

Chapter 106 Definitions and Abbreviations

Section 106-1 Definitions

(A) Rules of Interpretation.

- (1) Words used in the present tense include the future tense. Words used in the singular include the plural; and words in the plural include the singular; words used in the masculine gender include the feminine and are intended to be gender-neutral.
- (2) The word “shall” is always mandatory, and the word “may” is permissive.
- (3) The word “person” includes a firm, association, organization, partnership, trust, company, or corporation, as well as an individual.
- (4) The word “lot” shall be construed to include “plot” or “parcel.”
- (5) The word “building” shall be deemed also to include “structure.”
- (6) The word “used” or “occupied,” as applied to any land or building, shall be construed to include the words “intended,” “arranged,” or “designed to be used or occupied.”
- (7) The word "erected" shall be deemed also to include “constructed,” "reconstructed," "altered," “moved” or “placed.”
- (8) The word “land use” and “use of land” shall be deemed also to include “building use” and “use of building.”
- (9) Unless indicated otherwise, reference to zoning districts refer to the most recent copy of the “Official Zoning Map of the City of Valdosta, Georgia.”

(B) Rules of Precedence. The following rules set forth the order of precedence that determines which definition applies in a specific instance within the provisions of the LDR:

- (1) When definitions are provided within an individual Chapter, Article or Section of the LDR, those definitions are to be applied within said Chapter, Article, or Section. If the same term or phrase is also defined in this Section, the definition in subsection (C) of this Section shall not apply in that instance.
- (2) When no definitions are provided within an individual Chapter, Article, or Section of the LDR, words and phrases used in the LDR shall have the meaning established by the definitions provided in this subsection (C) of this Section.
- (3) For words and phrases listed in the Table of Uses in Article 1 of Chapter 218 with a NAICS code and not defined in subsection (C) of this Section, the NAICS definition shall be the legal definition. Said NAICS definitions, as amended, are hereby incorporated by this reference to the extent utilized in the LDR.
- (4) All remaining words used in the LDR are intended to have the commonly accepted definitions contained in the July 2005 edition of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

(C) Definitions. As used in the LDR, the following terms shall have the meaning set forth below, except where otherwise specifically set forth in Section 106-1(B) above.

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ABANDONED SIGN: See SIGN, ABANDONED.

ABSORPTION FIELD: A configuration of absorption trenches installed in a portion of land and used for the absorption and final treatment of wastewater.

ABUTTING: See PROPERTY, ABUTTING.

ACCELERATION / DECELERATION LANES. Paved exits and entrances off a major thoroughfare onto private property for the purpose of expediting the free flow of traffic.

ACCESSORY BUILDING: See BUILDING, ACCESSORY.

ACCESSORY STRUCTURE: See STRUCTURE, ACCESSORY.

ACCESSORY BUILDING: See BUILDING, ACCESSORY

ACCESSORY USE: See USE, ACCESSORY.

ACRE: A unit of area equal to forty-three thousand five hundred sixty (43,560) square feet.

ADDITION (TO AN EXISTING BUILDING): As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. Any walled and roofed expansion to the perimeter of a building in which the addition is connected by a common load-bearing wall other than a fire wall. Any walled and roofed addition that is connected by a fire wall or is separated by an independent perimeter load-bearing wall shall be considered "New Construction."

ADDITION: An extension or increase in the lot coverage, height, length, width, or gross floor area of a building or structure.

ADJACENT PROPERTY: See PROPERTY, ADJACENT.

ADJACENT TO AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY: Located within two hundred fifty (250) feet of the nearest outer edge of the pavement of Interstate 75 within the city, regardless of the existence of intervening streets or lots.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL: Any employee of the City of Valdosta when exercising the duties authorized in the LDR.

ADULT ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENTS: Any commercial establishment, which has as its primary purpose or business the rent, sale or presentation of any sex toy, book, publication, video, CD-ROM, electronic game, or film which depicts nudity, or sexual conduct or engages in services such as escort services, lingerie modeling, bath houses, massage parlors, or like activity including a night club, cabaret, lounge or other establishment in which employees or patrons expose specified anatomical areas or engage in specified sexual activities on the premises. See Chapter 218, Article 3 and Chapter 4 of the City of Valdosta Code of Ordinances.

ADVERSE IMPACT: A condition that creates, imposes, aggravates, or leads to inadequate, impractical, unsafe, or unhealthy conditions on a site proposed for development or off-site.

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ADVERTISE: To inform; to notify; to announce; or attract public attention in order to arouse desire to purchase or invest.

ADVERTISING DEVICE: Any structure or device situated upon or attached to real property, which is erected or intended for the purpose of advertising.

AGGREGATE: Washed gravel or washed stone meeting the GDOT standards for hardness or other materials approved by the GDOT.

AGRICULTURE: Raising, harvesting or storing of products of the field or orchard; feeding, breeding or managing livestock or poultry; producing or storing feed for use in the production of livestock or poultry; growing plants, sod, and trees for sale; the production of horticultural, dairy, poultry, eggs and apiarian products.

AGGRIEVED PARTY: A person who can demonstrate that their property will be specially damaged by a decision of a City official or board involved in the enforcement of the LDR.

AIR AND GAS-FILLED DEVICE: Any sign using, either wholly or in part, forced air or other gas as a means of supporting its structure.

AIRPORT: The Valdosta Regional Airport.

AIRPORT ELEVATION: The highest point of an airport's usable landing area measured in feet from mean sea level, 202 feet above mean sea level.

AIRPORT HEIGHT RESTRICTION AREA: The total of the areas of the precision approach zone, non-precision approach zone, visual approach zone, transitional surface zone, horizontal zone, and conical zone as outlined in Section 210-5 Valdosta Regional Airport Overlay District.

AIRSTRIP, PRIVATE: An area designated for the landing of private, non-commercial aircraft with no terminal facilities and no scheduled takeoffs and landings.

ALLEY: A privately maintained access route constructed in an easement connecting two or more parcels to a public street, usually along the side or rear yard, See Section 332-4(K)

ALTERATION: Any change, addition or modification in construction or type of occupancy; any change in the structural members of a building, such as walls, partitions, columns, beams, girders, doors, windows, means of ingress or egress, or any enlargement to, or diminution of a building or structure, whether horizontally or vertically, or the moving of a building from one location to another.

ALTERNATIVE TOWER STRUCTURE: Man-made trees, clock towers, bell steeples, light and power poles, water storage tanks, outdoor advertising signs and similar alternative design mounting structures that effectively camouflage the presence of antennas or towers and are compatible with and resemble the scale of the surrounding natural setting and/or structures.

ANIMATED SIGN: See SIGN, ANIMATED.

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ANTENNA: Any exterior apparatus designed for wireless telecommunication, radio, or television communications through the sending and/or receiving of electromagnetic waves.

ANTENNA, AMATEUR RADIO: A freestanding or building-mounted device, intended for airway communication purposes by a person holding a valid amateur radio (HAM) or Citizens Band (CB) license issued by the Federal Communications Commission.

ANTENNA, SATELLITE: A specific device, the surface of which is used to transmit and/or receive radio frequency signals, microwave signals, or other signals transmitted to or from other antennas.

APARTMENT: A multi-family dwelling unit held through a lease or rental agreement.

APPEAL: A request for a review to hear and decide where it was alleged there was an error in any order, requirement, permit, decision, determination, or refusal made by any officer, Board, elected official, or Council of the City of Valdosta in the enforcement of the LDR.

APPEAL: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. A request for a review of the Flood Plain Board's interpretation of any provision of that chapter.

APPLICANT: The person or entity making application for a permit as provided herein and who shall be responsible for, and in charge of, a project; the applicant may be the owner, developer, project manager, or contractor.

APPLICANT: As used in Chapter 310 Stormwater Management. A person submitting a post-development stormwater management application and plan for approval.

APPLICATION: A document and associated documentation filed by any person seeking approval to undertake any activity regulated by the City of Valdosta.

AQUIFER: Any stratum or zone of rock beneath the surface of the earth capable of containing or producing water from a well.

AREA OF SHALLOW FLOODING: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. A designated AO or AH Zone on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with base flood depths from one to three feet, and/or where a clearly defined channel does not exist, where the path of flooding is unpredictable and indeterminate, and where velocity flow may be evident.

AREA OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. The land subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. In the absence of official designation by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Areas of Special Flood Hazard shall be those designated by the local community and referenced in Article 2, Section B.

ARTERIAL: See STREET CLASSIFICATIONS.

ATTENTION GETTING DEVICE: Any pennant, valance, propeller, spinner, ribbon, streamer, search light, balloon, or similar display, device or ornamentation designed for or having the effect of attracting

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the attention of potential customers or the general public but having the unintended result of distracting motorists

AUTHORIZED USE: A use authorized in a zoning district pursuant to Title 2.

AUTOMOBILE: A motorized vehicle with two axles and not more than six (6) wheels, designed for carrying ten (10) passengers or less and used for the transportation of persons.

BANNER: A sign of lightweight fabric, plastic or similar material mounted at two or more edges to a wall, poles or other structure. Flags and pennants shall not be considered banners. Banners which are secured on all sides by a frame or otherwise neatly mounted and rigidly affixed to a wall so as to resemble a typical wall sign, shall be considered the same as a permanent wall sign.

BASE COURSE: As used in Section 332-7 Standard Specifications for Construction. One or more layers of specified material of designated thickness placed on a sub-grade or a sub-base to support a surface course.

BASE FLOOD: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. The flood having a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (BFE): As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. The elevation shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map for Zones AE, AH, A1-30, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AE/A1-A30, AR/AH, AR/AO, VI-V30 and VE that indicated the water surface elevation resulting from a flood that has a one percent chance of equaling or exceeding that level any given year.

BASEMENT or CELLAR: That portion of a building that is partly or completely below grade and has at least six and one-half feet vertical interior clearance from floor or grade to ceiling or underside of structure.

BASEMENT: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. That portion of a building having its floor sub grade (below ground level) on all sides.

BASAL CALIPER: See CALIPER.

BEACON: Any light with one or more beams directed into the atmosphere or directed at one or more points not on the same parcel as the light source; also, any light with one or more beams that rotate or move, providing this term shall not include any lighting device required by regulations prescribed by the Federal Aviation Administration or similar government agencies.

BENCH SIGN: See SIGN, BENCH.

BERM: An earthen mound designed to screen undesirable views, reduce noise, or fulfill other such purposes, such as runoff control.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs): As used in Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. A collection of structural practices and vegetative measures which, when properly designed, installed and maintained, will provide effective erosion and sedimentation control. The term "properly

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designed" means designed in accordance with the hydraulic design specifications contained in the "Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia" specified in O.C.G.A. § 12-7-6 subsection (b).

BIKE LANE: A paved lane on a street or roadway that is reserved by pavement marking and /or signs for the exclusive use by bicycles.

BILLBOARD: A freestanding sign 300 square feet or larger in area.

BLANKET EASEMENT: Refers to an easement which may cover an entire parcel of land, rather than a specific location. As used in Chapter 302, such easement is to be utilized until a fixed easement location is agreed upon.

BLOCK: A piece or parcel of land entirely surrounded by public highways or streets, other than alleys.

BOARD OR DNR BOARD: See Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. The State Board of Natural Resources.

BOARD OF APPEALS: See ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

BOARDING or ROOMING HOUSE: A building where, for compensation and/or by pre-arrangement, meals or lodging or both, are provided on a continuing basis for three (3) or more non-transient persons who are not part of the operator's family, and who are not receiving medical or personal care, nor assistance with activities of daily living from the operator. The following are not included in this definition: hotel, motel, bed and breakfast inn, fraternity/sorority house, halfway house, personal care home or other residential care facility.

BONDS: Promissory notes, loans or any other debt obligations issued or incurred to finance the cost of construction.

BORROW: Materials excavated from areas designated on the plans or by the City Engineer as borrow pits.

BREW PUB: Any licensed eating establishment in which beer or malt beverages are manufactured or brewed for retail consumption on the premises solely in draft form, subject to production limitations and other requirements prescribed for Brewpubs in O.C.G.A.

BUFFER, TRANSITIONAL: That portion of a lot set aside for open space and visual screening purposes, pursuant to applicable provisions of Chapter 238, Article 1, to separate uses on properties that are in different zoning districts. See Chapter 328, Article 1.

BUFFER, STATE WATERS: The area of land immediately adjacent to the banks of state waters in its natural state of vegetation, which facilitates the protection of water quality and aquatic habitat, as referenced in O.C.G.A. Sec 12-2-8. See Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control.

BUILDABLE AREA: The area of a lot remaining after the minimum front, side and rear yard setback requirements of the zoning district have been met.

BUILDING: Any structure with a roof and enclosed on all sides.

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BUILDING: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. Any structure built for support, shelter, or enclosure for any occupancy or storage.

BUILDING, ACCESSORY: A building detached from the principal building located on the same lot and customarily incidental and subordinate in area, extent, and purpose to the principal building or use.

BUILDING, ELEVATED: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. A non-basement building built to have the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area elevated above the ground level by means of fill, solid foundation perimeter walls, pilings, columns, piers or shear walls adequately anchored so as not to impair the structural integrity of the building during a base flood event.

BUILDING HEIGHT: The vertical distance of a building measured from the average elevation of the finished lot grade along the front of the building to the highest point of the building.

BUILDING LINE: A line beyond which no foundation wall or part of the structure of any building shall project, with the exception of roof overhang and the subsurface projection of footings; provided, however, that such overhang and footings do not encroach upon the adjacent property or right-of-way.

BUILDING MARKER: Any sign cut into a masonry surface or made of bronze or other permanent material.

BUILDING OFFICIAL: The Director of Community Development of the City of Valdosta or his/her authorized representative.

BUILDING PERMIT: SEE PERMIT, BUILDING.

BUILDING, PRINCIPAL: A building in which is conducted the main or dominant use of the lot on which such building is situated.

BUILDING SYSTEM: any utility, mechanical, electrical, structural, engross, or fire protection/safety system.

BUILDING WALL: An exterior load-bearing or non-load-bearing vertical structure that encompasses the area between the final grade elevation and eaves of the building, and used to enclose the space within the building.

CALENDAR QUARTER: Distinct periods of time limited to January through March, April through June, July through September, and October through December of any calendar year.

CALIPER: The diameter measurement of a tree in inches measured 6 inches above ground. When the tree caliper is greater than 6 inches, the diameter measurement shall be made at breast height (4.5 feet) and shall be called diameter at breast height (DBH).

CAMBIUM: Tissue within the woody portion of trees and shrubs which gives rise to the woody water and nutrient conducting system, and the energy substrate transport system in trees. Cambium growth activity results in a tree's radial development, i.e., increase in diameter.

CAMPGROUND: See RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS.

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CANOPY: A roof structure constructed of rigid materials, including but not limited to, metal, wood, concrete, plastic, or glass, which is attached to and supported by a building or which is free-standing and supported by columns, poles or braces extended to the ground. Unlike an awning, a canopy is rigid and is generally supported by vertical elements rising from the ground at two or more corners.

CANOPY SIGN: See Sign, Canopy

CANOPY TREE: A large tree or group of trees that has a distinct presence in the landscape or forest. For the purpose of the LDR, all large trees and all medium trees identified as canopy trees are listed in Appendix A.

CANOPY TREE, CITY: Any tree growing on city owned property, i.e. streets, rights-of-way, etc., or any specimen tree overhanging the city right-of-way, regardless of the zoning of the property where the base of the tree is located.

CEMETERY, PRIVATE: Any plot of ground, building, mausoleum, or other enclosure used for the burial of deceased persons of one collateral line of descent.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS: A document evidencing approval by the Historic Preservation Commission of an application to make a material change in the appearance of a designated historic property or of a property located within a designated historic district. See Chapter 238 Historic Preservation.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION: A written release from the Department, that an uninhabited structure or system is complete and is released for use. Examples of the type of structures requiring issuance of a Certificate of Completion are; signs, retaining walls, and accessory buildings.

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY: The document issued by the Valdosta Community Development Department certifying that all requirements for development or redevelopment of property have been met and authorizing occupancy of buildings and structures. For one and two family residential dwellings, the approval of all final inspections may serve as the Certificate of Occupancy.

CENTER LINE OF STREET: See STREET, CENTERLINE OF.

CHANNEL: A natural or artificial watercourse with a definite bed and banks that conducts continuously or periodically flowing water. See Chapter 310 Stormwater Management.

CITY: The City of Valdosta, Georgia.

CITY ARBORIST: The arborist for the City of Valdosta, acting directly or through authorized representative; such representative acting within the scope of the particular duties assigned to them within the authority given to them

CITY COUNCIL: The Mayor and Council of the City of Valdosta, Georgia.

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CITY ENGINEER: The City Engineer for Valdosta, acting directly or through authorized representative; such representative acting within the scope of the particular duties assigned to them within the authority given to them.

CITY SPECIFICATIONS: The current edition of the Standard Specification for Construction for the City of Valdosta as issued by the City Engineer.

CIVIC USES: Public parks, squares, plazas, greens, lawns, amphitheaters, stages, churches or places of worship, public or private schools, gymnasiums, assembly halls, community meeting rooms, community service centers, post offices, fire stations, libraries museums, public libraries, and other government or public service buildings and facilities except for those requiring outdoor storage or maintenance yards.

