

Highway 17 North (Self-Storage Facility)

Planned Development Guidelines

Charleston County, SC

24 January 2007
Revised 29 February 2016



Owned By:
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1954 Sandy Point Lane
Mount Pleasant, SC 29466

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Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
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I. Summary of Development Plan

Property Address:	4042 & 4052 Highway 17 North
Site Area:	TMS# 615-00-00-041 (3.3 Acres) TMS# 615-00-00-042 (3.3 Acres)
Existing Zoning:	PD-133 (TMS# 615-00-00-041) Towing Facility, Vehicle Storage, Minor Auto Repairs in conjunction with the Towing Business CT (TMS# 615-00-00-042)
Existing Use:	TMS#-615-00-00-041 is vacant/undeveloped. TMS# 615-00-00-042 is a single story vacant structure that previously housed an antique retail shop with a gravel parking area developed on the front acre of the property approximately 70 feet from the right-of-way with storage shed structures.
Proposed Use:	Self storage facility that will consist of 6-8 single story building with exterior loading along with internal units and paved drive aisles surrounding. The site will be surrounded by wooden fencing both for security and visual screening from neighboring properties and Highway 17.
Open Space:	A minimum of 23% or at least 1.52 acres of the property will remain natural green space in the forms of buffers, with added landscape to screen from adjacent residential property.
Max. Building Footprint:	19,000 Gross Square Feet (For any single building)
Max. Number of Buildings:	Up to 8 Buildings Maximum
Max. Total Square Footage:	Up to 98,000 Gross Square Feet Total (Not to Exceed)
Max. Building Coverage:	49% of Property Up to 98,000 Square Feet
Max. Building Height:	28 Feet & One Story as defined in the ZLDR

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II. Project Summary and Development Objectives

The Highway 17 North Self-Storage Facility is a planned self-storage facility development, in a steadily growing and transitioning area of Charleston County on Highway 17 North, that will cohesively fit along this corridor and provide an important need to this growing area. It will provide visually appealing self-storage buildings situated behind dense landscape buffers. The front facade of the buildings facing Highway 17 North will be predominantly adorned with brick and the brick will turn the sides of the buildings and carry a return of at least 10-15 feet to be more in keeping with Section 5.10.10.H. No metal siding buildings will be allowed on the development. The development will preserve many natural elements and will provide neighbors with added foliage and canopy coverage. A full tree survey will be completed and submitted as part of the site plan review process and comply with Chapter 9 of the ZDLR. The development plan will utilize the buildable portion of the total 6.6 acres of property for self-storage buildings as specified in the Land Use section of this document.

The Property – The site is located at 4042 and 4052 Highway 17 North in Charleston County, South Carolina. The site is flanked on either side by partially developed residential properties of roughly the same size. To the west is a undeveloped property with Single Family (*RR-3*) zoning, while to the east is a single family (*RR-3*) zoned property. To the rear the property is bordered on by a (PD) for Pepper Plantation subdivision. The property has approximately 300 linear feet of frontage along Highway 17. The site is a total of 6.6 acres, which is currently zoned Planned Development (*PD*), TMS number 615-00-00-041 and Commercial Transitional (*CT*), TMS number 615-00-00-042. It is currently partially developed land and features a handful of grand trees, as well as numerous smaller hardwoods spaced across the property and throughout the buffer zones.

Development Concept - The site development concept envisioned by the owners, calls for the creation of a commercial use for a Self Storage Facility that will be an asset for the growing area north of Mount Pleasant. The intention of the layout is to utilize the natural buffering of the wooded areas, along with the addition of screening fences to develop an aesthetically pleasing commercial development that will be a low intensity use for this area. The layout plan will disturb approximately 5.5 acres of the property for the development, with the remaining portion of the property left for the wooded buffers and landscaped green space.

If any issue is not addressed within this document, the current Charleston County ZLDR will apply at the time of development. This development will comply with all applicable Local, State and Federal regulations and guidelines.

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III. Land Use

The proposed land use for these combined properties will be for a self-storage (*mini-warehouse*) facility as defined in Chapter 12 and will comply with Section 6.4.16 of the Charleston County ZDLR and will comply with the standards outlined for this type of use. The facility may have an attendant during normal business hours on-site.

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IV. General Guidelines

Total Area: 6.6 Acres

Maximum Building Coverage: 49% of Lot (*Buildings Only*) Up to 98,000 Square Feet

All development standards not outlined in the following article shall comply with the Charleston County ZLDR per Section 6.4.16 and the Highway 17 North Corridor Overlay Zoning District in effect at the time of development or as attached including all County Site Plan Review Processes. In the case of conflict between the standards of this PD and those of the Highway 17 North Corridor Overlay Zoning District, the requirements of the Highway 17 North Corridor Overlay Zoning District shall control with the exception of:

Section 5.10.9

- 25% Maximum Impervious Surface
- 5,000 Square Foot Maximum Building Size
- 100 Foot Front Setback

Section 5.10.10

- (I) Pedestrian Access
- (L) Parking and Loading Design

1. Setback Criteria

The minimum required setbacks are:

Minimum Setback/Buffer from Property Lines	Front	Rear	West Side	East Side
	55'	30'	25'	25'

2. Buffers

The proposed buffers are all shown on the master plan of the property and consist of a 55 foot undisturbed buffer along Highway 17 frontage, exceeding County guidelines. There is a 25 foot buffer along the southeast property line, bordering a currently zoned RR-3 property. A 25 foot buffer borders the opposite side and there a 30 undisturbed buffer along the rear. These buffer perimeters are joined with a wooden shadow box fence. In addition to the standards listed above, buffers and landscaping shall comply with ZLDR Section 5.10.10.C and Chapter 9.

3. Parking Requirements

Parking requirements shall comply with Charleston County ordinance related to the specific uses of a self-storage facility. Parking surface can be a mixture of pervious and impervious material to comply with character of rural area. Spaces shall be a minimum size of 9 feet by 18 feet, and all ADA guidelines will be adhered during the installation and design process.

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4. Building Height

No commercial structure shall be constructed on the property which has a height exceeding the allowed 28 foot and 1 story maximum.

5. Site and Architectural Standards

The intent of the site design and architecture for this proposed use is to comply with the Highway 17 Overlay District guidelines, while still building a functional sustainable project that will meet the needs of the owner and patrons. The buildings will be oriented facing Highway 17 with a front facade to be predominantly adorned with brick to turn the sides of the buildings and carry a return for at least 10 to 15 feet which will also be screened with the proposed fencing and large buffering from Highway 17. The exterior material for all sides will not be unfinished metal siding or concrete with the exclusion of overhead doors and roofing which will be metal and pitched roof. Where possible roof overhangs should be incorporated along the front facade , and shall not contain more than three (3) different colors for the overall building. The site will be designed to provide open space as mentioned previously within this document of 23% or at least 1.52 acres of the overall area, with fencing around the site and buffering along the frontage to provide walls of continuity. Access to the site will be made by a single common curb cut central to the property and there will be no service area side of the building, due to the type of use and service areas not being required. All utility lines will be constructed underground to service the buildings and tree preservation will be maintained within all protected buffers, withstanding minor grading or utility improvements, which may be required. All site and architectural standards must be in compliance with ZLDR Article 9.6, Architectural and Landscape Design Standards.

6. Utilities

Mt. Pleasant Waterworks has the public water in the area, which will provide service to this property. Septic will be handled through an on-site septic field permitted through SCDHEC and the intent of this project and zoning is to stay in Charleston County and not to annex into the Town of Mount Pleasant since there is no plan to connect to sewer even though this is mentioned in the MPW Availability Letter. Power will be provided by local electric co-op provider (*see attachments*). Cable TV will be provided by Comcast Cable. Fire protection will be provided by the Awendaw Fire Department. Garbage will be picked up by a private carrier. All utilities will be run underground for aesthetic and safety purposes.

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7. Signs

A single monument sign identifying the project will be placed in a location along the entrance on Highway 17 North, identifying the development entrance. This sign will be placed within the limits of the property, inside the buffer and will not be obstructive to traffic traveling along Highway 17 North. The maximum size of the sign will be in compliance with the County's sign ordinance. The sign will be attractively landscaped and may be discretely illuminated through up-lighting. The overall height from the ground to the top of the sign will not be higher than 8 feet. The sign will be set back from the right-of-way a minimum of 15 feet in order that the right-of-way clearance at intersections is not obstructed. Sign location and lighting is subject to the site plan review process of Charleston County. The sign will have external illumination limited to 5 foot candles. In addition to the standards listed above, signage will comply with Section 5.10.10.J of the Highway 17 North Overlay District as well.

8. Lighting Plan

The lighting for this development shall comply with the standards in the ZLDR Section 5.10.10.K, Lighting.

9. Tree Survey

Highway 17 North Commercial Use commissioned a tree survey from James T. Reid S.C. P.L.S. of Charleston for TMS# 615-00-00-041 only and will need to be updated as part of the Site Plan Review process. A new tree survey will also be completed for TMS# 615-00-00-042 that complies with the requirements of ZDLR Chapter 9 and the plan will comply with the requirements and procedures contained in ZLDR Article 9.4, Tree Protection and Preservation. The area of the property that is proposed for development contains 5 grand trees that are all planned to be preserved in the development plan. The site layout will be designed to minimize disturbance to the natural characteristics of the development and particularly with as little disturbance to the trees as possible. Additionally, all trees 6" or greater will be shown for the commercial portion of the property, as required by site plan review.

10. Fences and Walls

A minimum 8 foot wooden shadow box fence will encompass the front, sides, and rear of the property for aesthetics and in compliance with Section 5.10.10.C. Height of fencing will be adequate to sufficiently provide security for the business, and will not exceed a maximum height of 8 feet. Exact locations of all fences will be approved by planning staff during site plan review process.

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11. Drainage System

The planned development will meet all local, state, and federal stormwater ordinances, requirements, and regulations. Charleston County Public Works Department has been notified of the project. During construction, temporary silt fencing will be installed around the limits of disturbance to reduce the potential of sediment leaving the site and will be maintained until the site is stabilized with buildings and/or permanent ground cover. An overall stormwater plan will be required as part of the County Site Plan Review submittal. The application will meet the current Charleston County Procedures Manual at the time of submittal as well as any future development approval not part of the Master Drainage Plan. Please note that there is additional review, coordination, and approval conducted by the Public Works Department during the County Stormwater Permitting process.

12. Landscaping

The landscaping for this development shall comply with the ZLDR Section 5.10.10.C. If deemed needed, the required septic field for the attendant restroom will be allowed within the front buffer area and will be planted around to ensure the required material for the buffer is met. In addition to Article 9.6 ZLDR Architectural and Landscape Design Standards, additional landscaping is required around detention ponds fronting the Highway 17 North buffer. A ten foot planting strip is required along the shelf of ponds on Highway 17 North side with planting material consistent with the front buffer. Buffer plantings around ponds not fronting Highway 17 North are not applicable.

13. Regulatory Approvals

Approvals of the development will be subject to all regulatory agencies that are appropriate to each phase of development. Charleston County Planning Department will govern the approval of the site plan for the development.

14. Referenced ZLDR

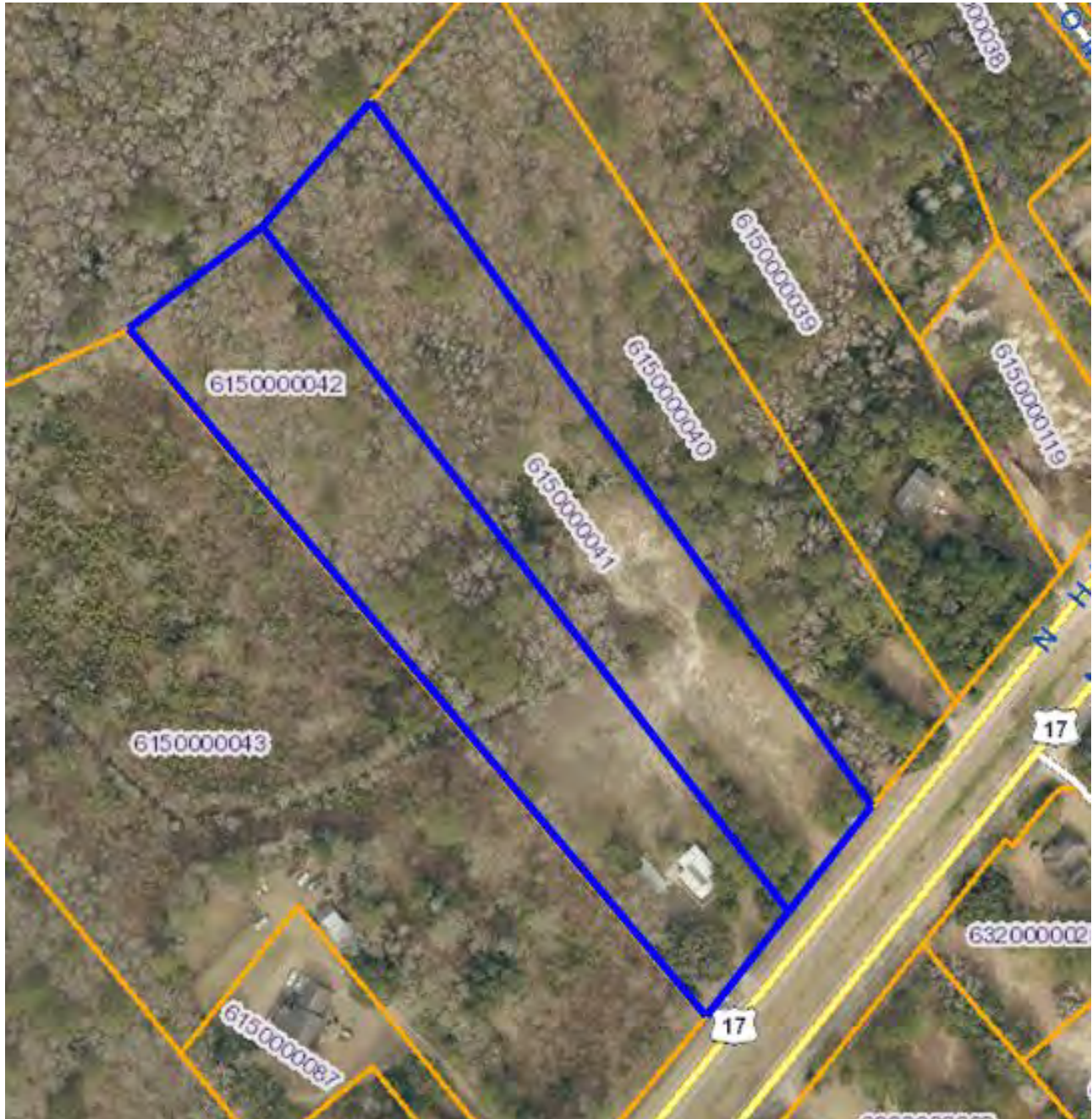
All references to any sections of the Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR) located in this Planned Development application shall apply to the ZLDR as it is written as of the filing of this application. Specifically, the following sections are referenced herein: Section 5.10.10.C, Section 5.10.10.H, Section 5.10.10.J, Section 5.10.10.K, Section 6.4.16, Chapter 9, Article 9.4, and Chapter 12. The applicable codes are attached.

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V. Appendices

1. Aerial View of Property



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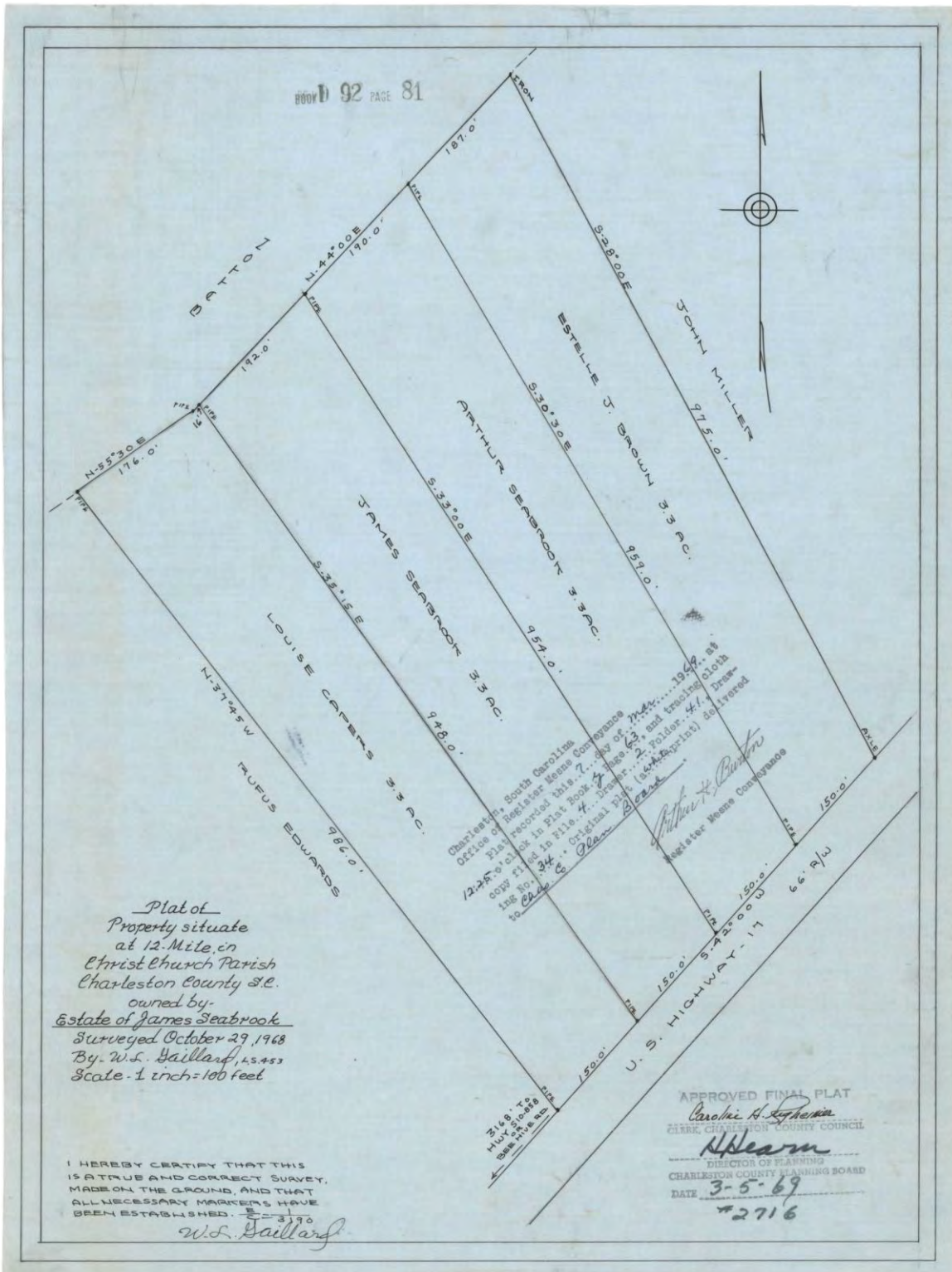
2. Planned Development Site Plan



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3. Plat of Record



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4. Fire Coordination Letter



Thomas C. Norris, Fire Chief

Awendaw District Fire Department

6384 Maxville Road
Awendaw, SC 29429

Phone: 843-928-3000
Fax: 843-928-3155

September 23, 2015

The Awendaw-McClellanville Fire District provides Fire Protection for the following Address:

4042 Hwy 17 and 4052 Hwy 17

Fire Protection and first responder service for this residence is provided from our Station #1 located at 4286 N Hwy 17, the station is 1.8 miles from this property, the District has a District wide rating of 4 unless more than 5 miles from a station.

The Districts new ISO rating of a Class 4 will take effect on April 1, 2015 I have attached the announcement from ISO.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Bowers".

Michael S. Bowers
Interim Fire Chief
Awendaw-McClellanville Fire District

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5. Water Availability Letter

Elected
Rick M. Crosby, Chair
Diane D. Lauritsen, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Susan I. Mellichamp, Secretary-Treasurer
H. Mac Jenkinson
John W. Burn



Ex-Officio
Linda Page, Mayor
Mark Smith, Chair
Water Supply Committee, Town Council

Clay Duffie, General Manager

September 22, 2015

Meggan Bernhardt
Earthsource Engineering
887 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Ste 220
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

RE: Project Name: New Storage Facility
Project No.: CEN0014
TMS No.: 615-00-00-041 & 042

Dear Meggan:

MPW is in receipt of your "Letter of Intent" for the above referenced project. The Town of Mount Pleasant has advised us that this property is contiguous. Therefore, the developer must comply with the annexation requirements of the Town's Sewer Use Ordinance before receiving wastewater service.

Please allow this letter to serve as our Proof of Coordination that if these conditions are met, MPW is willing and able to provide water and wastewater service to this project. However, it is the developer's responsibility to extend the water and wastewater infrastructure as necessary. In addition, capacity in MPW's system is not considered reserved until impact fee has been paid.

Please make the necessary submittals in accordance with our Guidelines for Development. Should you have any questions, please contact Peter Fennell at (843) 971-7505 or by email at peterfennell@mpwonline.com.

Sincerely,

MOUNT PLEASANT WATERWORKS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Fennell", is written over a horizontal line.

Peter Fennell
Development Program Manager

Cc: Project Developer

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6. Public Works Coordination Letter

James R. Neal
Director



Public Works Department

December 2, 2015

843.202.7600
Fax 843.202.7601
jneal@charlestoncounty.org
Lonnie Hamilton, III
Public Services Building
4045 Bridge View Drive, Suite A301
North Charleston, SC 29405-7464

Mr. Kevin Berry, P.E.
Earthsource Engineering Company
887 Johnnie Dodds, Blvd., Suite 220
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

RE: HIGHWAY 17 NORTH (PALMETTO COMMERCIAL)
TMS # 615-00-00-042
615-00-00-041

Dear Mr. Berry;

We have reviewed the draft Highway 17 North (Palmetto Commercial) PD guidelines, dated November 2015, for a commercial development on U.S. Highway 17 North. At present, this letter represents sufficient coordination with Public Works in order to continue the revised planned development rezoning process for the property.

The proposed development being located on U.S. Highway 17 North will be permissible. Additional review, coordination and approval by the Public Works Department will be required during the County Stormwater Permitting process at the time of construction approval.

Sincerely,

Neil J. Desai, P.E.
Stormwater Program Manager

NJD:nd

c: File
Charleston County Planning Department



American Public Works Association

www.charlestoncounty.org

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7. Exhibits of Building



Example of Front Elevation with Office Component



Example of Front Elevation with Glassed in Corridor

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Example of Side Elevation



Example of Rear Elevation (*No Metal siding*)

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8. Referenced ZLDR Attachments

areas of the project, through the use of appropriate street furniture strategically placed for the benefit of non-motorists.

§5.10.10 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

The following development standards apply to all development in the Business/Service Nodes with the exception of agricultural and single family residential uses.

- A.** Developments of five (5) acres or greater in cumulative size, proposing density/intensity and dimensional standards other than those listed above, must obtain approval as a Planned Development District under this Article and Article 4.23 of this Ordinance. As a condition of approval for such developments, County Council may require demonstrated conformance with the intent of the design guidelines contained herein.

- B.** All proposed developments shall have a means of water provision and wastewater disposal in accordance with this Ordinance.

- C. **Buffers and Landscaping****

All buffers and landscaping shall comply with the development standards contained in Chapter 9 of this Ordinance with the exception of the following:

1. A minimum of a 50-foot vegetated right-of-way buffer shall be required along Highway 17 North.
2. A minimum of a 25-foot vegetated buffer shall be required at the rear or adjacent to residential uses.
3. All vegetation within required buffers must be retained.
4. Where appropriate, fencing may be required to screen adjacent or surrounding residential uses.
5. Sweetgrass Basket Stands are permitted within required buffers provided that they comply with Section 6.4.58 of this Ordinance.

Right-of-Way Buffers



- D. **Building Orientation****

Building orientation shall comply with the standards contained in this Article and the development standards contained in Chapter 9 of this Ordinance.

- E. **Access****

1. The property or properties shall have a minimum combined frontage of 250 feet along Highway 17 North.
2. Properties in all Business/Service Nodes shall have a single shared access from Highway 17 North or, if located on a corner lot, shared access shall be provided from the secondary road.
3. Shared access locations on Highway 17 North shall be separated by a

minimum of 250 feet.

4. Vehicular access from streets and highways to properties shall be confined to access drives not exceeding thirty (30) feet in width at the street line.
5. Interparcel connections between sites fronting on Highway 17 North shall be required for each proposed development to facilitate use of these shared access points.

Shared Access



F. Open Spaces

Open space areas shall be provided on all sites, including landscaped areas or courtyards. Wherever possible, outdoor “spaces” or gathering areas should be created within these open space areas of the project, through the use of appropriate street furniture strategically placed for the benefit of non-motorists.

