazed with a transparent or translucent material, for admitting daylight.
- 3 **Soil Management**
4 Maintenance of the soil to preserve and enhance the capacity of soil to function within ecosystem
5 boundaries to sustain biological productivity, maintain environmental health, and promote plant and
6 animal health.
- 7 **Slope**
8 The change in vertical elevation of a land area between two points, divided by the horizontal distance
9 between those points, and multiplied by 100 to be expressed as a percentage.
- 10 **Solar Access (Sunlight Access)**
11 The availability of, or access to, unobstructed direct sunlight.
- 12 **Solar Orientation**
13 A south facing orientation of a property line, street frontage, right-of-way, fence, building wall, or window
14 surface where the line, frontage, wall, or window faces within 30 degrees of south. This orientation of a
15 surface in relation to the path of the sun may be used to maximize the amount of sunlight and heat gained
16 from solar radiation.
- 17 **Solar Reflector**
18 An appurtenance designed to reflect the light and heat of the sun so that it augments the amount of solar
19 radiation entering an interior habitable space, solar collector, or outdoor open space.
- 20 **Space** (as used in section 21.05.030A.8., *Manufactured Home Community*)
21 A defined land area in a manufactured home community on which a mobile home or manufactured home
22 may be placed and which is described by boundary lines measured in terms of:
- 23 • Its depth expressed as a mean distance between the front and rear of the space, measured in the
24 general direction of the side space lines.
 - 25 • Its width expressed as a mean distance between the side lines of the space, measured in the general
26 direction of the front and rear space lines.
- 27 **Space, Reverse-Frontage** (as used in section 21.05.030A.8., *Manufactured Home Community*)
28 A space which abuts a local street on one side and a street of Class I or greater classification on the
29 opposite side.
- 30 **Special Limitation**
31 A provision of a rezoning ordinance which restricts some aspects of development to a greater degree
32 than otherwise allowed by the applied zoning district.
- 33 **Start of Construction**
34 Includes substantial improvement, and means either the first placement of permanent construction of a
35 structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of
36 columns or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured home on a
37 foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading and
38 filling; nor does it include the installation of streets or walkways; nor does it include excavation for a
39 basement, footings, piers or foundation, or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the
40 installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling
41 units or not part of the main structure.
- 42 **Step-Back**
43 A terrace in the vertical rise of a building form such that the upper mass or wall plane of the building is set
44 back or recessed from the lower building mass or wall plane.

1 **Storage**

2 Temporary or permanent containment, holding, leaving, stockpiling, or placement of products, goods, or
3 materials, usually with the intention of retrieving them at a later time; overnight parking of commercial
4 vehicles.

5 **Storm Water**

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

8 **Story**

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

11 **Story Above Grade Plane**

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

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

17 **Story Below Grade Plane**

18 Any story having its finished floor surface below finished grade plane, unless it meets the definition of
19 story above grade plane.

20 **Story, One-Half**

21 A story under a gable, shed, or hipped roof that contains habitable floor area, including floor area under
22 dormers, not exceeding 50 percent of the floor area of the floor below.

23 **Stream**

24 A watercourse conveying perennial or intermittent surface waters not solely the result of constructed
25 subsurface drainage. When a stream does flow it conveys more water than that contributed from a single
26 storm runoff event and includes natural ground water discharge as a component in its flow. A stream
27 may be intermittent in time or space. However it must generally retain its identity as a hydraulically
28 continuous drainage feature along its whole length, even though its surface flow may periodically break
29 up or disappear along its alignment.

30 Overall a stream displays a distinctive combination of geomorphic, hydrologic, and biologic
31 characteristics, though some of these features may be absent where flow is intermittent or where the
32 stream has been piped or otherwise modified. Principal defining characteristics include:

- 33 • Unique geometric, sedimentary, and other physical characteristics, including bed and
34 banks, along part or all of the stream's alignment;
- 35 • Prolonged flow from natural sources conveyed along continuous surface channels, or
36 along a discontinuous but hydraulically connected series of surface channels; and
- 37 • Biologic characteristics representative of prolonged surface flows along the open channel
38 segments of the stream.

