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CHAPTER 10. DEFINITIONS

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Article 10.1 Usage

For the purpose of this Code, certain terms shall be used, interpreted, and defined as set forth in this Article. Unless the context clearly indicates the contrary, words used in the present tense include the future tense and words used in the plural include the singular.

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Article 10.2 Defined Terms

Abutting: See “Adjacent”.

Access: The principal means of vehicular and pedestrian ingress and egress to a lot from a public right-of-way.

Addition: A structure added to the original structure after the certificate of occupancy has been issued for the original structure.

Adjacent: Contiguous, next to. When determining whether one land use or zoning district is adjacent to another, the existence of an intervening right-of-way in the form of alleys, roads, easements, greenbelts, drainage ditches, etc., shall not be considered disjointed if the right-of-way, or total distance, is 200 feet wide or less. The existence of an intervening manmade or natural waterbody shall not be considered if it is 250 feet wide or less (measured between high water lines or apparent high water lines).

Adult Arcade: A place to which the public is permitted or invited wherein coin-operated, slug-operated, or token operated or electronically, electrically, or mechanically controlled still or motion picture machines, projectors, or other image-producing devices are maintained to show images to five or fewer persons per machine at any one time, and where the images so displayed are distinguished or characterized by the depicting or describing of specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas, as defined in this Code.

Adult Bookstore/Adult Video Store/Adult Novelty Store: An establishment that sells or offers adult material for sale or rent for commercial gain, unless the establishment demonstrates that: (1) Admission to the establishment is not restricted pursuant to chapter 847, Florida Statutes; and (2) The individual items of adult material offered for sale and/or rental comprise less than 25 percent of the individual items publicly displayed in the establishment as stock in trade and are not accessible to minors at the establishment.

Adult Booth: A separate enclosure inside an adult use establishment, accessible to any person, regardless of whether a fee is charged for access. The term adult booth includes, but is not limited to, a peep booth show, adult arcade booth, or other booth used to view adult material. The term adult booth does not include a foyer through which any person can enter or exit the establishment, or a restroom.

Adult Dancing Establishment: An establishment where employees display or expose specified anatomical areas to others, regardless of whether the employees actually engage in dancing.

Adult Material: Any one or more of the following, regardless of whether it is new or used: (1) Books, magazines, periodicals, or other printed matter, paintings, drawings, or other publications or graphic media, or photographs, films, motion pictures, video cassettes or disks, slides, or other visual representations, or recordings or other audio matter, which have as their primary or dominant theme matter depicting, illustrating, describing, or relating to specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas; or (2) Instruments, novelties, devices, or paraphernalia which are designed for use in connection with specified sexual activities.

Adult Photographic or Modeling Studio: Any business establishment which offers or advertises as its primary business stock in trade the use of its premises for the purpose of photographing or exhibiting specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas or the modeling of apparel that exhibits specified anatomical areas.

Adult Theater: An enclosed building or an enclosed space within a building, or an open air area used for presenting either filmed or live plays, dances, or other performances, either by individuals or groups, distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas for observation by patrons therein. An establishment which has adult booths or an adult arcade is considered to be an adult theater.

Agriculture: Those uses listed in Chapter 570.02, F.S., as amended.

Aircraft Landing Strip: A facility whose primary purpose is to accommodate the takeoff and landing of noncommercial passenger aircraft.

Airport Operations Area: [The area of the airport located within the security fencing.](#)

- 1 | **Airport Service Function Area:** The ~~area of the airport located within the security fencing~~[Airport](#)
2 | [Operations Area](#), and where aircraft require access to runways, tarmac, or other air operation
3 | areas.
- 4 |
- 5 | **Alley:** A right-of-way providing a secondary means of access and service to adjacent property and
6 | not intended for general traffic circulation.
- 7 | **Alteration:** Any change in size, shape, character, or use of a building or structure. Alteration does
8 | not include customary maintenance or repairs.
- 9 | **Amenity Center [add def]**
- 10 | **Animal:** Any non-human members of the animal kingdom including domestic, exotic, and livestock
11 | species.
- 12 | **Animal, Domestic:** Any animal customarily kept by humans for companionship.
- 13 | **Animal, Exotic:** Any species of animal not considered domestic or livestock.
- 14 | **Animal Boarding Facility:** A facility or establishment which regularly offers to the public the service
15 | of boarding domestic animals for a fee.
- 16 | **Animal Breeding:** The raising of more than one litter of non-livestock animals.
- 17 | **Apartment:** See "Dwelling, Multi-family".
- 18 | **Archaeological Sites:** Any archaeologically significant site that appears on the National Register of
19 | Historic Places or is National Register eligible, or is recognized by the Division of Historic Resources,
20 | Florida Department of State in the Florida Master Site File, or appears in the inventory of the
21 | "Survey of Historical Resources, Charlotte County, Florida," prepared in 2008.
- 22 | **Assisted Living Facility:** A facility that provides full-time living arrangements in the least restrictive
23 | and most home-like setting, and may include individual apartments or rooms that a resident has
24 | alone or shares with another person. Basic services provided by the facility may include, but are
25 | not limited to, housing, meals, assistance with the activities of daily life, medical or health care
26 | service or aid, supervision of residents, and social or leisure activities.
- 27 | **Automobile Wrecking and Salvage Yard:** The dismantling, crushing, shredding or disassembling
28 | of used motor vehicles or trailers, or the storage, sale, or dumping of dismantled, partially
29 | dismantled, obsolete, or wrecked vehicles or their parts.
- 30 | **Backyard Composting:** The composting of organic solid waste, such as grass clippings, leaves, or
31 | food waste, generated by a homeowner or tenant of a single- or multifamily dwelling unit, where
32 | composting occurs at that dwelling unit.
- 33 | **Bar:** Any establishment devoted primarily to the sale and on-premises drinking of alcoholic beverages
34 | and where no more than ten percent of gross revenue is made from selling food consumed on-
35 | premises. Also includes cocktail lounges, taverns, and nightclubs.
- 36 | **Barrier Island:** A long, broad, sandy island lying parallel to a shore that is formed by humans or out
37 | of natural phenomena by the action of waves, currents, and winds and that protects the shore from
38 | the effects of the Gulf of Mexico.
- 39 | **Beach Access Point:** A path through or over the dunes used by the general public or private
40 | property owners for the purpose of gaining access to the beach.
- 41 | **Beach:** The zone of unconsolidated material extending landward from the mean low water line to the
42 | place where there is marked change in material or physiographic form, or to the first line of
43 | permanent vegetation (usually the effective limit of storm waves).
- 44 | **Bed and Breakfast:** A private residence, no more than six rooms of which are set aside for
45 | overnight guests whose paid accommodations may include meals.
- 46 | **Best Management Practices (BMPs):** Established and tested guidelines that specify through
47 | extensive research and study, the most effective methods to promote sustainable landscapes that
48 | do not contribute to soil erosion or water and air pollution and which are universally accepted as
49 | trade and industry standards.
- 50 | **Bicycle Lane:** [A portion of street that has been designated by pavement markings for preferential or](#)
51 | [exclusive use by bicyclists.](#)
- 52 | **Block:** A group of lots existing within well-defined and fixed boundaries, usually being an area
53 | surrounded by streets or other physical barriers.