G. Walls of Continuity

Physical components such as brick walls, wrought iron or wood fences, tabby, evergreen landscape masses, building facades, or a combination of these should provide cohesiveness between parcels within the Node. Walls and fences shall harmonize with the site and building(s) on it in scale and materials. They shall respect existing natural features of the site, shall not dominate the buildings or landscape, and shall be integrated with plantings.

H. Architectural Standards and Building Materials

All structures shall comply with the development standards contained in Chapter 9 of this Ordinance provided that:

1. The roofs of all structures shall be pitched.
2. All structures, both principal and accessory, shall use a uniform rural village architectural theme applied through appropriate use of scale, proportion, detail, materials, color, and landscape treatment.
3. Unfinished metal and concrete facades shall be prohibited on all sides of the structure.
4. Glass facades shall not exceed 30% of the building face/elevation.
5. A minimum of one-third of the front street-side façade shall either be a covered porch, overhang, or other similar architectural feature.
6. Buildings shall have wooden, brick, finished architectural grade metal, or shell stone exterior appearance.

Architectural Standards & Building Materials



7. Building Color Scheme:

- a. Color shades shall be used to unify the development;
- b. Color combinations of paints shall be complementary;
- c. In no case shall garish colors be permitted; and
- d. In general, no more than three (3) different colors per building shall be allowed.

8. Building designs shall not utilize long monotonous facades, including, but not limited to, those characterized by unrelieved repetition of shape or form, or by unbroken extension of line. All sides of any building shall have the same attention to detail and appearance.

9. All proposed development shall be sited and configured in a manner that preserves existing natural features. New construction shall be clustered to preserve Grand Trees, groups of trees and other significant landscape features.

I. Pedestrian Access

1. Bike and pedestrian ways shall be included in site design and shall link access to adjacent parcels, as well as within the development area;
2. Pedestrian walkways must be designed and located in a manner that does not require pedestrians to walk through parking lots or cross driveways; and
3. All pedestrian access and pedestrian walkways shall meet the standards of Chapter 9 of this Ordinance; however, pervious surface walkways are encouraged when deemed appropriate to surrounding development characteristics by the Planning Director.

Pedestrian Access

**J.****Signage**

1. All free standing signs shall be monument style;
2. Shared free standing signs shall be allowed in accordance with Chapter 9 of this Ordinance.
3. Free standing signs shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height and fifty (50) square feet of sign area.
4. All sign illumination:

- a. Illuminated signs located adjacent to any residential area shall be controlled so as not to create excessive glare to properties within adjacent residential areas. Footcandles shall be reduced by one-half the allowable footcandle after hours of operation.
- b. LED signs are prohibited;
- c. No illumination that simulates traffic control devices or emergency vehicles shall be used.
- d. All illumination must be from a steady, stationary light source.
- e. Internal Illumination:
 - i. Internally illuminated signs must be constructed of routed aluminum or similar opaque material so that only letters, numbers, and/or logos are illuminated.
 - ii. Signs shall not have light reflecting backgrounds or letters.
 - iii. All finishes shall be a matte finish.
- f. External Illumination:
 - i. Illumination shall be from a steady stationary light source, shielded and directed solely at the sign.
 - ii. Light sources to illuminate signs shall be shielded as to not cause glare hazardous to pedestrians or vehicle drivers or so as to create a nuisance to adjacent properties.
 - iii. The intensity of light shall not exceed twenty (20) footcandles at any point on the sign face.
 - iv. The color of light sources to illuminate signs shall be white.
 - v. Signs shall not have light-reflecting backgrounds or letters.
- 5. All other sign requirements, including requirements for wall signs, shall comply with the requirements contained in Chapter 9 of this Ordinance.

K.**Lighting**

All site lighting shall comply with the development standards contained in Chapter 9 of this Ordinance, provided that all site lighting must match the architectural theme of the buildings and development and poles shall not exceed 19 feet in height.

L.**Parking and Loading Design**

4. No more than one (1) resource extraction use shall be permitted on the same property within one (1) year from the date of Zoning Permit approval for a previous resource extraction use.

D. Plat Alternative for Bona Fide Agricultural Uses

The Planning Director may waive the requirement that an approved and recorded plat of the subject property be submitted as part of a resource extraction application for a Bona Fide Agricultural Use when the proposed use complies with all of the conditions of sub-section C, above, and a scaled survey, scaled aerial photograph, or print of equal quality is submitted.

E. Special Exception Exemption for Solid Waste Disposal Facility

Excavation or grading activities required to prepare, operate, or close a permitted solid waste disposal facility site shall be exempt from the Special Exception procedures of this Ordinance.

§6.4.15 RESTAURANTS, BARS AND LOUNGES SERVING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

All proposed bars, lounges and restaurants serving beer or alcoholic beverages located within 500 feet of the property line of a lot in a residential zoning district or a lot containing a residential use shall require review and approval in accordance with the Special Exception procedures of this Ordinance. Distances shall be measured from the nearest property line of the subject parcel to the nearest property line of a lot containing a residential use or located in a residential zoning district.

§6.4.16 SELF-SERVICE STORAGE (MINI-WAREHOUSE) FACILITY

Self-Service Storage facilities shall be subject to the following standards.

A. Performance Standards

1. Front Setback

All structures, including the accessory manager's office/apartment, must be set back a minimum of 25 feet from the right-of-way or the district minimum setback, whichever is greater.

2. Side and Rear Buffers/Screening

a. Where projects abut lots zoned office, commercial, or industrial, no side and rear setbacks are required.

b. Where sites abut residentially zoned properties, buildings adjacent to the perimeter must face inward with their doors away from such areas.

3. Building Lengths and Access

To ensure ease of access for emergency vehicles, no building shall exceed 300 feet in length. Spaces between ends of buildings shall be at least 30 feet.

4. Accessory Office/Apartment

One management office and/or accessory residence shall be permitted.

5. Parking and Circulation

- a. Project entrances shall be 30 feet in width.
- b. Roadway widths on interior drives shall be at least 24 feet in width where buildings face and open onto such drives on only one side. Where buildings face and open onto drives on both sides, widths of such drives shall be at least 34 feet.
- c. Turning radii, whether provided at the terminus of interior drives or at points between buildings, shall be at least 30 feet to provide for the maneuverability of emergency vehicles.

6. Signs

Signs shall comply with the requirements contained in Chapter 9 of this Ordinance. Signs shall not be attached to or displayed on walls or fences used as required screening.

B. Operating Conditions**1. Commercial Activities**

The manufacture or sale of any commercial commodity or the provision of any service from the premises is prohibited.

2. Commercial Repair Activities

Commercial repairs of autos, boats, motors, furniture, or other items on the premises are prohibited.

3. Storage of Flammable Substances

Storage of flammable chemical substances within the complex is prohibited.

4. Open Storage

Open storage of automobiles and boats is permitted only where such areas are screened to comply with Landscaping, Screening and Buffer requirements contained in Chapter 9 of this Ordinance.

§6.4.17 SEWAGE DISPOSAL FACILITIES

Sewage Disposal Facilities shall be subject to the following standards:

- A. Sewage Disposal Facilities shall comply with the Site Plan Review requirements of this Ordinance; and
- B. Any structure established in connection with such uses shall have a setback of not less than 50 feet from any property line.

§6.4.18 SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES**A. Purpose and Intent**

CHAPTER 9 | DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**ARTICLE 9.1 PURPOSE AND INTENT**

The purpose of the regulations contained in this Chapter is to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare; to promote harmonious and orderly development; and to foster civic beauty by improving the appearance, character and economic value of civic, commercial and industrial development within the unincorporated areas. The Development Standards are authorized for the following purposes, among others:

- A. Implement the goals, objectives, and policies of the County of Charleston *Comprehensive Plan*;
- B. Facilitate safe transportation, access, vehicular circulation, and parking;
- C. Assure the protection and preservation of natural resources, such as trees and wetlands;
- D. Implement the use of vegetated buffers in order to mitigate the effects of incompatible adjacent uses, to provide transition between neighboring properties and streets, to moderate climatic effects, and to minimize noise and glare;
- E. Implement basic architectural standards, right-of-way buffer standards, and sign standards that will promote attractive, well-designed development, foster balanced streetscapes, and reduce visual clutter along major roadways, thus enhancing safe traffic flow; and
- F. Insure protection from fire, flood and other dangers, and furthering the public welfare in any regard specified by a local governing body.

ARTICLE 9.2 APPLICABILITY

Unless expressly stated, the articles in this Chapter apply to development occurring on property within unincorporated Charleston County.

ARTICLE 9.3 OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING**§9.3.1 GENERAL****A. Applicability****1. New Development**

The off-street parking and loading standards of this Article apply to any new building constructed and to any new use established.

2. Expansions and Alterations

The off-street parking and loading standards of this Article apply when an existing structure or use is expanded or enlarged. Additional off-street parking and loading spaces will be required only to serve the enlarged or expanded area, not the entire building or use, provided that in all cases

the number of off-street parking and loading spaces provided for the entire use (preexisting + expansion) must equal at least 75 percent of minimum ratio established in Off-Street Parking Schedule "A" of this Article.

B. Timing of Installation

Required parking spaces and drives shall be ready for use and approved by the Planning Director prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

C. Reduction Below Minimums

The Planning Director shall be authorized to reduce the number of required parking spaces by no more than 10 percent (10%) when more than ten (10) spaces are required with the following conditions:

1. The site can support the minimum required number of parking spaces and meet all development standards in this Ordinance including buffers and landscaping requirements; or
2. The reduction is necessary to meet the Tree Protection and Preservation regulations contained in Article 9.4 of this Ordinance.

This allowable reduction excludes medical offices and restaurant uses. Any change in use that increases applicable off-street parking or loading requirements will be deemed a violation of this Ordinance unless parking and loading spaces are provided in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

§9.3.2 OFF-STREET PARKING SCHEDULE A

Unless otherwise expressly allowed, off-street parking spaces shall be provided in accordance with the following table.

USE TABLE	NUMBER OF OFF-STREET PARKING SPACES REQUIRED (MINIMUM)
RESIDENTIAL	
Congregate Living	1 per 3 beds
Farm Labor Housing (Dormitory)	0.5 per bed
Adult/Child Group Home or Residential Care Facility	1 per 3 beds, plus 1 per employee in single shift
Multi-Family	1.5 per 1-bedroom unit; 2 per 2-bedroom unit; 2.5 per 3-bedroom and larger units
Retirement Housing	0.75 per 1-bedroom unit; 1 per 2-bedroom unit; 1.5 per 3-bedroom and larger units
Single Family: Detached and attached, including dwelling groups, duplexes and manufactured housing units.	2 per dwelling unit
CIVIC/INSTITUTIONAL	
Cemetery	1 per full time employee
Court of Law	1 per employee plus 1 per every 3 seats of seating available to the public in the courtroom
College or University Facility	1 per 100 square feet classroom plus 1 per 300 square feet office/administrative plus 1 per 3 beds
Community Recreation	1 per 250 square feet of gross floor area
Convalescent Services	1 per 5 beds
Historical Sites, Libraries, Archives or Museums	1 per 300 square feet
Adult or Child Day Care Facilities	1 per employee plus 1 per 5 children/adults
Counseling Service	1 per 150 square feet
Hospital	1 per 2 beds plus 1 per 300 square feet of floor area of administrative and medical offices
Nature Exhibition or Botanical Gardens	1 per employee in single shift plus 2 spaces per acre
Parks & Recreation	1 per 5,000 square feet of land area plus outdoor recreation requirements
Postal Service, United States	1 per 150 square feet of floor area
Railroad Freight Depot	1 per 2,400 square feet
Recycling Collection, Drop-Off	1 per recycle collection container
Public Assembly: Including Conference Centers, Concert Halls, Religious Assemblies, Professional, Labor or Political Organizations and Social Clubs or Lodges	1 per 5 fixed seats or 1 per every three (3) persons in structures with non-fixed seating of the maximum occupancy load as established by building code. The number of spaces required may be reduced a maximum of 50% if the assembly area is located within 500 feet of any public or commercial parking lot where sufficient spaces are available by parking agreement.
Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded	1 per bed plus 1 per employee in single shift

USE TABLE	NUMBER OF OFF-STREET PARKING SPACES REQUIRED (MINIMUM)
Health Care Related Services: Including Home Health Agency, Laboratory, Outpatient Services and Rehabilitation facilities	1 per 200 square feet of gross floor area with a minimum of 4 spaces
Safety Services	1 per 2 employees
Pre-School or Educational Nursery	1 space per 6 students for which the facility is licensed plus 1 per employee
School, Primary	1 space for each vehicle owned and operated by the school plus two per employee (including faculty, administrative, etc.)
School, Secondary	1 space for each vehicle owned and operated by the school plus two per employee (including faculty, administrative, etc.) plus 1 per 8 students
Personal Improvement Education	1 per every 3 students plus 1 per employee
Utility Service, Major	1 space per employee plus 1 per stored vehicle
Utility Service, Minor	None
Zoo	10 plus 1 per employee in single shift
COMMERCIAL	
Agricultural Sales/Service	1 per 500 square feet of floor area plus 4 per acre outdoor sales/display/storage area
Pet Stores, Grooming Salons, or Small Animal Boarding	1 per 300 square feet of floor area
Bar or Lounge	1 per 75 square feet indoor seating area plus 1 per 200 square feet outdoor seating area
Bed and Breakfast	1 per guest room
Rooming or Boarding House	1 per guest room
Business or Trade School	1 per 100 square feet classroom plus 1 per 300 square feet business/administrative office
Communication: Including data processing and publishing services	1 per 300 square feet of floor area
Heavy Construction Service, General Contractor, or Special Trade Contractors	1 per 400 square feet indoor floor area plus 4 spaces per acre outdoor storage/display/sales area
Convenience Store	1 per 200 square feet of floor area
Charter Boat or Other Recreational Watercraft Rental Services	1 per rental boat or watercraft plus 1 per employee
Construction Tools, Commercial or Industrial Equipment Rental	1 per 250 square feet of floor area not including storage areas
Heavy Duty Truck or Commercial Vehicle Rental or Leasing	1 per rental vehicle plus 1 per employee in single shift
Banks and Financial Services	1 per 300 square feet of floor area, also see drive-thru requirements
Food Sales and Grocery Stores	1 per 175 square feet
Funeral Services	1 per 4 seats or 1 per employee, whichever is greater

USE TABLE	NUMBER OF OFF-STREET PARKING SPACES REQUIRED (MINIMUM)
Hair, Nail or Skin Care Service	2 per employee or work station, whichever is greater
Hotel-Motel	1 per room plus spaces as required for associated restaurants, bars, and offices
Kennel	1 plus 1 per employee
Liquor Sales, Beer or Wine Sales	1 per 200 square feet of floor area
Marina	1 space per 200 sq. ft. of office area plus 1 per 3 wet slips and 1 per 5 dry stack storage
Boat Yard	1 per employee
Office, Medical	1 per 150 square feet of floor area
Outpatient Clinic	1 per 200 square feet of floor area with a minimum of 4 spaces
Office, Business/Professional/Administrative	1 per 300 square feet of floor area
Office, Resort Real Estate	1 per 200 square feet of floor area
Office, Parole or Probation	1 per employee plus 1 per 200 square feet of floor area
Office/Warehouse Complex	1 per employee in shift plus 1 per 2000 square feet of office space
Convention Center or Visitors Bureau	4 per 1000 square feet of floor area
Parking, Lot or Garage	1 per employee
Pawn Shop	1 per 200 square feet of floor area
Personal Improvement Service	1 per 200 square feet of floor area
Recreational Vehicle Park or Campground	1 per employee plus 1 per recreational vehicle and camp site
Recreation and Entertainment, Indoor	1 per 3 seats or 1 per 200 square feet of floor area, whichever is greater
Recreation and Entertainment, Outdoor	1 per 200 square feet of public activity area plus, Swimming Pool-1 per 200 square feet of water surface area Tennis-2 spaces per court Basketball- 5 spaces per court Athletic Field- 15 spaces per diamond or field
Fishing or Hunting Guide Service	5 per employee
Fishing or Hunting Lodge (Commercial)	1 per visitor plus 1 per 5 members
Recreation or Vacation Camp	1 per employee plus 1 per camp vehicle or camp site
Golf Courses or Country Clubs	1 per employee plus 4 per golf green, plus 1 per 4 seats for accessory restaurant or bar use
Repair Service, Consumer	1 per 300 square feet of floor area
Catering Service	1 per 400 square feet of floor area

USE TABLE	NUMBER OF OFF-STREET PARKING SPACES REQUIRED (MINIMUM)
Restaurant, Fast Food	1 per 75 square feet indoor seating area plus 1 per 200 square feet outdoor seating area+vehicle stacking spaces per Article 9.3.8
Restaurant, Fast Food (no inside seating)	1 per employee plus 1 per 200 square feet outdoor seating area+vehicle stacking spaces per Article 9.3.8
Restaurant, General	1 per 75 square feet indoor seating area plus 1 per 200 square feet outdoor seating area
Retail Sales+Service, General	1 per 300 square feet indoor floor area+5 spaces per acre outdoor storage/display/sales area
Shopping Center (mixed retail, office, food sales, restaurant)	1 space per 200 square feet
Nonstore Retailers	1 per employee plus 2 spaces for deliveries
Building Materials or Garden Equipment and Supplies Retailers	1 per 200 square feet of floor area not including storage plus 1 per employee
Services to Buildings and Dwellings	1 per employee plus 1 space for deliveries
Scrap and Salvage Service	1 per employee plus 2 per acre
Self-Service Storage/Mini Warehouse	3 spaces plus 1 space per employee and 1 space per 100 units
Gasoline Service Station	1 per 200 square feet of gross floor area plus vehicle stacking spaces per Article 9.3.8
Truck Stop	1 per employee plus truck space parking plus any parking required in this table when restaurant or motel is included.
Stable (Boarding or Commercial for Hire)	1 per 2 stalls
Vehicle Repair, Consumer	2 per employee or service bay
Vehicle Sales or Vehicle Rental or Leasing	1 per 2,500 square feet of display, 1 per 250 square feet indoor enclosed floor space
Vehicle Parts, Accessories or Tire Stores	1 per 300 square feet of floor area (10 space minimum)
Vehicle Storage	1 per 2 employees
Veterinary Services	3 spaces per each veterinarian or allied professional
INDUSTRIAL	
Repair Service, Commercial	1 per 400 square feet office area plus 1 per 2 employees
Dry Cleaning Plant, Carpet Cleaning Plant or Commercial Laundry	1 per employee plus 1 per 3 washing/drying machines if provided for customer use
Photo Finishing Laboratory	1 per 200 square feet of floor area
Manufacturing and Production	1 per 400 square feet of office area plus 1 per 2 employees
Warehouse and Distribution Facilities	1 per 300 square feet office area plus 1 per 600 square feet for 1 st 12,000 square feet warehouse/storage area plus 1 per 900 square feet for remaining warehouse/storage area (over 12,000 square feet)
Wholesale Sales	1 per 600 square feet for 1 st 12,000 square feet+1 per 900 square feet for remaining area (over 12,000 square feet)

USE TABLE	NUMBER OF OFF-STREET PARKING SPACES REQUIRED (MINIMUM)
AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER USES	
Animal Production	None
Aviation	1 space per 5 aircraft tie down or storage plus 1 space per 4 seats in waiting room areas
Sightseeing Transportation, Land or Water	1 per 2 seats of sightseeing vehicle
Taxi or Limousine Service	1 per employee plus one per vehicle that provides service
Urban Transit Service	1 per 100 square feet of public waiting area plus 1 per two employees and 1 per transit vehicle
Water Transportation	1 per two seats of transportation vehicle plus 1 per employee
Communications Towers	None
Crop Production	None
Agricultural Processing	1 per employee
Roadside Stands	3 per stand
Horticulture, Greenhouse or Hydroponics Production	1 per employee
Commercial Timber Operations	None
Lumber Mills, Planing or Saw Mills	1 per employee plus 1 per commercial vehicle plus 1 per 400 square feet of floor area
Recycling Center or Waste Related Use	1 per employee
Resource Extraction	1 per 2 employees

§9.3.3 RULES FOR COMPUTING PARKING AND LOADING REQUIREMENTS

The following rules apply when computing off-street parking and loading requirements:

- A. Multiple Uses**
Lots containing more than one use must provide parking and loading in an amount equal to the total of the requirements for all uses.
- B. Fractions**
When measurements of the number of required spaces result in a fractional number, any fraction of one-half or less will be rounded down to the next lower whole number and any fraction of more than one-half will be rounded up to the next higher whole number.
- C. Area Measurements**
Unless otherwise expressly stated, all square-footage-based parking and loading standards must be computed on the basis of gross floor area. Storage areas or common areas incidental to the principle use shall be exempt from this measurement when the following conditions are met:

1. The storage area or common area is a minimum of two hundred fifty (250) square feet; and
2. The applicant has provided documentation that such areas will not be used as space for employees, customers, or residents.

D. Occupancy-Based Standards

For the purpose of computing parking requirements based on employees, students, residents or occupants, calculations shall be based on the largest number of persons working on any single shift, the maximum enrollment or the maximum fire-rated capacity, whichever is applicable and whichever results in the greater number of spaces.

E. Unlisted Uses

Upon receiving a development application for a use not specifically listed in an off-street parking schedule, the Planning Director shall apply the off-street parking standard specified for the listed use that is deemed most similar to the proposed use or require parking spaces in accordance with a parking study prepared by the applicant.

§9.3.4 LOCATION OF REQUIRED PARKING

A. On-Site Parking

1. Except as expressly stated in this Section, all required off-street parking spaces must be located on the same lot as the principal use and shall be arranged and laid out so as to ensure that no parked or maneuvering vehicle will encroach upon a sidewalk, public right-of-way or property line.
2. Parking lots in Office (O) and Commercial (C) districts containing more than ten parking spaces shall be located to the side or rear of the principal structure's front facade or within a courtyard surrounded by a structure on at least three sides.

B. Off-Site and Shared Parking

Off-site parking is defined as the required parking not located on the parcel which the principal use is located. Shared parking is parking for uses with different operating hours or peak business periods that share required off-street parking spaces. Shared parking may or may not be off-site parking. Off-site and shared parking are allowed provided they meet the following standards. If any one of the following applicable standards cannot be met, Special Exception approval shall be required:

1. A maximum of fifty percent (50%) of the required parking spaces may be off-site however, off-site parking may not be used to satisfy the off-street parking standards for residential uses (except for guest parking), restaurants, convenience stores or other convenience-oriented uses unless approved as part of a mixed use development. Required parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities shall not be located off site.

2. Shared or off-site parking must be located within 600 feet from the primary entrance of the use served, unless shuttle bus service is provided to the remote parking area. Shared or off-site parking spaces may not be separated from the use that it serves they serve by a street right-of-way with a width of more than 80 feet, unless a grade-separated pedestrian walkway is provided, or other traffic control or shuttle bus service is provided to the remote parking area.
3. An applicant requesting shared parking shall submit a shared parking analysis to the Planning Director that clearly demonstrates the feasibility of shared parking. The shared parking analysis must be approved by the Planning Director and made available to the public. It must address, at a minimum, the size and type of the proposed development, the composition of tenants, the anticipated rate of parking turnover and the anticipated peak parking and traffic loads for all uses that will be sharing off-street parking spaces. Approvals will only pertain to the specific uses addressed in the analysis and any change in use(s) will require a new shared parking analysis.
4. Off-site parking areas serving uses located in Nonresidential zoning districts must be located in non-residential zoning districts. Off-site parking areas serving uses located in Residential or Agricultural zoning districts may be located in Residential, Agricultural or Nonresidential zoning districts.
5. In the event that off-site parking area is not under the same ownership as the principal use served, a written agreement will be required. An attested copy of the agreement between the owners of record must be submitted to the Planning Director for recording on forms made available in the Planning Department. Recording of the agreement with the Register of Mesne Conveyance must take place before issuance of a zoning permit, building permit or Certificate of Occupancy for any use to be served by the off-site parking area. An off-site parking agreement may be revoked only if all required off-street parking spaces will be provided in accordance with this Article.
6. Shared parking areas must be connected by a continuous network of sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks.

§9.3.5 ACCESSIBLE PARKING FOR PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS

The parking standards of this Article are intended to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A portion of the total number of required off-street parking spaces in each off-street parking area shall be specifically designated, located and reserved for use by persons with physical disabilities.

A. Number of Spaces

The minimum number of accessible spaces to be provided shall be a portion of the total number of off-street parking spaces required, as determined from the following schedule. Parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities shall be counted toward fulfilling off-street parking standards.