39 **Stream Bed**

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

- 1 **Street**
2 A thoroughfare improved or intended to be improved for vehicular and pedestrian travel permanently
3 open to general public use, that affords the principal means of access, frontage and address to individual
4 buildings, lots and blocks. Streets include a road, avenue, place, drive, boulevard, highway or any other
5 similar means of public thoroughfare, except an alley. A street is not a driveway. Unless otherwise
6 indicated, the term street shall refer to both public and private streets. A street may be located on private
7 property and not be publicly owned or maintained, if it performs the roles of a public street.
- 8 **Street, Access**
9 A street constructed to provide physical access to a subdivision.
- 10 **Street, Arterial**
11 Higher order streets with controlled access that are intended for through or regional traffic moving
12 between urban centers and not intended for local or residential neighborhood traffic. These streets have
13 multiple travel lanes, provide access to regional travelways, and carry high volumes of traffic. Arterials
14 are either “major arterials” or “minor arterials,” as designated in the *Official Streets and Highways Plan*.
- 15 **Street, Collector**
16 Streets that penetrate various land use classifications to provide both land access and mobility within
17 neighborhoods and commercial areas. Their primary function is traffic service, collecting traffic from
18 intersecting streets and funneling it to major thoroughfares. A major collector roadway/street has limited
19 direct access from individual lots/parcels. A minor collector roadway/street allows direct access of
20 individual lots/parcels.
- 21 **Street, Cul-de-Sac**
22 A street having only one outlet, with provision for a turnaround at its termination, and which is not
23 intended to be extended or continued to serve future subdivisions or adjacent land.
- 24 **Street, Dead End**
25 A right-of-way that terminates without a cul-de-sac or a temporary turnaround and the terminus of which
26 has the same width as the width of the right-of-way.
- 27 **Street Facing Building Elevation**
28 The building elevation facing upon the street, comprised of all façade walls that are oriented toward the
29 street at an angle of less than 90 degrees, and not separated from the street by another principal
30 structure or site.
- 31 **Street, Half**
32 A portion of a right of way, including the street pavement that is directly adjacent to a lot’s frontage as
33 measured from the ultimate street centerline.
- 34 **Street Interface Zone**
35 The portion of an enhanced sidewalk that lies between the street curb and the pedestrian movement
36 zone, providing a buffer between vehicular traffic and pedestrians. The street interface zone
37 accommodates streetscape objects to be kept out of the movement zone portion of the sidewalk, such as
38 street trees, landscaping, street furniture, street signs, light poles, and/or utility boxes.
- 39 **Street, Interior**
40 A street contained entirely within the boundaries of a subdivision.
- 41 **Street, Local**
42 A street whose primary function and design is to provide access to abutting property. Local streets feed
43 traffic into collector and arterial street systems.
- 44 **Street, Loop**
45 A street that originates and terminates at intersections with the same street.

- 1 **Street Lot Line**
2 See **Lot Line, Street**
- 3 **Street, Peripheral**
4 A street parallel to the boundary of a subdivision and whose right-of-way abuts that boundary.
- 5 **Street, Private**
6 A street located on privately owned real property, whether owned by an individual or subject to Horizontal
7 Property Regimes and Common Ownership Acts, and absent dedication of an overlapping public use
8 easement. A private street is often memorialized by plat note.
- 9 **Street, Stub**
10 A dead-end interior street provided for eventual extension onto unplatted land.
- 11 **Street Typology**
12 A street classification system that augments the functional classifications (arterials, collectors, local
13 streets) with designations that relate the street design to the adjacent land use, development pattern, and
14 its functions for users in addition to automobile traffic—pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders.
15 Examples of street typology designations include residential street, main street, transit street, commercial
16 street, and mixed-use street.
- 17 **Structure**
18 Anything that is constructed or erected and located on or under the ground, or attached to something
19 fixed to the ground, including a walled and roofed building, and/or a gas or liquid storage tank that is
20 principally above ground.
- 21 **Structure, Accessory**
22 A structure that is on the same lot as, and of a nature customarily incidental and subordinate to a principal
23 building or structure, and the use of which is clearly incidental and subordinate to that of the principal
24 building or structure.
- 25 **Subdivider**
26 A person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, governmental unit, or combination of any of these
27 that may hold any recorded or equitable ownership interest in land being subdivided. The terms shall
28 also include all heirs, assigns, or successors in interest, or representatives of the subdivider, owner,
29 proprietor, or developer.
- 30 **Subdivision**
31 The division of a tract or parcel of land into two or more lots, sites or other divisions for the purpose,
32 whether immediate or future, of sale, lease or building development, including any combining or
33 resubdivision, and, when appropriate to the context, the process of subdividing or the land subdivided.
- 34 **Subdivision Agreement**
35 A document which is approved by the department of public works which specifies the tentative location,
36 construction schedule, and estimated costs of public improvements to be constructed as part of
37 subdivision development.
- 38 **Survey, As-Built**
39 A plan prepared by a professional land surveyor in such a manner as to accurately identify and depict the
40 location of all on-site improvements.
- 41 **Substantial Improvement**
42 Any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent
43 of the market value of the structure either:
- 44
 - Before the improvement or repair is started; or