- 1 **Boarding House:** A residential building used or intended to be used as a place where sleeping
2 accommodations, housekeeping, and meal services are furnished or provided for by the week or
3 month.
- 4 **Boat Ramp:** A facility designed to launch and retrieve recreational boat or watercraft from a trailer.
- 5 **Boat Slip:** A space designed for the mooring of a single boat or watercraft.
- 6 **Boating Structure:** Any structure used for the docking or mooring of boats or watercraft, including
7 docks, boat ramps, boat slips, and pilings, but not including dry storage.
- 8 **Buffer:** A combination of physical space and vertical elements such as plants, berms, fences, or walls
9 used to separate and screen incompatible land uses.
- 10 **Buildable Area:** That area of a lot within which a structure may be constructed, bounded by the
11 required setback lines.
- 12 **Building:** Any structure having a roof supported by columns or walls and intended for the shelter,
13 housing, or enclosure of any individual, animal, process, equipment, goods, or materials of any
14 kind.
- 15 **Building, Accessory:** Any building that is customarily incidental and subordinate to a principal
16 building or to the principal use of the premises and located on the same premises.
- 17 **Building, Principal:** A building in which is conducted the principal use of the lot or parcel on which it
18 is located.
- 19 **Building Trades Contractor:** Establishments primarily engaged in the construction, reconstruction,
20 renovation, repair, expansion, or maintenance of buildings, structures, or sites on a fee or contract
21 basis. Such uses may include, but are not limited to, plumbing, carpentry, roofing, electrical work,
22 HVAC work, landscaping, and construction,
- 23 **Bulk Storage:** The storage of chemicals, petroleum products and other materials in above-ground
24 containers for subsequent resale to distributors or retail dealers or outlets.
- 25 **Business Services:** Establishments primarily engaged in rendering services to business
26 establishments on a fee or contract basis. Such uses may include, but are not limited to,
27 advertising and mailing, building maintenance, employment services, management and consulting
28 services, protective services, equipment rental and leasing, commercial research, development and
29 testing, photo finishing, and personal supply services.
- 30 **Caliper:** [The diameter measurement of a tree's trunk recorded at 12-inches above grade. This is the](#)
31 [typical location for measuring trees up to 12-inches in diameter](#)~~The diameter of a tree trunk.~~
- 32 **Campground, Developed:** A campground with two or more camping sites where sites are
33 substantially developed with roads and tables, refuse containers, flush toilets, bathing facilities, and
34 water are provided.
- 35 **Campground, Primitive:** A campground with two or more sites where locations are accessible by
36 canoe, boat, hiking, or horseback but not by motor vehicle. Campgrounds may have facilities such
37 as water supply, fire pits, and privies, or may have no facilities at all.
- 38 **Carport:** A freestanding or attached accessory structure, permanently attached to the ground,
39 consisting of a roof and supporting members such as columns or beams, unenclosed from the
40 ground to the roof on at least one side, and designed or used for the storage of motor-driven
41 vehicles owned and used by the occupants of the building to.
- 42 **Centerline:** A line bisecting and lying everywhere equidistant between the boundaries of an object.
43 For a road, the boundaries shall be construed as the right-of-way lines; for a body of water, the
44 boundaries shall be the mean high water lines or bulkhead lines.
- 45 **Channel Width, Navigable:** The area within a waterbody that will allow passage of a watercraft with
46 three feet of draft at low water.
- 47 **Clearing:** [The removal of all invasive flora and vegetation other than shade trees with a three-inch](#)
48 [caliper or greater, and palms with a clear trunk of six feet or greater, including the root systems.](#)
- 49 **Club:** Associations and organizations of a civic, fraternal or social character to which public access or
50 use is restricted.
- 51 **Clubhouse:** [A building to house a club or social organization, or for the use of the residents of a](#)
52 [development, not open to the public.](#)
- 53

1 **Coastal Construction Control Line:** A line established on barrier islands to protect beach areas
2 from the adverse impacts of development, more fully described in Chapter 161.053, F.S., as
3 amended.

4 ~~**Community Center:**~~

6 **Community Residential Home:** A dwelling unit licensed to serve residents who are clients of the
7 Department of Elderly Affairs, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Juvenile
8 Justice, or the Department of Children and Family Services or licensed by the Agency for Health
9 Care Administration which provides a living environment for 7 to 14 unrelated residents who
10 operate as the functional equivalent of a family, including such supervision and care by supportive
11 staff as may be necessary to meet the physical, emotional, and social needs of the residents.

13 **Concurrency:** The ability to provide the necessary public facilities and services required to maintain
14 the adopted Level of Service (LOS) standards at the time the impacts of development occur.

15 **Concurrency Capacity:** The availability of a public service or facility to accommodate users,
16 according to the Level of Service expressed in an appropriate unit of measure as established for
17 that service in the Comprehensive Plan.

18 **Conservation easement:** A right or interest in real property more fully described in Chapter 704.06,
19 F.S., as amended.

20 **Contiguous:** See "Adjacent".

21 **Convenience Store:** A small-scale store 5,000 square feet in area or less, which specializes in
22 convenience products and other commodities and which may sell gasoline but does not include
23 vehicle repair shops.

24 **Cul-de-sac:** A road open at one end and terminated at the other end by a vehicular turnaround.

25 **Day Care Center:** A facility that provides programs and services for children, or for elderly or
26 disabled adults, unrelated to the operator, during certain hours of the day and which receives
27 payment, whether or not operated for profit.

28 **Day Care Home, Family:** A day care center operated in a single-family dwelling occupied by the
29 operator and which has a capacity of no more than 12 children.

30 ~~**Decorative Perimeter Landscaping:** The planted space between the right-of-way and that part of~~
31 ~~the perimeter of the property not used as a parking area.~~

32 **Density:** The number of residential dwelling units permitted per gross acre of land determined by
33 dividing the number of units by the total area of land within the boundaries of a lot. In the
34 determination of the number of residential dwelling units to be permitted on a specific parcel of
35 land, a fractional unit shall not entitle the applicant to an additional unit.

36 **Density Unit:** A development right equal to one dwelling unit.

37 **Development:** Any activity intended to modify or improve site conditions, including but not limited to
38 building, clearing, construction, filling, reconstruction, redevelopment, conversion, structural
39 alteration, relocation, earthmoving, or the making of any material change in the size or use of any
40 structure.