Total Parking Spaces Provided	Minimum Number of Accessible Spaces	Minimum Number of Van-Accessible Spaces	Minimum Number of Car-Accessible Spaces
1—25	1	1	0
26—50	2	1	1
51—75	3	1	2
76—100	4	1	3
101—150	5	1	4
151—200	6	1	5
201—300	7	1	6
301—400	8	1	7
401—500	9	2	7
501—1,000	2% of total spaces	1 out of every 8 accessible spaces	7 out of every 8 accessible spaces
Over 1,000	20 + 1 per each 100 spaces over 1,000		

B. Minimum Dimensions

All parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities shall comply with the parking space dimension standards of this Section, provided that access aisles shall be provided immediately abutting such spaces, as follows:

1. Car-accessible spaces shall have at least a five-foot-wide access aisle located abutting the designated parking space.
2. Van-accessible spaces shall have at least an eight-foot-wide access aisle located abutting the designated parking space.

§9.3.6 PARKING SPACE AND PARKING LOT DESIGN

A. Parking Lot Design

Dead end type of parking layouts that cause or contribute to poor vehicular circulation will not be allowed unless all other site configurations and parking options of the required number of parking spaces have been exhausted.

B. Aisle Widths and Parking Space Dimensions

Drive aisle widths and parking space dimensions shall comply with the standards in the following table. Twenty percent (20%) of the minimum number of required parking for a development may utilize compact and sub-compact vehicle parking dimensions. These dimensions shall be a minimum of 7 feet 6 inches x 15 feet (7'6" x 15') and clearly marked for compact vehicles only.

x°	Stall Width A	Stall Depth B	Aisle Width C	Skew Width D
60°	8' 0" 8' 6" 9' 0"	19' 7" 18' 0" 17' 0"	19' 0" 18' 0" 17' 0" *One Way	9' 3" 9' 10" 10' 5"
45°	8' 0" 8' 6" 9' 0"	18' 5" 18' 8" 19' 1"	12' 0" 11' 0" 11' 0" *One Way	11' 4" 12' 0" 12' 9"
30°	8' 0" 8' 6" 9' 0"	15' 11" 16' 5" 16' 10"	11' 0" 10' 0" 9' 0" *One Way	16' 0" 17' 0" 18' 0"
0°	8' 0" 8' 6" 9' 0"	22' 0" 22' 0" 23' 0"	11' 0" 11' 6" 12' 0" *One Way	N/A (PARALLEL)
90°	8' 0" 8' 6" 9' 0"	18' 0" 18' 0" 18' 0"	28' to 32' 25' to 29' 23' to 27' *Two Way	N/A

Note: Two Way drive aisles shall always require a minimum width of 23 feet.

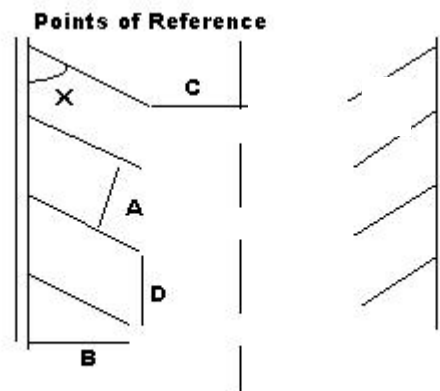


Figure 2

C. Parking Lot Landscaping

See Article 9.5 of this Chapter.

D. Markings and Surface Treatment

1. In paved parking areas, each off-street parking space shall be identified by surface markings at least four inches in width. Markings shall be visible at all times. Such markings shall be arranged to provide for orderly and safe loading, unloading, parking and storage of vehicles. In unpaved parking lots, all parking spaces must have a curb stop (minimum height of four inches) to delineate the location of the space and to prevent the encroachment of parking onto adjoining properties, rights-of-way, or landscaped areas.

2. One-Way and Two-Way accesses into required parking facilities shall be identified by directional arrows.
3. Unpaved parking lots must have an all weather surface such as gravel, slag or other pervious surface, not including asphalt shingles. Entrance and exit drives serving unpaved parking lots accessed from a paved street must be paved from the edge of the street pavement to a distance of 20 feet into the property. No more than 120 percent of the required number of off-street parking spaces may be paved and no more than 70 percent of all developable land within parcels may be paved, unless approved by the Planning Director.

E. Access

1. Required parking spaces shall not have direct access to a street or highway. Access to required parking spaces shall be provided by on-site driveways. Off-street parking spaces shall be accessible without backing into or otherwise reentering a public right-of-way.
2. Parking lot entrance and exit drive curb cuts will not be more than 30 feet in width. Entrances or exits which include a median strip to separate traffic flow in opposite directions may be expanded to 60 feet. Curb cuts shall be allowed in accordance with the following table:

LENGTH OF FRONTAGE	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DRIVEWAYS
250 feet or less	1*
251 feet to 1,500 feet	2
1,500 feet or more	3

* On frontages of 250 feet or less, a pair of one-way driveways may be substituted only if the internal circulation on the site is compatible with the one-way driveways and wrong-way movements on the driveways are rendered impossible or extremely difficult for motorists. Refer to the South Carolina Department of Transportation's Access and Roadside Management Standards Manual for recommended spacing of driveways based on speed of traffic.

3. Entrance and exit drives shall be located at least 100 feet from the edge of the right-of-way of any street intersection. If the subject lot has less than 100 feet of frontage, the Planning Director shall be authorized to alter these requirements. Suitable provisions will be made to prevent ingress or egress at other than designated entrance or exit drives.
4. The Planning Director shall be authorized to require that access to dwelling units comply with the International Fire Code, as adopted by County Council.
5. Shared access between parcels may be allowed with written agreement among all owners of record. An attested copy of the access agreement between the owners of record must be submitted to the Planning Director for recording on forms made available in the Planning Department.

Recording of the agreement with the Register of Mesne Conveyance must take place before issuance of a zoning permit or certificate of occupancy for any use to be served by shared access. Any shared access must meet all dimensional requirements of this Ordinance and any applicable SCDOT requirements.

§9.3.7 USE OF REQUIRED PARKING SPACES

Required off-street parking areas shall be used solely for the parking of licensed, motor vehicles in operating condition. Required spaces may not be used for the display of goods for sale or lease, for motor vehicle repair or service work of any kind, or for long-term storage of vehicles, boats, motor homes, campers, manufactured housing units, or building materials.

§9.3.8 Vehicle Stacking Areas

A. Minimum Number of Spaces

Off-street stacking spaces shall be provided as follows:

Activity Type	Minimum Spaces	Measured From
Bank teller lane	3	Teller Window
Automated teller machine	2	ATM
Restaurant drive-through	5	Order Box
Restaurant drive-through	4	Order Box to Pick-Up Window
Car wash stall, automatic	4	Entrance
Car wash stall, self-service	3	Entrance
Dry Clean Service	3	Pick up Window
Gasoline pump island	2	Pump Island
Other	Determined by Planning Director	

B. Parking Area Design and Layout

Required stacking spaces are subject to the following design and layout standards:

1. Stacking spaces must be a minimum of eight feet by 20 feet in size.
2. Stacking spaces may not impede on or off-site traffic movements or movements into or out of off-street parking spaces.
3. Stacking spaces must be separated from other internal driveways by raised medians if deemed necessary by the Director of Public Works for traffic movement and safety.
4. The Planning Director may require pick-up and drop-off loop drives with sufficient vehicle stacking lanes to prevent vehicle backups into internal

travel lanes and parking lots for school uses, adult and child day care facility uses, public assembly uses, and conference facility uses.

§9.3.9 OFF-STREET LOADING

A. Spaces Required

For every retail sales, service, wholesaling, warehousing, or manufacturing establishment and each bus or truck terminal, there shall be provided sufficient space to accommodate the maximum number of trucks that will be loading, unloading, or standing at any one time.

B. Size of Space

Each off-street loading space shall be of a size commensurate with the buildings to be accommodated. In no case shall required off-street loading space encroach upon off-street parking space required under this Article.

C. Location

All required off-street loading spaces shall be located on the same lot as the building which they are intended to serve.

D. Entrances and Exits

Off-street loading entrance and exit drives shall be located at least 25 feet from any street intersection.

E. Loading Spaces Adjacent to Sidewalks

Where a loading space is adjacent to a public sidewalk or other public pedestrian way, it shall be so located, arranged, and improved with curbs or other barriers, as to provide adequate protection for pedestrians.

F. Maneuvering Areas

All off-street loading spaces shall be provided with adequate off-street maneuvering areas.

G. Landscaping, Buffers and Screening

See Article 9.5 of this Chapter.

§9.3.10 PEDESTRIAN WAYS

A. Where Required

1. Paved pedestrian ways shall be provided in all non-residential development within the Urban and Suburban Areas of the County; and
2. Paved pedestrian ways shall link surrounding roadways with the front entrance and shall provide pedestrian linkages between the proposed development and uses on adjoining lots.

B. Placement

Paved pedestrian ways within publicly dedicated right-of-ways shall conform to the construction details for paved sidewalks contained in Charleston County Road Construction Standards, Appendix A. Alternative surface walkways may

be used outside of right-of-ways when deemed appropriate to surrounding development characteristics by the Planning Director.

ARTICLE 9.4 TREE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION

§9.4.1 GENERAL

A. Findings

Trees are an essential natural resource, an invaluable economic resource, and a priceless aesthetic resource. Trees play a critical role in purifying air and water, providing wildlife habitat, and enhancing natural drainage of stormwater and sediment control. They also help conserve energy by providing shade and shield against noise and glare. Trees promote commerce and tourism by buffering different land uses and beautifying the landscape. The Tree Protection and Preservation regulations of this Article are intended to enhance the health, safety and welfare of Charleston County citizens.

B. Applicability and Exemptions

1. Applicability

The provisions of this Article in their entirety shall apply to all real property in unincorporated Charleston County, except as otherwise expressly exempted.

2. Exemptions

- a. Single family detached residential lots of record shall be exempt from all provisions in this Article except for the Grand Tree documentation, protection and replacement provisions. This exemption does not include applications for Major or Minor Subdivisions for which landscape buffers may be required per Section 9.5.4.
- b. The Planning Director shall be authorized to modify or reduce the standards of this Article for commercial nursery operations.
- c. This Article shall not restrict public utilities and electric suppliers from maintaining safe clearance around existing utility lines, and existing easements in accordance with applicable state laws. Siting and construction of future gas, telephone, communications, electrical lines or other easements shall not be exempt from the provisions of this Article.
- d. Removal of trees for the purpose of conducting “bona fide forestry operations” shall be exempt from the provisions of this Article except for removal of Live Oak species of Grand trees.

- e. Removal of trees for the purpose of establishing bona fide agricultural uses, as specified in Section 3.8.2A of this Ordinance, shall be exempt from the provisions of this Article except for the Grand Tree documentation, protection and replacement provisions.
- f. Removal of trees for the purposes of maintaining safe clearance for aircraft as required by federal law or the establishment of facilities exclusively dedicated to aviation operations are exempt from this Article.
- g. Removal of trees on properties in the Industrial Zoning District is permitted pursuant to the following conditions:
 - i. Tree removal cannot occur prior to site plan approval;
 - ii. This exemption shall not apply to Live Oak species of Grand Trees or any protected trees within required buffers and parking lots; and
 - iii. Mitigation of removed trees, as stated in this Section, is required. Staff shall approve the mitigation of such trees in accordance with Section 9.4.6 of this Ordinance.

3. Partial Exemptions for SCDOT and CCPW

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and Charleston County Public Works (CCPW) shall be exempt from the provisions of this Article except the following:

- a. All trees species measuring 6 inches or greater DBH located in right-of-ways along Scenic Highways as designated in this Ordinance shall be protected and require a variance from the Charleston County Board of Zoning Appeals for removal per Article 9.4.5B and 9.4.6.
- b. Grand Tree Live Oak species in all present and proposed right-of-ways and easements shall be protected and require a variance from the Charleston County Board of Zoning Appeals for removal per Article 9.4.5.B and 9.4.6.
- c. All Grand Trees other than Live Oak species in all present and proposed right-of-ways and easements not located on a Scenic Highway are protected but may be permitted to be removed administratively when mitigated per Article 9.4.6.

C. DEFINITION OF "TREE REMOVAL"

For the purpose of this Article, the term "tree removal" shall include, but not be limited to, damage inflicted to the root system by machinery; girdling; storage of materials and soil compaction, changing the natural grade above or below the root system or around the trunk; damage inflicted on the tree permitting fungus infection or pest infestation; excessive pruning; excessive thinning; paving with concrete, asphalt or other impervious material within such proximity as to be

harmful to the tree; or any act of malicious damage to a tree. Excessive pruning or thinning shall be pruning or thinning that exceeds more than 25 percent of the leaf surface on both the lateral branch and the overall foliage of a mature tree that is pruned within a growing season. Additionally, one-half of the foliage of a mature tree is to remain evenly distributed in the lower two thirds of the crown and individual limbs upon completion of any pruning.

D. MEASUREMENTS AND DEFINITIONS

1. Diameter Breast Height

Diameter Breast Height is used for measuring all trees greater than 12-inch caliper. The Diameter Breast Height (DBH) of a tree is the total diameter, in inches, of a tree trunk or trunks measured 4½ feet above existing grade (at the base of the tree). In measuring DBH, the circumference of the tree shall be measured with a measuring tape designed specifically to calculate diameter. A standard measuring tape may be used to measure diameter when the circumference is divided by 3.14. If a tree trunk splits at ground level and the trunks do not share a common base (separated by earth at natural grade), then each trunk shall be measured as a separate tree. If a multi-trunk tree splits below the 4.5 foot mark and the trunks share a common base, all trunks shall be measured separately, added together, and count as one tree. Any trunk measuring less than 8 inches DBH is not included in the calculation.

2. Caliper

Caliper is the diameter of a tree trunk measured six inches above the ground on trees with calipers of four inches or less. For trees between four-inch and 12-inch caliper, the trunk is measured 12 inches above the ground.

3. Grand Tree

Any tree measuring 24 inches or greater diameter breast height (DBH) except pine tree and Sweet Gum tree (*Liquidamber styraciflua*) species. All Grand Trees are prohibited from removal unless a Grand Tree Removal Permit is issued or if the removal is part of an approved Bona Fide Forestry Operation.

4. Protected Trees

Any tree on a parcel with a diameter breast height of eight inches or greater prior to development and all trees within required buffers or required landscape areas. Limited removal is allowed only when specified by the provisions of this Ordinance.

§9.4.2 ADMINISTRATION

A. Zoning Permit Required

1. Tree Removal

Removal of required trees is prohibited prior to the issuance of a Zoning Permit by the Planning Director. Zoning Permits will be issued only after

a tree plan is approved by the Planning Director, as outlined below.

2. Excess Canopy (Limb) Removal

- a. Removal of three or more limbs with an individual diameter of six inches or greater shall require a Zoning Permit.
- b. Removal of any size limbs which contribute to more than one hundred continuous linear feet of canopy over public roadways shall require Variance approval from the Board of Zoning Appeals. This requirement shall not preclude the SCDOT, CCPW or other entities from maintaining height clearances of 14' or less and width clearances within designated travel ways and from removing unprotected trees along right-of-ways for road widening projects.

B. Documentation

Tree plans, prepared by a licensed registered surveyor, civil engineer or landscape architect shall be required on all non-exempt parcels before any zoning permits are issued.

§9.4.3 TREE PLANS AND SURVEYS

A. General

Tree plans of the same scale as, and superimposed on, a development site plan or preliminary plat shall include location, number, size (DBH), and species with a scaled graphic representation of each Grand Tree, canopy size and shape, and the trunk location. All required tree surveys shall include the name, phone number, address, signature, and seal of a licensed surveyor, landscape architect, or civil engineer registered in the State of South Carolina. The survey shall include all trees to be protected or preserved, and those scheduled to be removed, including dead and damaged trees. In cases where a previously approved recorded plat is utilized for the purpose of tree plans the name, address, phone number, signature and seal of the licensed landscape architect, civil engineer, forester or surveyor, registered in the State of South Carolina shall be provided. A scaled infrared or high resolution black and white aerial photograph or print of equal quality may be substituted in cases where the Planning Director determines that it would provide the same information as a tree plan. However, all Grand Trees within 40 feet of proposed construction and land disturbance areas and trees within required buffers must be surveyed and mapped.

B. Major and Minor Subdivision Preliminary Plats

Refer to Section 8.4.2.A.4 Preliminary Plat Application in the Subdivision Regulations of Chapter 8 of this Ordinance.

C. Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Family Parcels

1. All tree surveys must show the location, number, size and species of all trees 8 inches or greater DBH (Diameter Breast Height) including those scheduled to be removed.

2. When there are no trees 8 inches or greater DBH, documentation of this fact shall be provided from a registered surveyor, engineer or landscape architect.

[Commentary: Assistance in tree identification and condition should be provided by a forester or qualified arborist.]

D. Single Family Detached Residential Parcels

1. Single family detached residential parcels shall show all Grand Trees within the area of construction and land disturbance and in conjunction with the subdivision regulations of this Ordinance at the time a zoning or building permit application is made.

§9.4.4 REQUIRED TREE PROTECTION

A. General

All Grand Trees and any other trees required to remain on a site as outlined in this Ordinance must be protected during construction and development of the parcel. Tree protection must be shown on all development plans prior to site plan approval. A site inspection of the tree barricades must be scheduled by the applicant with the Planning Department for approval prior to the issuance of permits or the start of development activities.

Prior to issuance of a zoning permit, a pre-construction planning conference for tree preservation is required on site with the Planning Director's representative, the applicants, and any parties deemed appropriate for the purpose of determining if there is a need for additional tree protection techniques and for designating placement of tree barricades, construction employee parking, temporary construction office and dumpsters.

B. Tree Protection During Development and Construction

Protective barricades shall be placed around all required trees in or near development areas on all zoning parcels, prior to the start of development activities. These barricades, constructed of wood or plastic fencing or other approved materials shall be erected in accordance with standards by the Planning Director and placed beneath the canopy drip line or one and one-half feet times the DBH of the tree. Other protective devices or construction techniques may be used as approved by the Planning Director. The barricades shall remain in place until development activities are complete. The area within the protective barricade shall remain free of all building materials, dirt, fill, or other construction debris, vehicles, and development activities. All required trees are also subject to the provisions of Section 9.5.6 of this Chapter and subject to the enforcement criteria of Chapter 11.

C. Partial Exception for Limited Clearing

Limited clearing and grubbing may be authorized by the Planning Director prior to the installation of protective tree barricades on sites that exhibit unusually heavy undergrowth where access to the interior of the site and its protected trees would be otherwise highly impractical. Limited clearing shall be for the

express purpose of accessing the property and protected trees to erect the required tree protection and silt fencing. For the purposes of this Article, limited clearing shall be clearing done with hand tools, push or walk behind equipment or lightweight bush-hog type equipment designed specifically for brush and undergrowth clearing that is not capable of removing vegetation greater than 3 inches in diameter. Under no circumstances will metal tracked bulldozers, loaders, or similar rider/operator types of equipment be allowed on the site until the protective barricades are erected and a zoning permit is issued.

D. Separation of Trees from Pavement, Grading and Structures

Paved areas shall be separated from trees by a minimum distance of the drip line or one and one-half feet times the DBH or as modified by the Planning Director as deemed necessary to protect the root system of the tree. Paved areas shall not constitute more than 25 percent of the protected area beneath a tree. Any paving, grading, trenching, or filling within the remaining 75 percent of the protected area must be approved by the Planning Director and may require specific construction techniques be used in order to preserve the health of the tree. Refer to Chapter 9 exhibits for examples. When grading and construction within the protected area of a tree has been approved, all damaged roots shall be severed clean and inspected by the County Landscape Architect or Inspector prior to the receipt of a Zoning Permit.

E. Quantity and Location of Trees to be Protected

Before the issuance of a Zoning Permit for Commercial, Industrial, Multi-Family, and Civic/Institutional uses, the following number of trees with a diameter breast height of 8 inches or greater shall be preserved and protected in accordance with the provisions of Section 9.4.4.B of this Ordinance. All trees located within required buffers as outlined in Article 9.5 shall be protected.

1. 20 trees per acre; or
2. Any number of trees with a combined diameter breast height of at least 160 inches per acre.
3. Required drainage improvements such as detention and retention ponds and wetlands may be subtracted from the area used to calculate tree preservation requirements.

§9.4.5 TREE REMOVAL

A. Generally

Permits for tree removal may be approved where one or more of the following conditions are deemed to exist by the Planning Director:

1. Trees are not required to be retained by the provisions of this Article.
2. Trees are diseased, dead or dying (as determined by the Planning Director or a qualified arborist);

3. Trees pose an imminent safety hazard to nearby buildings, or pedestrian or vehicular traffic (as determined by the Planning Director or a qualified arborist); or
4. Removal of required trees has been approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

B. Variances

Grand Trees and protected trees that do not meet the above criteria may be removed only where approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals, and shall be replaced according to a schedule determined by the Board. The Planning Director will make recommendations to the Board concerning the number, species, DBH or caliper, and placement of such trees.

C. Emergency Provisions

In the event that a tree poses a serious and imminent threat to public safety due to death, disease or damage resulting from emergencies including, but not limited to, fires, flooding, storms, and natural disasters, the Planning Director may waive requirements of this Article. Documentation must later be submitted for review outlining the threat to public safety which initiated the removal. Documentation must include any written findings by a qualified arborist and photographs supporting the tree removal emergency. The Planning Director may require replacement of required trees that are removed where it is determined that death or disease resulted from negligence.

D. Violations and Penalties

Violations and penalties are specified in Chapter 11 of this Ordinance.

§9.4.6 TREE REPLACEMENT

A. Generally

Tree replacement shall be required accompanying development on all non-exempt properties in the manner described below:

1. When replacement canopy trees are required in fulfillment of the requirements of this Article, they shall be no smaller than two and one-half-inch caliper.
2. The Planning Director or Board of Zoning Appeals is empowered to require trees of larger caliper as determined appropriate for site-specific conditions and the circumstances, lawful or illegal, under which removal occurred.

B. Protected Trees Removed in Violation

When trees of 8 inches DBH or greater have been removed in violation of this Ordinance, replacement trees shall be planted in the same general area according to a replacement schedule approved by the Planning Director.

C. Sites with Less Than 160 Inches per Acre Combined DBH

When lots lack a sufficient number of trees to meet the requirement for DBH/number of trees per acre, all trees six inches DBH or greater shall be

preserved and protected in accordance with Section 9.4.4.B of this Chapter during development and must equal no less than 40 inches per acre combined DBH. On lots with less than 40 inches per acre combined DBH, additional trees shall be planted on the lot equaling or exceeding 40 inches per acre combined DBH. Planting schedules shall be approved by the Planning Director.

D. Previously Cleared Sites

Where sites were completely cleared of trees prior to adoption of this Article or have been cleared subsequently for activities exempted from this Article, replacement trees shall be planted, the combined caliper of which equals or exceeds 40 inches per acre. Replacement schedules, including number, species, caliper and placement shall be approved by the Planning Director.

E. Tree Fund

The Tree Fund is a fund established to receive monies exacted from tree removal violation fines to include, but not be limited to, removal, damage, destruction, or as defined in Section 9.4.1.C of this Chapter, and as a form of mitigation when planting of the required trees is determined to be detrimental to the overall health of existing trees or impractical for the intended site design. The Planning Director shall impose a Tree Mitigation fee based on the current market retail value of two- to three-inch caliper trees installed to the American Association of Nurserymen Standards. If the applicant disagrees with the amount of the Tree Mitigation fee imposed, they may file appeal with the Board of Zoning Appeals in accordance with the provisions contained in this Ordinance. All Tree Mitigation fees collected shall be paid to the County Treasurer and placed in an account established exclusively for public beautification through the planting of trees in Charleston County.

F. Bankruptcy or Abandonment of Site

When trees have been removed through an approved mitigation program and the project will not be completed for any reason (i.e., bankruptcy, abandonment, change in ownership, etc.), the owners of the subject property are responsible for the mitigation of the removed trees as outlined and agreed or subject to Section 9.4.6E of this Chapter.

§9.4.7 INSPECTIONS AND FINAL APPROVAL

A. The Planning Director shall periodically visit development sites prior to completion to monitor compliance with the tree plan approved for a project.

B. Prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for a completed structure by the Director of Building Services, the Planning Director shall issue a statement of approval attesting to the developer's compliance with the site plan approved for the project (including landscaping, parking, drainage, etc.). The Director of Building Services shall withhold certificates of occupancy pending verification of compliance. It is the responsibility of the owner or agent to contact the Planning Director regarding the compliance inspection. Such inspections will occur within five working days of contact. Failure to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy prior to occupying or using the building for its intended purpose will result in ticketing and fines. However, the Planning Director shall approve a

delayed schedule for planting materials (provided by the applicant's contractor) when the immediate planting schedule would impair the health of the plants. When a delayed planting schedule is approved, the applicant shall provide a bond equivalent to one and one-half times the projected cost of the planting materials. This is designed to include severe weather, such as droughts, heat waves, and floods.