CLEAN WATER ACT: As used in Chapter 310 Article 2 Stormwater Utility. The Clean Water Act as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987 33 USC 1251 et. seq. as amended and the rules and regulations promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

CLEAR CUTTING: The clearing or removal of trees from a site in a manner contrary to the Best Management Practices of the Georgia Forestry Commission, except as consistent with activity authorized by a development permit or building permit.

CLEARING: The removal of trees and brush from the land but not including removing roots and stumps or the ordinary mowing of grass.

CLUB, PRIVATE: A non-commercial establishment organized for a common purpose to pursue common goals, interests, or activities and usually characterized by certain membership qualifications, payment of fees and dues, regular meetings, and a constitution or bylaws.

CO-LOCATION: The placement of the antennas of two or more service providers upon a single tower or alternative tower structure.

COLLECTOR: See STREET CLASSIFICATIONS.

COLLEGE (also UNIVERSITY): A public or private educational facility or institution providing post-secondary academic instruction.

COMBINATION, LOT: The process of legally joining two lots of record to form a single conforming lot in accordance with the provisions of Section 302-27, with or without re-subdivision of such lots.

COMMERCIAL MESSAGE: Any wording, logo, or other representation that directly or indirectly names, advertises, or calls attention to a business, product, service or other commercial activity.

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE CENTER: A single parcel of land containing two (2) or more businesses or establishments, including all forms of retail, wholesale, and services.

COMMERCIAL USE: An occupation, place of employment, or enterprise that is carried on for profit by the owner, lessee, or licensee.

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COMMISSION: As used in Chapter 306 Erosion and Sedimentation Control. The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Any part or element of the overall plan for development adopted by the Valdosta City Council as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-8-1 and DCA “Local Planning Requirements”, including the Future Development Map and all other policies, implementation strategies, maps, exhibits, and appendices.

CONCEPT PLAN: A drawing which shows the overall concept (e.g., a concept plan) of a proposed development, and which may include lots and streets in a subdivision or the general location of buildings and improvements for a multi-family or non-residential project, and which may be drawn to approximate dimensions in a freehand style, See Section 302-23.

CONDITIONAL APPROVAL: The imposition of conditions in the grant of an application for approval of a rezoning, special exception, variance, concept plan, preliminary plat, or permit that are in addition to or different from the regulations set forth in these land development regulations and which are related to the promotion of the public health, safety, morals, or general welfare and designed to minimize the negative impact on surrounding property.

CONDITIONAL USE: A use listed in Section 218-1 as being permitted if it meets stated conditions and is approved by the Valdosta City Council. See Section 242-6 Conditional Use Permits.

CONDOMINIUM: A building, or group of buildings, in which dwelling units, offices, or floor areas are owned individually, and the structure, common areas, and facilities are owned by all the owners on a proportional, undivided basis, and for which condominium instruments are submitted for recordation in accordance with the Georgia Condominium Act, O.C.G.A. Section 44-3-70, et. seq.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY: Activities including, but not limited to, activities subject to the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act or NPDES General Construction Permits, such as clearing and grubbing, grading, excavating, and demolition. These include construction projects resulting in land disturbance, erecting new structures and buildings, as well as redevelopment, remodeling or modification of an existing building or structure.

CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS: The Valdosta-Lowndes County Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals. The board is responsible for reviewing and deciding specific appeals made by individuals concerning the interpretation or administration of the Construction Codes.

CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION WASTE: Waste building materials and rubble resulting from construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition operations on pavements, houses, commercial buildings and other structures. Such wastes include, but are not limited to asbestos containing waste, wood, bricks, metal, concrete, wall board, paper, cardboard, inert waste landfill material, and other non-putrescible wastes which have a low potential for groundwater contamination.

CONSTRUCTION, EXISTING: Any structure for which “the start of construction” commenced before the effective date of these regulations.

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CONSTRUCTION, NEW: Structures for which the “start of construction” commenced on or after the effective date of the LDR; other structures that are built on previously undeveloped land and are not additions or alterations.

CONSTRUCTION, NEW: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. Any structure (see definition) for which the "start of construction" commenced on or before the effective date of these regulations, and includes any subsequent improvements to the structure.

CONSTRUCTION, START OF: The point of time commemorating the breaking of ground for the construction of a development or structure.

CONSTRUCTION, START OF: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. The date the permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, or improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. The actual start means the first placement of permanent construction of the structure such as the pouring of slabs or footings, installation of piles, construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation, and includes the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include initial land preparation, such as clearing, grading and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for a basement, footings, piers or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of buildings appurtenant to the permitted structure, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or part of the main structure. (NOTE: accessory structures are not exempt from any chapter requirements). For a substantial improvement, the actual start of construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE: A building, site, structure or object that is generally over 50 years old (or within the period of significance for a district that is less than 50 years old) and retain their historic physical features reflecting the district’s sense of time, place, and historical development. See Chapter 238 Historic Preservation.

CONTRIBUTOR OR USER: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. Any person owning, operating, or otherwise responsible for property within the city which directly or indirectly discharges stormwater or surface or subsurface waters to any portion of the stormwater management system including direct or indirect discharges to the city’s stormwater drainage system or which is directly or indirectly protected by the city’s flood protection system or stormwater drainage system

CONTROLLED ACCESS ZONE: Areas along the right-of-way of a public street, road, or highway where curb cuts are prohibited or limited because of potential interference with safe and efficient movement of vehicles at major intersections.

COPY: The text or graphics on a sign surface in either permanent or removable form.

COPY AREA: The area in square feet of the smallest geometric figure that describes the total area enclosed by the actual copy of a sign. For wall or canopy signs, the copy area limits refer to the message, not to the illuminated background.

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COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. The costs reasonably incurred in connection with providing capital improvements to the system or any portion thereof including but not limited to the costs of the following:

1. Acquisition of all property real or personal and all interests in connection therewith including all rights of way and easements therefore;
2. Physical construction installation and testing including the costs of labor services materials supplies and utility services used in connection therewith;
3. Architectural engineering legal and other professional services;
4. Insurance premiums during construction to the extent not paid for by a contractor for construction and installation;
5. Any taxes or other charges which become due during construction;
6. Expenses incurred by the city or on its behalf with its approval in seeking to enforce any remedy against any contractor or subcontractor in respect of any default under a contract relating to construction;
7. Principal and interest on any bonds; and
8. Miscellaneous expenses incidental thereto.

COUNTY: Lowndes County, Georgia.

CREDIT: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. A reduction in the amount of a stormwater service charge for a particular property for the existence and use of privately owned, maintained, and operated on-site or off-site stormwater systems or facilities or continuing provision of services or activities that reduce or mitigate the city's cost of providing stormwater management services systems and facilities for that particular property.

CREMATION: As described in O.C.G.A. 10-14-3(12), cremation includes any mechanical or thermal process whereby a deceased human being is reduced to ashes. Cremation also includes any other mechanical or thermal process whereby remains are pulverized, burned, re-cremated, or otherwise further reduced in size or quantity.

CRITICAL FACILITY: any public or private facility, which, if flooded, would create an added dimension to the disaster or would increase the hazard to life and health. Critical facilities include:

1. Structures or facilities that produce, use, or store highly volatile, flammable, explosive, toxic, or water-reactive materials;
2. Hospitals and nursing homes, and housing for the elderly, which are likely to contain occupants who may not be sufficiently mobile to avoid the loss of life or injury during flood and storm events;

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3. Emergency operation centers or data storage centers which contain records or services that may become lost or inoperative during flood and storm events; and
4. Generating plants, and other principal points of utility lines.

CRITICAL ROOT ZONE (CRZ): The minimum area beneath a tree which must be undisturbed in development in order to preserve a sufficient root mass to assure a tree a reasonable chance of survival. The critical root zone (CRZ) shall be a concentric circle centering on the tree's trunk with a radius equal in feet to one (1) times the number of inches of the trunk diameter; i.e., the CRZ radius of a twenty (20) inch diameter tree shall be twenty (20) feet.

CROSSWALK: See PEDESTRIAN WAY.

CUL-DE-SAC: A local street or road with one outlet and having an appropriate terminal for the safe and convenient reversal of traffic movement. See Section 332-1(B).

CULVERT: As used in Chapter 332,. A structure not classified as a bridge which provides an opening under the roadway.

CURB CUT: The opening along the curb line or edge of pavement of a public street at which point a driveway begins for vehicular ingress and egress from a parcel.

CUT: As used in Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. A portion of land surface or area from which earth has been removed or will be removed by excavation the depth below original ground surface to excavated surface Also known as excavation.

DAY CARE FACILITY (COMMERCIAL), ADULT: An establishment operated by any person with or without compensation for providing for the care, supervision, and oversight during daytime hours only of 19 or more adults who are elderly, physically ill or infirm, physically handicapped, or mentally handicapped.

DAY CARE FACILITY (COMMERCIAL), CHILD: An establishment operated by a person, society, agency, corporation or institution, or any group, wherein are received with or without pay, 19 or more children under 18 years of age for group care for less than 24 hours per day, without transfer of legal custody.

DAY CARE FACILITY (FAMILY), ADULT: Any place operated by any person with or without compensation for providing for the care, supervision, and oversight during day-time hours only of 6 or fewer adults who are elderly, physically ill or infirm, physically handicapped, or mentally handicapped.

DAY CARE FACILITY (FAMILY), CHILD: Any place operated by any person with our without compensation providing for the care, supervision, and protection of 6 or fewer children who are under 18 years of age for group care for less than 24 hours per day, without transfer of legal custody. For the purpose of computing the number of children within the child day-care facility, all children who are related by blood, marriage, adoption or guardianship to the person or persons operating the facility shall be included.

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DAY CARE FACILITY (GROUP), ADULT: Any place operated by any person with or without compensation for providing for the care, supervision, and oversight during day-time hours only of 7 to 18 adults who are elderly, physically ill or infirm, physically handicapped, or mentally handicapped.

DAY CARE FACILITY (GROUP), CHILD: Any place operated by any person with or without compensation providing for the care, supervision, and protection of 7 to 18 children who are under 18 years of age for group care for less than 24 hours per day, without transfer of legal custody. For the purpose of computing the number of children within the child day-care facility, all children who are related by blood, marriage, adoption or guardianship to the person or persons operating the facility shall be included.

DAY-NIGHT AVERAGE SOUND LEVEL (Ldn): The average noise level over a 24 hour period.

DEBIT SERVICE: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. The amount of money necessary annually to pay the interest on outstanding debt and pay the principal of maturing debt.

DECIDUOUS TREE: A tree that sheds its leaves annually.

DENSITY: The total number of square feet of a building, or number of lots or dwelling units per acre of land unless specifically provided otherwise in the LDR.

DENSITY, GROSS: The number of square feet of buildings, or number of lots or dwelling units on a tract of land divided by the total acres of a parcel or tract of land prior to development or subdivision, including all streets or rights-of-way, open space, floodplain, wetland surface water, and other un-subdivided or unused portions of the tract of land.

DENSITY, NET: The number of square feet of buildings, number of lots or dwelling units on a tract of land, less the area for streets, rights of way, open space, floodplain, wetland, surface water, and other un-subdivided or unused portions of the tract of land.

DEPARTMENT: As used in Chapter 306 Erosion and Sedimentation Control. The Department of Natural Resources.

DETENTION: The temporary storage of stormwater runoff in a stormwater management facility for the purpose of controlling the peak discharge.

DETENTION FACILITY: A permanent basin or structure designed for the detention of stormwater runoff and gradual release of stored water at controlled rates in accordance with the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual.

DEVELOPED PROPERTY: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. Real property upon which a structure or impervious surface has been placed or constructed thus increasing the amount of rainwater or surface water runoff.

DEVELOPER: A person who undertakes land development activities.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

DEVELOPMENT: Any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to, buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, clearing, grubbing, grading, paving, any other installation of impervious cover, excavation or drilling operations or and storage equipment or materials.

DEVELOPMENT: As used in Chapter 310 Stormwater Management. See LAND DEVELOPMENT.

DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL IMPACT (DRI): Large-scale developments that are likely to have regional effects beyond the local government jurisdiction in which they are located, as defined by thresholds set by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT: An official authorization issued by the City Engineer allowing clearing, grubbing, grading or other alteration of the site that entails land disturbance related to construction activities in compliance with the LDR.

DIAMETER, BREAST HEIGHT (DBH): A standard measure of the diameter of a tree trunk measured in inches at a height of 4½ feet above the ground. If a tree splits into multiple trunks below 4 ½ feet, then the trunk is measured at its most narrow point beneath the split.

DIRECT DISCHARGE: See DISCHARGE, DIRECT.

DIRECTOR: The Director of the City of Valdosta Community Development Department or his or her designee when authorized to administer any portion of this LDR.

DIRECTOR: As used in Chapter 306 Erosion and Sedimentation Control. The Director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

DIRECTOR: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. The Director of Utilities, or his or her designee, in the role of director of the stormwater management utility.

DISTRIBUTION CENTER: An establishment where goods are received and/or stored for delivery to the ultimate customer at remote locations.

DISTANCE: The shortest spatial separation between two points, or objects, measured horizontally in miles, feet, or inches along a straight line, unless otherwise specified in this LDR.

DIVISION: The Planning and Zoning Division of the City of Valdosta.

DIVISION: As used in Chapter 306 Erosion and Sedimentation Control. The Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

DRAINAGE AREA: That area contributing runoff to a single point; measured in a horizontal plane that is enclosed by a ridge.

DRAINAGE BASIN: An area defined by topography within which any water that falls is tributary to the specified watercourse as shown on an official map identifying the drainage basins existing within the City of Valdosta promulgated and maintained by the Utilities Department.

DRAINAGE CANAL or DITCH: An artificial open channel or waterway constructed through earth or rock to convey water. A ditch is generally smaller than a canal.

DRAINAGE EASEMENT: See EASEMENT, DRAINAGE.

DRAINAGE STRUCTURE: As used in Chapter 306 Erosion and Sedimentation Control. A device composed of a virtually non-erodible material such as concrete, steel, plastic, or other such material that conveys water from one place to another by intercepting the flow and carrying it to a release point for stormwater management, drainage control, or flood control purposes.

DRASTIC: As used in Chapter 324 Environmental Planning Criteria. The standardized system for evaluating groundwater pollution potential using the hydro geologic settings (parameters) described in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency document EPA-600-2-87-035. (Note: the DRASTIC methodology is the most widely used technique for evaluating pollution susceptibility.)

DRIP LINE: A vertical line extending from the outermost edge of the tree canopy or shrub branch to the ground.

DRIVEWAY: A vehicular access, or curb cut that is in private ownership, except for that portion lying within the public right of way, and provides access primarily to one property.

DUMPSTER: A portable container used for temporary storage of garbage, trash, or other refuse or receptacle material that has a capacity of one cubic yard or more (see Section 226-3).

DWELLING: A building or portion thereof designed, arranged or used principally for residential occupancy (not including buildings designed for transient use such as hotels and motels), and which complies with the provisions of the LDR and the International Building Code.

DWELLING, ACCESSORY: A secondary dwelling established in conjunction with, and clearly subordinate to, a primary dwelling unit on the same lot, whether a part of the same structure as the primary dwelling unit or in a detached structure.

DWELLING, DUPLEX: A building either designed, constructed, altered, or used for two (2) adjoining dwelling units that are connected by a fire-rated common wall, and/or if two-story by a fire-rated common floor.

DWELLING, LIVE-WORK: An owner-occupied dwelling unit in which a significant portion of the ground floor space includes a non-residential use which is operated by the property owners and shall comply with Section 218-13.

DWELLING, LOFT: A dwelling unit established in an existing nonresidential building or a new mixed-use building. See Section 218-13.

DWELLING, MULTI-FAMILY: A building designed, constructed, altered or used for more than two adjoining dwelling units, with each dwelling unit having a separate entrance and a party wall and/or party floor or ceiling connecting it with at least one other dwelling unit.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

DWELLING, PRINCIPAL: The building that is used as the primary residence on a lot.

DWELLING, SINGLE-FAMILY: A dwelling structure that is designed for the use of one family.

DWELLING, SINGLE-FAMILY ATTACHED (TOWNHOUSE): A building containing two (2) or more one-family attached dwelling units joined by one (1) or more party walls or other common facilities (not including the walls of storage buildings, utility buildings, or enclosed courtyards or similar areas) and with lot lines separating each dwelling unit. This includes townhouses and condominiums that are constructed in this manner. See Section 218-13.

DWELLING, SINGLE FAMILY DETACHED: A free-standing building designed for or containing one (1) dwelling unit.

DWELLING, SINGLE-FAMILY ZERO LOT LINE: A single family dwelling unit erected as a detached dwelling unit with no required side and/or front setback on one side so as to allow the dwelling unit to be built on the lot line but not attached to another dwelling, provided the development shall meet all fire code requirements. See Section 218-13.

DWELLING UNIT: One or more rooms, designed, occupied or intended for occupancy as a separate living quarter, with cooking, sleeping and sanitary facilities provided within the dwelling unit for the exclusive use of a single housekeeping unit. Does not include rooms in a hotel, motel, boarding house, bed and breakfast, or extended stay hotel.

EASEMENT: An acquired legal right for the specific use of land owned by others.

EASEMENT, ACCESS: An easement created for the purpose of providing vehicular or pedestrian access to or across a property.

EASEMENT, DRAINAGE: Land required for the installation of storm water sewers or drainage ditches and/or required for the preservation or maintenance of a natural stream or watercourse or other drainage facility.