41 **Development of Regional Impact (DRI):** Any development as defined in Chapter 380.06, F.S., as
42 amended.

43 **Development Order:** Any order granting, denying, or granting with conditions an application for a
44 development permit.

45 **Development Permit:** Any building permit, zoning permit, plat approval, rezoning, certification,
46 variance, special exception, or other action having the effect of permitting development.

47 **Development Plan:** A type of plan that becomes part of the zoning for a property. The plan depicts
48 site characteristics and development information and provides guidance for site plans.

49 **Development Site:** Land holdings under common ownership or control which are part of a
50 development plan. All lands used to calculate densities, manage stormwater before the point of
51 discharge, or meet minimum dimensional requirements of the zoning regulations will be considered
52 part of a development site.

1 | **Diameter at Breast Height (DBH):** The diameter measurement of a tree's trunk recorded at 54-
2 | inches above grade. The diameter is calculated by dividing the circumference in inches by 3.1416.
3 | This is the typical location for measuring trees over 12-inches in diameter.

4 | **Distribution Center:**

5 | **Drip Line:** The outermost perimeter of the crown of a tree as projected vertically to the ground.

6 | **Drive-Through Facility:** An establishment where a patron is provided products or services without
7 | departing the vehicle. Also includes facilities that are labeled "drive-thru," "drive-in," and "drive-
8 | up."

9 | **Dune:** A mound, bluff, or ridge of loose sediment, usually sand-size sediment, lying upland of the
10 | beach and deposited by any natural or artificial mechanism, which may be bare or covered with
11 | vegetation and is subject to fluctuations in configuration and location.

12 | **Dwelling Unit:** A structure or portion thereof that is used exclusively for human habitation including
13 | living, cooking, and sanitary facilities.

14 | **Dwelling, Multifamily:** A building containing three or more dwelling units and where each dwelling
15 | unit may be individually owned or leased but the land on which the building is located is under
16 | common or single ownership.

17 | **Dwelling, ~~Single-family~~ Single-family Detached:** A building containing one dwelling unit and that is not
18 | attached to any other dwelling by any means.

19 | **Dwelling, Single-family Attached:** A building on a single lot containing two dwelling units, each of
20 | which is totally separated from the other by an unpierced wall extending from ground to roof or an
21 | unpierced ceiling and floor extending from exterior wall to exterior wall, except for a common
22 | stairwell exterior to both dwelling units.

23 | **Economic Industrial Development:** Any development with greater than 250,000 square feet of
24 | industrial or distribution center floor area.

25 | **Educational Facility, Outdoor:** An outdoor facility associated with an educational institution
26 | including schools, colleges, universities, and research institutions, the primary purpose of which is
27 | to conduct or present the results of research related to the site or similar sites, and which may or
28 | may not be open to the public. Enclosed buildings may be constructed as part of the facility, but
29 | the majority of the site shall remain as open space.

30 | **Emergency Services:** Police, fire, rescue, or ambulance services.

31 | **Environmental Professional, Qualified:** An individual, acceptable to the Florida Fish and Wildlife
32 | Conservation Commission, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or to the County who can show
33 | demonstrated expertise in conducting local, State or Federally protected/listed species surveys and
34 | habitat delineation.

35 | **Essential Services:** Services and utilities needed for the health, safety, and welfare of the
36 | community, such as underground, surface, or overhead electrical, gas, telephone, steam, water,
37 | sewerage, and other utilities and the equipment and appurtenances necessary for such systems to
38 | furnish an adequate Level of Service for the area in which they are located. Individual water wells
39 | and septic tanks are not considered to be essential services.

40 | **Essential Service Facilities:** Essential service substations, lift stations, pumping stations, but not
41 | including the associated distribution poles, pipes and lines.

42 | **Establishment Period:** The time between planting and new root growth. During the establishment
43 | period, regular supplemental watering to the root zone is required.

44 | **Family:** A group of individuals, not necessarily related by blood, marriage, or legal adoption, living
45 | together as a single housekeeping unit.

46 | **Farm Labor Housing:** One or more buildings or structures, or any portion thereof, together with the
47 | land appertaining thereto, established, operated, or used as living quarters for seasonal,
48 | temporary, or migrant agricultural workers.

49 | **Fence:** An unroofed structure, supported by posts or columns, erected to enclose, screen, or
50 | separate areas.

51 | **Fence, Open:** A fence not more than one inch thick in width or depth, excluding posts and rails, that
52 | is at least 50 percent open when viewed from an angle perpendicular to the fence.

- 1 **Fill:** The installation or deposition of deposits of earth by humans to increase the vertical or horizontal
2 extent of land or to build embankments.
- 3 **Fish and Wildlife Management Area:** Publicly-owned lands set aside for the purpose of habitat
4 preservation and public outdoor recreational activities including hunting, trapping, fishing,
5 camping, canoeing, kayaking, and hiking.
- 6 **Flag Lot:** A lot that has access to a public right-of-way by means of a narrow strip of land.
- 7 **Floor Area, Gross:** The total floor area of all floors within the inside perimeter of the exterior walls of
8 a structure, exclusive of vent shafts and courts, without deduction for corridors, stairways, closets,
9 the thickness of interior walls, columns or other features. The floor area of a building, or portion
10 thereof, not provided with surrounding exterior walls shall be the usable area under the horizontal
11 projection of the roof or floor above.
- 12 **Floor Area, Net:** The actual occupied area not including unoccupied accessory areas such as
13 corridors, stairways, toilet rooms, mechanical rooms, and closets.
- 14 **Floor Area Ratio:** The ratio of gross floor area of all structures on a lot to total lot area.
- 15 **Florida Friendly:** An integrated and environmentally-sustainable approach to landscaping that uses
16 plants that thrive with minimal maintenance, supplemental watering, or the use of fertilizers and
17 pesticides after the establishment period.
- 18 **Frontage, Building:** The length of the building which directly faces a road or, for a commercial
19 multi-tenant building exceeding 100,000 square feet, an off-street parking area located on the
20 development site, as measured by the distance between the outermost points of the building
21 parallel to the right-of-way. Where a business may not face a road or off-street parking area, the
22 building frontage shall be the main face or front of the business.
- 23 **Frontage, Lot:** The property line of a lot adjacent to a road or roads.
- 24 **Garage, Private:** A freestanding or attached accessory building for the storage of vehicles used by
25 the occupants of the principal building, with no facilities for mechanical services or repair of a
26 commercial or public nature.
- 27 **Garage, Public:** A building or portion thereof designed or used for commercial parking of motor
28 vehicles.
- 29 **Greenbelt:** An open area surrounding development or used as a buffer between land uses or to mark
30 the edge of an urban or developed area which may be landscaped, cultivated, or maintained in a
31 natural state.
- 32 **Gross Acreage:** Total land area, in acres, of a lot.
- 33 **Ground Cover:** Low growing plants normally reaching an average maximum height of not more than
34 24 inches at maturity, planted in such a manner as to form a continuous cover over the ground.
- 35 **Groundwater:** Water beneath the surface of the ground.
- 36 **Group Home Facility:** A residential facility that provides a family living environment including
37 supervision and care necessary to meet the physical, emotional, and social needs of its unrelated
38 residents. The capacity of such a facility shall be at least four but not more than 15 residents, and
39 shall include any facility licensed under Chapter 393.063, F.S., as amended.
- 40 **Hardship:** An exceptional circumstance unique to property lot which is not shared by lots in that
41 area, such as peculiar physical characteristics. Hardships shall not include personal or financial
42 hardships, nor any hardship that is self-imposed.
- 43 **Hedge:** A row of closely planted shrubs intended and designed to form an interlocking, continuous
44 boundary or screen.
- 45 **Height, Building or Structure:** The vertical distance from the lowest minimum habitable floor
46 elevation for which a building permit may be issued, to the highest point of a flat roof, to the deck
47 line of a mansard roof, and to the mean level between the eaves and the ridge of a gable, hip or
48 gambrel roof. Within the Manasota and Sandpiper Key Overlay District, building height shall be
49 measured from 0 feet NAVD.
- 50 **Heliport:** An area, either at ground level or elevated on a structure, licensed or approved for the
51 loading and takeoff of helicopters, and including auxiliary facilities such as parking, waiting room,
52 fueling, and maintenance equipment.
- 53 **Helistop:** A heliport, but without auxiliary facilities.