- C. Within three years of the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy, the Planning Director shall perform a site inspection to verify the health of trees which were retained to meet the requirements of this Article and which may have suffered damage due to insufficient protective measures during development.
- D. Each required tree that is determined by the Planning Director to be diseased or injured to the extent it is irreparably damaged shall be approved for removal. The burden of proof of the extent of the disease or injury shall rest with the applicant, who must provide documentation from a qualified arborist. Any tree damaged during or as a result of construction shall be repaired to the satisfaction of the Planning Director and in accordance with accepted ANSI A300 or International Society of Arboriculture practices. Tree damage must be repaired prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.
- E. The owners of a non-exempt property or properties shall be responsible for the maintenance of all required trees. No department or agent of the County of Charleston is in any way responsible for the maintenance of required trees on private property.

ARTICLE 9.5 LANDSCAPING, SCREENING AND BUFFERS

§9.5.1 APPLICABILITY

Unless expressly exempted, the landscaping, screening and buffering standards of this Article shall apply to all new non-residential development and all new major roadways that serve Residential Major Subdivisions (ten or more lots). Minor Subdivisions (those with fewer than ten lots) may be required to provide landscaping, screening or buffering on major roadways when the Planning Director determines that such landscaping, screening or buffering is necessary to ensure that the purposes of this Ordinance are met. When modifications or additions are being made to an existing non-residential building or site, the standards of this Article shall apply to those portions of the subject parcel that are directly affected by the proposed improvements, as determined by the Planning Director, provided that when modifications or additions are proposed that would increase the number of parking spaces, the area of vehicular use areas or gross floor area of buildings by more than 25 percent (above existing), then the entire parcel shall be brought into compliance with all applicable standards of this Article. Before calculating the percentage of area for re-development and improvement, any proposed demolition of structures and parking is subtracted from the existing gross floor area of buildings and number of parking spaces.

§9.5.2 EXHIBITS

Drawings included as exhibits at the end of this Chapter are meant to compliment the language of the Ordinance. In the event of a conflict with the text of the Ordinance, the text shall apply.

§9.5.3 PARKING, LOADING AND VEHICULAR USE AREA LANDSCAPING**A. Parking, Loading and Vehicular Area Perimeters**

Unless otherwise expressly stated, perimeter landscaping shall be required around the outer perimeter of all off-street, surface parking, loading and vehicular use areas. Parking areas for the exclusive use of single family or agricultural uses shall be exempt from these requirements. Any off-street parking, loading or vehicular use area that will be entirely screened from view by an intervening building or structure or by a buffer provided to satisfy the standards of this Chapter shall also be exempt from these (parking, loading and vehicular use Area) perimeter landscaping requirements.

1. A perimeter landscape area at least eight feet in depth shall be provided at the perimeter of all off-street parking, loading and vehicular use areas, except where permitted driveway openings are to be provided. Where drainage or other utility easements exist along property lines, the perimeter landscape area shall be located adjacent to the easement.
2. Required perimeter landscape areas shall be planted in accordance with the following minimum standards:
 - a. One canopy tree shall be provided for each 50 linear feet of parking, loading or vehicular use area perimeter. These trees may be used to satisfy the interior parking lot landscaping requirements.
 - b. A hedge or other landscape material of at least three feet in height (at maturity) shall be planted within the perimeter landscape area to provide a continuous landscape element, or a combination of trees, hedge, other durable landscape material or approved wall, fence or earth berm may be used to form the continuous landscape element;
 - c. All portions of the perimeter landscape area not planted with shrubs or trees or covered by a wall or fence barrier shall be planted in grass or ground cover; and
 - d. Parked vehicles may overhang a landscaped area if curbing or wheel stops are installed to prevent any damage to plants within the required perimeter landscape area. Landscaping, walls, fences and earth berms will be so located as to prevent their damage and/or destruction by overhanging vehicles.

B. Interior Areas

The following interior parking lot landscaping requirements shall apply to all parking lots except those exclusively serving single family residential or agricultural uses.

1. A minimum of one landscape island shall be provided for each ten parking spaces within an off-street parking area. Required landscape islands shall have a minimum of 325 square feet, variably dependent upon the species of the canopy tree proposed by the designer. Each parking lot bay must terminate with a tree island.

2. Each required landscaping island shall contain at least one canopy tree and there shall be no more than ten parking spaces in a row between tree islands. Interior parking landscape islands that separate double loaded parking bays shall be a minimum of nine feet wide. Canopy trees planted in these islands must be planted in line with the parking stripes (between vehicles) and may be used to satisfy the parking lot tree requirements, however, all parking lot bays must terminate with a tree island. Example shown in Chapter 9 exhibits.
3. Curbs, wheel stops or other approved protective barriers shall be installed around all required landscape islands, as approved by the Planning Director.
4. Landscaping provided to meet the right-of-way buffer standards of Section 9.5.4 of this Chapter may not be used to satisfy interior parking lot landscaping requirements. Canopy trees provided to meet perimeter adjacent use buffer landscaping requirements may be counted to satisfy interior parking lot landscaping requirements.

§9.5.4 LANDSCAPE BUFFERS

A. Right-of-Way Buffers

1. Applicability

Right-of-way buffers shall be required adjacent to road rights-of-way for all uses except for the following: agricultural and residential uses existing on or prior to November 20, 2001. Minor Subdivisions may not have to comply with the requirements of this Section if the Planning Director determines that compliance is not necessary to satisfy the purposes of this Ordinance.

2. Buffer Reductions

The Planning Director shall be authorized to reduce the depth of a required right-of-way buffer as follows:

- a. General: A required right-of-way buffer may be reduced by up to one-third its depth when the following circumstance exist:
 - i. The parcel is located on a corner lot with required right-of-way buffers of thirty-five (35) feet or more; or
 - ii. The area of all the required buffers, including land use buffers and tree protection area, exceeds thirty percent (30%) of the site.
- b. A required right-of-way buffer of thirty-five (35) feet or less, located within the Urban/Suburban Area as defined by the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and not located within an Overlay Zoning District may be reduced as follows:

- i. When no parking or vehicular use area is located between the building and the right-of-way, the required buffer may be reduced to no less than eight (8) feet (Type A land use buffer) provided the site layout and building elevations meet all applicable sections of Article 9.6, Architectural And Landscape Design Standards.
- ii. When no more than ten (10) parking spaces are located between the building and the right of way, the required buffer may be reduced to no less than fifteen (15) feet (S2 buffer) provided the site layout and building elevations meet all applicable sections of Article 9.6, Architectural And Landscape Design Standards.
- iii. Buffers required on parcels that are part of redevelopment that preserves existing structures may be reduced up to a depth no less than ten (10) feet (Type A land use buffer) in order to meet the parking and tree preservation requirements of this Ordinance.

The Planning Director may require additional site improvements including but not limited to, enhanced building architecture and materials and/or increased plant material sizes and density when a buffer reduction is granted to provide an attractive streetscape adjacent to the right of way.

3. Buffer Types by Roadway

Landscape buffers shall be required along roadways in accordance with the following table. Streets and roads not indicated in the table shall comply with the S2 buffer requirements. Section 9.5.4 of this Chapter describes buffer types and planting requirements.

4. Development Within Buffer Areas

- a. No development may occur within required buffer areas; with the exception of sidewalks and permitted drives and signs;
- b. All buffer areas shall accommodate required plant material within the buffer;
- c. Drainage swales and stormwater detention ponds may be placed in the buffer only when trees are not endangered and only when they meander through the buffer in a natural manner; and
- d. Stormwater detention ponds may not occupy more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the buffer area.

ROADWAY	BUFFER TYPE	ROADWAY	BUFFER TYPE
Abbapoola Road	S4	Magwood Road	S3
Ashley Hall Road	S1	Main Road (Limehouse Bridge to Maybank Hwy.)	S5
Hwy. 61/Ashley River Road (Saint Andrews Boulevard to Sam Rittenberg Boulevard)	S1	Main Road (Bees Ferry Road to Limehouse Bridge)	S4
Hwy. 61/Ashley River Road (Sam Rittenberg Boulevard to Mark Clark Expressway)	S2	Manse Road	S4
Hwy. 61/Ashley River Road (Mark Clark Expressway to Church Creek)	S3	Mark Clark Expressway	S5
Hwy. 61/Ashley River Road (Church Creek to Muirfield Parkway/MacLaura Hall Ave.) [1]	S5	Mary Ann Point Road	S3
Hwy. 61/Ashley River Road (Muirfield Parkway/ MacLaura Hall Avenue intersection to Charleston County Line)[1]	S6	Mathis Ferry Road [1]	S4
Bears Bluff Road	S5	Maybank Highway Corridor Overlay District	[2]
Bees Ferry Road	S4	Maybank Highway [James Island]	S1
Belvedere Road	S4	Maybank Hwy (Main Road to Rockville)	S5
Betsy Kerrison Parkway [1]	S5	Meeting Street	S1
Bohicket Road [1]	S5	Murraywood Road	S4
Botany Bay Road	S4	Old Georgetown Road	S4
Brownswood Road	S4	Liberia Road	S4
Abbapoola Road	S4	Old Georgetown Road in the "Loop" area (designated on the Mount Pleasant Overlay map)	S1
Cane Slash Road	S4	Old Jacksonboro Road	S4
Chisolm Road	S4	Old Pond Road	S4
Chuck Dawley Boulevard	S1	Old Towne Road	S1
Coleman Boulevard	S1	Orange Grove Road	S1
Doar Road	S4	Orleans Road	S1
Dorchester Road	S1	Parkers Ferry Road	S4
Eddingsville Beach Road	S4	Patton Avenue/Fickling Hill Road	S4
Edenvale Road	S4	Peters Point Road	S4

ROADWAY	BUFFER TYPE	ROADWAY	BUFFER TYPE
Fordham Road	S1	Pine Landing Road	S4
Fort Johnson Road [1]	S3	Plow Ground Road	S4
Hamlin Road	S3	Raccoon Island Road	S4
Harborview Road	S1	Rifle Range Road	S3
Highway 162	S4	River Road [1]	S5
Highway 165	S4	Riverland Drive [1]	S4
Highway 17 (Hwy. 41 to County Line)	S5	Rivers Avenue	S1
Highway 17 (east of Isle of Palms Connector to Hwy. 41, not including Old Georgetown Hwy "Loop" Area)	S4	Rutledge Road	S4
Highway 17 in the Old Georgetown Road "Loop" area (as designated on the Mount Pleasant Overlay map)	S1	Saint Andrews Boulevard	S1
Highway 17 (west of the Isle of Palms Connector including bypass)	S1	Savannah Highway [Bees Ferry Rd. to County Line] otherwise S2	S3
Highway 174 (Highway 164 to Edisto Beach) [1]	S5	Seewee Road	S4
Highway 174 (Highway 17 to Highway 164)	S3	South Santee Road	S4
Highway 41	S4	Steamboat Landing Road (Jenkins Hill Rd to Steamboat Creek)	S4
Highway 45	S4	Tibwin Road	S4
Humbert Road	S3	Toogoodoo Road	S4
James Island Bridge/Highway 61 Connector	S3	Venning Road	S3
James Island Expressway	S4	Wappoo Road	S1
Liberia Road	S4	Wescott Road	S4
Long Point Road (SPA Wando Terminal to I-526)	S1	Willtown Road	S4
Long Point Road (Outside of MP-O district) [1]	S4		

[1] Denotes Scenic Road designation that shall require protection under the provisions of this Ordinance of all trees 6 inches or greater in diameter breast height (DBH) which are located within rights-of-way.

[2] S6 for industrial use; S5 all other uses.

5. Buffer Depth and Planting Standards

STANDARD	BUFFER TYPE					
	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6
MIN. BUFFER DEPTH (ft from right-of-way)[1]	15	20	35	50	75	100
MINIMUM BUFFER LANDSCAPING (Plants per 100 linear feet)[2][3]						
Canopy Trees[4]	2	2	4	6	9	12
Understory Trees (at least 50 percent evergreen)	3	4	6	9	12	15
Shrubs	25	30	40	50	60	75
Street Trees (may be counted toward canopy tree req.)[5]	2	2	2	2	2	NA

All trees with a diameter breast height (DBH) of 6 inches or greater within buffers shall be preserved.

[1] Buffers may be traversed by permitted driveways and pedestrian ways.

[2] The retention of natural buffers shall be required along all road or street rights-of-way of S3 designation or greater. The Planning Director shall be authorized to waive/modify minimum buffer planting requirements when an undisturbed natural buffer exists that is the same depth and amount of plant material as that which is required.

[3] Bradford Pears cannot be used to fulfill any of the tree requirements of this Ordinance. Any exotic species which are proposed by the designer are subject to approval of the Planning Director.

[4] When existing overhead utility lines are located such that they may pose interference with required canopy trees, Palmetto trees may be substituted to fulfill the canopy tree requirements. These trees are to be planted at a ratio of three Palmetto trees to one canopy tree and are to be planted in groupings of three.

[5] Street trees are trees planted in rights-of-way for the purpose of fulfilling these requirements. Any planting in rights-of-way must be approved by party(ies) authorized to grant encroachment.

Note: The Planning Director shall be authorized to require the installation of berms within required buffers where deemed necessary to protect the visual quality of a road corridor or ensure land use compatibility.

B. Land Use Buffers

1. Applicability

Land use buffers shall be provided in accordance with the standards of this Section, provided that the Planning Director shall be authorized to modify or waive buffer or landscape planting requirements if it is determined that:

- Buffers will not serve any useful purpose due to the fact that fences, walls, berms, or landscaping of at least equivalent height, opacity, and maintenance already exist on the adjacent parcel;
- Buffers will not serve any useful purpose due to the location of uses, vehicles, buildings, structures, or storage, loading, display or service areas; or

- c. The area of required buffers would exceed 25 percent of the site proposed for development.

When landscape buffer requirements are modified or waived, the Planning Director may require that additional plant material be added within remaining buffers or elsewhere on the site.

2. Exemptions

Single family development on individual lots shall be exempt from the land use buffer requirements of this Section.

3. Determination of Required Buffers

The following procedure shall be used in determining which of the buffer types in the Land Use Buffer Table (Section 9.5.4.B.4) of this Chapter apply:

- a. Determine the type of use proposed for the site that is being developed. This is the "Proposed Use" (Column 1);
- b. Determine the residential use type that exists on the adjacent parcel (if residential) or the zoning district classification that applies to the adjacent parcel. This is the "Adjacent Site's Use or Zoning";
- c. Identify the type of landscape buffer required along the developing site's boundary (A, B, C, D, E, or F);
- d. Refer to Section 9.5.4.B.5 of this Chapter to identify the buffer depth and landscaping standards for the required buffer type.

4. Land Use Buffer Table

Land Use Buffers shall be provided along side and rear yards in accordance with the following minimum requirements:

Proposed Use	Use or Zoning of Adjacent Site											
	Residential Type			Zoning District								Agricultural Use
	1	2	3	R [1]	OR	OG	CN	CT	CR	CC	I	
Residential Type 1	-	A	B	-	A	B	B	B	B	C	D	F
Residential Type 2	A	-	A	-	A	B	B	B	B	C	D	F
Residential Type 3	B	A	-	-	A	A	B	B	B	C	D	F
Civic/Institutional	B	B	A	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commercial Type 1	B	B	B	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commercial Type 2	C	C	C	C	C	B	B	-	-	-	-	-
Industrial Type 1	E	E	D	D	D	D	C	C	C	B	-	-
Industrial Type 2	F	F	F	F	E	E	D	C	C	C	A	-

[1] Applies to undeveloped (vacant) R and AGR zoned property.

Residential Use Types: Type 1 = Single family Detached; Type 2 = Duplex and Single family Attached; Type 3 = Multi-Family and all other residential use types, including manufactured housing parks.

Commercial Use Types: Type 1 = Any commercial use allowed by right in an OR, OG or CN district; Type 2 = all other commercial uses that are allowed in commercial (c) zoning districts (commercial uses are those listed in the "Commercial" rows of Use Table 6.1-(1))

Industrial Use Types: Type 1 = Any industrial or commercial use that is first allowed in an industrial (I) zoning district; Type 2 = Waste-Related uses, Resource Extraction uses and Recycling Centers.

5. Buffer Depth and Landscaping Standards

Standard	Buffer Type					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
MINIMUM BUFFER DEPTH (feet from property line)	10	15	25	40	60	100
MINIMUM LAND USE BUFFER LANDSCAPING (Plants per 100 linear feet)[1][2]						
Canopy Trees	2	3	3	5	7	9
Understory Trees (at least 50 percent evergreen)	3	4	4	7	9	11
Shrubs	20	20	25	30	40	50

[1] The Planning Director shall be authorized to require the installation of fences, walls or berms within required buffers where deemed necessary to ensure land use compatibility or otherwise protect the visual quality of an area.

[2] All trees with a diameter breast height (DBH) of 8 inches or greater within buffers shall be preserved.

C. General

1. Location of Buffers

Buffers shall be located along the perimeter of a lot or parcel and shall extend to the boundary of the lot parcel. They shall not be located on any portion of public right-of-way. Where drainage or other utility easements exist along property lines, required landscape buffers shall be located adjacent to the easement and may be reduced in width by the width of the easement, but in no case shall the buffer width be less than ten feet. Required buffers shall be noted on all plats, plans and permit requests submitted for review and approval under this Ordinance.

2. Plant Material Within Buffers

Plant material within required buffers shall be selected and spaced properly to allow plant material to thrive considering site specific conditions. Plant material to be located adjacent to public drainage easements and right-of-ways shall be selected and placed to not create future access or maintenance impediments including low lying lateral branches. Additionally, plant material within required buffers that contain utility easements shall be selected and sited to minimize pruning for future maintenance and clearance of such utilities. The Planning Director must approve all selections and may require modifications (substitutions and relocation) of plant material on proposed landscape plans when necessary to assure access and ease of maintenance to any easements and right-of-ways and to preserve the public health, safety and welfare.

3. Use of Buffers

The Planning Director shall be authorized to allow on-premises signs, fences, walls, berms, mailboxes, access to community boat ramps, permitted driveways, and sidewalks within required buffers. Other improvements may be allowed within buffers if the Planning Director determines that such improvements will not detract from the intended purpose and function of the buffer or have any adverse affect on adjacent property.

§9.5.5 Landscape Plans

Landscape and Planting Plans submitted to meet the requirements of the Ordinance are to be drawn to the same scale as the Site Plan depicting proposed shrubs and trees at maturity. It is strongly encouraged that all Landscape Plans be prepared by a licensed registered Landscape Architect or Landscape Designer familiar with the growth habits and characteristics of plant material available in the Charleston area. Landscape Plans shall be prepared by a licensed, registered Landscape Architect whenever the area of land disturbance or development activity exceeds one acre or when the total area of proposed building footprint exceeds 5,000 square feet.

§9.5.6 Landscape Material Standards

Landscape and plant material used to satisfy the standards of this Ordinance shall comply with the minimum standards of this Section.

A. Plant Material

1. Existing Plant Material

Vegetation and plant material that exists on a parcel prior to its development may be used to satisfy the landscaping standards of this Section provided that it meets the size and locational requirements of this Article.

2. Size

Unless otherwise expressly stated, all plant materials used to satisfy the requirements of this Ordinance shall meet the following minimum size standards:

PLANT TYPE	MINIMUM SIZE
Canopy Tree	2 1/2 inches caliper and 12 feet in height
Understory/Ornamental Tree	8 feet (height)
Evergreen/Conifer Tree	5 feet (height)
Shrubs	3 gallon and 18" to 24" in height or spread

Note: At least 50 percent of required understory trees shall be evergreens. Any plant material that grows to an ultimate height of less than 18 inches shall be considered a groundcover and cannot be used to fulfill any of the shrub requirements of this Ordinance.

3. Species

Species of plant material used to satisfy the requirements of this Section shall be indigenous to the Charleston County area or are cultivated to survive in the climate of this area. No single plant species shall represent more than 40 percent of total landscape plantings, except for projects whose landscape requirements for canopy trees are lower than ten.

4. Quality

Plants installed to satisfy the requirements of this Section shall meet or exceed the plant quality standards of the most recent edition of American Standard for Nursery Stock, published by the American Association of Nurserymen. Plants shall be nursery-grown and balled and burlapped or container-grown.

5. Additional Landscape Treatment

All required landscape areas, including drainageways and detention/retention ponds, and buffers not dedicated to trees, shrubs or preservation of existing vegetation shall be landscaped with grass, ground cover, or other landscape treatment, not including sand, rock or pavement. All grass areas are to be installed using proper and accepted landscape methods to assure germination and erosion control.

B. Berms and Landscape Structures

Berms and landscape structures shall comply with the following minimum standards.

1. **Fences and Walls**

Fences and walls used as a screen shall be at least 95 percent opaque, with a minimum height of six feet.

2. **Berms**

Earthen berms shall have a minimum height of three feet, with a slope not to exceed 3:1, variable dependent upon the plant materials and soil type used. The toe of any berm shall be located at least three feet from the ultimate right-of-way or property line.

§9.5.7 Installation, Maintenance and Replacement

- A. **Installation**

All landscaping shall be installed according to American Association of Nurserymen Standards and sound nursery practices in a manner designed to encourage vigorous growth. Sites for plant material shall be prepared or improved in accordance with American Association of Nurserymen Standards for soil preparation and drainage. Subsurface drainage shall be provided where berms, elevated planting areas or other suitable means for providing proper drainage do not exist.

- B. **Irrigation**

The Planning Director shall be authorized to require the installation of automatic irrigation (sprinkler) systems when deemed necessary to ensure plant survival and proper growth.

- C. **Maintenance and Replacement**

Required trees, shrubs, walls and other landscape features shall be considered as elements of the project in the same manner as parking, building materials and other details are elements of the plan. The land owner, or successors in interest, shall be jointly and severally responsible for the following:

1. Regular maintenance of all landscaping in good condition and in a way that presents a healthy, neat, and orderly appearance. All landscaping shall be maintained free from disease, pests, weeds and litter. This maintenance shall include weeding, watering, fertilizing, pruning, mowing, edging, mulching or other maintenance, as needed and in accordance with acceptable horticultural practices, including ANSI standards for Tree Care Operations and American Association of Nurserymen Standards;
2. The repair or replacement of required landscape structures (e.g., fences) to a structurally sound condition;
3. The regular maintenance, repair, or replacement, where necessary, of any landscaping required by this Section; and
4. Continuous maintenance of the site as a whole

When replacement of trees, plant material or other landscape features is required, such replacement shall be accomplished within one growing season, one year or such time-frame as required by the Planning Director, whichever is shorter.

ARTICLE 9.6 ARCHITECTURAL AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN STANDARDS

§9.6.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of these standards is to promote attractive, well-designed development that is built to human scale; to promote and protect the appearance, character and economic value of new development; to encourage creativity in new development (as opposed to homogeneity or "look-alike" projects); and to foster attractive streetscapes and pedestrian environments, while accommodating safe vehicular movement and access.

§9.6.2 APPLICABILITY

These standards shall apply to all developments that are subject to Site Plan Review. (See Article 3.7)

§9.6.3 ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

The intent of the Architectural Design Guidelines is to assure respect for the character, integrity, and quality of the built and natural environments of the county; it is not intended to stifle innovative architecture. The following criteria shall be used in evaluating applications:

A. General Design

1. Single, large building masses shall be avoided. Structures with walls of more than 1,500 square feet should incorporate fascias, canopies, arcades, building setbacks of three feet or more or other multidimensional design features to break up large wall surfaces on their street facing elevations. Wall surfaces shall be visually divided by such features into areas of 750 square feet or less.
2. All elevations of a structure shall be in harmony, one with another, in terms of scale, proportion, detail, material, color, and high design quality.
3. The side and rear elevations of buildings shall be as visually attractive as the front elevation, especially where those side or rear elevations are most often viewed by the public. Rooflines and architectural detailing shall present a consistency in quality design.
4. All structures within a proposed development, including gasoline canopies, shall utilize a uniform architectural theme and shall be designed to create a harmonious whole. It is not to be inferred that buildings must look alike to achieve a harmony of style. Harmony of style can be created through property considerations of scale, proportion, detail, materials, color, site planning, and landscaping.

5. The scale of buildings and accessory structures (including canopies) shall be appropriate to the scale of structures located in the surrounding area. Canopies designed as domineering or overpowering architectural features are strongly discouraged.
6. Long, monotonous facade design, including, but not limited to, those characterized by unrelieved repetition of shape or form, or by unbroken extension of line, shall not be permitted.
7. The architectural design and material finish of buildings, signage, gasoline pump canopies, and other necessary structures shall be compatible with one another and with adjacent and surrounding structures where such structures are substantially in compliance with these requirements.
8. Structures which are of symbolic design for reasons of advertising shall not be permitted. A symbol or symbols attached to a building shall not be allowed unless it is secondary in appearance to the structure and landscape, and is an aesthetic asset to the building and surrounding area.
9. The location and dimension of wall signs shall be indicated upon the architectural elevations of proposed structures and shall maintain compatibility with the architectural features of the structure.