EASEMENT, UTILITY: A grant by a property owner for the use of real property for the specified purpose of constructing and maintaining utilities; including, but not limited to sanitary sewers, water mains, electric lines, telephone lines, cable lines, storm sewer or storm drainage ways and gas lines.

ELECTRIC, PETROLEUM OR GAS SUBSTATION: Facilities devoted to the distribution of electricity, gas or petroleum.

ELEVATED BUILDING: See BUILDING, ELEVATED

ENTRANCE SIGN: See SIGN, ENTRANCE.

ENCROACHMENT: Any obstruction or illegal or unauthorized intrusion in a delineated flood-way, right-of-way, or on adjacent land. Additionally, as used in Chapter 328 Landscape, Buffers and Screening: The protrusion or extension of a vehicle outside or beyond the parameters of a parking space, display area, storage area, or access way into a landscaped area.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY: As used in Chapter 238 Historic Preservation. The chief building official or his designee, and the Fire Chief or his designee.

EPD DIRECTOR: The Director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

ERECT: To build, construct, attach, hang, place, suspend, paint, or affix.

EROSION: The process by which land surface is worn away by the action of wind, water, ice, or gravity

EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PLAN: As used in Chapter 306 Erosion and Sedimentation Control. A plan for the control of soil erosion and sedimentation resulting from a land disturbing activity.

ESTABLISHMENT: A commercial, industrial, institutional, educational, office, business, or financial entity.

EVENT CENTER: A business facility operated as a general place of public or private assembly for the purpose of entertainment or other gathering of people. This term does not include cinemas/theaters, churches or places of worship, education facilities, hotel/conference centers, indoor recreation facilities, or public facilities such as libraries or museums.

EXEMPT PROPERTY: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. The rights-of-way including public streets, alleys, sidewalks, and public drainage facilities.

EXISTING BUILDING OR STRUCTURE: As used in Chapter 238 Historic Preservation. Any completed building or structure which has been placed in service for a minimum of five years.

EXISTING CONSTRUCTION: See CONSTRUCTION, EXISTING.

EXISTING MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION: See MANUFACTURED HOME PARK, EXISTING.

EXPANSION TO AN EXISTING MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION: The preparation of additional sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed including the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads.

EXTENDED DETENTION: The detention of stormwater runoff for an extended period, typically 24 hours or greater.

EXTENDED STAY MOTEL: See HOTEL, EXTENDED STAY

EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. The costs of extensions, additions, and capital improvements to, or the renewal and replacement of capital assets of, or purchasing and installing new equipment for the system, or land acquisition for the system and any related costs thereto, or paying extraordinary maintenance and repair including the costs of construction or any other expenses, which are not costs of operation and maintenance or debt service.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES: The architectural style, general design, and general arrangement of the exterior of a building or other structure including but not limited to the kind or texture of the building material and the type and style of all windows, doors, signs, and other appertainments, architectural fixtures, features, details, or elements relative to the foregoing. See Chapter 238 Historic Preservation, Article D.

EXTREME FLOOD PROTECTION: Measures taken to prevent adverse impacts from large low-frequency storm events with a return frequency of 100 years or more.

FACADE: The exterior of a building facing the principal street entrance, and extending the entire width of the building elevation.

FACILITY or TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY. Shall mean a tower, antenna, alternative tower structure, related apparatus or any combination thereof.

FACTORY-BUILT HOUSING: Any structure, designed for residential use, that is wholly or in substantial part, made, fabricated, formed, or assembled in manufacturing facilities for installation or assembly on a building site. Factory-built homes include mobile homes, manufactured homes, and modular homes.

FAMILY: A group of individuals related by blood, marriage, adoption, or guardianship, living together, or not more than three persons not so related, living together in a dwelling unit as a single housekeeping unit based on an intentionally structured relationship providing organization and stability.

FARMING, COMMERCIAL: Any primary use of a tract or parcel of land for the purpose of raising for sale any types of agriculture products, nursery stock, including, but not limited to, soil crops, fish, fowl, silviculture or livestock.

FEEDER ROOTS: A complex system of small annual roots growing outward and predominantly upward from the system of “transport roots”.

FENCE: A constructed barrier of any material or combination of materials erected to enclose, screen, or separate areas.

FILL: As used in Chapter 306 Erosion and Sedimentation. A portion of land surface to which soil or other solid material has been added; the depth above the original ground.

FINISHED GRADE: The final elevation and contour of the ground after cutting or filling and conforming to the proposed design.

FISCAL YEAR: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. A twelve (12) month period commencing on July 1st and ending on June 30th of the succeeding year.

FLAG: Any outdoor display or device made of fabric that is larger than 2 square feet in area and used to convey a message. A flag is typically larger than a pennant and differs from a banner because a flag is typically attached along only one side to a pole or hung from only one side beneath a beam or other overhead structure.

FLASHING SIGN: See SIGN, ANIMATED.

FLEA MARKET: A temporary market held in an open area or structure where groups of individual sellers offer goods for sale to the public.

FLOOD OR FLOODING: A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from the overflow of inland or tidal waters or the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.

FLOOD HAZARD BOUNDARY MAP (FHBM): As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. An official map of the community, issued by the Federal Insurance Administration, where the boundaries of areas of special flood hazard have been defined as Zone A.

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM): An official map of the community, issued by the Federal Insurance Administration, delineating the areas special flood hazard and/or the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. The official report provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency containing flood profiles and the water surface elevation of the base flood.

FLOODPLAIN: Any land area susceptible to flooding.

FLOODPROOFING: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. Any combination of structural and non-structural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures, and their contents.

FLOODWAY : As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. The channel of a stream or other watercourse and the adjacent areas of that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.

FLOOD PROTECTION SYSTEM: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. The system of levees, floodwalls, floodgates, storm sewer, gate wells, and stormwater pumping stations lying adjacent to rivers creeks and streams within the city including associated control and operating equipment and facilities whether adjacent to such rivers, creeks, or streams or remotely located which are intended to provide flood protection to properties adjacent to such rivers creeks and streams.

FLOOR: The lower horizontal finished surface of each story in a building that is intended to support the contents of the building and its occupants.

FLOOR AREA, GROSS: The sum of the gross horizontal areas of the total number of finished floors of a fully enclosed building measured from the exterior faces of the exterior walls or from the centerline of walls separating two buildings; excluding cellar space, carports and garages, and any space where the floor-to-ceiling height is less than six and one-half feet.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

FLOOR AREA, HEATED: The gross floor area of a dwelling or other building that is heated and intended for daily human activity, including hallways, stairs, and interior storage areas and closets.

FLOOR AREA RATIO: The gross floor area of all occupied buildings on a lot divided by the lot area, exclusive of streets, alleys, easements, floodplains, wetlands and surface waters.

FLOOR, LOWEST: The lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area, including basement. An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage, in an area other than a basement area, is not considered a building's lowest floor, provided that such enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of other provisions of the LDR.

FORESTRY: Establishments primarily engaged in the operation of timber tracts, tree farms, forest nurseries, the gathering of forest products, or in performing forest services.

FRATERNITY / SORORITY HOUSE or FRATERNAL FACILITY: A building for an establishment which is chartered by national, state or local organizations and affiliated with an educational institution to which it relates. Such establishment provides social and recreational facilities primarily for members (with visits by alumni or guests) and may provide lodging and meals. For regulatory purposes and without regard to gender, stand alone student centers operated under the auspices of a church, charitable institution, or other student organization shall be included in this definition.

FREEBOARD: means a factor of safety usually expressed in feet above a flood level for purposes of floodplain management. "Freeboard" tends to compensate for the many unknown factors that could contribute to flood heights greater than the height calculated for a selected size flood and floodway conditions, such as wave action, bridge openings, and the hydrological effect of urbanization of the watershed.

FREESTANDING SIGN: See SIGN, FREESTANDING.

FREEWAY: A multiple-lane roadway carrying local, regional, and interstate traffic of relatively high volumes that permits access only at designated interchanges.

FRONTAGE, BUILDING: The length of an outside building wall facing a street.

FRONTAGE, STREET or ROAD: The length of the lot line of any one parcel along a street on which it borders, including proposed streets within a subdivision of land approved by the City of Valdosta.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT MAP: A map prepared as part of the adopted Comprehensive Plan prepared pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-8-1 and Chapter 110-12-1, Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning that divides land within the City of Valdosta into a series of development character areas listed in Section 202-6 and serves as guidance for rezoning decisions made pursuant to Title 2.

GARAGE, ATTACHED: A garage that shares a common roof with a dwelling unit or that adjoins a dwelling unit with a common wall along a distance of at least 10 feet.

GARAGE, TWO-CAR: A permanent enclosed structure having a paved floor area designed with adequate floor area, access and egress for two standard automobiles.

GARBAGE: See SOLID WASTE.

GASOLINE STATION WITH CONVENIENCE STORE: A gasoline station that includes a retail store that sells a limited line of groceries and household items.

GENERAL NPDES PERMIT FOR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES: State issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, regulating construction activities pursuant to subsection (f) of O.C.G.A. Sec. 12-5-30, the “Georgia Water Quality Control Act”.

GENERALIZED WETLANDS: The data sets contained on the current U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory maps, which are utilized to develop the Water Resources Protection Districts Overlay Map for the City of Valdosta. See Chapter 324 Environmental Planning Criteria.

GEORGIA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT MANUAL: See STORMWATER MANAGEMENT MANUAL.

GEOGRAPHIC ANTENNA PLACEMENT AREA: As used in Chapter 218, Article 4 Telecommunications Facilities. The general vicinity within which the placement of an antenna is necessary to meet the engineering requirements of an applicant’s cellular network or other broadcasting need.

GOOD MORAL CHARACTER: A person of good moral character is a person who has not been convicted of a drug or alcohol-related felony or sex-related crime in the past 5 years.

GOVERNING AUTHORITY: The Valdosta City Council.

GRADE: A reference plane representing the average finished ground level adjoining the building at all exterior walls. When the finished ground level slopes away from the exterior walls, the reference plane shall be established by the lowest points within the area between the building and the lot line or between the building and a point 6 feet from the building, whichever is closer.

GRADE, PERCENTAGE OF: The rise or fall of a slope in feet and tenths of a foot for each 100 feet of horizontal distance.

GRADING: Altering the shape of ground surfaces to a predetermined condition; this includes stripping, cutting, filling, stockpiling and shaping or any combination thereof and shall include the land in its cut and filled condition.

GREENHOUSE: A building whose roof and sides are made largely of glass or other transparent or translucent material and in which the temperature and humidity can be regulated for the cultivation of plants for subsequent sale or personal enjoyment.

GREENSPACE: Lands to be left as natural areas or landscapes in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 328, Article 2, Tree Protection and Replacement.

GROUND ELEVATION: The original elevation of the ground surface prior to cutting or filling.

GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AREA: Any portion of the earth’s surface where water infiltrates into the ground to replenish an aquifer.

GROUP LOCATION: As used in Chapter 218, Article 4 Telecommunications Facilities. A pre-determined site approved through the Special Exception process that contains more than one tower structure.

GRUBBING: The removal of underbrush, such as shrubs, roots, vines and trees under four (4) inch basal caliper, but not grading. Grubbing does not include root raking and/or soil disturbance within the drip line of preserved trees.

GUEST HOUSE: An attached or detached accessory building that provides living quarters for guests and may or may not contain a kitchen or cooking facility.

HALFWAY HOUSE: A licensed, temporary, residential living arrangement for persons leaving an institutional setting or initially placed in lieu of more restrictive custodial confinement, wherein supervision, rehabilitation, and counseling are provided from support staff who are present whenever residents are present, in order to mainstream residents back into society, enabling them to live independently.

HARDSHIP: A condition of significant practical difficulty in using a lot because of physical problems relating solely to the size, shape or topography of the lot in question which are not economic difficulties and which are not self-imposed.

HAZARD TO AIR NAVIGATION: As used in Section 210-5, an obstruction determined to have a substantial adverse effect on the safe and efficient utilization of the navigable airspace.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL: Any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment.

HAZARDOUS WASTE: Any solid waste which has been defined as a hazardous waste in regulations, promulgated by the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the federal act, which are in force and effect on February 1, 1988, codified as 40 C.F.R. Section 261.3.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: The Lowndes County Health Department, the Lowndes County Commissioner of Health and/or the State of Georgia Department of Health.

HEIGHT: The vertical distance of a structure, other than a building, measured from the average elevation of the finished grade surrounding the structure to the highest point of the structure.

HEIGHT, BUILDING: The vertical distance measured from the average elevation of the finished grade at the front of the building to the highest point of the roof if a flat roof; to the deck line of mansard roofs; and to the mean height level between eaves and ridge of gable, hip, and gambrel roofs. This does not include steeples, cupolas, decorative towers, antennas and mechanical equipment attached to a building.

HEIGHT, SIGN: The vertical distance in feet from the ground level measured from the base of the sign structure to the tallest point of the sign.

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HEIGHT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY. The vertical distance from grade to the highest point of the tower and its appurtenances, grade being the average level of the pre-existing or finished surface of the ground adjacent to the exterior of the tower, whichever is lower. When referring to a telecommunications antenna it shall mean the vertical distance from the base of the antenna to its highest point.

HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. The highest natural elevation of the ground surface, prior to construction, adjacent to the proposed foundation of a building

HISTORIC BUILDING: As used in Chapter 238 Historic Preservation. Any building so designated by the state historic preservation officer as individually significant or as contributing to the historic character of an historic district, pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted by the board of natural resources or as so designated pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 44-10-20 et seq., the Georgia Historic Preservation Act.

HISTORIC DISTRICT: A geographically defined area designated by the City Council as a historic district pursuant to the criteria established in Chapter 238 Historic Preservation, Article C.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC): The Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission.

HISTORIC PROPERTY: An individual building structure, site, object or work of art including the adjacent area necessary for the proper appreciation thereof designated by the City Council as a historic property pursuant to the criteria established in Chapter 238 Historic Preservation, Article C.

HISTORIC RESOURCES: Landmarks, districts, sites, structures, or buildings which have historic, cultural, or archaeological significance by virtue of being eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic places, listed as such by the state Historic Preservation Office, or identified as such in the Comprehensive Plan.

HISTORIC SIGN: See SIGN, HISTORIC.

HISTORIC STRUCTURE: Means any structure that is;

1. Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the U.S. Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
 2. Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
 3. Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places and determined as eligible by states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or
 4. Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places and determined as eligible by communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
 - a. By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, or
 - b. Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.
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HOME BUSINESS: Any business conducted on residential property, which use is clearly incidental and secondary to the use of the property for residential purposes in accordance with applicable provisions of Title 2, Section 218-1 and 218-13.

HOME OCCUPATION: An occupation customarily carried on by an occupant of a dwelling unit as a secondary use which is clearly incidental to the use of the dwelling unit for residential purposes, and operated in accordance with applicable provisions of Title 2, Section 218-1 and 218-13.

HOSPITAL: An establishment providing physical or mental health services, in-patient or overnight accommodations, and mental or surgical care of the sick or injured. Includes health clinics and sanatoriums.

HOTEL: A building containing six or more guest rooms, which are rented or leased for sleeping purposes for short-term periods (less than 21 days) in which ingress and egress to and from each sleeping room is generally made through the interior of the building.

HOTEL, EXTENDED STAY: Any building containing six or more guest rooms rented or leased for sleeping purposes for periods of less than one month, but in excess of one week, and that contain kitchen facilities for food preparation including, but not limited to, refrigerators, stoves, and ovens.

HOT SPOT: As used in Chapter 310 Stormwater Management. An area where the use of the land has the potential to generate highly contaminated runoff with concentrations of pollutants in excess of those typically found in stormwater, or an area observed to be prone to flash flooding as determined by the City Engineer.

HOUSING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: The Valdosta Housing Board of Adjustments and Appeals. This board considers and determines appeals whenever it is claimed that the true intent and meaning of the City's Housing Code or any of its regulations have been misconstrued or wrongly interpreted.

HYDROLOGIC SOIL GROUP (HSG): A Natural Resource Conservation Service classification system in which soils are categorized into four runoff potential groups. The groups range from group A soils, with high permeability and little runoff produced, to group D soils, which have low permeability rates and produce much more runoff.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE: Any direct or indirect non-stormwater discharge to the City of Valdosta separate storm sewer system, except as exempted in Section 310-94 of this ordinance.

ILLUMINATED SIGN: See SIGN, ILLUMINATED.

IMMEDIATE FAMILY: Any individual related by blood or marriage in a closer degree than first cousin.

IMPERVIOUS: A material that water cannot pass through or be absorbed by.

IMPERVIOUS AREA: The number of square feet of hard-surface areas which either prevent or retard the entry of water into soil mantle, as is entered under natural conditions as undeveloped property, and/or cause water to run off the surface in greater quantities or at an increased rate of flow from that present under natural conditions as undeveloped property.

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IMPERVIOUS COVER OR SURFACE: Areas which significantly prevent or impede the natural infiltration of stormwater into the soil. Common impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, rooftops, buildings, streets, roads, sidewalks, walkways, patio areas, driveways, parking lots, concrete and asphalt surfaces, storage areas, compacted gravel and soil surfaces, awning, and other fabric or plastic coverings, and other surfaces which prevent or impede the natural infiltration of stormwater runoff which existed prior to development. Impervious surface also includes unpaved graded aggregate base (GAB) or crusher run.

IMPOUNDMENT: The water or liquid substance that is or will be stored by a dam – commonly referred to as the reservoir.