- 1 **Historic or Archaeological Resource:** Any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological district, site,
2 building, structure, or object included in the National Register of Historic Places, Florida Master Site
3 File, or Local Historic Register, or which may be deemed to be a prehistoric, historic, or
4 archaeological district, site, building, structure, or object by an archaeologist registered with the
5 Society of Professional Archaeologists. Includes mounds, artifacts, records, and remains which are
6 related to such a district, site, building, structure, object, or culture.
- 7 **Home Occupation:** An accessory use carried out for gain by a resident and conducted in the
8 resident's dwelling unit.
- 9 **Hotel:** A building or group of buildings offering transient accommodations to the general public and
10 which may include additional facilities and services such as restaurants, meeting rooms,
11 entertainment, personal services, and recreational facilities. Includes facilities that are labeled
12 "Inn," "Motel," "Motor Hotel," or "Motor Lodge."
- 13 **Houseboat:** A boat containing a dwelling unit.
- 14 **Household:** A single individual or a family occupying a dwelling unit.
- 15 **Impervious Surface:** A surface which has been compacted or covered with a layer of material so
16 that it is highly resistant to infiltration by water and increases both the amount and rate of
17 stormwater runoff. The term includes streets, driveways, roofs, awnings, sidewalks, parking lots,
18 patios, sheds, swimming pools, ponds with man-made linings, compacted aggregate, and similar
19 surfaces.
- 20 **Incineration:** The controlled process by which solid, liquid, or gaseous combustible wastes are
21 burned and changed into gases and residue containing little or no combustible material.
- 22 **Intensity:** A measurement of the degree of customarily nonresidential uses based on use, size,
23 impact, bulk, shape, height, coverage, sewage generation, water demand, traffic generation, or
24 floor area ratios.
- 25 **Interior Landscape Island:** A planting area bordered on more than one side by pavement and
26 located within the exterior boundaries or along the edge of a parking lot.
- 27 **Invasive Species:** Any non-native species of flora or fauna whose introduction does or is likely to
28 cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
- 29 **Invasive Plant Species:** Plants included in Category I and Category II of the most recent edition of
30 the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's List of Invasive Plant Species
- 31 **Junk:** Scrap, debris, or waste material of any kind or nature.
- 32 **Land Use:** A description of how land is occupied or used.
- 33 **Landscaping:** GrassLawn, ornamental grasses, ground cover, mulch, shrubs, vines, hedges, trees,
34 berms, and complementary structural landscape features such as rock, foundations, sculpture,
35 decorative walls and tree wells.
- 36 **Lawn:** An area of land planted with grasses or (rarely) other durable plants, which are maintained at
37 a short height and used for aesthetic and recreational purposes.
- 38 **Level of Service (LOS):** Standards to ensure public facilities and services are available to serve
39 existing and future development as defined at the appropriate level.
- 40 **Listed Species:** Species that are listed by the Federal government as endangered and threatened
41 wildlife or plants, or by the State of Florida as endangered, threatened, and species of special
42 concern for animals or endangered, threatened, and commercially exploited for plants.
- 43 **Littoral Zone:** That portion of a water body which contains rooted emergent aquatic plants.
- 44 **Livestock:** Any animal customarily kept for humans for the purpose of providing food, clothing, or
45 work, including but not limited to equine, bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, and fowl.
- 46 **Loading Space, Off-Street:** A space logically and conveniently located for pickups, deliveries,
47 loading or unloading, scaled to delivery vehicles expected to be used and accessible to such
48 vehicles separate from any other off-street parking spaces.
- 49 **Local Historic Register:** A listing of buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts that have been
50 designated as historically significant to and within the County.
- 51 **Lot:** A designated parcel, tract, or area of land established by plat, subdivision, or as otherwise
52 permitted by law, and recorded in the public records of Charlotte County, Florida, to be separately

1 owned, used, developed, or built upon. For the purpose of this Code, a lot is created on such date
2 that one of the following conditions occur:

3 (1) The date that a deed for the lot is lawfully first recorded in the public records of the County

4 (2) The date that a plat has been lawfully recorded in the public records of the County and the lot
5 is a part of the plat

6 **Lot Area:** The horizontal land area contained within the lot lines, including any non-sovereign
7 submerged lands.

8 **Lot Coverage:** The amount of lot area covered by impervious surfaces.

9 **Lot Line:** A line which designates the boundary of a lot.

10 **Lot Line, Front:** A lot line common with the road right-of-way. In lots having frontage on two or
11 more roads the front lot line shall be considered to be that lot line facing the road with the least
12 frontage.

13 **Lot Line, Rear:** A lot line most nearly opposite and generally running parallel to the front lot line.
14 For lots where the rear lot line extends to or beyond the bulkhead line or mean high water line,
15 that line shall be considered the rear lot line.

16 **Lot Line, Side:** A lot line other than the front or rear lot line. For lots where the side lot line extends
17 to or beyond the bulkhead line or mean high water line, that line shall be considered the side lot
18 line.

19 **Lot Width:** The horizontal distance between the side lot lines, measured at the minimum required
20 front setback line.