B. Building Materials

1. Concrete finishes or precast concrete panels (tilt wall) that are not exposed aggregate, hammered, sandblasted or covered with a cement-based acrylic coating shall be prohibited as an exterior building material along any building elevation visible from public rights-of-way.
2. Unpainted or bare metal panels, regardless of depth or thickness, shall be prohibited as an exterior building material.
3. Corrugated or sheet metal, except stainless steel, copper, or galvanized metal shall be prohibited as an exterior building material along any building elevation visible from public rights-of-way.
4. Mirrored glass with a reflectance greater than 40 percent shall be prohibited from covering more than 40 percent of the exterior walls of any building.
5. Materials shall express their function clearly and honestly and shall not appear as materials which are foreign to the character of the rest of the building.
6. Any building exterior elevation shall consist of architectural materials which are equal in quality, appearance, and detail to all other exterior elevations of the same structure. Nothing in this Section shall preclude

the use of different materials on different exterior elevations of the same structure so long as those materials maintain the architectural unity and integrity of the entire structure.

7. Shingles, metal standing seam, tile, or other roofing materials with similar appropriate texture and appearance shall be utilized. Flat roofs will not be discouraged where they are appropriate to the design theme of a structure.

C. Building Color

1. Color shades shall be used to unify the development.
2. Color combinations of paints shall be complementary. In no case shall garish colors be permitted. In general, no more than three different colors per building shall be allowed.

D. Multiple-Building Developments

Each individual building within a development shall feature predominant characteristics including, but not limited to, consistent rooflines, use of compatible proportions in building mass and outdoor spaces, complementary relationships to the street, similar window and door patterns, and the use of complementary building materials in terms of color, shades, and textures. Monotony of identically designed multiple building projects shall be avoided. Variation of detail, form, and siting shall be used to provide visual interest. The use of different textures, shadow lines and contrasting shapes may also be used to provide visual interest.

E. Building Orientation

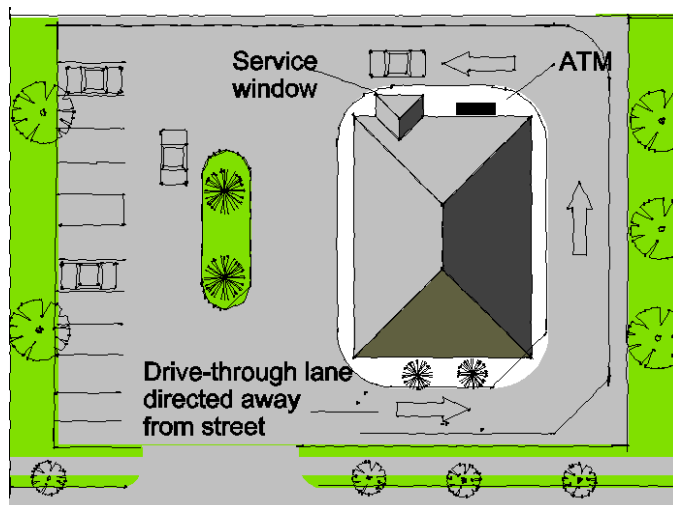
1. To the maximum extent feasible, primary facades and entries should face the adjacent street. Except in industrial districts, a main entrance shall face the adjacent street or a connecting walkway with a direct pedestrian connection to the street without requiring pedestrians to walk through parking lots or cross driveways.
2. Where it is reasonably practical, proposed structures shall not impede scenic rural views from the main road, from existing structures, or from natural settings.
3. Structures shall be oriented so that loading areas are in no manner visible from Residential districts, from existing rights-of-way or from planned future public rights-of-way. Loading areas may be oriented toward adjoining developed properties which are commercially zoned or toward adjoining properties eligible for future commercial development if and only if they are entirely screened from view by the use of fencing which is compatible with the overall architectural scheme of the project and/or are appropriately landscaped.
4. All corner developments shall have buildings located close to the corner with majority of parking to the side and rear.

5. All buildings shall be sited so that a direct relationship with the primary street is established. The architecture, landscaping and building siting must work in concert to create a unified appearance.
6. Gas Stations.
Buildings shall be sited so that gasoline pump dispensers are located to the side of the building or located behind the buildings so that the building is between the pumps and the primary street frontage. If located on a corner lot, the building would have to be situated in the corner of the lot at the intersection.

F. Mechanical Equipment and Trash Receptacle Screening

Locations of all mechanical equipment and dumpsters shall be shown on all site plans. All mechanical equipment and trash receptacles shall be shielded and screened from public view. Mechanical equipment shall be shielded with walls, fencing or landscaping that screens the equipment entirely. Dumpsters shall be screened with a minimum 6-foot opaque fence or wall on all four sides and located toward the side or rear of the principle structure.

- G.** All order boxes, menu stands, pickup windows, service/teller windows, and required vehicle stacking associated with drive thru services shall be located to the side or rear of buildings. For the purpose of this Section, the side or rear shall mean the area behind a projected line running parallel from the front (street facing) side(s) of the structure to the side property lines. This concept is depicted in the graphic below:



§9.6.4 LANDSCAPING DESIGN GUIDELINES

The purpose and intent of Landscaping Design Guidelines is to reduce the visibility of paved areas from adjacent properties and streets, moderate climatic effects, minimize noise and glare, and enhance public safety by defining spaces to influence traffic movement. Landscaping will reduce the amount of stormwater runoff and provide transition between neighboring properties. The following criteria shall be used in evaluating applications:

A. General Design

1. Landscaping shall be required between buildings and sidewalks, and parking lots and driveways. The scale of the proposed landscaping shall be in proportion to the building.
2. Landscaping does not only include trees and plantings but also paving, benches, fountains, exterior lighting fixtures, fences, and any other item of exterior furniture. All items of the landscape are to be selected not only for their functional value but [also] for their aesthetic value and must compliment [complement] the whole.
3. All utility lines in the suburban areas such as electric, telephone, CATV, or other similar lines serving individual sites as well as all utility lines necessary within the property shall be placed underground. All junction and access boxes shall be screened with appropriate landscaping. All utility pad fixtures and meters should be shown on the site plan. The necessity for utility connections, meter boxes, and the like, should be recognized and integrated with the architectural elements of the site plan. All properties shall comply with the County's Right-of-Way Management Ordinance where applicable.
4. Ease of pedestrian access between proposed developments and adjacent developments shall be a required consideration in the development of a proposed project's site and circulation plans.

B. Parking/Drives

1. Parking areas and driveways shall be paved with material which is appropriate to the comprehensive design scheme of the project and to the intensity of use to which parking areas and driveways will be subject.
2. Buildings shall be sited so that the majority of parking is located to the side and rear of the building. The placement of the major portion of a proposed development's parking area to the rear of a main structure's corridor facade, or within a courtyard surrounded on three sides by a proposed structure, is strongly encouraged. The rationale for this guideline is to promote good proportional spatial definition for the corridors to be accomplished through a reduction in the distance required for a building's setback.
3. Drive-through access shall be integrally designed with the building and not dominate the design. Only single lane drive-throughs are allowed. Multi-lane drive-throughs are only allowed for banks (or similar financial institutions), post offices or utilities.

C. Site Lighting

Site lighting shall be from a concealed light source fixture and shall not interfere with the vision of vehicular traffic. A lighting plan with photo-metrics shall be stamped and signed by a registered professional engineer and comply with the following criteria:

1. Maximum average foot-candles shall not exceed 5 foot candles as depicted on photometric plans with a maximum not to exceed 12 foot candles close to light sources. Maximum foot candles under gasoline canopies and outdoor sales lots shall not exceed 30 foot candles.
2. All exterior lights shall be arranged and installed so that the direct or reflected illumination does not exceed one-half foot candle above the background measured at the lot line of any adjoining residential or agricultural parcel and public right-of-way.
3. Lighting shall enhance the overall aesthetics of the site.
4. Security lighting shall be provided, particularly at pedestrian walkways.
5. Lighting shall be integrated with architectural design of the buildings.
6. Light sources (light bulbs) shall not be visible. They shall be shielded to reflect down onto the ground and not out onto the streets or neighboring property.

ARTICLE 9.7 WETLANDS, WATERWAYS AND OCRM CRITICAL LINE

§9.7.1 WETLAND BUFFERS AND SETBACKS

A. Intent

The buffer standards of this Article are intended to provide a natural vegetated area between the furthestmost projection of a structure, parking or driveway area, or any other building elements, and all saltwater wetlands, waterways and OCRM (saltwater) critical lines. The purpose of these required buffers is to provide a visual, spatial, and ecological transition zone between development and the County's saltwater wetlands and waterways, and to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.

B. Wetland, Waterway and OCRM Critical Line Buffer Depth and Setbacks

1. Standards

The following minimum wetland/waterway buffers/setbacks shall be required:

Minimum Buffers/Setbacks (feet)	RM	AG-15	AG-10	AG-8	AGR	RR-3	S-3	R-4	M-8	M-12
OCRM Critical Line Buffer	35	35	35	35	35	35	15	15	15	15
Setback from OCRM Critical Line	50	50	50	50	50	50	35	35	35	35

Minimum Buffers/Setbacks (feet)	MHS	MHP	OR	OG	CT	CN	CR	CC	I
OCRM Critical Line Buffer	15	15	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
Setback from OCRM Critical Line	35	35	50	50	50	50	50	50	50

2. Reduction of OCRM Critical Line Setbacks

The Planning Director shall be authorized to reduce OCRM Critical Line setbacks to a distance not less than the buffer depth, when deemed necessary by the Director to accommodate reasonable development of the parcel and when it is determined by the Director that the setback reduction will not have a significant adverse impact on public health or safety.

3. Reduction of Buffers and Setbacks on Parcels Created Prior to April 21, 1999

When the application of buffer/setback requirements contained within this Ordinance render a parcel that existed prior to April 21, 1999, unbuildable, the Planning Director shall be authorized to reduce front, side and rear yard buffers/setbacks as necessary to make a parcel buildable. The Planning Director cannot reduce any front and/or rear yard buffer in an amount which would result in the placement of a structure closer to either the front or rear property line than any structure on an adjacent property. Any further reduction in any required buffer shall be made by appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

C. Measurement

Required OCRM critical line buffers and setbacks shall be measured from the OCRM critical line, whether the critical line or wetland/waterway is located on, adjacent to, or near the subject parcel.

D. Lot Width

The minimum lot width standards of the underlying zoning district shall apply at the required buffer or setback line.

§9.7.2 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

The following activities are specifically prohibited in a buffer area:

- A. Removal excavation, or disturbance of the soil, except for minimal disturbance associated with the planting of shrubs or trees for landscaping;
- B. Grassed lawns requiring regular maintenance such as herbicides; pesticides, fertilizers and frequent mowing;
- C. Gardens, fences, or structures, except for permitted crossings;
- D. Paved or other impervious surfaces; and
- E. Destruction or addition of plant life which would alter the existing pattern of vegetation.

ARTICLE 9.8 HISTORIC PRESERVATION**§9.8.1 INTENT**

The standards of this Section are intended to safeguard the integrity of historic structures, sites, and their context, and to protect public views of these resources along public rights-of-way.

§9.8.2 APPLICABILITY

The standards of this Section shall apply to all sites (existing and future) listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

§9.8.3 DEMOLITION

No demolition of a historic structure or site may occur until a Special Exception has been approved in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

§9.8.4 MOVING

No relocation of a historic structure or site may occur until a Special Exception has been approved in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance. Relocation should not be considered, except as a final alternative to demolition.

§9.8.5 NEW CONSTRUCTION; EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS

No new construction located on a historic structure or site or significant exterior alteration of a historic structure or site may occur until a Special Exception has been approved in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance. The applicant must demonstrate that all proposed renovations are consistent with the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) such that the structure shall remain listed on the NRHP following the completion of the proposed new construction and exterior alterations.

§9.8.6 NEARBY DEVELOPMENT

Subdivision plats for multi-family, manufactured housing park, office, commercial, or industrial development or residential subdivisions proposed to be located within 300 feet of a historic structure or site should be reviewed to determine their impact on the historic site. The Planning Director shall require that potential negative impacts be minimized through the location of vehicular access points, screening/buffering and other site design tools.

ARTICLE 9.9 TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDIES**§9.9.1 APPLICABILITY**

A traffic impact study shall be required with applications for zoning map amendments, preliminary plats and planned developments that are projected to generate 100 or more peak hour vehicle trips, based on trip generation rates from the latest edition of the Institute of Transportation Engineers Trip Generation manual. The Planning or Public Works Director shall also be authorized to require traffic impact studies when it is determined that a proposed development is likely to have a significant impact on transportation capacity, transportation levels of service or traffic safety in the vicinity of the proposed development.

§9.9.2 STUDY SCOPE

When a traffic impact study is required, the type and scope of the study shall be determined during a scoping meeting with the Planning and Public Works Directors. The meeting may also involve representatives of or request assessments from other agencies and departments. The elements to be determined during the scoping session shall include:

A. Type of Study

The possible types of reports include: a letter report, full traffic impact analysis report or special report (e.g., sight distance survey).

B. Definition of Impact Area

The points of access and key streets and intersections that may be affected by development of the subject tract constitute the impact area. Traffic recorder and turning movement assessment locations shall be determined.

C. Period of Analysis

Periods of analysis may include: daily traffic, a.m., p.m. or weekend peak hour.

D. Analysis Scenarios

Scenarios for analysis include: existing conditions, opening year conditions with and without development, and 10 years after opening with and without development.

E. Process

Process for determining trip generation and distribution including: trip generation category, diversion assumptions and distribution assumptions.

F. Growth Rate Assumption

The rate of growth assumed in background traffic assumptions.

G. Pipeline Development

Developments in the area that have been approved or are under review.

§9.9.3 TRAFFIC STUDY ELEMENTS

A letter report or special report shall include those elements agreed upon in the scoping meeting. A full traffic impact study shall include the following elements:

A. Existing Condition Survey**1. Street System Description**

The street system shall be described including geometric features, lane usage, traffic control, signage, sight distances and adjacent uses and curb cuts.

2. Traffic Volumes

Existing traffic volumes shall be provided for the impact area including both AADT (Average Annual Daily Traffic) and "Design" peak hour volumes. AADT may be derived from current counts of the South Carolina Department of Transportation (if available) and peak hour volumes shall be done from field counts. Data shall be adjusted for daily and seasonal variations. Turning movement counts for the peak hour shall be provided for critical intersections. Peak hour periods shall be as determined at the scoping meeting.

3. Capacity Analysis

Existing capacity of signalized and unsignalized intersections.

4. **Other**

Other items may be required at the discretion of the Public Works Director depending upon the type and scale of the project. These may include but are not limited to: queue length analysis, pedestrian counts, accident data, traffic speeds (both 50th and 85th percentile), and stopping sight distances.

B. Future without Development

Capacity analysis is to be provided for opening year and plus ten-year for key intersections (and roadway segments where appropriate) without the development but including any planned developments. The analysis shall be based upon the Highway Capacity Manual or other methodologies approved in advance by the Public Works Director.

C. Future with Development

1. Projections of the daily and peak hour traffic generation of the project shall be made using the latest edition of the Institute of Transportation Engineers Trip Generation manual unless the Public Works Director determines that locally derived data will provide more accurate forecasts. Data from similar facilities may be used where the information is not available from the Institute of Transportation Engineers.
2. The projected trips shall be distributed onto the road network as agreed in the scoping meeting.
3. Capacity analysis for opening year and plus ten-year for key intersections (and roadway segments where appropriate).
4. Special analysis as may be required to determine warrants for signalization, minimum safe sight distances, gap analysis, turning radius requirements, queue length analysis, turning lane length analysis, curb cut locations or similar requirements.

D. Mitigation Plan

Where the analysis indicates that the project will create deficiencies in the impact area, improvements shall be recommended which shall include projected cost estimates. The design of improvements shall be in accordance with specifications of the Public Works Director and, where appropriate, the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Where a Decision-Making Body determines that a mitigation plan is not adequate to address the traffic impacts of the project, it may serve as a basis for denial of the rezoning, preliminary plat or planned development request.

E. Consultants

The Public Works Director may require that a mutually agreed upon independent consultant be hired by the County to perform required traffic impact studies or to review all or part of a study prepared by the applicant's consultants. The Public Works Director is authorized to administer the contracts for such consultants.

1. The Public Works Director shall determine the scope of services to be performed by the independent consultant and receive a cost estimate of such services.
2. The applicant shall provide an amount equal to the estimate to the Public Works Director, who will deposit the amount in an escrow or special account set up for this purpose. Any funds not used for the independent consultant shall be returned to the applicant in a timely manner without interest.
3. The Public Works Director may require additional fees for the independent review if: the Decision-Making Body expands the scope of the required review; the applicant substantially amends the application; additional meetings involving the consultants are requested by the applicant; the consultant's appearance is requested at Planning Commission or County Council meetings beyond what was initially anticipated; or the consultant's attendance is required at meetings with regional, state, or federal agencies or boards which were not anticipated in the earlier scope of services.

ARTICLE 9.10 VISION CLEARANCE

§9.10.1 MAJOR ROADWAYS

Corner lots on major roadways shall have no structure or obstruction that obscures travel vision from 30 inches to ten feet above ground level in a triangular area formed by measuring from the point of intersection of the front and side lot lines a distance of 40 feet along the lot lines and connecting the points to form a triangle.

§9.10.2 COLLECTOR STREETS

On Collector Streets, the triangular area formed by measuring from the point of intersection of the front and side lot lines is 30 feet.

§9.10.3 SUB-COLLECTOR STREETS

On Sub-Collector Streets, the triangular area formed by measuring from the point of intersection of the front and side lot lines is 20 feet.

§9.10.4 PRIVATE DRIVES AND PRIVATE LANES

On private driveways of commercial or industrial activities, the triangular area formed by measuring from the point of intersection of the drive edge is 15 feet.

ARTICLE 9.11 SIGNS

§9.11.1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Purpose and Intent

This Article provides comprehensive regulations for signage in Charleston County designed to promote public safety and welfare by reducing visual clutter along highways, facilitating the efficient transfer of information, and thus enhancing traffic flow and the ability to locate needed goods and services.

B. Administration and Enforcement**1. Building and Electrical Code Standards**

All permanent signs must meet the structural and installation standards of the Standard Building Code and electrical standards of the National Electrical Code as enforced by the Charleston County Building Inspection Services.

2. Permit Required

No signs, shall be erected unless a zoning permit has been issued by the Planning Director in accordance with the procedures of this Ordinance, except real estate signs, political signs, and campaign signs 32 square feet or less in size.

3. Fees

An applicant for a zoning permit shall pay such fees as determined necessary for application processing. These fees are due upon submission of an application and shall be determined by County Council.

4. Documentation of Signs

Upon request, the owner of any existing sign shall provide the Charleston County Planning Director with evidence that documents the size, location and date of construction of all existing signs on the premises.

C. Prohibited Signs

Except as otherwise permitted by this Ordinance, the following sign types shall be prohibited:

1. Flashing Sign;
2. Animated Sign;
3. Sign Imitating Traffic Devices (Signal);
4. Sign Imitating Traffic Sign;
5. Sign in Marshes;
6. Sign in Right-of-Way;
7. Snipe Sign;
8. Vehicle Sign;
9. Roof Sign;
10. Off-Premises Sign (except Billboards, Shared Signs and Bona Fide Agricultural Use Signs as defined by this Ordinance).

D. Address Numbers

All permanent, free-standing, on-premises signs shall contain address numbers of at least four inches in height. The area devoted to required address numbers shall not be included in the calculation of maximum sign area.

E. Illumination

All lighted On-Premises signs shall comply with all dimensional standards set forth in this Ordinance. Additionally, all non-LED internally illuminated signs on property not adjacent to commercial or industrial uses shall have an opaque background on the sign face with a maximum of 80 watts per bulb and no more than one bulb per foot in height of the sign face. See section 9.11.2.I for

illumination requirements for LED message board signs.

F. Signs in Disrepair

Signs in disrepair shall be repaired, renovated, or removed from the premises within 60 days following notice by Planning Director.

G. Abandoned Signs

Signs advertising a person, business, service, event or other activity that is no longer available or other signs that contain inaccurate or outdated information shall be considered abandoned. Remedial action shall be taken within 30 days after a sign becomes abandoned. If no remedial action is taken, the Planning Director shall give notice to the owner of record who shall have 30 days to remove the sign prior to any further enforcement action being pursued. This provision shall apply to all abandoned signs, including those abandoned before April 21, 1999.

H. Signs Interfering with Vehicular Vision

1. In the area near the entrance of a driveway, no sign shall obscure the travel vision from 30 inches to ten feet above ground level in triangular areas formed by measuring from the point of intersection of any front lot line and driveway, a distance of 15 feet along the front lot line and driveway and connecting the points to form a triangle.
2. No sign or structure shall be erected so as to interfere with the vision of vehicles operated along any highway, street, road or driveway, or at any intersection of any street, highway or road with a railroad track. Signs determined by the Planning Director to be in violation shall be removed or relocated immediately upon notice.
3. Signs shall also comply with the site triangle standards, as illustrated in Chapter 9.

§9.11.2 FREE-STANDING SIGNS**TABLE 9.11.2 FREE-STANDING ON-PREMISES SIGNS**

ZONING DISTRICT			
Requirement [1] [2]	Agricultural	Residential	Non-Residential
Maximum Area	10 (32 with Special Exception) sq. ft.	10 sq. ft.	Bldg. Size (sq. ft.) Sign Size 0 sq. ft. to 2,500 sq. ft. = 50 sq. ft. 2,500 sq. ft. to 25,000 sq. ft. = 100 sq. ft. 25,000 sq. ft. to 100,000 sq. ft. = 150 sq. ft. 100,000 sq. ft. + = 200 sq. ft.
Maximum Height	12 ft.	6 ft.	20 ft. OR Districts: 6 ft.
Minimum Height	None	None	None
Maximum Width (height of sign with face)	N/A	5 ft.	Ratio—Longest side: Shortest side 5:1 (ft.)
Maximum Length	N/A	5 ft.	Ratio—Longest side: Shortest side 5:1(ft.)
Setbacks (Front/Int)	5/5 (ft.)	5/5 (ft.)	5/5 (ft.)
Max. No. Sign Faces	2 per sign	2 per sign	2 per sign
Max. No. Signs	2 per major frontage	1 per major frontage	1 per major road frontage

[1] Sign regulations for the CT Zoning District can be found in Section 4.18.4.

[2] Sign regulations for properties located in overlay districts can be found in Chapter 5.

- A. Maximum size, height, width, length, number of sign faces, number of signs per establishment and required minimum height and setbacks are based upon establishment size and shall conform with Table 9.11.2.
- B. A maximum of one reader board shall be allowed per zoning lot for single or multi-tenant structures containing office, commercial, or industrial uses if attached to permanent free-standing signs. The area of the reader board shall be included in the site's total sign area allowance.
- C. All new free-standing signs are to be designed as monument signs, pedestal style signs, or pole mounted signs.
- D. All pedestal style signs shall have a pole skirt.
- E. The predominate exterior sign materials used for free-standing signs shall complement those found on the principal structure as reviewed and approved through the site plan review process. Materials, design and color of the sign do

not need to be the same as those found on the principle structure to be considered complementary.

- F. Signs that are located in parking lots (such as directional signs) may be internally lit when constructed with routed letters or an opaque background.
- G. The hanging or attachment of objects is not permitted unless they are shown on the drawings approved for sign construction and meet all the requirements of this Ordinance.
- H. When calculating the sign area of a “monument sign”, “pedestal sign”, or “pole sign”, the internal structural framework supporting the sign or other solid structural features (not containing copy or any graphic, word, symbol, insignia, text sample, model, device, or combination thereof which is primarily intended to advertise, identify or notify, exclusive of a frame or border) shall not be used in the calculation of the maximum area of the sign. Signs may be mounted on a base or foundation that will not be included in the square footage; however, the base for monument signs must be as wide as the sign.