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

Surrounding Development

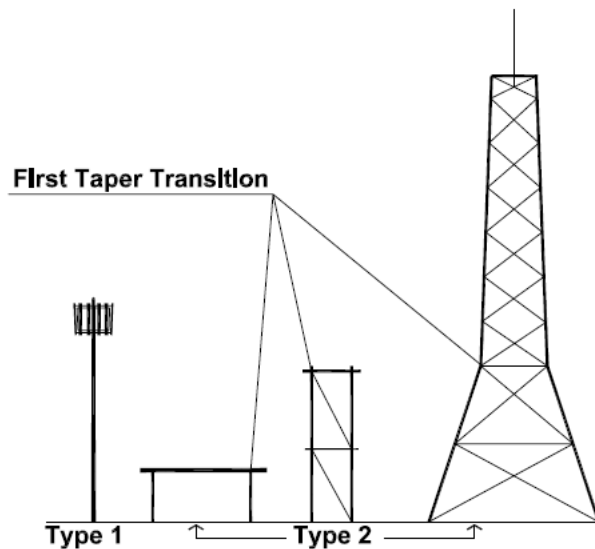
Immediately adjacent development on the same block face or on facing blocks as the subject site, as well as prevalent patterns established in the existing neighborhood located within one-quarter mile of the subject development site.

Take Action

To approve, approve with conditions, deny, refer to another body, or postpone a decision on an application for entitlement.

Taper Transition

A point on a telecommunication tower where the angle of the structure form changes, or the top of the tower, whichever point is lower.



Target Area

An area designated under section 21.07.050 as a location in which overhead distribution lines are to be placed underground as provided in this chapter.

Topographic Flow Line

A topographically-defined surface drainage path; a line of continuous fall in elevation across a land surface that will tend to accumulate and concentrate overland runoff from an area; the local flow path likely to be taken across a land surface by surface runoff as it integrates into a concentrated flow; any actual line of major surface flow conveyance. A topographic flow line is present solely as a result of the

1 topography of the land surface itself and exists independent of the infiltration characteristics of the land
2 surface or the presence or absence of vegetation along the flow line.

3 **Topographic Map**

4 A map showing the landform by the use of contour lines.

5 **Tower, Amateur Radio**

6 An antenna and structure of any type used exclusively by an amateur radio operator licensed by the
7 Federal Communications Commission.

8 **Tower, Community Interest**

9 Any structure principally designed to support an antenna(e) where the height of the structure (not
10 including any building height, if installed on top of a building) exceeds 100 feet, measured to the top of
11 any antennae.

12 **Tower, Local Interest**

13 Any structure principally designed to support antennae and not meeting the definition of a community
14 interest tower.

15 **Tower Site**

16 A lot, tract, or aggregate of abutting lots or tracts that has been planned and coordinated for development
17 with separate community interest towers and/or local interest towers in any combination, including
18 subordinate and related equipment and buildings in accordance with the applicable zoning district.

19 **Townhouse Style Structure**

20 A residential building with two or more dwelling units in a row attached primarily at the sidewall or
21 rearwall, in which each dwelling unit has its own primary entrance to the outside, its own ground-floor and
22 roof, and is separated from the other units by common fire-resistant walls.

23 **Tract**

24 A parcel of land which has been reserved for future development, future subdivision, or protection of open
25 space or a specific natural feature(s).

26 **Traffic Control Device**

27 Includes all physical, mechanical and electrical equipment that directs, channelizes, commands or
28 controls traffic movement. These devices include but are not limited to signs (including street name
29 signs), channelization, signals, and striping.

30 **Traffic Engineer**

31 The municipal official and practicing engineer responsible for the duties established in AMC title 9.

32 **Trail**

33 A stable surface, often either paved or consisting of compacted granular fill, for the purposes of
34 pedestrian and nonmotorized use (unless specifically designated for motorized use). A trail is not aligned
35 with a road.

36 **Trailer**

37 Has the same meaning as set forth in AMC title 9.

38 **Travel Trailer**

39 A motor vehicle, or portable vehicular structure capable of being towed on the highways by a motor
40 vehicle, designed and intended for casual or short-term human occupancy for travel, recreational and
41 vacation uses, identified by a model number, serial number and vehicle registration number, equipped
42 with limited water storage and other self-contained living facilities.