21 **Maintenance Dredging:** The excavation of sediments or other materials from presently existing and
22 functional channels, ditches, canals, lakes, impoundments or other waterways of artificial
23 construction to original design elevations.

24 **Major Plat:** A plat including five or more lots, or including construction bonding or a developer's
25 agreement.

26 **Manufactured Home:** A factory-built single-family structure that meets standards of the Federal
27 Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards Act (42 U.S.C. Section 5401).

28 **Manufacturing:** The creation of any commodity, including assembly, fabrication, packaging, canning,
29 bottling, or processing. The production of foodstuffs for retail sale primarily on-site shall not be
30 considered manufacturing.

31 **Marina, Commercial:** A waterfront establishment for the mooring, berthing, storing, or securing of
32 watercraft engaged in the commercial harvesting of sea life, the transport of goods, and including
33 facilities for storage, fueling, and small repairs. The manufacture of watercraft or the use of
34 drydock facilities is not considered a commercial marina.

35 **Marina, Industrial:** A waterfront establishment for the purpose of manufacturing and repair of
36 watercraft and watercraft accessories, including engines and sails, and including facilities for
37 storage and fueling.

38 **Marina, Sport:** A waterfront establishment for the mooring, berthing, storing, or securing of
39 watercraft not engaged in commercial activities, except fishing charters, tours, and water taxis,
40 and which may include facilities for houseboats, fueling, small repairs, retail sales, rental of
41 watercraft, and dining.

42 **Mean High Water:** The average height of the high waters over a 19-year period. For shorter periods
43 of observation, "mean high water" means the average height of the high waters after corrections
44 are applied to eliminate known variations and to reduce the result to the equivalent of a mean 19-
45 year value.

46 **Mean High-Water Line:** The intersection of the tidal plane of mean high water with the shore as
47 determined and approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

48 **Mean Low Water:** The average height of the low waters over a 19-year period. For shorter periods
49 of observation, "mean low water" means the average height of low waters after corrections are
50 applied to eliminate known variations and to reduce the result to the equivalent of mean 19-year
51 value.

52 **Mean Low-Water Line:** The intersection of the tidal plane of mean low water with the shore as
53 determined and approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

1 **Mini Transfer Station:** A facility owned and operated by a local government that serves as a drop-
2 off location for household waste, provided that the facility accepts only household waste, which
3 may include yard trash, that all putrescible waste, household garbage, yard trash, or other waste
4 which may produce leachate is containerized, and that the facility does not accept waste from
5 commercial waste haulers that collect municipal solid waste from multiple generators. May contain
6 a Residential Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.

7 **Minor Plat:** A a plat including four or fewer lots, fronting on an existing public or private street, and
8 having no construction, bonding or developer's agreement required.

9 **Minor Yard Trash Processing Facility:** A facility at which yard trash is processed into a size-
10 reduced, usable material but which is not used for the disposal of yard trash. Composting may
11 occur at such a facility, provided that there is no more than 300 total cubic yards of solid waste
12 waiting to be composted, undergoing the composting process, or finished compost stored on-site.

13 **Mixed Use Development:** A lot or building or structure developed for two or more different uses
14 such as, but not limited to, residential, office, manufacturing, retail, public, or entertainment, in a
15 compact urban form.

16 **Mobile Home:** A factory-built single-family structure built prior to the enactment of the Federal
17 Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards Act (42 U.S.C. Section 5401).

18 **Model Residential Unit:** A residential structure used for demonstration and sales purposes, not
19 occupied as a dwelling unit, and open to the public for inspection. Includes "Model home."

20 **Modification:** A relaxation of the platting, site design, or architectural design standards of this Code.
21 This is a legislative decision.

22 **Modular Home:** A factory-built single-family structure that meets the standards of the Florida
23 Building Commission and the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

24 **Mulching:** The reduction of biomass without disturbing the soils or any shade trees with a three-inch
25 caliper or greater, and palms with a clear trunk of six feet or greater. Usually accomplished using
26 machinery equipped with rotational drum-style cutters to grind vegetation into mulch without the
27 need for additional machinery. All root systems are left in place and there is minimal soil
28 disturbance.

29 **Multi-use Trail:** A path physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier
30 and either within a public right of way or easement, which accommodates two-way non-motorized
31 travelers including pedestrians, bicyclists, joggers, and skaters.

32 **Native Vegetation:** Any plant species with a geographic distribution indigenous to the Southwest
33 region of Florida.

34 **Natural Grade:** The elevation and grade of the land that existed prior to development.

35 **Nonconforming:**

36 **Open Space:** Property under public or private ownership which is unoccupied or predominately
37 unoccupied by ~~buildings-structures~~ or other impervious surfaces used for parks, recreation,
38 agriculture, conservation, reservation of native habitat and other natural resources, ~~surface-water~~
39 ~~impoundment,~~ or scenic purposes. Structures acceptable within open space areas include picnic
40 pavilions, restroom facilities, small maintenance facilities, observation facilities, education facilities,
41 and boardwalks. Structures unacceptable within open space include active recreation facilities such
42 as pools, court games, clubhouses, and athletic fields.

43 **Open Water Span:** The distance measured from seawall to seawall or mean high waterline to mean
44 high waterline, or combination thereof.

45 **Outdoor Market or Exhibition Space:** An open or roofed area, not within a building, where groups
46 or individuals offer goods for sale, display, or demonstration.

47 **Outdoor Retail Sales:** The display and sale of merchandise outside of an existing retail
48 establishment. This is always an accessory use.

49 **Outdoor Storage:** The storage of items such as boats, vehicles, recreational vehicles, contractor
50 supplies, construction materials, and other similar items outside of a completely enclosed building.

51 **Pain Management Clinic:** A privately-owned clinic, facility, or office that exhibits at least one of the
52 following characteristics:

- 53 (1) It employs one or more persons who in a single day issue more than 20 prescriptions of a
54 controlled substance for the treatment of pain, whether acute pain or chronic pain.

- 1 (2) It holds itself out through advertising as being in business to prescribe or dispense controlled
2 substances for the treatment of pain, whether acute pain or chronic pain.
- 3 (3) It holds itself out through advertising as being in business to provide services for the treatment
4 of pain wherein the services are accompanied by prescription of or dispensing of a controlled
5 substance for the treatment of pain, whether acute pain or chronic pain.
- 6 (4) It meets the definition of pain management clinic in Chapter 458.3265, F.S., as amended.

7 **Palm Tree:** A non-woody flowering plant of the Arcaceae family.

8 **Park, Active:** Land that is owned or controlled for the purpose of providing parks, recreation, or open
9 space for public or private use.

10 **Park, Passive:** A park featuring passive recreation pursuits, such as interpretive programs and trail
11 systems that take advantage of geological, biological, or scenic resources located within the park
12 but not including recreational facilities, such as swimming pools, gyms, and playing fields.