I. **Light Emitting Diode (LED) Message Board Signs**

An LED Message Board may be permitted as part of a free standing sign provided that documentation has been submitted demonstrating that it complies with all applicable sections of this ordinance and the following standards:

1. The sign is within the Urban/Suburban Area of the County, as defined by the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), and is located on a parcel that:
 - a. Is zoned Community Commercial (CC) or Industrial (I) and is adjacent to (shares side property boundaries) one or more parcels in the Community Commercial (CC) or Industrial (I) Zoning District; or
 - b. Contains a legally established Civic/Institutional Use as its principal use, provided that if the parcel shares one or more side property boundaries with parcels that are zoned Single-Family Residential (R-4) or Special Management 3 (S-3) or that contain single family detached residential uses, the proposed LED sign shall comply with the Special Exception procedures contained in this Ordinance and all other requirements of this Ordinance.
2. The sign is not located within any of the Overlay or Special Purpose Districts as described in Chapter Five of this Ordinance.
3. The sign is monument style, maximum ten (10) feet in height and the electronic message board constitutes no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the overall allowable sign area as defined by Table 9.11.2.
4. The electronic message board will exhibit low intensity lighting and low intensity, night dimming red or amber text (no graphics) on a black background associated only with the business of the subject parcel and the text will not scroll, fade, or move except on and off.

5. The copy will not change at intervals less than eight (8) seconds on LED signs that front on roads with a speed limit of forty-five (45) mph or greater and fifteen (15) seconds on roads with a speed limit less than forty-five (45) mph. On corner or double frontage lots, the required time interval will be based upon the speed limit of the road which the parcel is addressed.

§9.11.3 SPECIAL SIGNS

TABLE 9.11.3.A SPECIAL SIGNS

Type	Maximum Size	Maximum Number	Maximum Height	Minimum Setback
Subdivision/Multi-Family I.D. Signs	32 sq. ft.	2 per entrance	12 ft.	5 ft.
Directional	3 sq. ft.	Unlimited	4 ft.	N/A
Flags	60 sq. ft.	3 per zoning lot	35 ft. or 15 ft. above highest point of roof	N/A
Civic/Institutional	100 sq. ft. 32 sq. ft. in Residential or Agricultural uses	1 per zoning lot	12 ft. Sign must have opaque background except the marquee. Marquee cannot exceed 25% of total sign size	5 ft.
Home Occupations	3 sq. ft.	1 per zoning lot (free standing or wall mounted)	3 ft.	5 ft.

Maximum size, number, location and height of special signs shall conform with Table 9.11.3.A and the following standards:

A. Flags Used As Signs

1. A permit shall be required for the installation of all flag poles or flag display devices erected on lots zoned for multi-family, office, commercial, or industrial use or occupied by a multi-family, office, commercial, or industrial use.
2. Applicants must submit with the permit application a scaled site plan giving the location of all flag poles and complete dimensional and installation engineering data.
3. Applicants must provide documentation of minimum clearance from electric, telephone or cable TV lines as certified by the proper utility prior to issuance of permit, or installation.
4. Maximum size and number of flags used as signs, and height of flag poles shall conform with Table 9.11.3.A of this Chapter.

5. The American flag and the flag of the State of South Carolina are exempt from the provisions for maximum size of flags and maximum size of flagpoles in Table 9.11.3.A of this Chapter.

B. Sandwich Board/Sidewalk Sign

A permit may be issued for a maximum of two sandwich board signs per lot or business provided the signs comply with the following criteria:

1. The sign is located within the Commercial zoning districts on the subject parcel or in front of the business being advertised.
2. It is a maximum of three (3) feet in height with a maximum of nine (9) square feet per sign face.
3. The sign is erected only during the hours of operation of the subject business and must be removed daily after close of business.
4. The sign is not located within any right of ways or within any pedestrian ways which would impede or interfere with vehicular or pedestrian use of roads, sidewalks or seating areas.

C. Shared Free Standing Signs

1. Off-premises shared free standing signs are allowed in the Commercial and Industrial zoning districts for the advertisement and identification of two or more businesses or residential developments located on separate parcels.
2. One shared sign is allowed at the location of a jointly shared curb cut/entry drive.
3. Multiple businesses may participate on multiple shared signs; however, a business that participates on a shared free standing sign shall not be allowed to erect a single tenant on-premise free-standing sign.
4. Participating businesses must either share a property boundary on at least one (1) side or be part of an approved multi parcel development.
5. The size of a shared sign face may be one and one half (1.5) times the size allowed by the accumulated building square footages of the subject businesses advertised as defined in Table 9.11.2. Shared free standing signs must meet all other setback and dimensional standards for Non-Residential Free Standing Signs including all architectural standards and overlay district requirements of this Ordinance.

D. Off-Premises Bona Fide Agricultural Use Signs

Off-premises signs advertising products from Bona Fide Agricultural uses, related activities and farm identification may be permitted on properties located in Agricultural or Commercial zoning districts, subject to the following requirements:

1. A maximum of one (1) off-premises sign is permitted per Bona Fide Agricultural use;
2. The applicant shall submit a plan drawn to scale showing the proposed location of the sign on the property on which the sign is to be placed;
3. The sign shall comply with the setback and dimensional requirements of Table 9.11.2. Free-Standing On-Premises Signs, of this Ordinance. The applicable requirements of Table 9.11.2. shall be determined based on the Zoning District of the property where the sign is to be located;
4. The sign shall be located outside of any right-of-ways and easements, shall comply with the requirements of Article 9.10, Vision Clearance, of this Ordinance, and shall not be internally or externally illuminated;
5. The applicant shall submit a signed letter of intent and supporting documentation indicating that the primary use of the property being advertised is a Bona Fide Agricultural use as defined in this Ordinance and that the products and events advertised are grown, produced, and/or will occur on the Bona Fide Agricultural use property; and
6. The applicant shall submit a signed letter of agreement from the property owner of the parcel on which the sign is to be located stating that the property owner will allow the sign to be erected at the location indicated on the site plan;
7. The sign shall comply with all other applicable sections of this Ordinance; and
8. Off-Premises Bona Fide Agricultural use sign permits shall be assigned to the property on which the sign is to be located.

E. Home Occupation Signs

One (1) sign per property on which a legally established Home Occupation use exists may be permitted provided that the sign complies with the requirements contained in Section 6.5.11.J, Home Occupations. —

F. TEMPORARY SIGNS**TABLE 9.11.3.B TEMPORARY SIGNS**

Type	Maximum Size	Maximum Number	Maximum Height	Minimum Setback
Real Estate Signs	48 sq. ft.	1 per 1500 ft. frontage Maximum: 3 per lot	12 ft. 6 ft. height in residential zoning districts	5 ft.
Grand Opening and Special Sales Event Signs	50 sq. ft.	2 per zoning lot including banners, balloons (max. 2 square ft.), pennants, streamers allowed	20 ft.	5 ft.
Permitted Temporary Special Event Signs	100 sq. ft., 50 sq. ft. in Residential and Agricultural districts and no internal illumination	1 per zoning lot	12 ft. 6 ft. height in residential zoning districts	5 ft.

All Temporary signs, unless expressly exempt, require a Zoning Permit and shall comply with all other regulations of this Ordinance. Maximum size, number, duration, location and height of temporary signs shall conform with Table 9.11.3.B and the following standards:

1. Portable signs are permitted in accordance with standards of the National Electrical Code and anchoring provisions of the International Building Code where applicable.
2. A site plan and letter of intent indicating the type, amount and location of balloons, pennants, streamers, banners and portable signs must be submitted for review. The application will be reviewed to insure that all proposed signage will not pose any pedestrian or vehicular danger as determined by the Planning Director.

a. Special Sales Event Signs

- i. A legally established business may submit an application for temporary signs for the advertisement of one Grand Opening and five Special Sales Events per calendar year.
- ii. Permitted Signs for Grand Openings or Special Sales Events shall be removed no later than ten consecutive days after being installed.

b. Permitted Temporary Special Events

- i. A permitted Special Event is allowed one Special Event sign per event.
- ii. Signs for permitted Special Events shall be removed no later than ten consecutive days after being installed.

c. Real Estate Signs

- i. Signs 32 square feet or less do not require a Zoning Permit.
- ii. All signs shall be removed no later than 15 days after the property is sold.
- iii. Signs shall face a maximum of two directions, and may be mounted back-to-back or V'ed.
- iv. Where signs are V'ed, the space between panels shall not exceed 3 feet at the point at which panels are closest, and the interior angle formed by signs shall not exceed 60 degrees. For purposes of these requirements, V'ed signs shall be counted as one sign.
- v. Where signs face two directions, whether back-to-back or V'ed, both signs must be the same standard size.

d. Political Signs

- i. A Zoning Permit shall be required for temporary political signs greater than 32 square feet in size. Signs greater than 32 square feet shall be treated as permanent free standing signs, subject to §9.11.2, along with applicable County Building Code regulations to ensure that the signs are adequately designed to be safe and meet current wind load standards to mitigate potential danger to the public.
- ii. All signs shall: comply with the §9.11.1.H (Signs Interfering with Vehicular Vision); not interfere with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, signal, or device; not obstruct or interfere with drivers' views of approaching, merging, or intersecting traffic; and not create any other public safety hazards.
- iii. Political signs that are not in compliance with this Section will be subject to enforcement measures, as stated in Chapter 11 of this Ordinance and as allowed by Section 7-25-210 of the S.C. Code of Laws. Additionally, the land owner, along with the candidate, political party, and/or political organization explicitly listed on a sign, will be designated as the sign owners or the responsible parties for the purpose of enforcement action.

e. Campaign Signs

- i. A Zoning Permit shall not be required for campaign signs 32 square feet or less in size. Signs greater than 32 square feet shall be treated as permanent free standing signs, subject to §9.11.2, along with applicable County Building Code regulations to ensure that the signs are adequately designed to be safe and meet current wind load standards to mitigate potential danger to the public.
- ii. Campaign signs shall only be posted during the period of 45 calendar days prior to a legally scheduled election and shall be removed within 15 calendar days after a legally scheduled election.
- iii. All signs shall: comply with the §9.11.1.H (Signs Interfering with Vehicular Vision); not interfere with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, signal, or device; not obstruct or interfere with drivers' views of approaching, merging, or intersecting traffic; and not create any other public safety hazards.
- iv. Campaign signs that are not in compliance with this Section will be subject to enforcement measures, as stated in Chapter 11 of this Ordinance and as allowed by Section 7-25-210 of the S.C. Code of Laws. Additionally, the land owner, along with the candidate, political party, and/or political organization explicitly listed on a sign, will be designated as the sign owners or the responsible parties for the purpose of enforcement action.

f. Nonconforming Signs

Refer to Chapter 10, Nonconformities, of this Ordinance.

§9.11.4 WALL/FACADE SIGNS

TABLE 9.11.4 WALL/FACADE SIGNS

Building Length Facing Street	Setback	Maximum Size (sq. ft.)
50 feet or less	0—99 ft.	50
	100—399 ft.	100
	400 or more ft.	150
More than 50 feet	0—99 ft.	Bldg. Frontage x 1
	100—399 ft.	Bldg. Frontage x 2
	400 or more ft.	Bldg. Frontage x 3

- A. A maximum of two signs shall be allowed per wall/facade, with a maximum of four per building. Total area of all signs shall not exceed square footage of Table 9.11.4.
- B. Maximum size of wall/facade signs is dependent upon building frontage and setback, in accordance with Table 9.11.4.
- C. The hanging or attachment of objects is not permitted unless they are shown on the drawings approved for sign construction and meet all the requirements of this Ordinance.
- D. Awning Signs
 - 1. The use of awnings for the purpose of providing signage will be considered a wall sign. The awning signage must meet all dimensional and intensity standards applicable to wall signs in this Article.
 - 2. For purposes of the subsection, an awning sign is a sign used for the purpose of providing signage and must be located above a display window or entryway.
 - 3. Text or graphic shall be limited to the face of an awning.

§9.11.5 BILLBOARDS (Outdoor Advertising Structures)

- A. **Outdoor Advertising of America Standards**
All Billboards shall be constructed in compliance with Outdoor Advertising of America Standards.
- B. **Location and Setbacks**
Billboards shall be allowed in those zoning districts indicated in Chapter 6.

TABLE 9.11.5-D BILLBOARDS

Maximum Length	48 ft.
Maximum Width	14 ft.
Maximum Area	672 sq. ft.

Maximum Height	40 ft.
Minimum Setback (<i>from property boundary and above ground utility</i>)	25/20 ft.
Location Criteria	
Minimum distance to nearest billboard	1,000 ft.
Minimum distance to nearest on-premises sign (<i>excluding signs located on the subject parcel</i>)	500 ft.

C. Orientation

1. Signs shall face a maximum of two directions, and may be mounted back to back or V'ed.
2. Where signs are V'ed, the space between panels shall not exceed three feet at the point at which panels are closest, and the interior angle formed by signs shall not exceed 90 degrees.

D. Compatible Size Signs

Where signs face two directions, whether back to back or V'ed, both signs must be the same standard size.

E. Nonconforming Signs

Refer to Chapter 10, Nonconformities.

F. Digital or Electronic Billboards

Digital or Electronic Billboards may be permitted in the Industrial Zoning Districts, provided that documentation of compliance with all applicable sections of this Ordinance and documentation that the billboard meets the following standards have been submitted:

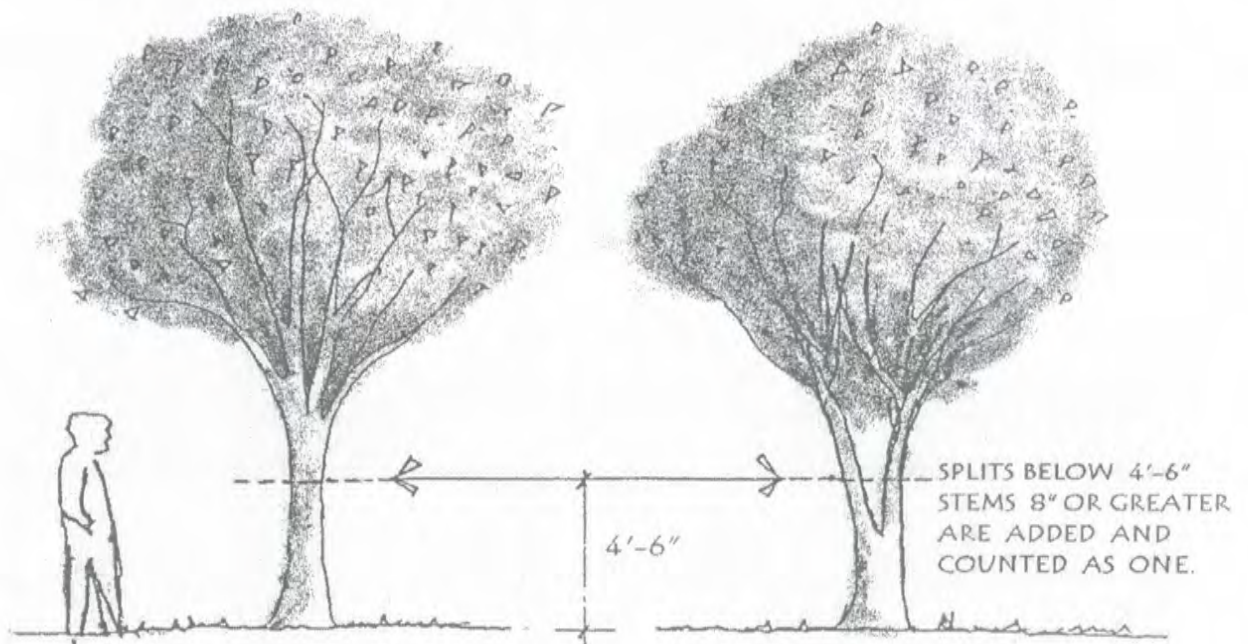
1. All messages, images or displays on a digital or electronically changing billboard shall remain unchanged for a minimum of (8) eight seconds;
2. There shall be no appearance of flashing or sudden bursts of light, and no appearance of video motion, animation, scrolling, movement of flow of the message, image or display;
3. The digital or electronic billboard shall automatically provide day and night dimming to reduce the illumination intensity of the sign from one hour after sunset, to one hour prior to sunrise; and
4. Proof of approval of the digital or electronic billboard by the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

ARTICLE 9.12 DRAINAGE DESIGN

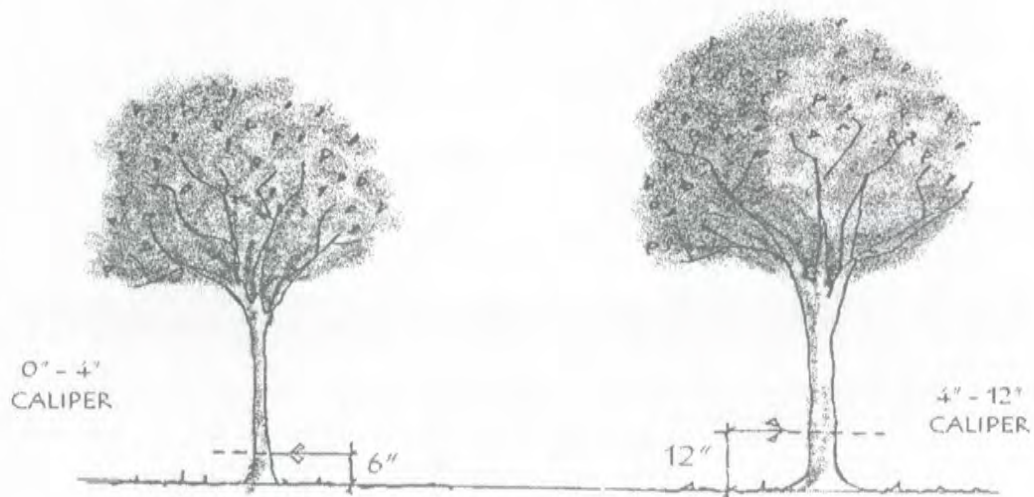
Refer to the Charleston County Stormwater Management Ordinance #1518 approved on August 14, 2007 and found in Appendix B of this Ordinance.

CHAPTER 9 EXHIBITS

Note: The following exhibits are for illustration purposes only. In case of any difference of meaning or implication between the text of this Ordinance and any heading, drawing, table, figure, or illustration, the text shall control.



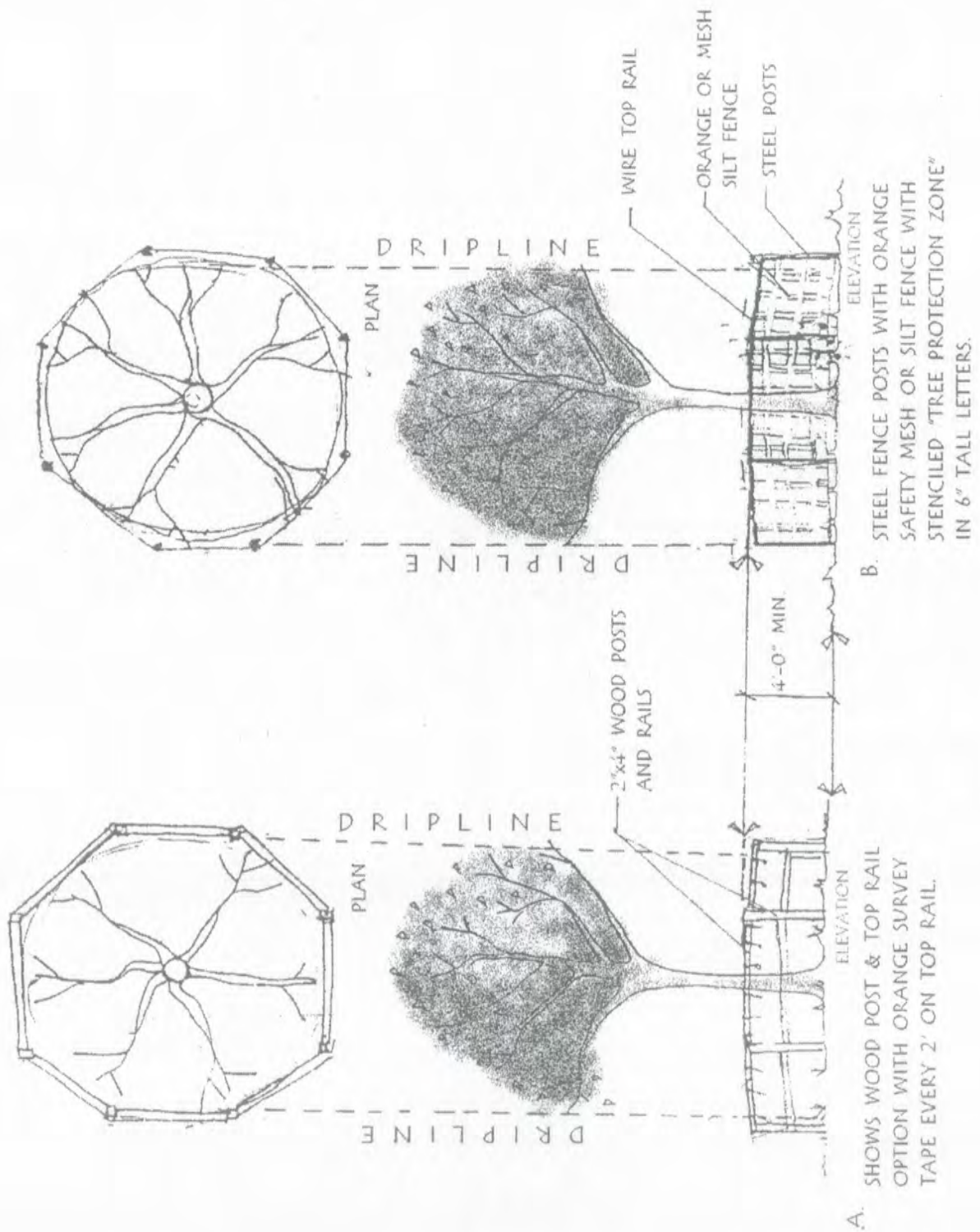
DBH DIAMETER BREAST HEIGHT FOR TREES
GREATER THAN 12" CALIPER.



CALIPER MEASUREMENT FOR TREES LESS
THAN 12" IN CALIPER.