INDUSTRIAL PARK: A tract of land subdivided and developed according to this LDR in a manner which provides sites for two or more industrial establishments.

INDUSTRIALIZED BUILDING: Any structure or component thereof which is wholly or in substantial part made, fabricated, formed, or assembled in manufacturing facilities for installation or assembly and installation on a building site and has been manufactured in such a manner that all parts or processes cannot be inspected at the installation site without disassembly, damage to, or destruction thereof. All industrialized buildings shall be approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and meet current code requirements.

INDUSTRIALIZED HOME: A residential structure that is, either wholly or in substantial part, made, fabricated, formed or assembled in one or more factory built sections or panels in manufacturing facilities for assembly and installation on a building site. An industrialized home is manufactured in such a manner that all parts or processes cannot be inspected at the installation site without disassembly, damage to or destruction thereof and which, when completed, meets or exceeds the requirements of, and all development standards for, conventionally constructed site built housing. Any industrialized home must be designed to be permanently connected to a site-built foundation. No industrialized home shall be constructed with a chassis, as defined in 24 CFR 3280.902(a). It is the intent of this definition to include structures or components which are included within O.C.G.A. § 8-2-111(3) and 7 CFR 3550.10 or which are approved pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and which bear an insignia of approval issued by the commissioner thereof.

INFILTRATION: The process of percolating stormwater runoff into the subsoil.

INSPECTOR: An authorized representative of the City of Valdosta assigned to make a detailed inspection of any property, parcel, use, activity, work, building or structure that is subject to any provisions of this LDR.

INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT: As used in Chapter 310 Stormwater Management. A written agreement providing for the long-term inspection and maintenance of stormwater management facilities and practices on a site; or with respect to a land development project, which when properly recorded in the deed records, constitutes a restriction on the title to a site or other land involved in a land development project.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

INTERIOR PLANTING AREA: The area within vehicular use areas devoted to growing plants or vegetation.

ISSUING AUTHORITY: The City of Valdosta, Georgia, or other agency authorized by laws of the State of Georgia to administer provisions of Chapter 306 of this LDR in the City of Valdosta, Georgia.

JUNK: Any scrap, waste, reclaimable material, or debris, whether or not stored, for sale or in the process of being dismantled, destroyed, processed, salvaged, stored, baled, disposed, or other use or disposition.

JUNKED VEHICLE: Any wrecked or non-operable dismantled or abandoned automobile, truck, boat, motorcycle, or similar device.

JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND: As used in Chapter 324 Environmental Planning Criteria. An area that meets the definitional requirements for wetlands as determined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND DETERMINATION: As used in Chapter 324 Environmental Planning Criteria. A delineation of jurisdictional wetland boundaries by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as required by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. Subchapter 1233, as amended.

KITCHEN FACILITIES: A room used to prepare food containing, at a minimum, a sink and a stove or oven.

LANDSCAPE: Existing natural vegetation or the placing of ground covers, shrubs, trees, or other plant material in a planting area in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 328 Landscape, Buffers and Screening.

LAND DEVELOPMENT or LAND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY OR ACTIVITIES: Any land disturbing activity, including but not limited to clearing, digging, grubbing, stripping, removal of vegetation, dredging, grading, excavating, transporting and filling of land, construction, paving and any other installation of impervious surface. Land development excludes agricultural operations as described in Section 306-1.

LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT: A single or phased discrete land development undertaking.

LAND DISTURBANCE: Any land or vegetation changes, including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, stripping, removal of vegetation, dredging, grading, excavating, transporting and filling of land, that do not involve construction, paving or any other installation of impervious surface, but not including agriculture.

LAND DISTURBANCE ACTIVITY OR ACTIVITIES: As used in Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. Any activity which may result in soil erosion from water or wind and the movement of sediments into state waters or onto lands within the state, including, but not limited to, clearing, dredging, grading, excavating, transporting, and filling of land but not including agricultural operations as described in subsection 306-3(5).

LAND DISTURBANCE PERMIT: SEE PERMIT, LAND DISTURBANCE.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

LAND DISTURBANCE PROJECT: A single or phased discrete land disturbance undertaking.

LANDING AREA: The area of an airport or private airstrip used for landing, taking-off or taxiing of aircraft.

LANDMARK MUSEUM BUILDING: As used in Chapter 238 Historic Preservation. An historic building or structure used as an exhibit of the building or structure itself, and which exhibits a high degree of architectural integrity, and which is open to the public not less than 12 days per year; however, additional uses, original or ancillary, to the use as a museum shall be permitted within the same building subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 25-2-13(b)(3). Landmark museum buildings shall be so designated by the state historic preservation officer pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board of natural resources.

LANDSCAPE INSPECTOR: The agent of The City of Valdosta, having enforcement responsibilities under the LDR, and charged with the responsibility, as the designee of the Director of the Community Development Department, of approving all tree protection plans for land development or building construction in the City of Valdosta required pursuant to the LDR.

LARGER COMMON PLAN OR DEVELOPMENT OR SALE: As used in Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. A contiguous area where multiple separate and distinct construction activities are occurring under one plan of development or sale. For the purposes of Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, "plan" means an announcement; piece of documentation such as a sign, public notice, or hearing, sales pitch, advertisement, drawing, permit application, zoning request, or computer design; or physical demarcation such as boundary signs, lot stakes, or surveyor markings, indicating that construction activities may occur on a specific plot.

LED (LIGHT EMITTING DIODE) LIGHT: A light source or device that relies on passing electricity through and exciting a chemical compound rather than the heating of a filament.

LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM GASES: As defined in O.C.G.A. Section 10-1-262, any material that is composed predominantly of any of the following hydrocarbons, or mixtures of the same: propane, propylene, butane (normal butane or isobutane), and butylenes.

LITTER: Sand, gravel, slag, brickbats, rubbish, waste material, tin cans, refuse, garbage, trash, debris, dead animals, discarded materials of every kind and description or paper products of every kind and description including, but not limited to, advertising materials, newspapers, promotional papers, letters, bills, publications or other writings.

LOADING SPACE: A space within the principal building or on the same lot, providing for the standing, loading or unloading of trucks, and other carriers. See Chapter 226.

LOCAL ISSUING AUTHORITY: The governing authority of any county or municipality which is certified pursuant to subsection (a) O.C.G.A. 12-7-8.

LOCAL STREET: See STREET CLASSIFICATIONS

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

LOT: A portion, plot, or parcel of land separated from other portions, plots, or parcels by a graphic description as on a subdivision plat of record or survey map and intended for transfer of ownership or for building development.

LOT AREA: The total area within the boundaries of a lot.

LOT, CONFORMING: A lot that meets all requirements of the LDR and is not a Non-conforming Lot.

LOT, CORNER: A lot abutting upon two or more streets at their intersection. See Section 214-3

LOT COVERAGE: The percentage of the total area of a lot that is occupied by buildings.

LOT, DOUBLE FRONTAGE: A lot other than a corner lot abutting two streets.

LOT, FLAG (or PANHANDLE LOT): A prohibited lot not meeting minimum frontage requirements and where access to the lot from a public road is achieved by a narrow strip of land.

LOT, INTERIOR: A lot with a single street frontage.

LOT LINE: The legal boundary that separates a lot or parcel of land from other lots or parcels as recorded by a graphic description on a subdivision plat of record or survey map. Also see "PROPERTY LINE."

LOT OF RECORD: A lot, the plat for which has been lawfully recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Lowndes County, or a lot, the deed of which has been lawfully recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Lowndes County.

LOT REMNANT: Any portion or portions of a lot not suitable for building upon because of size or topography and remaining after the transfer of other portions of said lot to adjoining lots or rights-of-way.

LOT WIDTH: The width of a lot at the required front setback line measured parallel to the street right-of-way or in the case of a curvilinear street, parallel to the chord of the arc between the intersection of the side lot lines and the street right-of-way line.

LOWEST FLOOR: See FLOOR, LOWEST

MANSARD SIGN: See SIGN, MANSARD.

MANUAL OR MANUAL OF STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONTROL OF SOIL AND EROSION AND SEDIMENT IN GEORGIA Manual published by the GASWCC as of January 1 of the year in which the land-disturbing activity was permitted and amendments to the Manual as approved by the GASWCC up until the date of the NOI.

MANUFACTURED HOME: A building, transportable in one or more sections, built on a permanent chassis, and designed to be used with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities. The term also includes park trailers, travel trailers, and similar transportable structures placed on a site for 180 consecutive days or longer and intended to be improved property.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

MANUFACTURED HOME, CLASS A: A manufactured home fabricated in an off-site facility for installation or assembly at the building site, bearing a label certifying it is constructed in compliance with the Federal Manufactured Home and Standards Act (42 USC 5401--5445) and meeting each of the following development standards:

1. Minimum width of the installed home shall be in excess of 20 feet over at least 70 percent of its length.
2. The pitch of the home's roof has a factory-installed fixed, nominal or true minimum vertical rise of four feet for each 12 feet of horizontal run.
3. The roof of the home has a minimum six-inch factory installed roof overhang on each of the dwelling's perimeter walls.
4. Exterior wall materials shall consist of brick, masonry, or stone, or siding consisting of wood, hardboard, aluminum or vinyl, covered or painted, but in no case exceeding the reflectivity of gloss white paint. Corrugated materials are not permitted for exterior walls.
5. Exterior roof materials shall consist of asphalt or composition shingle, wood shake, wood shingle, standing seam metal, clay or ceramic tile, but not including corrugated metal, plastic or fiberglass.

MANUFACTURED HOME, CLASS B: A manufactured home fabricated in an off-site facility for installation or assembly at the building site, bearing label certifying it is constructed in compliance with the Federal Manufactured Home and Safety Standards Act (42 USC 5401--5445) but which does not satisfy the criteria necessary to qualify the unit as a Class A Manufactured Home.

MANUFACTURED HOME, CLASS C: A structure, transportable in one or more sections, which in the traveling mode, is eight body feet or more in width or 40 body feet or more in length or, when erected on-site, is 320 or more square feet and which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities and includes the plumbing, heating, air conditioning, and electrical systems contained therein; and manufactured prior to June 15 1976. A "mobile home" as defined O.C.G.A. § 8-2-131 is a Class C Manufactured Home within the meaning of these Land Development Regulations.

MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION: A parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION, EXISTING: A manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed on or before the effective date of these regulations.

MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION, NEW: A manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed on or after the effective date of these regulations.

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MASSAGE APPARATUS: Any manual, mechanical, hydraulic, hydrokinetic, electric, or electronic device or instrument or any device or instrument operated by manual, mechanical, hydraulic, hydrokinetic or electric power, which is utilized by a "massage therapist" for the purpose of administering a "massage."

MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENT: Any business established for profit which employs or contracts with one (1) or more "massage therapists," or operates or maintains for profit one (1) or more "massage apparatus", and which, for good or valuable consideration, offers to the public facilities and personnel for the administration of "massages." This term shall not include hospitals or other professional health care establishments separately licensed as such by the State of Georgia.

MASSAGE; MASSAGES; or MASSAGE THERAPY: The manipulation and/or treatment of soft tissues of the body, including but not limited to the use of effleurage, petrissage, pressure, friction, tapotement, kneading, vibration, range of motion stretches, and any other soft tissue manipulation whether manual or by use of massage apparatus, and may include the use of oils, lotions, creams, salt glows, hydrotherapy, heliotherapy, hot packs, and cold packs. This term shall not include diagnosis, the prescribing of drugs or medicines, spinal or other joint manipulations, or any service or procedure for which a license to practice chiropractic, physical therapy, podiatry, or medicine is required by the State of Georgia.

MASSAGE THERAPIST: Any person whom for good or valuable consideration administers a "massage."

MATERIAL CHANGE: A change that will affect only the exterior architectural features of a historic property or of any structure, site, or work of art classified as contributing within a historic district and may include any or more of the following: a reconstruction or alteration of the size, shape or facade of an historic property, including relocation of any doors or windows or removal or alteration of any architectural features, details or elements; demolition of a historic structure; commencement of excavation; a change in the location of advertising visible from the public right-of-way on any historic property; or the erection, alteration, restoration or removal of any building or other structures within a designated historic district, including walls, fences, steps and pavements, or other appurtenant features, except exterior paint alterations. See Chapter 238 Historic Preservation.

MEAN SEA LEVEL: The average height of the sea for all stages of the tide. It is used as a reference for establishing various elevations within the floodplain. For the purposes of this LDR, this term is synonymous with National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD).

MICROBREWERY: Any licensed brewery designed to accommodate the manufacture of fewer than 15,000 barrels of beer or other malt beverage within any consecutive 12-month period.

MINERAL EXTRACTION: See MINING.

MINING: The extraction of minerals, including solids, such as coal and ores; liquids, such as crude petroleum; and gases, such as natural gases. The term mining includes quarrying; ground-water diversion; soil removal; milling, such as crushing, screening, washing, and flotation; and other preparation customarily done at the mine site as part of a mining activity.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

MINI-WAREHOUSE: A building or group of buildings that contain(s) individual, compartmentalized stalls or lockers used for storage, including accessory office, but not including retail sale on the premises, commercial repair or other services, manufacturing, outside storage, or any other commercial use.

MINOR: Any person under 18 years of age.

MIXED-USE: A single building containing more than one type of land use or a single development of more than one building and use, where the different types of land uses are in close proximity, planned as a unified complimentary whole, and functionally integrated to the use of shared vehicular and pedestrian access and parking areas.

MOBILE FOOD VENDOR: A business establishment engaged in preparing or serving meals or snacks/beverages for immediate consumption from a motorized vehicle or a non-motorized cart, and is properly licensed or exempted by the Health Department. This includes ice cream trucks, sandwich wagons, hot dog carts and mobile uses of a similar nature.

MOBILE HOME: See MANUFACTURED HOME, CLASS C.

MOBILE VENDOR: A person selling goods either from a vehicle, vending stand or vending cart upon the streets or sidewalks of the city, or by going from place to place on foot or by other means of transportation. See also, TEMPORARY USE, COMMERCIAL RETAIL.

MODULAR HOME: A factory-manufactured single-family dwelling that is constructed in one or more sections and complies with the definition of "industrialized home."

MONUMENT SIGN: See SIGN, MONUMENT.

MOTEL: A building or a group of buildings containing sleeping accommodations for short-term (less than 21 days) rental primarily to the motoring public and in which ingress and egress to and from each sleeping room is generally on the outside of the building.

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES: An open area, other than a right-of-way or public parking area, used for display, sale, or rental of new or used motor vehicles in operable condition. See Section 218-13.

MOVING SIGN: See SIGN, ANIMATED.

MUNICIPAL SIGN: See SIGN, MUNICIPAL.

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE: Any solid waste derived from households, including garbage, trash, and sanitary waste in septic tanks and solid waste from single-family and multi-family residence, hotels and motels, bunkhouses, campgrounds, picnic grounds, and day use recreation areas. The term includes yard trimmings, construction and demolition waste, and commercial solid waste, but does not include solid waste from mining, agricultural, or silvicultural operations or industrial processes or operations. See O.C.G.A 12-8-22(18). S

MUSEUM: A building having public significance by reason of its architecture or former use or occupancy or a building serving as a repository for a collection of objects of interest, intended to be used by the public for viewing and which may include as an accessory use the sale of goods to the public.

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM (NGVD): Vertical control used as a reference for establishing varying elevations within the floodplain (as corrected in 1929).

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES): A provision of the Clean Water Act pursuant to 33 U.S.C. Section 1342(b) that prohibits discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States.

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) STORM WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT: A permit issued by the Georgia EPD under authority delegated pursuant to 33 USC 1342 (b) that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States, whether the permit is applicable to an individual, group, or general area-wide basis.

NATURAL GROUND SURFACE: The ground surface in its original state before any grading, excavation or filling.

NATURAL VEGETATIVE BUFFER OR BUFFER AREA: As used in Chapter 324 Environmental Planning Criteria. A river corridor containing the flora native to that area. The natural floras for specific areas are described in Georgia Geologic Survey Bulletin 114, "The Natural Environment of Georgia." Habitats for endangered and threatened species may require human management of the river corridor in order to maintain those species.

NEPHELOMETRIC TURBIDITY UNITS (NTU). Numerical units of measure based upon photometric analytical techniques for measuring the light scattered by finely divided particles of a substance in suspension. This technique is used to estimate the extent of turbidity in water in which colloiddally dispersed particles are present.

NEW CONSTRUCTION, See CONSTRUCTION, NEW.

NEW DEVELOPMENT: A land development activity on a previously undeveloped site.

NEW MANUFACTURED HOME PARK: See MANUFACTURED HOME PARK, NEW.

NON-CONFORMING CHARACTERISTIC(S) OF BUILDING OR STRUCTURE: A building or structure, legally existing on the effective date of the LDR, but which fails to comply with one or more of the regulations adopted under the terms of the LDR which are applicable to said building or structure, including, but not limited to, setbacks, lot frontage, lot area, building height, off street parking or loading, buffers, landscaping or any other applicable development regulation.

NON-CONFORMING, LEGAL: A lot of record, structure or use that does not comply with the current requirements of the LDR, but was lawfully established and authorized in accordance with former regulations of the City of Valdosta prior to the adoption, revision, or amendment of the requirements in the LDR making the lot of record, structure, or use non-compliant.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

NON-CONFORMING LOT: A lot of record that meets the definition of “Non-conforming, Legal” or a lot of record lawfully created and recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Lowndes County prior to enactment of the LDR.