13 **Parking Area:** The total area designated for the off-street parking of vehicles and includes
14 driveways, ingress and egress lanes, specialized vehicular use areas, walkways, and aisles.

15 **Parking Lot:** An improved area of land used for the temporary parking of motor vehicles.

16 **Pedestrian Walkway:** A paved path for pedestrians located on private property outside of the public
17 right-of-way, separated and protected from motor vehicle travel lanes.

18 **Perimeter-Peripheral Landscape Strip:** An area of at least ten feet wide located immediately
19 adjacent and parallel to the lot line consisting of green, open areas without surfaces, driveways, or
20 private roads. It may contain a driveway crossover provided that crossover is the only vehicular
21 access permitted for the lot. Perimeter landscape strips include vegetation that screens new
22 development from existing development.

23 **Performance Assurance:** A surety bond, irrevocable letter of credit or other collateral acceptable to
24 the County Attorney provided by the permittee as security for the permittee's performance of its
25 obligations in the permit and the developer's agreement.

26 **Permit:** Any official document or certificate required or issued by the County authorizing
27 development.

28 **Permitted Agent of the State:** Any qualified individual, group, or organization possessing a permit
29 from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to conduct activities related to sea turtle
30 protection and conservation.

31 **Personal Services:** Establishments primarily engaged in providing services involving the care of a
32 person or his or her personal goods or apparel. Such uses may include, but are not limited to,
33 barbershops and beauty salons, funeral homes, gyms and spas, tailors and shoe repair, and animal
34 grooming.

35 **Pervious Surface:** Any material that permits absorption of stormwater into the ground.

36 **Place of Worship:** Any building used for the primary purpose of conducting formal religious services.

37 **Plan Amendment:** Any change to the adopted comprehensive plan, including any change to any
38 adopted map of the Future Land Use Map series of the comprehensive plan.

39 **Plant Nursery:** The use of land and buildings for the purpose of growing various ornamental plants,
40 grasses, shrubs, flowers, and horticultural specialties for sale on-site, and which may include the
41 sale of landscaping accessories such as lawn ornaments, fertilizer, tools, and similar commodities
42 as accessory to the propagation and growth of plants.

43 **Plat:** A map representing a tract of land, showing the boundaries and location of individual properties
44 and rights-of-way, and meeting the requirements of this Code and Chapter 177, F.S., as amended.

45 **Premises:** Any lot together with any buildings or structures thereon.

46 **Preserve, Game:** An area where animals are allowed to live safely or hunted in a controlled way for
47 sport.

48 **Preserve, Nature:** An area where human activities are very limited and where the natural
49 environment is protected from human changes.

50 **Preserved Tree:** A tree that is protected and retained during and after development and which will
51 count toward a development's minimum tree requirement.

- 1 **Professional Services:** Establishments primarily engaged in providing infrequent, technical, or
2 unique functions on a fee or contract basis. Such uses may include, but are not limited to, certified
3 public accountancy, engineering, architecture, law, medical and dental offices (excluding clinics and
4 laboratories), and real estate.
- 5 **Public Building:** Any building owned by a public agency.
- 6 **Qualified Agricultural Assistance Program:** A National, State, or local government program that
7 provides assistance to agricultural operators to reduce point and nonpoint source pollution, such as
8 nutrients, sediment, pesticides, or excess salinity in impaired watersheds consistent with Total
9 Daily Maximum Loads (TMDLs), where available, reduce Floridian aquifer withdrawals, and/or
10 conserve, restore, or augment the area's water resources and ecology by promoting surface water
11 and groundwater resource sustainability.
- 12 **Reclamation Plan:** A plan which describes the manner in which an excavation site will be
13 restructured, reshaped, re-vegetated, and otherwise restored.
- 14 **Recovered Materials Processing Facility:** A facility engaged solely in the processing, resale, or
15 reuse of recovered materials that meet the conditions of Section 62-701.220(c)(2) F.A.C., as may be
16 amended.
- 17 **Recreational Vehicle Park:** A development site engaged in providing for the parking of recreational
18 vehicles to be used for temporary living quarters including customary accessory uses such as the
19 owner's or manager's living quarters, restrooms, laundry facilities, utility areas, and open space.
- 20 **Regulated Activity:** Any activity which may potentially have an impact when conducted within
21 wetlands or surface waters, and which requires a permit from the Florida Department of
22 Environmental Protection, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the South Florida
23 Water Management District, or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- 24 **Relatively Unaltered Surface Waters:** Natural surface water features that, in spite of minor
25 development activities, still function with hydroperiod, flow, and water quality similar to the
26 undeveloped condition.
- 27 **Residential Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center:** A facility operated by or exclusively
28 on behalf of a local government that accepts non-commercial hazardous waste for collection and
29 processing. May be combined with a Mini Transfer Station.
- 30 **Rezoning:** Any amendment to the Zoning Atlas.
- 31 **Right-of-Way:** Land dedicated to a governmental entity to be used for a road, alley, drainage
32 facility, or access.
- 33 **Right-of-Way Line:** The line which bounds a right-of-way at its outermost edge. "Right-of-way line"
34 is typically synonymous with "lot line."
- 35 **Road:** Any public or private thoroughfare set aside for travel, excluding alleys. The word "road" shall
36 also include the words "street," "avenue," "lane," "boulevard," "thoroughfare," "parkway," "court,"
37 "way," "place," "terrace," "circle," and "highway."
- 38 **Road, Arterial:** Roads that provide the highest level of mobility at the greatest vehicular speeds for
39 the longest uninterrupted distances. These roads serve as the primary connectors between cities,
40 regions, and other regional-scale developments serving high volumes of traffic.
- 41 **Road, Collector:** Roads that provide an intra-regional level of mobility, connecting the arterial road
42 network with the local road network. These roads provide service to areas not serviced by arterial
43 roads and service land uses of a regional importance. These roads collect traffic from the local
44 road network and distribute it to the arterial road network.
- 45 **Road, Local:** Roads that provide the lowest level of mobility by accessing the adjacent land uses,
46 serving local trip purposes, and connecting to higher level road networks.
- 47 **Road, Private:** Any right-of-way that has not been dedicated to the public, but which meets the
48 design requirements of this Code.
- 49 **Road, Public:** Any right-of-way that has been dedicated to the public and which meets the design
50 requirements of this Code.
- 51 **Root Zone, Critical:** [The area around the trunk of a tree defined by a circle with the tree as its](#)
52 [center and the diameter of such circle is one foot for every one-inch caliper of the tree.](#)

1 **Root Zone, Protected:** The area around any preserved tree or native plant required to be
2 surrounded by a protective barrier. This shall include the Total Root Zone for trees, six feet from the
3 trunk of native palms, and the edge of the plant mass for other native plants.