- 1 **Tree, Deciduous**
2 A tree that loses its leaves annually.
- 3 **Tree, Evergreen**
4 A tree that retains its foliage throughout the year.
- 5 **Tree, Landmark**
6 A healthy tree with at least a 12 inch caliper; or a tree that has significant historical or cultural value.
- 7 **Tree Protection Zone**
8 The area around a tree or grouping of trees in which no grading or construction activity may occur,
9 including the storage of materials. The minimum tree protection zone is measured as a radius around the
10 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
11 caliper.
- 12 **Tributary**
13 Any branch, fork, or channel that flows into and connects to a stream and also meets the basic definition
14 of a stream.
- 15 **Unified Sign Plan**
16 A comprehensive site plan where contiguous lots and or tracts are considered as a single site for the
17 purposes of determining the size, number, and placement of freestanding signs.
- 18 **Uplight**
19 For an exterior luminaire, flux radiated in the hemisphere at or above a horizontal plane.
- 20 **Use, Accessory**
21 As applied to a use, building, or structure, customarily subordinate or incidental to and located on the
22 same lot with a principal use, building, or structure.
- 23 **Use, Conditional**
24 A use or occupancy of a structure, or a use of land, permitted only upon issuance of a conditional use
25 permit and subject to the limitations and conditions specified therein.
- 26 **Use, Principal**
27 Any main activity permitted by this title.
- 28 **Use, Temporary**
29 Those land uses and structures that are needed or are in place for only short periods of time.
- 30 **Use District**
31 See **Zoning District**
- 32 **Utility**
33 A public utility as defined in Alaska Statutes title 42.
- 34 **Utility Distribution Line**
35 All or any part of a conductor and supports owned or operated by a utility and used:
- 36 • To transmit electrical power from a main source substation to consumers, at a voltage of 34.5 kV
37 or less; or
- 38 • To transmit messages, impressions, pictures, or signals by means of electricity or
39 electromagnetic waves; between a distribution substation or central office and the lot line of a
40 customer's premises, excluding auxiliary equipment such as aboveground transformers,
41 switching devices, pad-mounted distribution facilities, and CATV power supplies.

1 **Utility Transmission Line**

2 A line used for electrical power transmission between utility substations and switching yards, usually at a
3 voltage of 34.5 kV or greater.

4 **Vacation**

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

6 **Variance**

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

10 **Verification of Nonconforming Status**

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

13 **Violator**

14 A violator of this title is a person who:

- 15 • Occupies, maintains, alters, constructs, or establishes a structure, or use of land or a structure, in
16 violation of this title;
- 17 • Owns, controls, or has the right to control land or a structure where a structure, or use of land or a
18 structure, is occupied, maintained, altered, constructed, or established in violation of this title; or
- 19 • As principal or agent, violates this title under section 21.13.030, *Violations*.

20 **Walkway**

21 A stable surface, usually either paved or consisting of compacted granular fill, for the purpose of
22 pedestrian and other non-motorized use. A walkway connects two points and is not aligned along a
23 vehicular public right-of-way. A walkway may be in a dedicated pedestrian easement. Examples include
24 pedestrian linkages within one site, mid-block, between subdivisions, and leading from roads to public
25 amenities such as schools or parks.

26 **Walkway Clear Width**

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

29 **Walkway, Primary Pedestrian**

30 See **Primary Pedestrian Walkway**

31 **Wall**

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

34 **Wall, Ornamental**

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

38 **Wall Plane**

39 A flat wall surface that is within a single two-dimensional plane.

40 **Wall Plane Projection**

41 See **Projection, Wall Plane**

1 **Wall Plane Recess**

2 See **Recess, Wall Plane**

3 **Warranty Acceptance**

4 Agreement by the municipality, at the completion of construction of a public improvement, constructed
5 under terms of a subdivision agreement or development agreement, that the project is ready to be placed
6 on warranty.

7 **Warranty Period**

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

10 **Water Body**

11 Any area of water with a permanent minimum surface area measured at ordinary high water of 2,500
12 square feet, that is not actively maintained for, or constrained to, a single specific human use (e.g.,
13 wastewater treatment pond or flood detention pond).

14 **Watercourse**

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

22 **Water-Dependent**

23 Any use or activity which can be carried out only on, in, or adjacent to water areas because the use
24 requires direct access to a water body.

25 **Water-Related**

26 Any use or activity which is not directly dependent upon access to a water body, but which provides
27 goods or services that are directly associated with water dependence and which, if not located adjacent to
28 water, would result in a public loss of quality in goods or services offered.

29 **Window**

30 An opening in the wall of a building for admitting light to the interior, usually fitted with a frame containing
31 panes of transparent or translucent material. A display case on an exterior wall is not a window.

32 **Window Area**

33 The exterior area of a window on a building elevation, including the window pane, muntins, sash and
34 frame, but excluding shutters, trim (including sill, molding, and dressing), flower boxes, or other
35 architectural features beyond the window frame and trim itself. This definition is used in provisions such
36 as those requiring a certain percentage of the building wall area to consist of windows, or requiring a
37 maximum portion of the window area that may be covered by a sign.

38 **Window, Providing Visual Access (or Visual Access Window)**

39 Windows that allow views between the outdoors and interior habitable space such as working areas,
40 lobbies, entrances, sales areas, or other public areas. The window is transparent enough to permit views
41 between activities within a building and public space such as nearby streets and sidewalks, and so that
42 objects beyond or behind the window can be distinctly seen.

43 **Zoning District**

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

- 1 **Zoning Map**
- 2 The map or maps that are a part of this title and that delineate the boundaries of all mapped zoning
- 3 districts within the physical boundaries of the municipality.