NON-CONFORMING USE: A land use, the use of land and building(s) or a use of land and structure(s), legally existing on the effective date of the LDR, but that is not an authorized use of land and building(s) or land and structure(s), under the terms of this LDR in the district in which such use is located.

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE: A resource within a local historic district which is either less than 50 years old (or outside the period of significance for a district that is less than 50 years old) OR over 50 years old but has lost its historic physical features due to additions, alterations, deterioration, etc. to the extent that it is unrecognizable as historic.

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION: A form of water pollution that does not originate from a discrete point such as a wastewater treatment plant or industrial discharge, but involves the transport of pollutants such as sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, heavy metals, oil, grease, bacteria, organic materials and other contaminants from land to surface water and groundwater via mechanisms such as precipitation, stormwater runoff, and leaching. Non-point source pollution is a by-product of land use practices such as agriculture, silviculture, mining, construction, subsurface disposal and urban runoff sources.

NON-OPERATING REVENUES: Revenues derived from activities other than the basic operation of the stormwater management system but excluding interest income on bond proceeds and on contributed capital.

NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY: Any property developed for commercial, industrial, governmental, or institutional use including churches, hospitals, and other eleemosynary institutions; and including multiuse properties incorporating residential uses, but excluding undeveloped property and property used exclusively for agricultural purposes.

NON-STORMWATER DISCHARGE: Any discharge to the storm drain system that is not composed entirely of stormwater

NON-STRUCTURAL STORMWATER PRACTICE: As used Chapter 310 Stormwater Management. Any natural or planted vegetation or other non-structural component of the stormwater management plan that provides for or enhances stormwater quantity, and/or quality control, or other stormwater management benefits, and includes, but is not limited to, riparian buffers, open and greenspaces areas, overland flow filtration areas, natural depressions, and vegetated channels.

NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM (NAVD) OF 1988: A vertical control used as a reference for establishing varying elevations within a floodplain.

OCCUPIED STRUCTURE: See STRUCTURE, OCCUPIED.

OBSTRUCTION TO FLOW: Any development that blocks the conveyance of floodwaters such that the development alone, or together with any future development, will cause an increase in the base flood elevation.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

OFF-SITE FACILITY: A storm water management facility located outside the boundaries of the site.

OFFICIAL ZONING MAP: See “Zoning Map, Official”

ON-SITE FACILITY: A storm water management facility located within the boundaries of the site.

ON-SITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: A wastewater management system other than a public or community wastewater treatment system serving one or more buildings, mobile homes, recreational vehicles, residences, or other facilities designed or used for human occupancy or congregation. Such term shall include, without limitation, conventional and chamber septic tank systems, and experimental and alternative on-site management systems that may be approved by the Lowndes County Environmental Health Department and City of Valdosta Utilities Department.

OPEN SPACE: Areas that are primarily undeveloped and reserved to provide separation, resource protection, scenic enjoyment, recreation, or amenity to abutting developed property and that are not included in minimum lot areas required in Title 2. See Section 218-13.

OPERATOR: The party or parties that have (a) operational control of construction project plans and specifications including the ability to make modifications to those plans and specifications; or (b) day-to-day operational control of those activities that are necessary to ensure compliance with a storm water pollution prevention plan for the site or other permit conditions, such as a person authorized to direct workers at a site to carry out activities required by the stormwater pollution prevention plan or to comply with other permit conditions.

OPERATING BUDGET: The annual operating budget for the stormwater management utility adopted by the city council for the succeeding fiscal year.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSE: The current expenses, paid or accrued, of operation, maintenance, and current repair of the system, as calculated in accordance with sound accounting practice, and includes without limiting the generality of the foregoing, insurance premiums, administrative expenses including recordkeeping, the cost of materials and supplies used for current operations, and charges for the accumulation of appropriate reserves for current expenses not annually incurred, but which are such as may reasonably be expected to be incurred in accordance with sound accounting practice.

OUTDOOR STORAGE: The keeping, in an unenclosed area, of any goods, material, merchandise, or vehicles in the same place for more than twenty-four hours whether for storage, display, processing or sale. See Section 218-13.

OUTSIDE STORAGE AREA: An outdoor area, open or fenced, or a separate building constructed for storage of materials or refuse.

OVERBANK FLOOD PROTECTION: Measures taken to prevent an increase in the frequency and magnitude of out-of-banks flooding (i.e. flow events that exceed the capacity of the channel and enter the floodplain), and that are intended to protect downstream properties from flooding for the 2-year through 25-year frequency storm events.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

OVERLAY DISTRICT: A zoning district that encompasses one or more underlying zones and that may vary the requirements, uses, and standards of the underlying zone.

OWNER: The owner(s) of property as specified on the deed to the lot of record.

PAINTED WALL SIGN: See SIGN, PAINTED WALL.

PARCEL (LOT): Any tract of land that has a deed and is shown as a unit on the latest county tax assessment records.

PARKING LOT: Any area designed for temporary (less than 48 hours) storage of motor vehicles of the motoring public in normal operating condition.

PARKING, OFF-STREET: A temporary (less than 48 hours) storage area for a motor vehicle that is directly accessible to an access aisle and that is not located on a dedicated street right-of-way.

PARKING, ON-STREET: Areas along curbs of a street that are authorized for temporary (less than 48 hours) storage of automobiles belonging to owners, tenants, customers, or visitors of adjacent or nearby properties.

PARKING STRUCTURE: A covered or sheltered structure of two or more stories designed, constructed and used for the parking of automobiles.

PAVED: An area which is covered by asphalt, concrete, brick, or pavers meeting the specifications of the Engineering Department. **PAWN SHOP:** A business that loans money on deposit of personal property, or deals in the purchase or possession of personal property on condition of selling the same back again to the pledger or depositor, or loans or advances money with the personal property taken as security for the payment of the debt.

PEDESTRIAN WAY: Crosswalk or other areas designed and marked exclusively for pedestrian traffic.

PENNANT: A small outdoor display or device made of fabric used singly or in series and mounted to a structure or suspended from a cable or structure from only one side. A pennant is no greater than 2 square feet in area.

PERCENTAGE of GRADE: SEE GRADE, PERCENTAGE OF.

PERENNIAL STREAM: A stream that flows throughout the whole year as indicated by a blue line on the USGS Quad map.

PERENNIAL RIVER: A river or section of a river that flows continuously throughout the year.

PERIMETER PLANTING AREA: The front, sides and rear yard areas between vehicular surface areas and adjacent lot lines designated for planting and landscaping.

PERMANENT SIGN: See SIGN, PERMANENT.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

PERMIT: The authorization necessary to conduct a land-disturbing activity, land development activity, building construction, or other activity regulated by the City of Valdosta that requires an official authorization as provided in the LDR.

PERMIT, BUILDING: A permit issued by the Community Development Department to proceed with the development or redevelopment of property meeting the form and requirements as established by the City of Valdosta LDR and the applicable codes.

PERMIT, LAND DISTURBANCE: The permit issued by the City Engineer to the owner that is required for undertaking any land-disturbing or land development activity under the provisions of the LDR.

PERMITTED USE: See AUTHORIZED USE.

PERMITTEE: Any entity that has submitted a Notice of Intent.

PERSON: Any individual, partnership, firm, company, agency, association, joint venture, public or private corporation, organization, society, trust, estate, commission, board, public or private institution, utility, cooperative, state agency, municipality or other political subdivision of this state, any interstate body or any other legal entity.

PERSONAL CARE HOME: A residential facility subject to licensing by the Georgia Department of Community Health, whether operated for profit or not, which undertakes through its ownership or management to provide or arrange for the provision of housing, food service, and one or more personal services for two or more adults who are not related to the owner or administrator by blood or marriage. The term 'personal services' in this definition includes, but is not limited to, individual assistance with or supervision of self-administered medication, assistance with ambulation and transfer, or essential activities of daily living such as eating, bathing, grooming, dressing, and toileting.

1. **PERSONAL CARE HOME, CONGREGATE:** A personal care home which offers care to sixteen (16) or more persons.
2. **PERSONAL CARE HOME, FAMILY:** a personal care home which offers care to at least two (2), but not more than six (6) persons.
3. **PERSONAL CARE HOME, GROUP:** A personal care home which offers care to at least seven (7) but not more than fifteen (15) persons.

PERSONAL SERVICES: Establishments primarily engaged in providing services involving the care of a person or his or her personal goods or apparel. Personal services include, but are not limited to, laundry, including cleaning and pressing service, beauty shops, barbershops, manicure, shoe repair, tanning salons and health clubs, clothing rental, tailor shops, and domestic services, but specifically excluding adult entertainment.

PET, HOUSEHOLD: A domestic animal, not including fish, bees or livestock, which is cared for by members of a household for companionship.

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PLACE OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY: Any place designed for or used for congregation or gathering of multiple persons in one room or space where such gathering is of a public nature, such as an assembly hall, place of worship, auditorium, recreational hall, pavilion, place of amusement, dance hall, opera house, motion picture theater, outdoor theater or theater or as outlined by the International Building Code and the Life Safety Code.

PLACE OF WORSHIP: A lot or building wherein persons assemble for religious worship.

PLAN, CONCEPT: Written and graphic documents submitted to the Director for review that document the intent of a developer in a conceptual form, indicating the types, general arrangement and density of uses, extent and pattern of subdivision, and the relationship of the intended uses to surrounding tracts.

PLAN, ESPC: An Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollution Control Plan prepared pursuant to Chapter 306.

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT: An alternative method of land development, which is based on an overall approved master plan.

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL: An approval granted by the City Council for a Planned Development pursuant to Chapter 212.

PLANNING COMMISSION: The Greater Lowndes Planning Commission.

PLANTING AREA: An outdoor area devoted entirely to the planting or conservation and maintenance of trees, shrubs, and ground covers.

PLAT: A map, plan or other graphic layout of a land lot, lot, tract, parcel or subdivision indicating the location and boundaries of one or more properties along with improvements subject to the LDR.

PLAT, FINAL: A finished drawing or map of a subdivision or development site plan, meeting all of the requirements of the LDR and approved by the City of Valdosta and fully certified for recording pursuant to Title 3.

PLAT, PRELIMINARY: A tentative plan of a proposed subdivision or development meeting the specified requirements of these regulations and showing the layout in sufficient detail to allow an evaluation of the proposed project. See Chapter 302.

PLAYSCHOOL: A school for pre-kindergarten children ranging in age from 3 to 4 years.

POLE SIGN: See SIGN, POLE.

POLLUTANT: Anything which causes or contributes to pollution. Pollutants may include, but are not limited to: paints, varnishes, and solvents; petroleum hydrocarbons; automotive fluids; cooking grease; detergents (biodegradable or otherwise); degreasers; cleaning chemicals; non-hazardous liquid and solid wastes and yard wastes; refuse, rubbish, garbage, litter, or other discarded or abandoned objects and accumulations, so that same may cause or contribute to pollution; floatables; pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; liquid and solid wastes; sewage, fecal coli form and pathogens; dissolved and particulate

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metals; animal wastes; wastes and residues that result from constructing a building or structure; concrete and cement; and noxious or offensive matter of any kind.

POLLUTION SUSCEPTIBILITY: When used in relation to groundwater recharge areas, the relative vulnerability of an aquifer to being polluted from spills, discharges, leaks, impoundments, applications of chemicals, injections, and other human activities in the recharge area.

POLLUTION SUSCEPTIBILITY MAPS: Maps of relative vulnerability to pollution prepared by the Department of Natural Resources, using the DRASTIC methodology. Pollution susceptibility maps categorize the land areas of the State into areas having high, medium, and low groundwater pollution potential. (DNR Hydrologic Atlas 20: Groundwater Pollution Susceptibility Map of Georgia).

PORTABLE SIGN: See SIGN, PORTABLE.

POST-DEVELOPMENT: The time period or the conditions that may reasonably be expected or anticipated to exist after completion of the land development activity on a site as the context may require.

PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE: An initial, informal and non-binding stage of development review at which the developer may make known concept plan proposals and appropriate administrative officials may hold discussions of those proposals with the developer regarding the development regulations and other issues related to the development.

PRE-DEVELOPMENT: The time period, or the conditions that exist, on a site prior to the commencement of a land development project and at the time that plans for the land development of a site are approved by the plan approving authority. Where phased development or plan approval occurs (preliminary grading, roads, and utilities etc.) the existing conditions at the time prior to the first item being approved or permitted shall establish pre development conditions.

PRE-EXISTING TOWERS OR ANTENNAS: Structures meeting the requirements of Section 218-21(d) of Chapter 218, Article 4 Telecommunications Facilities Telecommunications.

PREMISES: Any building, lot, parcel of land, or portion of land whether improved or unimproved including adjacent sidewalks and parking strips.

PRESERVED TREE: Any tree designated on a site development plan that is to be preserved during development for incorporation into the final landscaping of the developed parcel.

PRIMARY PERMITTEE: The Owner or the Operator or both of a tract of land for a construction project.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING: The building in which is conducted the principal use of the parcel on which it is located. Parcels with multiple principal uses may have multiple principal buildings. However, storage buildings, garages, and other clearly accessory uses shall not be considered principal buildings.

PRINCIPAL USE: The principal purpose for which a lot or the principal building thereon is designed, arranged or intended, and for which it is or may be used, occupied or maintained.

PRIVATE ROAD: See ROAD, PRIVATE.

PRIVATE STREET: See STREET, PRIVATE.

PRIVATE WASTEWATER SYSTEM: A wastewater treatment and disposal system serving one structure with a septic tank and soil absorption field located on the same parcel as the structure. It also means an alternative wastewater system approved by the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, including a substitute for the septic tank or soil absorption field, a holding tank, a system serving more than one structure or a system located on a different parcel than the structure.

PROFESSIONAL: When used in connection with “use” and “occupancy” of a use or occupancy by persons generally engaged in rendering personal, executive, sales, or administrative services or activities, including accountants, architects, professional engineers and land surveyors, doctors, lawyers, insurance offices, real estate offices, religious organizations, stock brokers and administrative agencies considered professional in character. The term, however, does not include repairs or sales of tangible personal property stored or located within the structure nor any use that would create any loud noise or noxious odors within the City of Valdosta.

PROJECT: As used in Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. The entire proposed development, regardless of the size of the area of land to be disturbed.

PROJECT: As used Chapter 310 Stormwater Management. A land development project.

PROJECTING SIGN: See SIGN, PROJECTING.

PROPERTY, ABUTTING: Property that is touching at one point or along a common side, boundary or lot line. Two pieces of property that are separated by a street or right of way are adjacent, but not abutting.

PROPERTY, ADJACENT: Property that is either abutting or on the opposite side of a common street, right of way, or easement that separates it from the subject property. In order for the parcels on opposite sides of an easement or ROW to be adjacent, it must be possible for a projected lot line of one parcel to cross the street and intersect the lot line of the adjacent parcel. Properties separated by a railroad track or freeway are not abutting or adjacent.

PROPERTY INTEREST: The ownership of property, including any percentage of ownership less than total ownership.

PROPERTY LINE: The legal boundary that separates a lot or parcel of land from other lots or parcels as recorded by a graphic description on a subdivision plat of record or survey map. Also see “LOT LINE.”

PROTECTION AREA OR RIPARIAN PROTECTION AREA: With respect to a stream, river, lake, or impoundment, the combined areas of all required riparian buffers and setbacks applicable to such riparian.

PROTECTIVE or RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS: Recorded restrictions imposed by private parties running with the title to the land and specifying the manner in which land may be used, developed, or improved with the intent of protecting and preserving the physical and economic integrity of any given area. Protective covenants are not enforced by the City of Valdosta.

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PUBLIC ENTITY: A federal, state, county or municipal government, or any agency, authority or public utility of such government that is legally established to provide public services to the citizens of the City of Valdosta.

PUBLIC FACILITY: A use conducted by, or a facility or structure owned or managed by a unit of government, and intended to provide for needs of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING: An official session of any elected or appointed board advertised according to law.

PUBLIC INTEREST SIGN: See SIGN, PUBLIC INTEREST.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT: Any street, park, water line, sanitary drainage system or similar improvement installed to serve abutting or nearby private or public property constructed by either a private entity or a public agency and ultimately owned and maintained by a public entity.

PUBLIC SEWER: A common sewer controlled by a government agency or public utility, in this case the City of Valdosta.

PUBLIC STREET: Right-of-way dedicated to or owned by a public government agency for the purpose of providing principal access to abutting property.

PUBLIC USES: Buildings, structures and uses of land by a unit of government, including but not restricted to government administration, water treatment facilities, streets, libraries, public schools, parks, playgrounds, recreation centers and fire stations.

PUBLIC UTILITY: Any publicly, privately, or cooperatively owned line, facility or system for producing, collecting, transmitting or distributing communications, power, electricity, light, heat, gas, oil products, water, steam, waste, stormwater not connected with highway drainage, and other similar services and commodities, including publicly owned fire and police and traffic signals and lighting systems, which directly or indirectly serve the public or any part thereof.

PUBLIC UTILITIES: Those utilities using underground or overhead transmission lines such as electric, telephone and cable television, and distribution and collection systems, such as water, natural gas, sanitary sewer and storm sewer.

QUALIFIED PERSONNEL: Any person who meets or exceeds the education and training requirements of O.C.G.A. 12-7-19.

REAL PROPERTY: Any tract or parcel of land and, if developed, any buildings or structures located on the land.

RECHARGE AREA: See GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AREA.