TREE MEASUREMENT METHODS

ILLUSTRATION FOR 9.4.1. D



TREE PROTECTION OPTIONS

ILLUSTRATION FOR 9.4.4 B

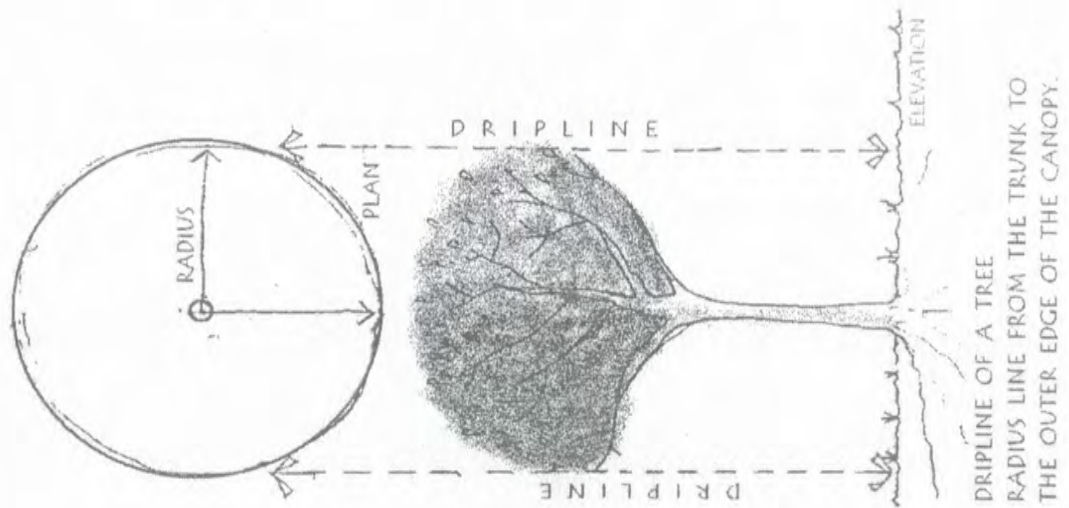


ILLUSTRATION FOR 9.4.4 B

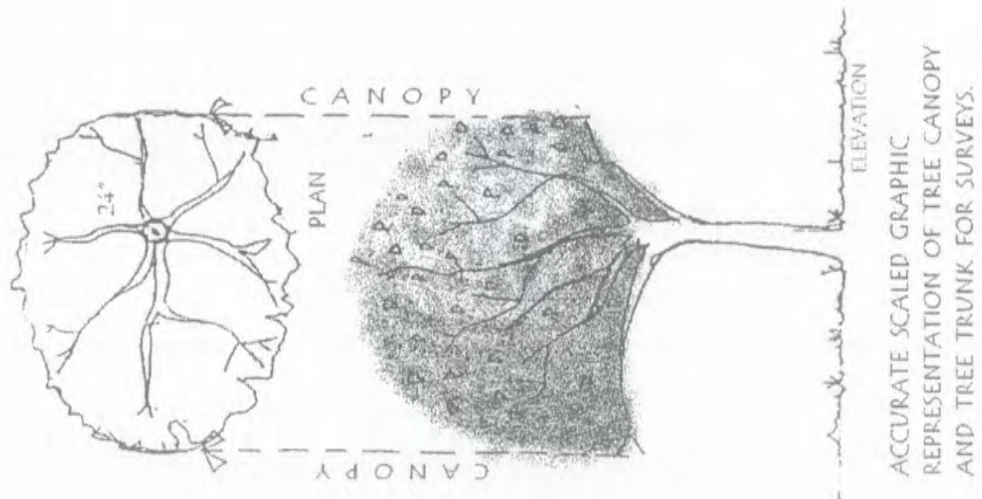
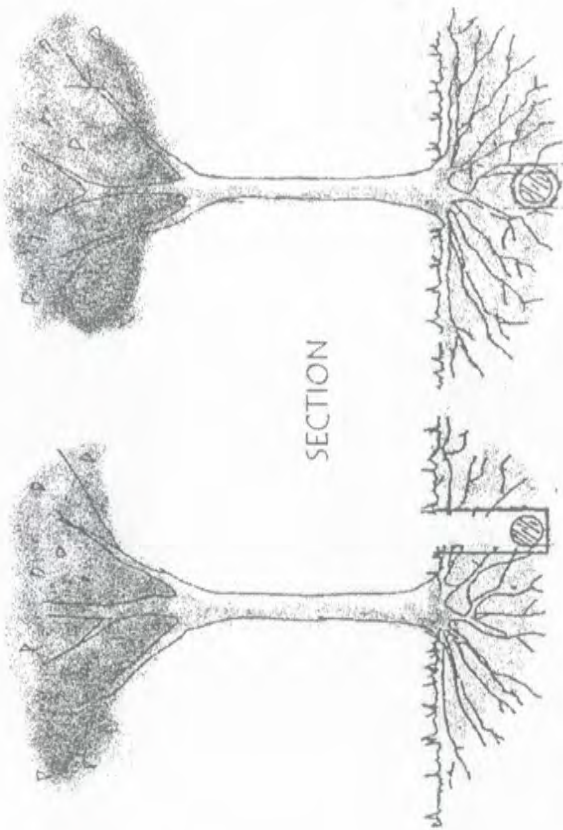
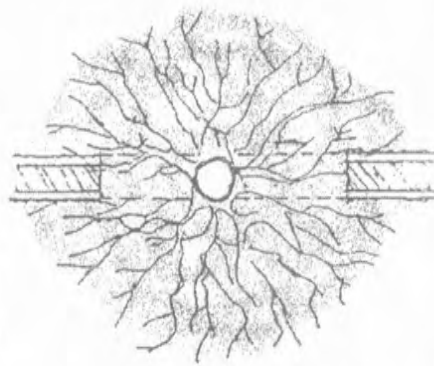


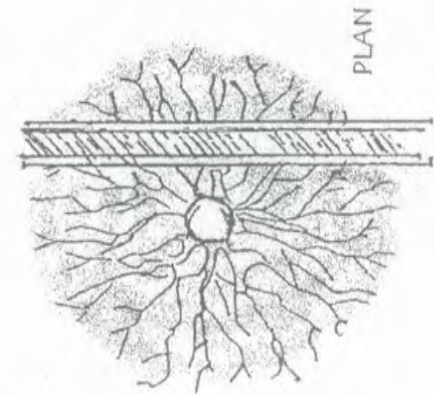
ILLUSTRATION FOR 9.4.3 A



A. NOT ACCEPTABLE

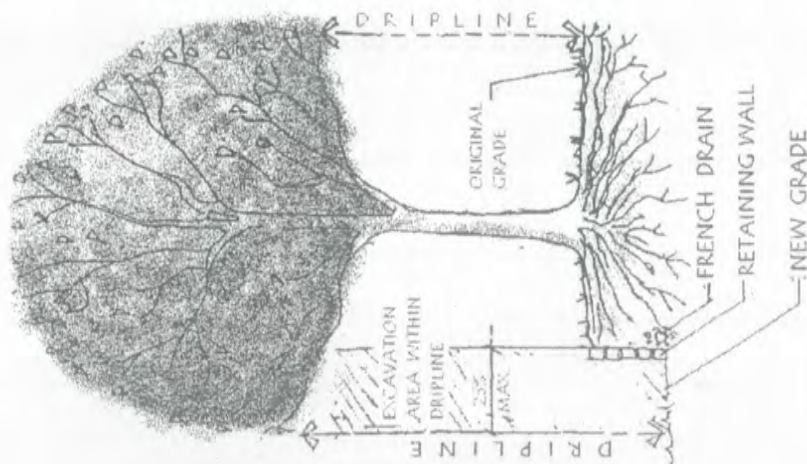


B. ACCEPTABLE



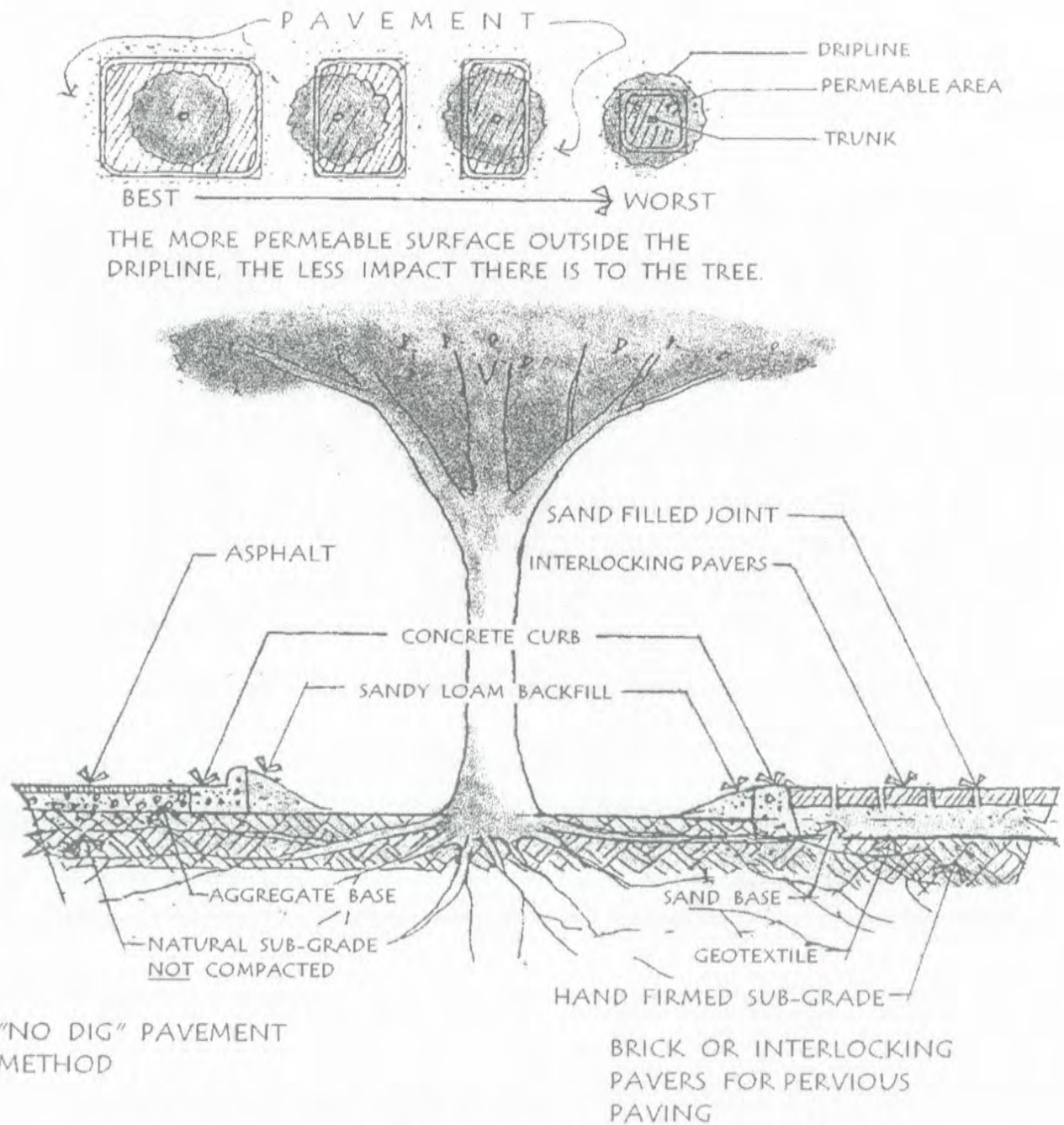
A. THIS TYPE OF TRENCHING WILL KILL THE TREE.

B. TUNNELING UNDER THE TREE WILL PRESERVE THE IMPORTANT FEEDER ROOTS.



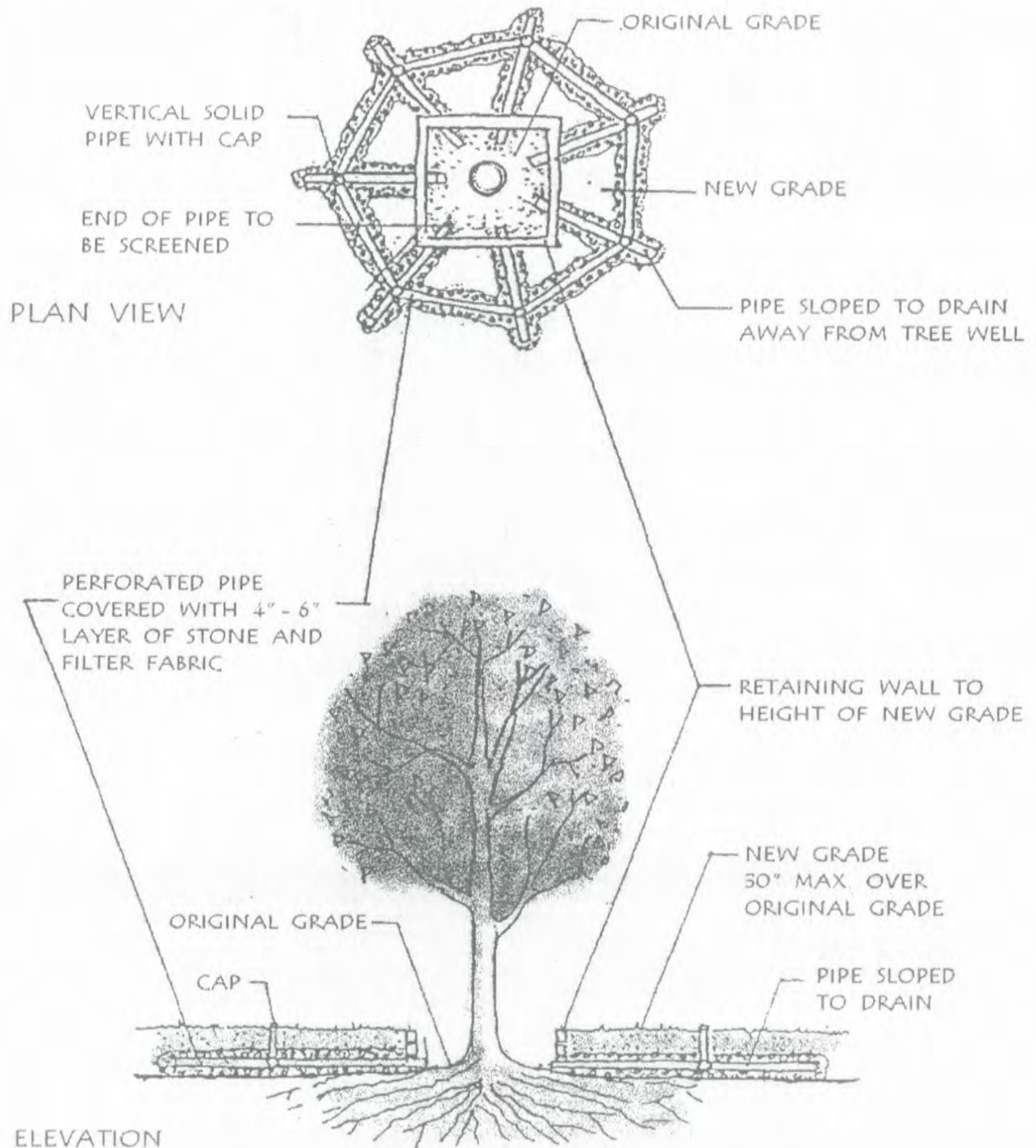
EXCAVATION WITHIN DRIPLINE

ILLUSTRATION FOR 9.4.4 D



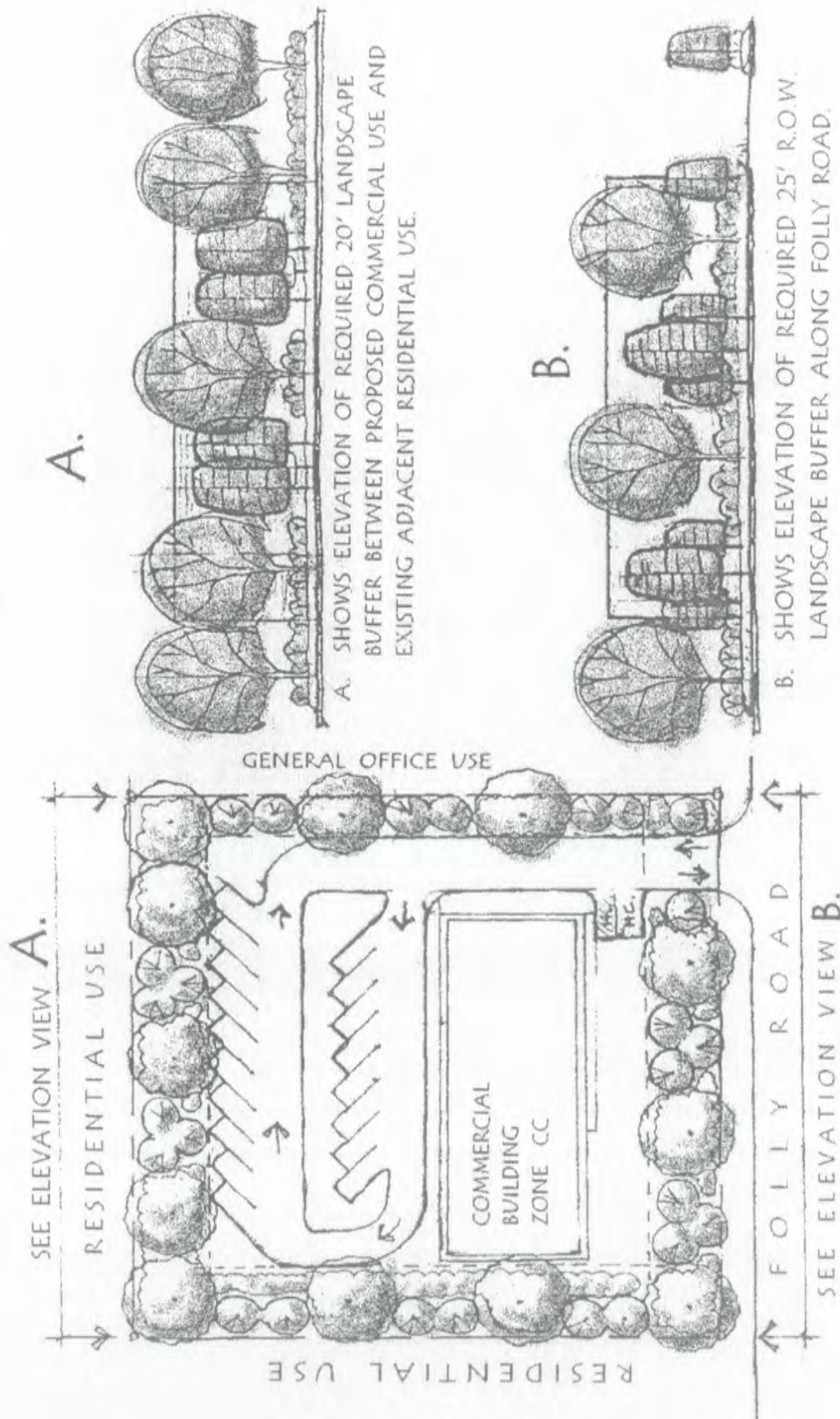
PAVEMENT METHODS UNDER DRIPLINE

ILLUSTRATION FOR 9.4.4 D



TREE PROTECTION FROM FILL

ILLUSTRATION FOR 9.4.4 D

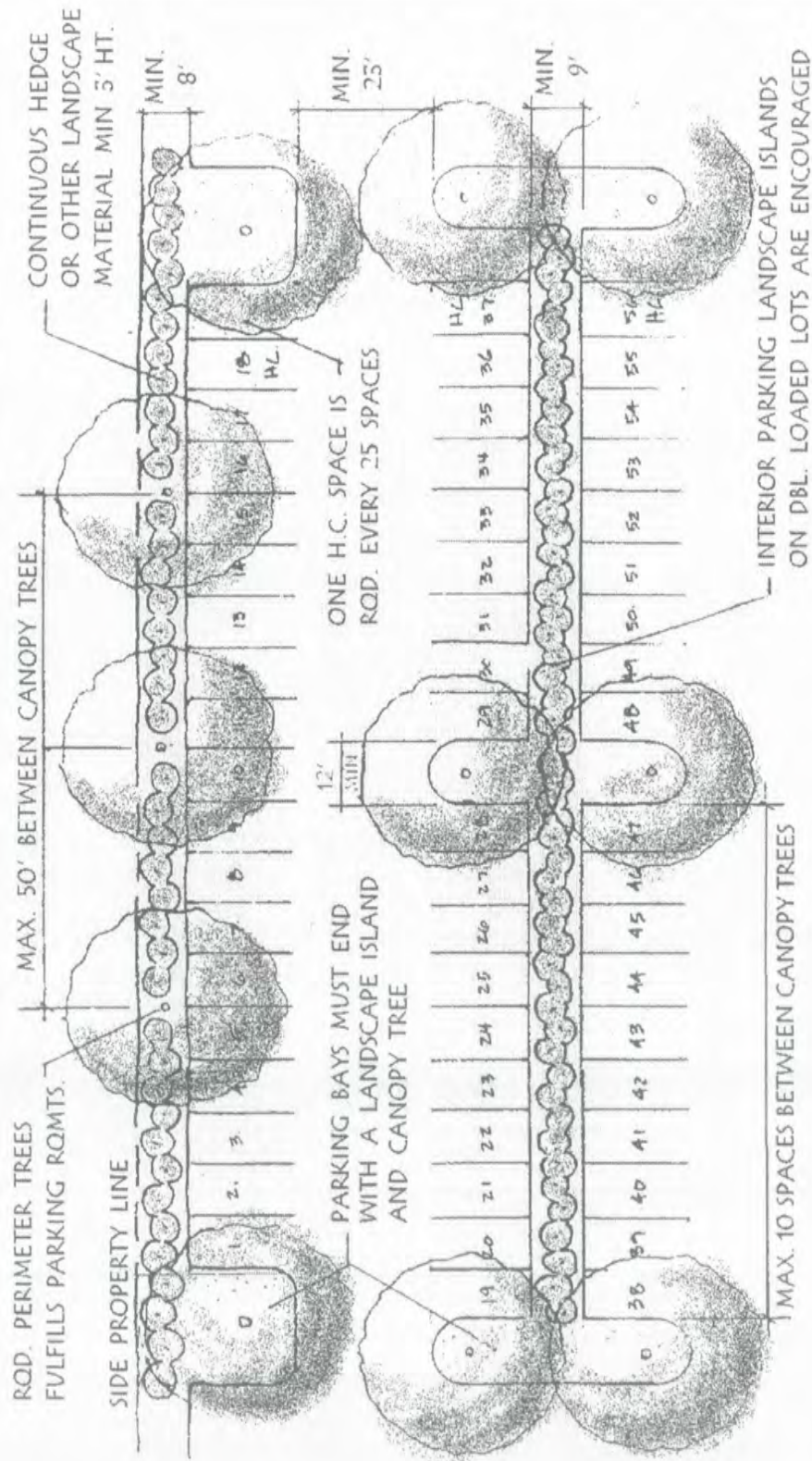


- NOTES
1. THIS EXAMPLE SHOWS THE REQUIRED PARKING IN "SIDE OR REAR" OF BUILDING WHEN THERE ARE 10 OR MORE SPACES.
 2. DIFFERENT ADJACENT USE REQUIRE DIFFERENT SIZE LANDSCAPE BUFFERS RANGING FROM 0 TO 100. SEE THE LAND USE BUFFER TABLE AND LANDSCAPE STANDARDS FOR BUFFER DEPTH AND PLANT MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS.

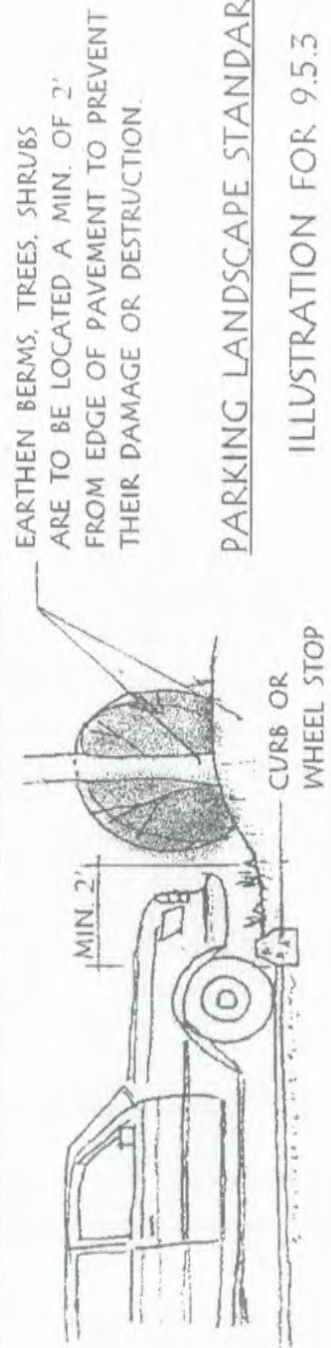
LANDSCAPE BUFFERS

ILLUSTRATION FOR ARTICLE 9.5

PERIMETER PARKING/VEHICULAR USE LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS

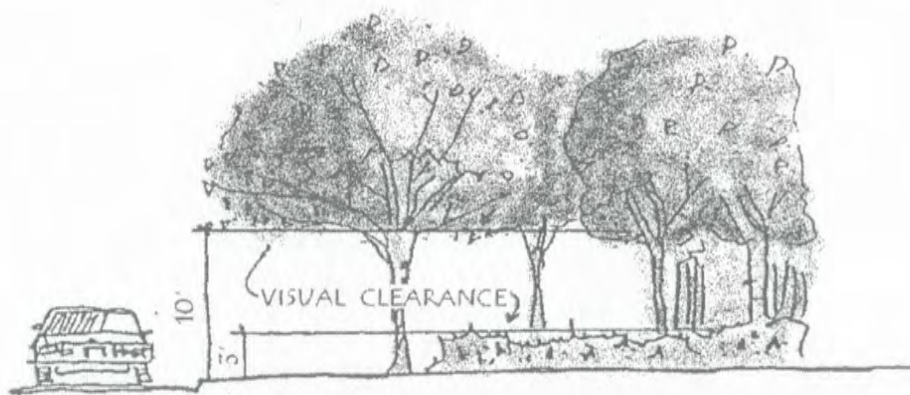


INTERIOR PARKING LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS

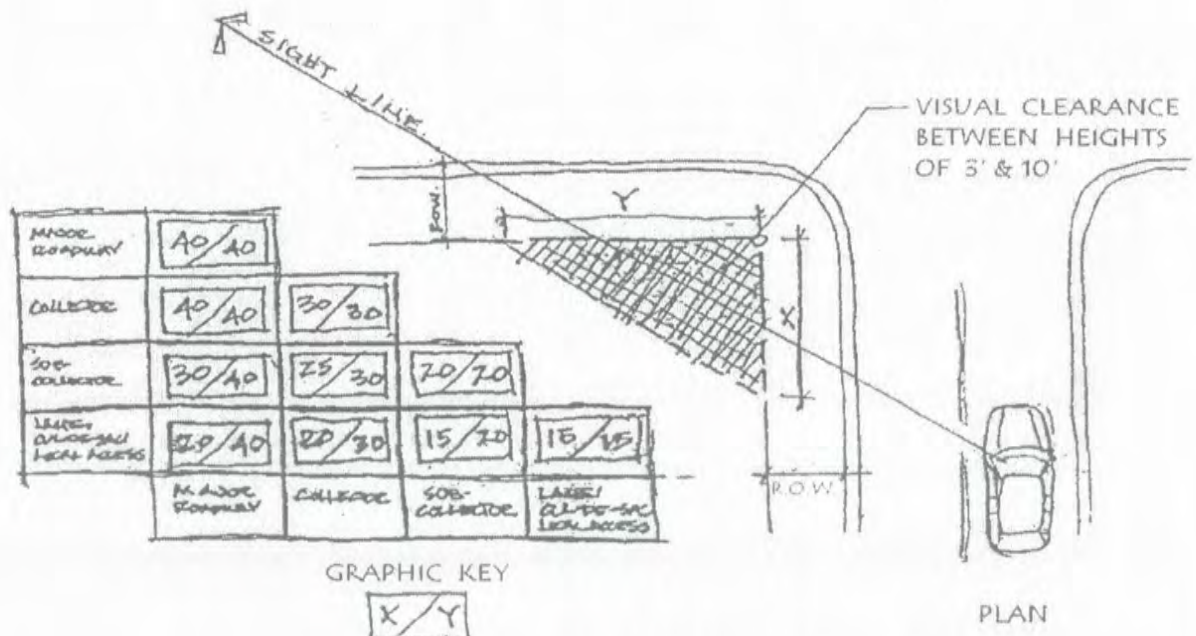


PARKING LANDSCAPE STANDARDS

ILLUSTRATION FOR 9.5.3



ELEVATION



NOTE: SITE TRIANGLES ARE SUBJECT TO SCDOT APPROVAL AND MAY NEED ADJUSTMENTS FOR ROAD HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL CURVATURE