4 **Root Zone, Secondary:** The area of the Total Root Zone outside the Critical Root Zone.

5 **Root Zone, Total:** The area around the trunk of a tree defined by a circle with the tree as its center
6 and the diameter of such circle is two feet for every one-inch caliper of the tree.

7 **Seawall:** A wall or embankment that acts as a breakwater and is used to prevent erosion.

8 **Sediment Barrier:** A physical barrier through which water readily passes and that functions to trap
9 or prevent the passage of sediments suspended within the transmitted water.

10 **Self-Storage Facility:** A building or group of buildings containing separate, individual, and private
11 storage spaces of varying sizes available for lease or rent for varying periods of time.

12 **Service Station:** An establishment the principal business of which is the retail dispensing of
13 automotive fuels.

14 **Setback:** The distance between a structure and any lot line.

15 **Setback Line:** That line that is the required minimum distance from any lot line and which
16 establishes the buildable area of a lot.

17 **Sexually Oriented Business:** (1) An adult arcade, adult bookstore/adult video store/adult novelty
18 store, adult dancing establishment, adult photographic or modeling studio, adult theater, and
19 establishments operated for commercial gain where an employee, operator, or owner exposes his
20 or her specified anatomical areas for viewing by patrons, including massage establishments,
21 whether or not licensed pursuant to chapter 480, Florida Statutes, tanning salons, and
22 establishments whose primary business stock in trade is dependent upon the activities relating to
23 specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas. (2) Excluded from this definition are
24 educational institutions where the exposure of specified anatomical areas is associated with a
25 curriculum or program. For the purposes of this section, an educational institution means the site
26 or premises upon which there is an institution of learning, whether public or private, which
27 conducts regular classes, courses of study, or both, required for accreditation by or membership in
28 the State Department of Education of Florida, Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary
29 Schools, or the Florida Council of Independent Schools. The term educational institution includes
30 libraries, art galleries and museums open to the public. (3) An establishment that possesses a
31 sexually oriented business license is presumed to be a sexually oriented business.

32 **Shoreline:** A straight or smoothly curved line which, on tidal waters, follows the general
33 configuration of the mean high-water line; and which, on nontidal waters, is determined by the
34 annual average waterline. Boat basins and other man-made or minor indentations shall be
35 construed as lying landward of the shoreline and are considered upland when computing lot area or
36 setbacks of waterfront property.

37 **Shrub:** A woody plant with a mature height generally between two and 15 feet and having several
38 stems rather than a single trunk.

39 **Sidewalk:** A paved path for pedestrians located within the public right-of-way, separated and
40 protected from motor vehicle travel lanes.

41 **Sign:** Any outdoor advertising display comprehensible from a right-of-way using letters, words,
42 figures, symbols, pictures, designs, or any combination thereof to advertise, attract attention,
43 indicate direction, announce the purpose of, or identify the purpose of a person or entity, or to
44 communicate information of any kind to the public.

45 **Sign, Additional:** A sign that is not permanently attached to the ground or a building or structure.
46 Such signs are temporary in nature inasmuch as they do not require an individual sign permit and
47 may be removed easily in the event of an approaching tropical storm or hurricane. These signs
48 include, but are not limited to, banners, pennants, streamers, wind-powered signs, window signs,
49 wind socks, flags, and yard signs.

50 **Sign, Nonconforming:** Any sign lawfully in existence prior to _____, ~~2011~~ the adoption of this
51 Code.

52 **Sign, Primary:** Any permanent freestanding or building sign which, due to its nature or design,
53 requires a building permit for construction. Examples include signs that require the laying of a
54 foundation, are electrified, or must meet applicable wind-load requirements.

- 1 **Sign, Vehicle:** Any sign used for advertising that is attached, painted, or placed onto or inside a
2 parked motor vehicle.
- 3 **Sign, Window:** Any sign attached to or visible through any window.
- 4 **Sign, Yard:** Any freestanding sign placed along a lot frontage.
- 5 **Site Plan:** The plan for a development site on which is shown the existing and proposed conditions of
6 the lot, including topography, vegetation, drainage, floodplins, waterways, open spaces, walkways,
7 means of ingress and egress, utility services, landscaping, structures and signs, lighting, screening
8 devices, and any other information that reasonably may be required in order for the approving
9 authority to make an informed decision.
- 10 **Solar Farm:**
- 11 **Specialized Vehicular Use Area:** An area used for new or used motor vehicles, equipment, boats,
12 local and inter-urban passenger bus terminals and service facilities, and motor freight terminals
13 and loading docks. The term does not include areas set aside for access, employee parking, or
14 areas open to public parking.
- 15 **Specified Anatomical Areas:** (1) Less than completely or opaquely covered: a. Human genitals or
16 pubic region; b. Cleavage of the nates of the human buttocks; c. That portion of the human female
17 breast directly or laterally below a point immediately above the top of the areola; this definition
18 shall include the entire lower portion of the human female breast, but shall not include the
19 cleavage of the human female breast exhibited by a dress, blouse, shirt, leotard, bathing suit, or
20 other wearing apparel, provided the areola is not so exposed. (2) Human genitals in a discernible
21 turgid state, even if completely and opaquely covered. (3) Any covering, tape, pastie, latex spray
22 or paint or other device which simulates or otherwise gives the appearance of the display or
23 exposure of any of the specified anatomical areas listed in subsections (1) and (2) of this definition.
- 24 **Spiking:** The use of any metal gaff device to aid in tree-climbing in order to remove branches, limbs
25 or leaves, from a tree. Includes the term "spurring."
- 26 **Story:** That portion of a building included between the upper surface of a floor or average grade,
27 finished, open or enclosed, and the upper surface of the floor or roof next above and having a
28 minimum ceiling height of seven feet or more.
- 29 **Structure:** That which is built or constructed.
- 30 **Telecommunications Facility:** Any facility, and its accessory structures, used for the broadcast or
31 reception of electro-magnetically transmitted information.
- 32 **Top of Bank:** The first major change in the slope of the incline from the mean high water line of a
33 waterbody or watercourse. A major change is a change of ten degrees or more. If there is no
34 major change within a distance of 50 feet from the mean high water line, then the top of bank will
35 be the elevation two feet above the mean high water line.
- 36 **Topping:** The trimming of trees to such a degree as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the
37 tree. Includes the terms "stubbing," "heading," "hatracking," "heading-back," "stubbing off,"
38 "tipping," "topping-off," "dehorning," "lopping," "roundover," "and cutover".
- 39 **Transitional Housing:** Housing that is intended to provide homeless individuals and families with
40 housing for a limited amount of time while providing the support needed for occupants to move
41 into long-term housing. Programs may be offered that help occupants become independent
42 through counseling, job training, child care, skills training, and health care assistance.
- 43 **Tree:** A self-supporting woody plant of a species usually having a single stem and normally growing
44 to a mature height of at least 15 feet.
- 45 **Tree, Damaged:** A tree that has been wounded by having its bark scraped or removed, its limbs
46 removed or shattered, its roots cut or crushed, or other similar damage to an extent that its
47 survival is unlikely.
- 48 **Tree, Heritage:** A tree, including its Total Root Zone, of a species not included in Category I or
49 Category II of the most recent edition of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's List of Invasive
50 Plant Species, with a trunk exceeding 24 inches DBH. ~~Any tree of exceptional height and caliper,~~
51 meeting the requirements of this Code.
- 52 **Tree, AccentOrnamental:** A small tree planted primarily for its ornamental value or screening
53 ability and usually having a mature height of 15 to 30 feet.