RECOVERED MATERIALS PROCESSING FACILITY: See RECYCLING CENTER.

RECREATION, CENTER: A building or portion of a building designed and equipped for the conduct of sports, exercise, leisure time activities or other recreational activities, operated for profit or not-for-profit

and which can be open only to bona fide members and guests of the organization or open to the public for a fee.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE: A vehicle that is:

1. Built on a single chassis.
2. 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection;
3. Designed to be self-propelled or permanently tow-able by a light duty truck.
4. Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS: Any area that is occupied or intended for occupancy by transients using recreational vehicles, mobile trailers or tents as temporary living quarters for recreation, education or vacation purposes and is open to the public.

RECYCLING CENTER: Any facility utilized for the purpose of collecting, sorting, processing, and shipping materials to be recycled including, but not limited to, plastics, glass, paper and aluminum whenever such use is principal to the site.

REDEVELOPMENT: A land development project on a previously developed site; excludes ordinary maintenance activities, remodeling of existing buildings, resurfacing of paved areas, and exterior changes or improvements which do not materially increase or concentrate stormwater runoff or cause additional non-point source pollution.

REGIONAL FLOOD: A flood that is representative of large floods known to have occurred generally in Georgia and reasonably characteristic of what can be expected to occur on an average frequency in the magnitude of the 100-year recurrence interval. Regional flood is synonymous with the term “base flood” used in the Flood Insurance Study.

REHABILITATION CENTER: A facility operated for the purpose of assisting in the rehabilitation of disabled persons which provides one or more of the following types of services:

1. Testing, fitting, or training in the use of prosthetic devices.
2. Prevocational or conditioning therapy.
3. Physical, corrective, or occupational therapy.
4. Adjustment training or evaluation or control of special disabilities; or a facility in which a coordinated approach is made to the physical, mental, and vocational evaluation of disabled persons and an integrated program of physical restoration and prevocational training is provided under competent professional supervision and direction.

RELOCATED HOUSE: A single-family dwelling, including a manufactured home or modular home, that is transported over land in the City of Valdosta in one or more sections and intended for erection on

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permanent footings on a conforming lot in the City of Valdosta for use as a permitted dwelling unit, subject to the regulations of LDR Chapter 110 and Section 302-52.

REQUIRED YARD: See YARD, REQUIRED.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: A business that engages in research, or research and development, of innovative ideas in technology-intensive fields. Development and construction of prototypes may be associated with this use.

RESERVE STRIP: A strip or parcel of land along, around or between properties, the sole purpose of which is to restrict access.

RESERVOIR: A governmentally owned impoundment of water for the primary purpose of providing water to one or more governmentally owned public drinking water systems. This excludes the multipurpose reservoirs owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

RESERVOIR BOUNDARY: The edge of a water supply reservoir defined by its normal pool level.

RESIDENTIAL: Pertaining to the use of land, means premises such as homes, townhouses, mobile homes, duplexes, condominiums, or apartment complexes, which contain habitable rooms for non-transient occupancy and which are designed primarily for living, sleeping, cooking and eating therein.

RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT: Any of the following zoning districts: R-E, R-25, R-15, R-10, R-6, R-M, and R-P.

RESTAURANT, FAST-FOOD: An establishment that offers quick food service, which is accomplished through a limited menu of items, and in which orders are not generally taken at the customer's table, and food is generally served in disposable wrapping or containers.

RETAINING WALL: See WALL, RETAINING.

RETENTION/DETENTION BASIN: Land area designated to temporarily retain or detain stormwater runoff.

RETENTION FACILITY, STORMWATER: A pond, pool, or basin used for the permanent storage of stormwater runoff.

REVENUES: All rates, fees, assessments, rentals, or other charges or other income received by the utility in connection with the management and operation of the system; including amounts received from the investment or deposit of moneys in any fund or account and any amounts contributed by the City all as calculated in accordance with sound accounting practice.

REVOLVING SIGN: See SIGN, ANIMATED.

REZONING ACTION: Legislative action by the City Council adopting an amendment to Title 2 of the LDR that has the effect of rezoning real property from one zoning classification to another.

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RIGHT-OF-WAY: A strip of land dedicated to, designated, reserved, or purchased by the City of Valdosta for the purpose of pedestrian or vehicular access or utility line installation.

RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE: The boundary line between a lot, tract or parcel of land and a contiguous right-of-way.

RIPARIAN: Belonging or related to the bank of a river, stream, lake, pond or impoundment.

RIVER BANK: The rising ground, bordering a river, which serves to confine the water to the natural channel during the normal course of flow.

RIVER CORRIDOR: All land, inclusive of islands, not regulated under the Metropolitan River Protection Act (O.C.G.A. 12-5-440 through 12-5-457), or the Coastal Marshland Protection Act (O.C.G.A. 12-5-280 through 12-5-293), in areas of a protected river and being within 100 feet horizontally on both sides of the river as measured from the river banks. The 100-foot buffer shall be measured horizontally from the uppermost part of the riverbank, usually marked by a break in slope. Although not within the measured 100-foot wide buffer, the area between the top of the bank and the edge of the river shall be treated by local governments in the same manner as the river corridor and shall be included within the River Corridor Protection Plan. Because stream channels move due to natural processes such as meandering, riverbank erosion, and jumping of channels, the river corridor may shift with time. For the purposes of these standards, the river corridor shall be considered to be fixed at its position at the beginning of each review period for local comprehensive plans. Any shift in the location of the protected river after the start of the review period will require a revision of the boundaries of the river corridor at the time of the next review by the Department of Community Affairs.

ROAD, PRIVATE: Any privately owned and maintained access way serving two or more parcels of land that is intended to provide access for motorized vehicles, including safety and emergency equipment and that is not dedicated to the City or maintained by the City and that meets the provisions of Section 332-7.

ROAD, PUBLIC: Any right-of-way set aside for public travel as defined in O.C.G.A. 32-1-3(24).

ROADWAY: That part of a highway or street within the limits of construction lines.

ROADWAY DRAINAGE STRUCTURE: A device, such as a bridge, culvert, or ditch, composed of a virtually non-erodible material such as concrete, steel, plastic, or other such material that conveys water under a roadway by intercepting the flow on one side of a traveled way, consisting of one or more defined lanes, with or without shoulder areas and carrying water to a release point on the other side.

ROOF SIGN: See SIGN, ROOF.

ROOT RESPIRATION: An active process occurring throughout the feeder root system of trees, and involving the consumption of oxygen and sugars with the release of energy and carbon-dioxide. Root respiration facilitates the uptake and transport of minerals and nutrients essential for tree survival.

ROOT COLLAR: The point of attachment of major woody roots to the tree trunk, usually at or near the ground line and associated with a marked swelling of the tree trunk.

ROPE ROOTS: An extensive network of woody second order roots arising from major woody roots, occurring within the surface 12 to 18 inches of local soils, and with an average size ranging from .25 to 1 inch diameter. The primary function of rope roots is the transport of water and nutrients, and the storage of food reserves.

ROTATING SIGN: See SIGN, ANIMATED.

RUNOFF: See NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION.

RUNWAY: A defined area of the Valdosta Regional Airport prepared for landing and takeoff of aircraft along its length.

SAND PIT: A surface mine or excavation used for the removal of sand, gravel, or fill dirt for sale or for use off-site.

SANITARY SEWER OR SEWER: A sewer that carries liquid and water-carried wastes from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants, and institutions together with minor quantities of groundwater, storm waters and surface waters that are not admitted intentionally.

SAWMILL: A facility where logs or partially processed boards are sawn, split, shaved, stripped, chipped, or otherwise processed to produce wood products, not including the processing of timber for use on the same lot by the owner or resident of that lot.

SCENIC VIEWS: Those geographic areas containing visually significant or unique natural features, as identified in the adopted Comprehensive Plan or determined as such by the Planning Commission.

SCHOOL: A public or private facility that provides a curriculum of elementary or secondary academic instruction.

SCHOOL, PRIVATE: Any building or group of buildings the use of which meets state requirements for elementary, secondary, or higher education and which does not secure the major part of its funding from any governmental agency.

SCHOOL, PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL: A private school or similar institution that may include residential facilities and accessory kitchen, dining, and recreational facilities for program participants.

SCREENING: A method of shielding, obscuring or buffering one use or building from another use or building by fencing, walls, densely planted vegetation, natural vegetation, including a transitional buffer or other means; a visual and acoustical barrier which is of such nature and density that provides year-round maximum capacity from the ground to a height of at least six (6) feet.

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL SALES: The sales of agricultural products such as pumpkins and Christmas trees that take place on a seasonal basis and last for a period of longer than 3 days, but are not permanent. See Section 281-13.

SECONDARY PERMITTEE: An individual builder, utility contractor that conducts a construction activity within a common development.

SEDIMENT: As used in Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. Solid material, both organic and inorganic, that is in suspension, is being transported, or has been moved from its site of origin by air, water, ice, or gravity as a product of erosion.

SEDIMENTATION: As used in Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. The process by which eroded material is transported and deposited by the action of water, wind, ice or gravity

SENSITIVE NATURAL AREAS: As used in Chapter 324 Environmental Planning Criteria. Any area, as identified now or hereafter by the Department of Natural Resources, which contains one or more of the following:

1. Habitat, including nesting sites, occupied by rare or endangered species;
2. Rare or exemplary natural communities;
3. Significant landforms, hydroforms, or geological features; or
4. Other areas so designated by the Department of Natural Resources; and which are sensitive or vulnerable to physical or biological alteration.

SEPTIC TANK: An approved watertight tank designed or used to receive sewage from a building sewer and to affect separation and organic decomposition of sewage solids, and discharging sewage effluent to an absorption field or other management system.

SETBACK: With respect to a stream, river, lake, or impoundment, the area extending beyond any riparian buffer applicable to the stream, river, lake, or impoundment in which certain structures, including buildings, septic tanks and septic tank drainfields, are prohibited.

SETBACK: The shortest distance between the right-of-way of a street or an adjacent lot line or lot line and the nearest part of a building or structure on a lot as prescribed in Chapter 214 unless otherwise specified in this LDR for specific districts. Principal buildings may not be placed within a required setback.

SEWAGE: See WASTEWATER.

SEWER: A pipe or conduit that carries wastewater or stormwater.

SEWER TAP FEE: A fee assessed to new users of the City wastewater system to provide the funds necessary for operation and maintenance of the system and to renew, extend and/or improve the system where said renewals, extensions and/or improvements are necessitated by the reduced available wastewater system capacity caused by the new users' demands.

SHELTER, HOMELESS: See Transitional Housing Facility.

SHOPPING CENTER or PLANNED CENTER: One or more commercial land uses or establishments developed under unified control, to be planned, developed, operated, and maintained as a whole, having one or more structures with appurtenant common areas.

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SHOULDER: As used in Appendix H Standard Design and Construction Details. The portion of the roadway contiguous to the travel way for accommodation of stopped vehicles, for emergency use, and for lateral support of base and surface courses.

SIDEWALK: See PEDESTRIAN WAY.

SIDEWALK, SANDWICH, or A-FRAME SIGN: See SIGN, SIDEWALK, SANDWICH, or A-FRAME.

SIGHT DISTANCE TRIANGLE: The area of property in the quadrant of an intersection located within a triangle formed by a diagonal line that connects two points that are each 15 feet away from the intersection of the right of way lines of two intersecting streets (or the intersection of a street and driveway). See Figure 230-1.

SIGN: Any identification, description, illustration, display, symbol, statue or device, illuminated or non-illuminated, which is visible from any public place designed to advertise, identify or convey information, including any device seen from adjacent property, right of ways or streets used for the purpose of attracting the public's attention. For the purpose of removal, "sign" shall also include all sign structures.

SIGN, ABANDONED: A sign (including sign structure) is abandoned if it is located on a parcel that was previously occupied, but the use has been discontinued or all buildings on the parcel containing the sign have been vacated for a period exceeding 6 months and no building permit or interior finish permit has been issued for the parcel during that 6 month period.

SIGN, ANIMATED: Any sign of which all or any part thereof visibly moves or imitates movement in any fashion whatsoever; and any sign which contains or uses for illumination any light(s) or lighting device(s) which change color, flash or alternate, show movement or motion, or change the appearance of said sign or any part thereof automatically.

SIGN AREA: The area within a continuous perimeter enclosing the limits of writing, representation, emblem or any figure or similar character, together with any frame or other material or color forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the background against which it is placed, excluding the necessary supports or uprights on which the sign is placed; provided, however, that any frame or border or open space contained within the outer limits of the display face shall be included in the computation of the area of the sign whether this open space is enclosed or not by a frame or border. For projecting or double-faced signs, only one (1) display face shall be measured in computing sign area when the sign faces are parallel, or where the interior angle formed by the faces is sixty (60) degrees or less, provided that it is a common attached structure. If the two (2) faces of a double-faced sign are of unequal area, the area of the sign shall be taken as the area of the larger face.

SIGN, BUILDING: Any sign attached to any part of a building, as contrasted to a freestanding sign.

SIGN, BENCH: A sign located on any part of the surface of a bench or seat placed on or adjacent to a public right-of-way.

SIGN, CANOPY: A sign that is a part or attached to the front, side or top of a canopy, or other fabric, plastic, or structural protective cover over a door, entrance, window, or outdoor service area. A marquee is not a canopy.

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SIGN, CONSTRUCTION: Any sign that is placed at a construction site that has received development plan approval.

SIGN, DILAPIDATED: Any sign that is structurally unsound or potentially dangerous or any sign face that is illegible due to damage or lack of maintenance that is not repaired to meet City codes within 30 days after written notification to the property owner or sign owner by the Community Development Department.

SIGN, ENTRANCE: A type of ground sign placed at the vehicular entrance or exit of an office park, institutional use, industrial park, apartment development, shopping center or platted subdivision development where it accesses an external public roadway and located within the platted portion of the subdivision.

SIGN, FACE: The portion of a sign on which the copy, message, or other visual image to be communicated is placed or is intended or designed to be placed.

SIGN, FREESTANDING: Any sign which is independent from any building or other structure and is entirely supported by structures that are permanently placed on or in the ground.

SIGN, HIGH-RISE IDENTIFICATION: a sign located in the I-75 corridor that is authorized by permit in the rear-yard setback of a parcel zoned for commercial or industrial uses and subject to the requirements of Section 230-11(b).

HISTORIC SIGN: Any animated neon sign over 30 years old, any existing barber pole or any other sign so designated by the Historic Preservation Commission. Extensions, additions and embellishments are not considered part of a historic sign.

SIGN, ILLUMINATED: A sign which contains an internal source of light or which is designed or arranged to reflect light from an artificial source.

SIGN, MANSARD: Any sign attached to or erected within 12 inches of an actual or simulated mansard of a building, with the sign face parallel to the building surface. Since the sign is to be mounted parallel to and within the limits of the building, it is not deemed to be a roof sign.

SIGN, MONUMENT: A freestanding sign other than a pole sign, in which the face of the sign is permanently mounted on an enclosed decorative base of brick or stone and with a frame within which advertising panels are contained.

SIGN, MUNICIPAL: Any sign erected on city-owned property with the consent of the City.

SIGN, NON-CONFORMING: Any advertising device or sign, including sign structures, which was lawfully erected and maintained prior to the effective date of the enactment or amendment of the LDR but that does not meet all the requirements and restrictions of the Chapter 230.

SIGN, NUMBER: For the purpose of determining the number of signs, a sign shall be construed to be a single display surface or device containing elements organized, related, and composed to form a single unit. In cases where material is displayed in a random or unconnected manner, or where there is

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reasonable doubt as to the intended relationship of such components, each component or element shall be considered to be a single sign. A projecting sign or freestanding sign with identical copy on both sides (faces) of the sign and both sign faces being less than 36 inches apart, shall be construed as a single sign.

SIGN, PAINTED WALL: A wall sign applied to a building with paint and that does not have a separate support structure.

SIGN, PERMANENT: A sign permanently affixed to a building or to the ground.

SIGN, POLE: A sign that is mounted on a freestanding pole, pylon or other support so that the bottom edge of the sign face is three feet or more above grade and is independent of any other structure.

SIGN, PORTABLE: Any sign supported by its own frame or trailer, with or without wheels, which is designed to be transported from one place to another. This does not include typical sandwich or A-frame signs.

SIGN, PROJECTING: A sign attached within 12 inches of the face of any roof-like structure that is attached to and projecting beyond the wall of a building.

SIGN, PUBLIC INTEREST: Sign in the public interest, erected by, or on the order of, a public officer in the performance of his or her duty such as public notices, safety signs, traffic and street signs, memorial plaques, and the like.

SIGN, READER BOARD: A sign that is capable of changing the position or word messages or other displays manually on the face of the sign.

SIGN, ROOF: Any sign erected, constructed, and maintained wholly upon or over the roof of any building and projecting above the roof line.

SIGN, SIDEWALK, SANDWICH, or A-FRAME: A sign which is normally in the shape of an "A" or some variation thereof and which is usually two-sided. This includes a sign mounted on an easel.

SIGN, SNIPE: A sign of any material whatsoever that is attached in any way to a utility pole, tree, fence, rock, or any other similar object located on public or private property.

SIGN, STRUCTURE: Any structure which supports, has supported or is designed to support a sign. A decorative cover is part of a sign structure.

SIGN, SUSPENDED: A rigid sign that is suspended from the underside of a canopy, awning, overhang, balcony, eave, soffit, trellis, or ceiling that is perpendicular to the wall surface of a building intended to be viewed by those who pass below it.

SIGN, UNLAWFUL or ILLEGAL: Any sign erected without a permit when a permit for the sign was otherwise required by this ordinance or previously adopted ordinance or code; or a permitted sign which has not been properly erected in accordance with its permit application and approved sign permit; or an

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otherwise lawful and permitted sign which has become hazardous or a nuisance to the public due to poor maintenance, dilapidation, or abandonment, and so declared by the City.

SIGN, WALL: Any sign affixed or attached to a wall of a building, extending no more than 12" beyond the wall and which displays only one sign surface.

SIGN, WINDOW: Any sign, excluding identification and incidental signs, placed inside or upon a window, and intended to be seen from the exterior. The term does not include merchandise included inside the window.

SIGNIFICANT RECHARGE AREAS: As used in Chapter 324 Environmental Planning Criteria. Those areas mapped by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in Hydrologic Atlas 18 (1989 edition).

SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING: See DWELLING, SINGLE-FAMILY

SINGLE FAMILY UNIT or SFU: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. The average impervious area of a single-family detached residential dwelling unit located within the City as periodically determined and established as provided in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. SFU rate means the dollar value periodically determined and assigned to each SFU as a charge for stormwater services and expressed as a dollar value per SFU per month.

SITE: Any plot, parcel or area of land or combination of contiguous lots or parcels of land.

SITE: As used in Chapter 310 Stormwater Management. The parcel of land being developed, or the portion thereof, on which the development project is located.

SITE-BUILT HOME: A dwelling unit constructed on the building site from basic materials delivered to the site, and which is constructed in accordance with the International Residential Code (IRC).

SNIPE SIGN: See SIGN, SNIPE.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT APPROVED PLAN: As used in Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. An erosion and sedimentation control plan approved in writing by the Alapaha Soil and Water Conservation District

SOIL COMPACTION: A change in soil physical properties which includes an increase in soil weight per unit volume, and a decrease in soil pore space. Soil compaction is caused by repeated vibrations, frequent traffic and weight.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL: See Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control.

SOLID WASTE: Any garbage or refuse; sludge from a wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility; and other discarded material including solid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations and community activities, but does not include recovered materials; solid or dissolved materials in domestic sewage; solid or dissolved materials in irrigation return flows or industrial discharges that are point

sources subject to permit under 33 U.S.C. Section 1342; or source, special nuclear, or byproduct material as defined by the federal Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. (O.C.G.A., Section 12.8-22(33)).

SOLID WASTE HANDLING: The storage, collection, transportation, treatment, utilization, processing, or disposal of solid waste or any combination of such activities.

SOLID WASTE HANDLING FACILITY: Any facility the primary purpose of which is the storage, collection, transportation, treatment, utilization, processing, or disposal, or any combination thereof, of solid waste as approved by Department of Natural Resources.

SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION/MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITIES: Any facility that the primary purpose is the collection, temporary storage, or transportation, or any combination thereof, of municipal solid waste (defined as solid waste derived from households, including garbage, trash, and sanitary waste in septic tanks, and includes solid waste from single-family and multifamily residences, hotels and motels, bunkhouses, campgrounds, picnic grounds, day use recreation areas, and commercial establishments, but does not include solid waste from mining, agricultural or silvicultural operations, or industrial processes or operations, per the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act, O.C.G.A. § 12-8-20 et seq.) and that may provide for the extraction of recoverable materials, materials suitable for use as a fuel or soil amendment, or any combination of such materials.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Events of a temporary nature including; outdoor meetings, auctions, bake sales, car washes, yard sales from other than residential properties, carnivals, special outdoor entertainment and similar activities which are not part of the property's normal use and which are not otherwise permitted on the site. Outdoor displays or sales accessory to an established retail use are not considered special events.

SPECIFIED ANATOMICAL AREAS: Shall include any of the following: (a) Less than completely and opaquely covered human genitals or pubic region; buttock; or female breast below a point immediately above the top of the areola, or (b) Human male genitalia in a discernibly turgid state, even if completely and opaquely covered.

SPECIFIED SEXUAL ACTIVITIES: Shall include any of the following: (a) Actual or simulated intercourse, oral copulation, anal intercourse, oral anal copulation, bestiality, direct physical stimulation of unclothed genitals, flagellation or torture in the context of a sexual relationship, or the use of excretory functions in the context of a sexual relationship, and any of the following sexually-oriented acts or conduct: anilingus, buggery, coprophagy, coprophilia, cunnilingus, fellatio, necrophilia, pederasty, pedophilia, sapphism; or (b) clearly depicted human genitals in a state of sexual stimulation, arousal or tumescence; or (c) use of human or animal ejaculation, sodomy, oral copulation, coitus, or masturbation; or (d) fondling or touching of nude human genitals, pubic regions, buttocks or female breasts; or (e) masochism, erotic or sexually oriented torture, beating or the infliction of pain; or (f) erotic or lewd touching, fondling or other sexual contact with an animal or human being; or (g) human excretion, urination, menstruation, vaginal or anal irrigation.

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SPECIMEN TREE: Any tree designated by the City Arborist for preservation because of its rarity, aesthetic value, historical value, botanical importance, or size (See Section 328-24). The City Arborist in certifying shall use the following criteria:

1. **Size Criteria:** All canopy trees that are 16" DBH or larger, Longleaf Pine and Spruce Pine that are 10" or larger, and Live Oaks or Magnolias (*grandiflora*) that are 14" or larger. All small species 6" DBH or larger.

STABILIZATION: As used in Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. The process of establishing an enduring soil cover of vegetation by the installation of temporary or permanent structures for the purpose of reducing to a minimum the erosion process and the resultant transport of sediment by wind, water, ice, or gravity.

STAND ALONE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: Construction activities that are not part of a common development where the primary permittee chooses not to use secondary permittees.

STANDARD DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DETAIL DRAWINGS: As used in Standard Specifications for Construction. Drawings of standard structures that are approved by the City Engineer for use in the City of Valdosta. See Appendix H.

STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS: The City of Valdosta Standard Specifications for Water and Sewer Construction, Reclaimed Water Construction, and other related documents as amended from time to time and adopted by the City of Valdosta.

START OF CONSTRUCTION: See CONSTRUCTION, START OF.

STATE: State of Georgia.

STATE GENERAL PERMIT: As used in Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit or permits for stormwater runoff from construction activities as is now in effect or as may be amended or reissued in the future pursuant to the State authority to implement the same through federal delegation under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended 33 U.S.C. Section 1251 et. seq. and subsection (f) of Code Section 12-5-30.

STATE WATERS OR WATERS OF THE STATE: As used in Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. Any and all rivers, streams, creeks, branches, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, drainage systems, springs, wells, and other bodies of surface or subsurface water, natural or artificial, lying within or forming a part of the boundaries of the State, which are not entirely confined and retained completely upon the property of a single individual partnership or corporation.

STORAGE TANK, BULK: An above ground container used for the storage of large volumes of liquids, solids or gases, which may or may not include such flammable materials as petroleum.

STORM DRAIN: A drain or sewer for conveying surface water, groundwater, subsurface water, or unpolluted water from any source.

STORM SEWER SYSTEM: Any facility designed or used for collecting and/or conveying stormwater, including but not limited to any roads with drainage systems, highways, streets, curbs, gutters, inlets, catch basins, piped storm drains, pumping facilities, structural stormwater controls, ditches, swales, natural and manmade or altered drainage channels, reservoirs, and other drainage structures, and which is:

1. Publicly owned or maintained.
2. Not combined with sanitary sewer.
3. Not part of a publicly owned treatment works.

STORM SHELTER: A structure or portion of a structure intended to provide protection to human life during periods of danger from storms or other emergencies.

STORMWATER or STORMWATER RUNOFF: Any surface flow, runoff, and drainage consisting entirely of water from any form of natural precipitation, and resulting from such precipitation.

STORMWATER BETTER SITE DESIGN: Non-structural site design approaches and techniques that can reduce a site's impact on the watershed and can provide for non-structural stormwater management. Stormwater better site design includes conserving and protecting natural areas and greenspace, reducing impervious cover, and using natural features for stormwater management.

STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM: The system of publicly or privately owned or operated rivers, creeks, ditches, drainage channels, pipes, basins street gutters, and lakes within the city through which, or into which, stormwater runoff, surface water, or subsurface water is conveyed or deposited.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT: The collection, conveyance, storage, treatment and disposal of stormwater runoff in a manner intended to prevent increased flood damage, stream bank channel erosion, habitat degradation and water quality degradation, and to enhance and promote the public health, safety and general welfare.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, ON-SITE: The design and construction of a facility or facilities necessary to control stormwater runoff within and for a single development.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, REGIONAL: The design and construction of a facility necessary to control storm water runoff; whether within or outside of a development, and serving one or more developments.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT CHARGE: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. The charge authorized by state law and Chapter 336 which is established to pay operations and maintenance, extension, replacement, and debt service of the stormwater drainage system.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITY: Any infrastructure that controls or conveys stormwater runoff.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITY, OFF-SITE: Any facility outside the project boundary that is or will be used for transporting and managing of storm water runoff, including, but not limited to, culverts,

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detention ponds, storm drains, flumes, and headwater pools. Easements for the purpose of transporting and managing of storm water runoff shall be obtained for any off-site facility with prior approval obtained from the City Engineer.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITY, ON-SITE: Any facility within the project boundary used for the purpose of transporting or managing stormwater runoff, including, but not limited to, culverts, detention ponds, storm drains, flumes, and headwater pools.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITY, REGIONAL: As used Chapter 310 Stormwater Management. Stormwater management facilities designed to control storm water runoff from multiple properties where the owners or developers of the individual properties may assist in the financing of the facility and the requirement for on site controls is either eliminated or reduced.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT MANUAL: The Georgia Stormwater Management Manual is presumed to be the latest edition as defined on the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual website at www.georgiastormwater.com. Updates, errata and revisions will be provided on the website.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT MEASURE: Any stormwater management facility or non-structural stormwater practice.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN: A document describing how existing runoff characteristics will be affected by a land development project and containing measures for complying with the provisions of Chapter 310 Stormwater Management.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: The entire set of structural and non-structural stormwater management facilities and practices that are used to capture, convey and control the quantity and quality of the stormwater runoff from a site.

STORMWATER RETROFIT: A stormwater management practice designed for a currently developed site that had previously had either no stormwater management practice in place or a practice inadequate to meet the stormwater management requirements of the site.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UTILITY OR UTILITY: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. The enterprise fund utility created by Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility to operate, maintain, and improve the system and for such other purposes as stated in that chapter.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UTILITY SYSTEM OR SYSTEM: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. The existing stormwater management facilities, stormwater drainage system, and flood protection system of the city and all improvements thereto which, are constituted as the property and responsibility of the utility to be operated as an enterprise fund, to among other things, conserve water, control discharges and flows necessitated by rainfall events, and incorporate methods to collect, convey, store, absorb, inhibit, treat, use, or reuse water to prevent or reduce flooding, over drainage, environmental degradation, and water pollution or otherwise affect the quality and quantity of discharge from such system.

STORY: That portion of a building having a height greater than six feet between the surface of the floor occupied and the ceiling above it, not including cellars, basements, mechanical rooms and parking floors

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that do not extend more than 3 feet above finished grade or mechanical rooms, tanks or structures not designed for occupancy that are placed on the roof of a building and occupying less than 10 percent of the area of the floor below.

STREAM: Any waterway, beginning at either: the location of a spring, seep, or groundwater outflow that sustains stream flow; or a point in the stream channel with a drainage area to that point of 25 acres or more.

STREAM BANK: The sloping land that contains the stream channel and the normal flows of the stream.

STREAM CHANNEL: The portion of a watercourse that contains the base flow of the stream.

STREET: A way for vehicular traffic, whether designated as an avenue, boulevard, road, highway, expressway, lane, alley or other way.

STREET, CENTERLINE OF: A line that is halfway between the right-of-way lines of a street.

STREET, DEAD END: A street that must be exited at the same point as is entered but not a cul-de-sac.

STREET, HALF: A street or road adjacent to a subdivision tract boundary where only half the required right-of-way and road improvements are provided within the proposed subdivision and the responsibility for the other half is undecided or is left to the adjacent property owner.

STREET, PRIVATE: Any privately owned and maintained access way serving two or more lots or parcels that is intended to provide access for motorized vehicles, including safety and emergency equipment, that is not dedicated to the city or maintained by the city and that meets the provisions of Section 332-7.

STREET, PUBLIC: See ROAD, PUBLIC.

STREET, STUB: An extension of the right-of-way of a street in a subdivision extending to the property boundary of the tract being developed and intended to provide continuity of the street pattern between subdivisions or between the individual phases of the same subdivision.

STREET CLASSIFICATIONS: Streets are classified according to the latest Federal Functional Classification System for the City of Valdosta. See Section 332-1.

STREET FRONTAGE: The width in linear feet of a lot or parcel where it abuts the right-of-way of any public street.

STREET JOG: The incidence where two streets or two portions of a single street are separated by a relatively short distance, usually at their intersection with another street.

STREET YARD: Area adjacent to a street right-of-way that is required to be landscaped in accordance with Section 328 of this LDR.

STRUCTURAL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PRACTICES: Practices for the stabilization of erodible or sediment producing areas by utilizing the mechanical properties of matter for

the purpose of either changing the surface of the land, or storing, regulating, or disposing of runoff to prevent excessive sediment loss. Examples of structural erosion and sediment control practices are rip-rap, sediment basins, dikes, level spreaders, waterways or outlets diversions, grade stabilization structures, sediment traps, and land grading etc. Such practices can be found in the publication *Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia*. See Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control.

STRUCTURAL STORMWATER CONTROL: As used Chapter 310 Stormwater Management. A structural stormwater management facility or device that controls stormwater runoff and changes the characteristics of that runoff, including but not limited to, the quantity and quality, the period of release, or the velocity of flow of such runoff.

STRUCTURE: Any fixed object that is constructed or erected on the ground or attached to something on the ground, including, but not limited to, towers and walled or roofed buildings, but not including driveways, flags and flag poles, fences, retaining walls, basketball goals, tents, balloons or vehicles.

STRUCTURE: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. A walled and roofed building that is principally above ground, including a sign, a manufactured home, a gas or liquid storage tank.

STRUCTURE, ACCESSORY: A structure detached from the principal building located on the same lot and customarily incidental and subordinate in area, extent, and purpose to the principal building or use. Where a structure is attached to the main building in a substantial manner, as by a wall, such structure shall be considered part of the main building.

STRUCTURE, ACCESSORY: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Protection. A structure having minimal value and used for parking, storage and other non-habitable uses, such as garages, carports, storage sheds, pole barns, hay sheds and the like.

STRUCTURE, FLOOD-PRONE: A walled and roofed building that is principally above ground, a manufactured home, a gas or liquid storage tank.

STRUCTURE, OCCUPIED: A building with one or more rooms intended for use by humans for dwelling, commerce, industry, or public services, and including buildings intended for the installation, storage, or use of equipment, merchandise, or machinery related to such use, subject to regulations and permitting procedures of the LDR.

SUBBASE: One or more layers of specified material used in a pavement system between the sub-grade and the base course of pavement.

SUBDIVIDER: Any person, firm, corporation or duly authorized agent or other legal entity who undertakes the subdivision of land as defined in this chapter.

SUBDIVISION: The division of one or more lots of record lawfully in existence at the time of enactment of the LDR into two or more lots, building sites, or other divisions for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of sale, legacy, or building development, and includes all division of land whether or not they involve a new street or a change in existing streets, and includes re-subdivision, and where appropriate to the context, relates to the process of subdividing or to the land or area subdivided.

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SUBDIVISION PLAT: A drawing prepared by a land surveyor currently registered in the State of Georgia indicating a proposed division of a tract or parcel of land into two (2) or more lots, building sites or other divisions for the purpose of sale, legacy, gift or division in kind, or building or other development.

SUBGRADE: Generally applying to the material or top surface thereof, immediately below pavement systems and shoulders, slope paving, approach slabs, and other similar items.

SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE: Damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed fifty percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. Market value may be determined from tax appraisal or other estimate provided by a certified professional appraiser.

SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. Damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed fifty percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. Market value may be determined from tax appraisal or other estimate provided by a certified professional appraiser.

SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. Any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, taking place during a 5-year period, in which the cumulative cost equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure prior to the "start of construction" of the improvement. NOTE: The market value of the structure should be (1) the appraised value of the structure prior to the start of the initial repair or improvement, or (2) in the case of damage, the value of the structure prior to the damage occurring. This term includes structures, which have incurred "substantial damage", regardless of the actual amount of repair work performed. 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 building. The term does not, however, include (1) those improvements of a structure required to comply with existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which are solely necessary to assure safe living conditions and which have been identified by the Code Enforcement Official, and not solely triggered by an improvement or repair project, or (2) any alteration of a "historic structure" provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a "historic structure".

SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT: As used in Chapter 328 Landscape, Buffers and Screening. Substantial improvements are defined as repair, reconstruction, alterations, or improvements to existing structures in which the cost thereof exceeds twenty-five percent (25%) of the ad valorem tax value as established by the current digest at the time the proposed improvements are begun or contemplated.

SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED EXISTING MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. The repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement of the streets, utilities, and pads equals or exceeds 50 percent of the value of the streets, utilities, and pads before the repair, reconstruction, or improvement commenced.