- 1 | **Tree, CanopyShade:** A tree with a canopy that provides shade to adjacent ground areas and having
2 | a mature height of at least 30 feet.
- 3 | ~~**Tree, Damaged:** A tree that has been wounded by having its bark scraped or removed, its limbs
4 | removed or shattered, its roots cut or crushed, or other similar damage to an extent that its
5 | survival is unlikely.~~
- 6 | ~~**Tree, Heritage:** Any tree of exceptional height and caliper, meeting the requirements of this Code.~~
- 7 | **Truck Stop:** An establishment where the principal use is the refueling and servicing of trucks and
8 | tractor-trailer rigs. Such establishments may have restaurants or snack bars and sleeping
9 | accommodations for the drivers of such over-the-road equipment and may provide facilities for the
10 | repair and maintenance of such equipment.
- 11 | **Unit:** Any subdivided or otherwise legally created and definable tract of land, including individual
12 | storefront units in non-residential multi-tenant structures, which is able to be legally developed in
13 | accordance with the provisions of this Code.
- 14 | **Use:** The purpose or activity for which land, buildings, or structures may be designed, arranged,
15 | maintained, or occupied.
- 16 | **Use, Accessory:** A use which is customarily incidental and subordinate to the principal use of a
17 | parcel or structure.
- 18 | **Use, Conditional:** A use that is allowed within a specific zoning district provided all applicable
19 | regulations of that zoning district are met, as well as all specific regulations related to the use in
20 | question.
- 21 | **Use, Permitted:** A use that is allowed within a specific zoning district provided all applicable
22 | regulations of that zoning district are met.
- 23 | **Use, Principal:** The primary or predominant purpose for which land or a structure or building is
24 | used.
- 25 | **Use, Special Exception:** A use that generally requires a more in-depth study prior to approval than
26 | other permitted or conditional uses within a given zoning district. The process of review and
27 | approval ensures that all proposed special exception uses will be harmonious with and in
28 | accordance with the objectives of this Code and the comprehensive plan.
- 29 | **Use, Temporary:** A use established for a limited duration, outside of the normal scope of activity
30 | associated with the site.
- 31 | **Variance:** A relaxation of the dimensional standards of the zoning districts of this Code.
- 32 | **Vehicle, Abandoned:** Vehicles and trailers which are unlicensed or which by outward appearance
33 | are not operable and which remain on private property or within the right-of-way for a period of
34 | ten days.
- 35 | **Vehicle, Motor:** Any self-propelled vehicle or conveyance designed to transport persons, animals,
36 | freight, merchandise, or any substance. Tractors, construction equipment, machinery, and
37 | motorcycles are considered motor vehicles but mopeds and motorized bicycles are not.
- 38 | **Vehicle, Large Off-Road:** Any motor vehicle designed for use on unimproved surfaces and which
39 | has a fixed chassis and which may be licensed for use on public roads. Large off-road vehicles
40 | include, but are not limited to, SUVs, dune buggies, swamp buggies, and similar vehicles.
- 41 | **Vehicle, Leisure:** Any vehicle not licensed to travel on the roads, which is used for recreational
42 | activities. Leisure vehicles include, but are not limited to, bicycles, boats, personal watercraft, and
43 | golf carts.
- 44 | **Vehicle, Recreational:** A vehicular-like portable structure without permanent foundation that can be
45 | towed, hauled, or driven and is primarily designed as a temporary living accommodation for
46 | recreational and camping purposes.
- 47 | **Vehicle, Small Off-Road:** Any motor vehicle designed for use on unimproved surfaces and which
48 | does not have a fixed chassis and which is not licensed for use on public roads. Small off-road
49 | vehicles include, but are not limited to, quad all terrain vehicles, motorcross motorcycles, and
50 | similar vehicles.
- 51 | **Vine:** Any of a group of woody or herbaceous plants which may climb by twining, by means of aerial
52 | rootlets, or by means of tendrils, or which may simply sprawl over the ground or other plants.

- 1 **Wall:** An unroofed structure, supported by a continuous footer, erected to enclose, screen or separate
2 areas.
- 3 **Warehouse:** A building used primarily for the storage of goods and materials, not generally
4 accessible to the public.
- 5 **Waste Tire Collection Center:** A site where no more than 1,500 waste tires are collected from the
6 public before recycling or disposal.
- 7 **Waterbody:** Any natural or man-made pond, lake, reservoir, or other area which ordinarily contains
8 water and which has a discernible shoreline.
- 9 **Watercourse:** Any river, stream, creek, channel, ditch, canal, gully, ravine, or wash in which water
10 flows.
- 11 **Watercraft:** Any vehicle designed to travel on the water, including boats and personal watercraft.
12 Any watercraft with a motor shall also be considered a motor vehicle.
- 13 **Watercraft, Abandoned:** Any watercraft that appears to be in a state of decay, neglect, or
14 abandonment including any craft, regardless of condition, that interferes with or is a danger or
15 threat of danger to navigation, the environment, or the public health, safety, and welfare.
- 16 **Waterfront:** Property that physically abuts any body of water, including creeks, canals, rivers, lakes,
17 or any other body of water.
- 18 **Wetland:** Any area inundated by surface water or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to
19 support, and under normal circumstance does support, a prevalence of vegetative species that
20 require saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions, including swamps, sloughs, marshes, wet
21 prairies, and bayheads.
- 22 **Wholesale Trade:** Establishments or places of business primarily engaged in selling merchandise to
23 other businesses and not the general public.
- 24 **Wind Farms:**
- 25 **Yard:** An open space that lies between the principal structure or structures and the nearest lot line.
- 26 **Yard, Required:** The open space that lies between the setback line and the nearest lot line.
- 27 **Zoning Official:** The person duly authorized by the Board of County Commissioners and delegated
28 the responsibility for the administration and enforcement of the county's zoning regulations.
- 29 **Zoning Atlas:** A collection of half-section maps depicting the boundaries of the various zoning
30 districts, as the same may be amended.
31