SURFACE WATER: Waters of the state located on the ground surface such as lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams and creeks.

SUSPENDED SIGN: See SIGN, SUSPENDED.

SUSPENDED SOLIDS OR TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS OR TSS: Total suspended matter that either floats on the surface of, or is in suspension in, water, wastewater, or other liquids, and that is removable by laboratory filtering as prescribed in “Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater” and referred to as non-filterable residue.

SWIMMING POOL: A facility designed and intended for water contact activities that serves the public, a club or other membership-based organization.

SWIMMING POOL, HOME: A facility designed and intended for water contact activities that serves a single-family dwelling.

TALL STRUCTURE: As used in Chapter 218, Article 4 Telecommunications Facilities. Any man-made structure exceeding twenty-five (25) feet in height and used to support an antenna or other telecommunications device.

TAX ASSESSOR: Lowndes County Board of Tax Assessors.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER or TOWER: Any structure that is designed and constructed primarily for the purpose of supporting one or more antennas, including self-supporting lattice towers, guy towers and monopole towers. The term includes radio and television transmission towers, microwave towers, common carrier towers, cellular communications towers, alternative tower structure, but not including amateur radio antennas.

TEMPORARY ADVERTISING DEVICE: Banners, streamers, pennants, balloons, and similar advertising devices used during special events on private property.

TEMPORARY BUILDING: A structure without any foundation or footings that is removed when the designated time period, activity, or use for which the temporary structure was erected has ceased. See Section 218-13.

TEMPORARY USE: Land uses established for a limited duration with the intent to discontinue such use within a designated time period.

TEMPORARY USE, ACCESSORY: A use meeting the definition of an accessory use, building or structure that is established for a limited duration with the intent to discontinue such use within a designated time period. See Chapter 218.

TEMPORARY USE, COMMERCIAL RETAIL: Commercial uses, established by administrative approval for a period of not longer than 60 days. See Section 218-13.

TENT: A temporary structure or shelter having a roof and one or more sides made of fabric or other pliable materials.

TETHER: Fastened to the ground or a stationary object by a rope, chain, or the like.

THROUGH LOT: See LOT, DOUBLE FRONTAGE.

TIMBER HARVESTING: The felling, loading, and transporting of timber products for gain. The term “tree harvesting” includes forestry, silviculture, selective tree harvesting, and thinning of trees as prescribed by Best Management Practices of the Georgia Forestry Commission. See Section 328-37.

TOTAL ANNUAL REVENUE REQUIREMENTS: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. The total amount of revenue required in one year to meet all expenditures incurred during that year for the financing of construction and for the operations and maintenance, including administration and renewal and replacement funding, of the stormwater drainage system, including facilities for the collection, transportation, and treatment of stormwater, and of the flood control protection system, including river levees and stormwater pumping stations.

TOWNHOUSE: A single-family dwelling unit that is erected in a row as part of a single building consisting of two or more dwellings on adjoining lots, each being separated from the adjoining unit or units by an approved fire resistant party wall or walls extending from the basement or cellar floor to the roof along the dividing lot line.

TOWER/ANTENNA OWNER: As used in Chapter 218, Article 4 Telecommunications Facilities. The owner of the physical tower structure and/or lessee of such tower.

TRACT: A portion of land with definite and ascertainable limits or boundaries.

TRAIL, BIKE: See TRAIL, MULTIUSE.

TRAIL, MULTI-USE: a corridor designed for one or more alternative forms of transportation including pedestrians, joggers, skaters, and slow-moving vehicles such as strollers, bicycles and golf carts.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FACILITY: A building or buildings in which is provided long-term but not permanent living accommodations for one or more persons who have no permanent residence and are in need of long-term housing assistance, and in which may also be provided meals and social services including counseling and substance abuse recovery assistance.

TRAVEL TRAILER: See RECREATIONAL VEHICLE.

TREE: Any self-supporting, woody perennial plant usually having a single trunk diameter of 1-½ inches or more which normally attains a mature height of a minimum of ten feet.

TREE CANOPY: The perimeter formed by the outer edge of the branches and leaves of a tree.

TREE DENSITY FACTOR: A unit of measure used to prescribe and calculate required tree coverage on a site. Unit measurements are based upon tree size.

TREE INVENTORY: A listing and designation of all trees with a six (6) inch DBH or larger on a map or survey drawn to scale. See Chapter 328 Landscape, Buffers and Screening.

TREE PRESERVATION AND REPLACEMENT PLAN: A drawing which depicts the boundaries and dimensions of a given lot or lots for which a land disturbance permit or building permit is sought and which includes all of the information required in Section 302-63 and Section 328. Article 2.

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TREE PROTECTION ZONE, ACTIVE: The area beneath the tree's canopy (critical root zone) to be protected in construction area by fencing. See Chapter 328 Landscape, Buffers and Screening.

TREE PROTECTION ZONE, PASSIVE: The area beneath the tree's canopy (critical root zone) in areas adjacent to construction to be protected by flagging. See Chapter 328 Landscape, Buffers and Screening.

TREE REMOVAL: The unauthorized intentional or negligent killing of trees on a parcel of land. Such acts shall include but not be limited to cutting of trees, to damage inflicted upon the root system of a tree or trees by the application of toxic substances, by the operation of equipment and vehicles, by storage of materials, by the change of natural grade due to unapproved excavation or filling, or by the unauthorized alteration of natural physical conditions, including drainage patterns.

TREE REPLACEMENT: The replacement of trees and landscape plant materials into the minimum required landscape areas, as determined by these regulations.

TREE SAVE AREA: An area consisting of a group of trees designated to be preserved. See Chapter 328 Landscape, Buffers and Screening.

TREE TOPPING: Any pruning practice that results in any of the following:

1. Disfigurement of the normal shape of the tree; or
2. Removal of more than one-half of the tree foliage and limbs; or
3. Cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the tree's crown.

This definition does not apply to pruning trees that obstruct public visibility of an intersection, or to trees that are severely damaged by storms or other causes where the City Arborist determines that other pruning practices are impractical.

TRUCK, HEAVY: Trucks, including truck tractors and similar vehicles with two or more rear axles.

TRUCK, LIGHT: Trucks and similar vehicles with single rear axles.

TRUCK STOP: A use that includes any building, premises, or land in which or upon which a business, service or industry involving the maintenance, servicing, storage, or repair of heavy trucks and similar commercial vehicles is conducted or rendered, including the dispensing of motor fuel or other petroleum products primarily for such heavy trucks and similar commercial vehicles, as well as overnight

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accommodations, showers, overnight customer parking or restaurant facilities for the use of crews of heavy trucks and similar commercial vehicles.

TRUCK TERMINAL: Shall mean a principle use of land for trucking operations where there are dock facilities, either partially enclosed or unenclosed, for the purposes of transferring goods or breaking-down and assembling tractor-trailer transport. Not included in this definition are warehouse and similar facilities used primarily for freight forwarding and the deposit, storage or safekeeping of goods.

UNDER CANOPY SIGN: See SIGN, UNDER CANOPY.

UNDEVELOPED PROPERTY: As used in Chapter 336 Stormwater Utility. Real property that has no impervious surface.

UNLAWFUL OR ILLEGAL SIGN: See SIGN, UNLAWFUL OR ILLEGAL. **USE:** The purpose or activity for which land or buildings are designed, arranged, or intended or for which land or buildings are occupied or maintained.

USE, ACCESSORY: A use of land or a building, or portion thereof, customarily incidental and subordinate to the principal use of the land or building and located on the same lot with such principal use.

USER, WASTEWATER: Any person, who contributes, causes or permits the contribution of wastewater into the City wastewater system.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT: The City of Valdosta Utilities Department.

UTILITIES DIRECTOR: The City of Valdosta Director of Utilities, or his or her designee.

UTILITY: Public or private water, stormwater, or sewer piping systems, water or sewer pumping stations, electric power lines, fuel pipelines, telephone lines, roads, driveways, bridges, river/lake access facilities, stormwater systems, railroads, similar services and all equipment and structures necessary to provide such services for utilities licensed or authorized to serve the City of Valdosta.

UTILITY SERVICE AREA: As used in Chapter 328 Landscape, Buffers and Screening. An area which contains any surface mounted HVAC equipment or freestanding above-ground devices, such as utility boxes, booster boxes, switch boxes and transformers that are part of an underground utilities system.

VARIABLE MESSAGE BOARD: An electronically programmable sign that provides changing information more often than once per one hour period.

VARIANCE: A grant of relief of the terms of Title 2 pursuant to Section 238-9 that will not be contrary to the public interest and where, owing to conditions peculiar to the property (and not the applicant), a literal enforcement of the regulations would result in unnecessary and undue hardship.

VARIANCE: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. A grant of relief from the requirements of this Chapter 320 which permits construction in a manner otherwise prohibited by that Chapter.

VARIANCE, ADMINISTRATIVE: A grant of relief of the terms of Title 2 that is subject to review and action by the Department pursuant to Section 238-14.

VEGETATIVE EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL MEASURES: As used in Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. Measures for the stabilization of erodible or sediment-producing areas by covering the soil with:

1. Permanent seeding, sprigging or planting, producing long-term vegetative cover.
2. Temporary seeding, producing short-term vegetative cover.
3. Sodding, covering areas with a turf of perennial sod-forming grass.

Such measures can be found in the publication Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia published by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

VEHICLE: A mechanical device with wheels or treads for transporting people and/or loads. Vehicles include automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, cranes, earth moving equipment, trailers, and other similar conveyances.

VEHICLE, COMMERCIAL: A vehicle greater than 30 feet in length with six or more wheels, including the cab portion of a tractor-trailer with or without the trailer, but not including light duty delivery trucks, motor homes, travel trailers, or school buses.

VEHICULAR USE AREA: As used in Chapter 328 Landscape, Buffers and Screening. Any ground surface area, paved or unpaved, excepting public right-of-way used by any type of vehicle, whether moving or at rest for the purpose of, including but not limited to, driving, parking, loading, unloading, storage or display, such as, but not limited to, new and used car lots, activities of a drive-in nature in connection with banks, restaurants, service stations, grocery and convenience stores.

VENDING CART: Any box or container with wheels that is not propelled or moved by an engine. Trailers of any type are not vending carts.

VENDING STAND: Any table, equipment or apparatus which is not a structure, which is designed and intended so as to not be a permanent fixture on a lot, and which is used for the retail sale, display and accessory advertising of merchandise or food.

VENDING TRAILER: An occupiable trailer built on a single chassis with wheels, a roof and at least one service window, that is not self-propelled and is designed to be permanently towable by a light duty truck.

VIOLATION: As used in Chapter 320 Flood Damage Prevention. The failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's floodplain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certificates, or other evidence of compliance required in this ordinance is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.

VISUAL QUALITY: As used in Chapter 218, Article 4 Telecommunications Facilities. The appropriate design arrangement and location of tower and /or antenna structures in relation to the built or natural environment to avoid abrupt or sever differences.

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WALL, BREAKAWAY: A wall that is not part of the structural support of the building and is intended through its design and construction to collapse under specific lateral loading forces without causing damage to the elevated portion of the building or the supporting foundation system.

WALL, FOUNDATION: A wall constructed on footings or piers and designed to bear the load of a building or major structure.

WALL, RETAINING: A structure constructed and erected between lands of different elevations to protect structures and/or to prevent erosion, and not used as a foundation.

WALL FACE: A measurement of area equal to the height of the structure from the ground to the coping or eave of the roof multiplied by the width of the wall associated with the individual business. The wall face is to be measured for each wall independently.

WALL SIGN: See SIGN, WALL.

WASTEWATER: The spent water of a community. From the standpoint of source, it may be a combination of the liquid and water carried wastes from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants, and institutions, together with any groundwater, surface water and storm water that may be present.

WASTEWATER, DOMESTIC: Wastewater discharged into the wastewater system from domestic sources such as toilets, washing machines, dishwashers, sinks, showers and bathtubs from normal household usage.

WASTEWATER FACILITIES: The structures, equipment and processes required to collect, carry away and treat domestic and non-domestic wastewater and to dispose of the effluent.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM: A system that provides primary treatment and disposal, including absorption field components, devices and appurtenances intended to be used for disposal of sewage by soil absorption, but does not include a conventional or chamber septic tank system.

WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT: As used in Chapter 324 Environmental Planning Criteria. A mapped area, which imposes a set of requirements and/or specific development standards or sue restrictions.

WATERCOURSE: As used in Chapter 306 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. Any natural or artificial watercourse, stream, river, creek, channel, ditch, canal, conduit, culvert, drain, waterway, gully, ravine, or wash in which water flows either continuously or intermittently and which has a definite channel, bed and banks, and including any area adjacent thereto subject to inundation by reason of overflow or floodwater.

WATER SYSTEM: The total water treatment and distribution facilities owned and operated by the City of Valdosta, also the administrative framework which operates the facilities.

WATERSHED: The land area that drains into a particular stream, river, lake, or impoundment.

WELL: An excavation or opening into the ground by which groundwater is sought or obtained.

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WETLANDS: Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems and generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and, similar areas. For this purpose, wetlands must have one or more of the following attributes:

1. At least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes; and
2. The substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; and
3. The substrate is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year, or is designated by the National Cooperative Soils Survey of the Soil Conservation Service by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as designed by the National Wetlands Inventory, United States Department of the Interior, or any future approved and designated state or federal agency.

WETLANDS, JURISDICTIONAL: Wetlands subject to permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

WINDOW, DRIVE-THROUGH: An opening in the wall of a building or structure designed and intended to be used to provide for sales to and/or service to patrons who remain in their vehicles.

WINDOW SIGN: See SIGN, WINDOW.

WORK OF ART: A material thing of functional, aesthetic, cultural, historical or scientific value that may be, by nature or design, movable yet related to a specific setting or environment. See Chapter 238 Historic Preservation.

WORKING DRAWINGS: Any supplementary drawings or similar data which the Applicant is required to submit to the City Engineer for approval including but not limited to stress sheets, shop drawings, erection plans, false work plans, framework plans and bending diagrams for steel.

YARD: An open space between the lot line and the wall of the principal building, on the same lot, such space being open, unoccupied and unobstructed by buildings or structures from ground to sky except for authorized landscaping, driveways, parking, sidewalks, signs, fences, retaining walls, lighting standards, encroachments and accessory buildings that are expressly permitted.

YARD, FRONT: A yard extending the full width of the lot or parcel and situated between the right-of-way line of the abutting street and the front yard line of the principal building or structure.

YARD, REAR: A yard extending the full width of the lot or parcel and extending from the rear line of the lot to the rear yard line of the principal building or structure.

YARD, REQUIRED: A yard situated between a lot line or lot line and the setback line established by the zoning district for the principal building or structure.

YARD, SIDE: A yard extending the full depth of a lot or parcel and situated between the side yard line and side lot line of the lot or parcel and the side of the building facing such lot line.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: The Zoning Administrator of the City of Valdosta or his or her designee.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS. The Valdosta-Lowndes County Zoning Board of Appeals.

ZONING DISTRICT: One or more sections of the City as set forth in Title 2 and delineated and designated on the Zoning Map, within which the zoning regulations are uniform.

ZONING MAP: The “Official Zoning Map of the City of Valdosta, Georgia” as depicted by the zoning and other related data coverages of the computerized VALOR GIS database.

Section 106-2 Abbreviations

As used in this LDR, the following abbreviations represent the terms set forth below.

ALTA	American Land Title Act
ART.	Article
BOD	Biochemical oxygen demand
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CFS	Cubic Feet per Second
COD	Chemical oxygen demand
CWA	Clean Water Act
dBA	Decibels measured on an A-weighted scale of a sound meter.
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height (trees)
DCA	The Georgia Department of Community Affairs
DHR	The Georgia Department of Human Resources.
DNR	The Georgia Department of Natural Resources
DRI	Development of Regional Impact
DSS	Domestic Sewage Study
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPD	The Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

FAA	The Federal Aviation Administration
FCC	The Federal Communications Commission
FEMA	The Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHBM	Flood Hazard Boundary Map
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FIS	Flood Insurance Study
GA.CONST.	Georgia Constitution
GASWCC	The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission
GDOT	Georgia Department of Transportation
GFA	Gross Floor Area
GLPC	Greater Lowndes Planning Commission
HGL	Hydraulic Grade Line
HPC	Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission
IRF	Intermediate Regional Flood
l	Liter
LDR	Land Development Regulations
Ldn	Day-Night Average Sound Level
mg	Milligrams
mg/l	Milligrams per liter
MRPA	Metropolitan River Protection Act
MUTCD	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
NA	Not applicable
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System
N.E.	Northeast
N.W.	Northwest

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

NOI	Notice of Intent of coverage under General NPDES Permit for Construction Activities.
NOT	Notice of Termination to be covered under General NPDES Permits for Construction Activities.
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
O.C.G.A.	Official Code of Georgia Annotated
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
P.E.	Professional Engineer
pH:	The logarithm (base 10) of the reciprocal of the molar concentration of hydrogen ions in solution.
PIRT	Pretreatment Implementation Review Task Force
POTW	Publicly owned treatment works
psi	Pounds per square inch
SDR	Sight distance required for vehicle approaching from right side of driveway
SDL	Sight distance required for vehicle approaching from left side of driveway
S.E.	Southeast
SFU	Single-Family Unit
S.W.	Southwest
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification
TSS	Total suspended solids
USGS	United States Geological Survey
U.S.C.	United States Code
ZBOA	Zoning Board of Appeals