SITE TRIANGLE STANDARDS

ILLUSTRATION FOR ARTICLE 9.10

CHAPTER 12 | DEFINITIONS**ARTICLE 12.1 TERMS AND USES DEFINED**

TERM	DEFINITION
Abandoned Sign	See "Sign, Abandoned" for definition.
Accessory Use	A use customarily incidental and subordinate to the principal use of a zoning lot or of a structure. An accessory use is located on the same zoning lot as the principal use, except in the cases of off-street parking, temporary manufactured housing parks, temporary real estate sales office and temporary construction facilities.
Accessory Dwelling Unit	A dwelling unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons that is separate from and subordinate to the principal dwelling unit. This definition includes garage apartments.
Accessory Structure	A structure that is detached from a principal structure and customarily incidental and subordinate to the principal structure.
Active Recreation Area	Any park and recreational facility that is not dependant upon a specific environmental or natural resource, which is developed with recreation and support facilities such as playgrounds, golf courses, bicycle trails, baseball or softball fields, football or soccer fields, basketball courts, swimming pools, clubhouses, equestrian facilities, and tennis courts.
Addition	A structure added to the original structure at some time after the completion of the original, or an extension, alteration, or increase in floor area or height of a building or structure.
Administrative and Business Office	The use of a building or a portion of a building for the provision of executive, management, or administrative services.
Administrative Decision	Any order, requirement, decision, or determination by the Charleston County Planning Director or their designee relating to the administration or enforcement of the Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations.
Adult Oriented Business	Definitions provided in Section 6.4.18C.
Adult Day Care Facility	A facility licensed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) for adults 18 years of age or older, which offers in a group setting a program of individual and group activities and therapies. The program is directed toward providing community-based day care services for those adults in need of a supportive setting. The program shall provide a minimum of four and a maximum of 14 hours of operation a day. (See S.C. DHEC Regulation 61-75, Standards for Licensing—Day Care Facilities for Adults)

TERM	DEFINITION
Affordable Housing	In the case of dwelling units for sale, housing in which mortgage, amortization, taxes, insurance, and condominium or association fees, if any, constitute no more than twenty-eight percent (28%) of the annual household income for a household earning no more than eighty percent (80%) of the area median income, by household size, for the metropolitan statistical area as published from time to time by the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD) and, in the case of dwelling units for rent, housing for which the rent and utilities constitute no more than thirty percent (30%) of the annual household income for a household earning no more than eighty percent (80%) of the area median income, by household size for the metropolitan statistical area as published from time to time by HUD.
Agriculture	The use of the land for agricultural purposes, including farming, dairying, pasturage, apiculture, horticulture, floriculture, viticulture, and animal and poultry husbandry, and the accessory uses of packing, treating, or storing of produce; provided, however, that the operation of any such accessory uses shall be secondary to that of the principal agriculture use.
Agricultural Processing	The preliminary processing and packaging of agricultural products, such as a packing shed. Agricultural processing shall not include slaughterhouses, butcheries, tanneries or rendering plants.
Agricultural Sales and Service	An establishment engaged in the retail or wholesale sale from the premises of feed, grain, fertilizers, pesticides and similar goods.
Agricultural Use, Bona Fide	Allowed primary uses on real property to raise, harvest or store crops, feed, breed or manage livestock, or to produce plants, trees, fowl or animals useful for human consumption, including the preparation of the products raised thereon for human consumption and disposed of by marketing or other means and which the subject property receives agricultural preferential assessment by the Charleston County Assessor's office. Such uses include agriculture, grazing, horticulture, forestry, dairying and mariculture. Uses that do not qualify as bona fide agricultural uses include recreation, hunting clubs, fishing clubs, vacant land (land lying dormant), and any other similar uses.
Alley	A minor vehicular way used primarily for access to the side or rear of properties.
Alteration, Structural	Any change in the supporting members of a building or structure, such as bearing walls, columns, beams, or girders, or in the dimensional or configurations of the roof or exterior walls. Structural alterations shall not include the application of exterior siding to an existing building for the purpose of beautifying and modernizing.
Ambient Air Quality Standard	An acceptable concentration of an air pollutant in a community.

TERM	DEFINITION
Animal	Any live or dead dog, cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or any other warm blooded animal, which is being used, or is intended for use, for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet. This term excludes: Birds, rats of genus <i>Rattus</i> and mice of the genus <i>Mus</i> bred for use in research, and horses not used for research purposes and other farm animals, such as, but not limited to livestock or poultry, used or intended for use as food or fiber, or livestock or poultry used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber. With respect to a dog, the term means all dogs, including those used for hunting, security, or breeding purposes.
Animal Aquaculture	Land devoted to the hatching, raising, and breeding of fish, shrimp or other aquatic animals for commercial purposes. Animal aquaculture shall include those accessory uses and activities customarily associated with this type of operation, as determined by the Planning Director.
Animal, Exotic	Any animal not identified in the definition of "animal" that is native to a foreign country or of foreign origin or character, is not native to the United States, or was introduced from abroad. This term specifically includes animals such as, but not limited to, lions, tigers, leopards, elephants, camels, antelope, anteaters, kangaroos, water buffalo, and species of foreign domestic cattle, such as Ankole, Gayal, and Yak.
Animal Production	The raising of animals on pasture land or production of animal products on an agricultural or commercial basis. Animal Production shall include those accessory uses and activities customarily associated with this type of operation, as determined by the Planning Director. Animal Production shall not include concentrated animal feeding operations, slaughterhouses or butcheries.
Animated Sign	See "Sign, Animated" for definition.
Application, Complete	An application for development review and approval that: (1) has been submitted in the required format; (2) includes all information required by this Ordinance to be submitted for the subject application type; and (3) is accompanied by the required fee.
Arborist, Certified	A person certified by the International Society of Arboriculture.
Arterial Street	See "Street, Arterial" for definition.
Artisan and Craftsman	Any business establishment that produces on the premises articles of artistic quality or effect or handmade workmanship. Examples include candle making, furniture making, glass blowing, weaving, pottery making, woodworking, sculpting, painting, and other associated activities.
Attached Single Family (Dwelling Unit)	See "Single Family, Attached" for definition.

TERM	DEFINITION
Aviation	Airports, landing fields, aircraft parking and service facilities, and related facilities for operation, service, fueling, repair, storage, charter, sales, and rental of aircraft, including activities directly associated with the operation and maintenance of airport facilities and the provision of safety and security. Aviation also includes facilities for loading, unloading, and interchange of passengers, baggage, and incidental freight or package express between modes of transportation.
Banner	A strip of cloth containing a message or advertisement.
Bar (or Lounge)	A use engaged in the preparation and retail sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, where 25 percent or more of the gross receipts are for sale of alcohol. This use includes taverns, cocktail lounges, and any member exclusive bars or lounges.
Barn	A farm building used for storing farm products or sheltering livestock. This term excludes any residential use or non-agricultural use.
Base Course	A layer or layers of specified or selected material of designated thickness or rate of application placed on a subbase or subgrade to comprise a component of the pavement structure to support the pavement or subsequent layer of construction.
Bed and Breakfast	A portion of an owner-occupied dwelling unit or detached accessory structure offering transient lodging, with or without breakfast, to paying guests on an overnight basis, usually staying less than seven days.
Berm	A man-made landscape feature generally consisting of a linear mound of soil. Temporary soil stockpiles and retaining walls shall not be considered a berm.
Billboard (Outdoor Advertising Structure)	A large, standardized third party/off premise structure displaying advertising intended for viewing from extended distances, generally more than 50 feet. Billboard /outdoor advertising displays include, but are not limited to, bulletins, wall murals, wrapped posters, 30 sheet posters, and eight sheet posters.
Boarding House	See "Rooming House" for definition.
Boat Ramp	Boat ramps provide access to the water for the launching and retrieving of watercraft. Boat ramps may be located at marinas, public access points, or at community and commercial docks subject to the applicable regulations.
Boat Slip	A docking space alongside a pier, wharf or mooring dolphins in which a waterborne boat may be moored. For purposes of this Ordinance and in the absence of an authorized quantity of boat slips by state or federal regulating agencies, a boat slip shall be considered a minimum length of 25 feet for side mooring and 15 feet for stern moorings.

TERM	DEFINITION
Boat Yard	A land-based operation primarily for the repair and service of boats, including any incidental storage of boats in the process of being repaired. This term does not include boat building. If dry stack storage for watercraft or any type of water access is provided, the facility would be considered a Water-Dependent Use (Article 5.3).
Botanical Garden	A place, generally open to the public for a fee, where a wide variety of plants are cultivated for scientific, educational, or ornamental purposes.
Brewbar	A bar, lounge, or restaurant which produces on the permitted premises a maximum of 2,000 barrels a year of beer for sale on the premises as allowed by SC Code Title 61, Chapter 4, as amended.
Bridge	A structure, including supports, erected over a depression or an obstruction, as water, highway, or railway, and having a track or passageway for carrying traffic or other moving loads.
Buffer, Landscape	A vegetated area of varying width (ranging from five to 100 feet) designed exclusively to provide screening between adjoining properties, rights-of-way, parking lots and structures, as described throughout Article 9.5.
Buffer, Wetland	An area of varying width (ranging from 15 to 35 feet), providing a visual, spatial, and ecological transition zone between the OCRM Critical Line and land development, as described in Article 9.7. The wetland buffer is designed to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.
Building	Any structure having a roof supported by columns or walls and intended for the shelter, housing, or enclosure of any individual, animal, plant, process, equipment, goods, or materials of any kind. When a portion thereof is completely separated from every other portion by a dividing wall (or firewall when applicable) without openings, then each such portion shall be deemed to be a separate building.
Building Code	The building code of Charleston County.
Building Cover	The proportion, expressed as a percentage, of the area of a Zoning lot covered by all buildings located thereon, including the area covered by all overhanging roofs and swimming pools (excluding the pool decking).
Building Height	The vertical distance between the base flood elevation, or ground level if the structure is not in a Flood Hazard Area as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and: (1) the average height level between the eaves and ridge line of a gable, hip or gambrel roof; or 2) the highest point of a mansard roof; or (3) the highest point of the coping of a flat roof.
Building Length	The length of the facade facing the street for that unit which the sign shall apply. The Building Length (facade facing the street for the business) plus the setback from the street right-of-way/property boundary line shall determine the "Maximum Size" of the wall/facade sign for that business.

TERM	DEFINITION
Building Permit	An official document or certificate issued under the Charleston County Building Code for any carpentry, masonry, roofing, or related construction or repair. A building permit is not required for construction under \$1,000.00, unless the construction or repair involves a structural modification or work done by a contractor.
Building, Principal	A building in which is conducted the principal use of the zoning lot on which it is situated. In a Residential District, any dwelling shall be deemed to be a principal building.
Business (or Trade) School	A use providing education or training in business, commerce, language, or other similar activity or occupational pursuit, and not otherwise defined as a home occupation, college, or university.
Canopy Tree	A tree, with a diameter of at least two and one-half inches (as measured six inches above grade) at the time of planting, which will grow to a minimum height of 50 feet at maturity.
Caretaker	An individual or family who resides on premises as an accessory use for the purpose of maintaining, protecting, or operating a permitted principal use on the premises.
Catering Service	An establishment that prepares and provides food and related services to off-premises locations.
Causeway	An earthen structure with at least one side adjacent to a depression, wetland, or marsh that supports a road for carrying traffic or other moving loads.
Cemetery	Land used or intended to be used for the burial of the dead and dedicated for cemetery purposes, including columbariums, crematoriums, mausoleums, and mortuaries when operated in conjunction with and within the boundaries of such cemetery.
Center Line of Street	The line surveyed and monumented as the center line of the street; or if such center line has not been surveyed, it shall be the line running midway between the curbs or ditches of such street.
Certificate of Nonconformity	A certificate issued by the Charleston County Planning Department to any sexually oriented business which is operating at the time of the enactment of the regulations of Article [Section] 6.4.18 and is not in compliance with one or more of its provisions.
Child Day Care Facility	A facility or dwelling unit that regularly (more than twice a week, for more than four hours, but less than 24 hours) provides child day care for seven or more children. This definition includes "Child Care Centers" and "Group Day Care Homes," which are licensed by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS).
Child Caring Institution	A facility licensed by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) with one or more staffed residences and with a total population of 20 or more children who are in care apart from their parents, relatives, or guardians on a continuing full-time basis for protection and guidance.

TERM	DEFINITION
Churches and other Places of Worship	Same as definition for "Religious Assembly."
Charter Boat (or other Recreational Watercraft) Rental	A land-based operation primarily for the rental or leasing of boats or other recreational watercraft. Any operation that is associated with a marina or provides direct water access shall be considered a Water-Dependent Use (Article 5.3).
Civic/Institutional Use	A nonprofit or quasi-public use, such as a religious institution, library, public or private school, hospital, government-owned or government operated facility.
Civic Organization	See "Social Organization" for definition.
Collector Street	See "Street, Collector" for definition.
College or University Facility	An educational institution that offers courses of general or specialized study leading to a degree.
Commercial Nursery Operations	See "Horticultural Production" for definition.
Commercial Repair Service	See "Repair Service, Commercial" for definition.
Commercial Timber Operations	Tracts of five acres or more devoted to the production of marketable forest products through generally accepted silvicultural practices including, but not limited to, harvesting, site preparation and regeneration.
Common Open Space (and/or Conservation Area)	Land dedicated to the public or designated by the development plan for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of all residents of the development.
Communication Service	An establishment primarily engaged in the provision of broadcasting and other information relay services accomplished through the use of electronic and telephonic mechanisms, but excludes those classified as major utility facilities.
Communications Tower	A tower of any size that supports communication equipment, transmission or reception, and is utilized by commercial, governmental, or other public or quasi-public users. This does not include communication towers for amateur radio operators licensed by the Federal Communications Commission which are exempt from local zoning restrictions or communications towers under 100 feet in height used solely for educational communications purposes.
Community Health Care Center	See "Public Health Care Center" for definition.
Community Interest Notice	Notice provided to any individual, group or organization that has submitted a written statement of interest to the Planning Director. Municipalities within the Planning Area of the subject tract are also included.
Community Recreation	A recreational facility that is the principal use of a parcel of land and that is for use by residents and guests of the following: a particular Residential Development, Planned Development, church, private primary or secondary educational facility, community affiliated non-profit organization. Community Recreation can include both indoor and outdoor facilities.

TERM	DEFINITION
Community Recreation Center	A public or quasi-public building designed for and used as a social, recreation, and cultural center. As a part of such recreation centers, there may be included craft rooms, music rooms, game rooms, meeting rooms, auditoriums, swimming pools, and kitchen facilities. Kitchen facilities and dining areas shall be used for special events only.
Community Residential Care Facility	A facility licensed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) which offers room and board and provides a degree of personal assistance for a period of time in excess of 24 consecutive hours for ten or more persons, 18 years old or older, unrelated to the operator. Included in this definition is any facility (other than a hospital), which offers a beneficial or protected environment specifically for the mentally ill, drug addicted or alcoholic, or provides or purports to provide any specific procedure or process for the cure or improvement of that disease or condition. A Community Residential Care Facility with 9 or fewer residents shall be considered a "family." (See S C. DHEC Standard for Licensing, Regulation 61-84-Community Residential Care Facility)
Community Roads	Roads that serve one or more families and usually have no dedicated rights-of-way or drainage. These roads generally have a dirt surface, are not maintained on a regular basis, and are not in the state or county road system.
Complete Application	See "Application, Complete" for definition.
Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation	A confined area or facility within which the property is not grazed or cropped annually, and which is used and maintained for the purposes of engaging in the business of the reception and feeding of: more than 50 beef or dairy cattle; more than 50 horses; more than 150 hogs, sheep or goats; more than 1,000 or more birds, such as turkeys, chickens, ducks or geese; or more than 1,000 small animals, such as guinea pigs, rabbits, and minks. This term shall also include commercial feed lots.
Conditional Use Permit	A permit formerly issued by the Charleston County Planning Department authorizing a particular use in a specified location within a zoning district, upon demonstrating that such use complies with all the conditions and standards specified by the zoning Ordinance. Conditional use permit is a term used in the Charleston County Zoning Ordinance prior to April 21, 1999.
Congregate Living	A residential facility providing 24-hour supervision and assisted living for no more than 15 elderly residents (age 60 or older), not needing regular medical attention.
Conservation Area	See "Common Open Space" for definition.
Construction Permit	A series of permits required by Charleston County Building Services that may include building, electrical, plumbing, HVAC (Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning), or gas permits.
Consumer Convenience Service	An establishment providing services, primarily to individuals, of a frequent or recurrent nature.

TERM	DEFINITION
Consumer Goods Rental Service	An establishment, with 5,000 square feet or less of gross floor area, primarily engaged in the rental or leasing of new or used products to the general public, excluding vehicle or watercraft rentals.
Consumer Goods Rental Center	An establishment, with greater than 5,000 square feet of gross floor area, primarily engaged in the rental or leasing of new or used products to the general public, excluding vehicle or watercraft rentals.
Consumer Repair Service	See "Repair Service, Consumer" for definition.
Consumer Vehicle Repair	See "Vehicle Repair, Consumer" for definition.
Convalescent Service	A use providing bed care and in-patient services for persons requiring regular medical attention, but excluding a facility providing surgical or emergency medical services. This term excludes facilities providing care for alcoholism, drug addiction, mental disease, or communicable disease. Typical uses include nursing homes.
Convenience Store	Establishments primarily engaged in the provision of frequently or recurrently needed goods for household consumption, such as prepackaged food and beverages, newspapers, and limited household supplies, to customers who generally purchase only a few items. Convenience stores shall not include fuel pumps or the selling of fuel for motor vehicles.
Convention Center	A formal meeting place where the building or rooms are rented or leased to the members, representatives, or delegates of a particular group. These centers can usually accommodate large groups.
Corner Lot	See "Lot, Corner" for definition.
Correctional Institution	A facility providing judicially required detention or incarceration of people.
Counseling Service	An establishment providing counseling, guidance, or similar services to persons requiring rehabilitative or vocational assistance. This term includes job training and placement services.
Country Club	Land area and buildings containing golf courses, recreational facilities, a clubhouse, and other customary accessory uses, open only to members and their guests.
County Non-Standard Roads	County non-standard roads are a class of roads formerly known as community roads which have been brought into the County Maintenance System as approved by County Council.
Courtyard	An open unoccupied space, other than a yard, on the same Zoning lot with a building, unobstructed from floor or ground level to the sky.
Crop Production	The raising and harvesting of tree crops, row crops, or field crops on an agricultural or commercial basis. Crop production shall include those accessory uses and activities customarily associated with these types of agricultural operations, as determined by the Planning Director. This definition excludes any agricultural uses that are more specifically defined in this Ordinance.

TERM	DEFINITION
Cul-de-Sac	The turnaround area at the end of a dead-end street or an egress.
Cultural Event	Land use of a temporary nature to display objects or events of a community and cultural interest in one or more of the arts and sciences, such as Civil War re-enactments.
Culvert	Any structure not classified as a bridge which provides an opening under any roadway, including pipe culverts, and any structure so named in the plans.
Curb	A stone, concrete or other improved boundary marking the edge of a road or other paved area.
Data Processing Services	Establishments primarily involved in the compiling, storage, and maintenance of documents, records, and other types of information in digital form utilizing a main frame computer.
Decibel (Db)	A unit which describes the sound pressure level or intensity of sound. A sound level meter is calibrated in decibels.
Decision-Making Body	The entity that is authorized to finally approve or deny an application or permit as required under this Ordinance.
Dedication	The action of a property owner or developer to transfer an interest in property to the County or other service provider. The approval of a subdivision plat by County Council is deemed to effect an acceptance by the county of a proposed dedication of a street, easement or other ground shown on the plat
Deferred Presentment Lender	A business or use that regularly accepts checks from a borrower drawn on the borrower's bank account to be presented for payment at a later date and that charges a fee for the service, such as those regulated by Chapter 39 of Title 34 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended.
Density/Intensity and Dimensional Standards	Provisions of this Ordinance controlling the size and shape of zoning lots and the location and bulk of structures thereon. Such regulations include those relating to density, lot area, lot width, setbacks, buffers, building cover, height, and open space.
Derelict Manufactured Home	A manufactured home that is not connected to electricity or not connected to a source of safe potable water supply sufficient for normal residential needs, or both; not connected to a Department of Health and Environmental Control approved wastewater disposal system; or unoccupied for a period of at least thirty days and for which there is clear and convincing evidence that the occupant does not intend to return on a temporary or permanent basis; and that is damaged, decayed, dilapidated, unsanitary, unsafe, or vermin-infested that it creates a hazard to the health safety of the occupants, the persons using the manufactured home, or the public.
Design Professional	An individual or firm appropriately licensed and registered in the State of South Carolina.
Detached Single Family (Dwelling Unit)	See "Single Family, Detached" for definition.

TERM	DEFINITION
Detention	The temporary holding back of stormwater and releasing it at a controlled rate.
Developer	The legal or beneficial owner of a lot or of any land proposed for development; or the holder of an option or contract to purchase, or any other person having an enforceable contractual interest in such land.
Development	The changing of land characteristics through redevelopment, construction, subdivision into parcels, condominium complexes, apartment complexes, commercial parks, shopping centers, industrial parks, mobile home parks, and similar developments for sale, lease, or any combination of owner and rental characteristics.
Developments of County Significance	Proposed developments that: (1) have a gross acreage equal to or exceeding 1,000 acres, (2) are located in the Rural Area of the County, and (3) may be considered consistent with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan if they comply with the criteria and requirements of the Developments of County Significance provisions contained in the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance
Diameter Breast Height (DBH)	The total diameter, in inches, of a tree trunk or trunks measured at a point four and one-half feet above existing grade (at the base of the tree). In measuring DBH, the circumference of the tree shall be measured with a standard diameter tape, and the circumference shall be divided by 3.14.
Digital or Electronic Changing Billboard(Outdoor Advertising Structure)	A Billboard designed to accommodate frequent message changes composed of images, characters or letters that can be changed electronically utilizing digital or light emitting diodes (LED's) or similar electronic methods to create a changeable image display area without altering the face or the surface of such sign.
Dock	A structure extending into or upon a waterway, marshland or other natural water feature.
Dock, Commercial	A docking facility used for commercial purposes. A commercial dock is not necessarily a marina, a boat yard or a dry storage facility. All commercial docks shall be considered a Water-Dependent Use (Article 5.3).
Dock, Community	Any docking facility that provides access for more than four families (greater than or equal to 5 watercraft slips and less than or equal to 10 watercraft slips) and is not a marina. All community docks shall be considered a Water-Dependent Use (Article 5.3).
Dock, Joint Use	Any private dock intended for the use of two to four families. Joint use docks shall be exempt from the requirements of this Ordinance.
Dock, Private	A private dock intended for the use of one family. Private docks shall be exempt from the requirements of this Ordinance.
Double-Frontage Lot	See "Lot, Double-Frontage" for definition.

TERM	DEFINITION
Drainage Easement	See "Easement, Drainage" for definition.
Drip Line	An imaginary vertical line extending from the outermost circumference of the branches of a tree to the ground.
Dry Stack Storage for Watercraft	A facility for storing boats out of water. This is principally a land operation, where boats are dry stored or "stacked" until such time as they are transferred to the water for use. Any type of dry stack storage facility for watercraft will be considered a Water-Dependent Use (Article 5.3).
Dumpster	An accessory use of a property where trash or recyclable material containers, or any other type of waste or refuse container is stored.
Duplex	Two single family dwelling units contained within a single building, other than a manufactured housing unit.
Dwelling (Dwelling Unit)	A building or portion of it designed and used for residential occupancy by a single household and that includes exclusive sleeping, cooking, eating and sanitation facilities.
Dwelling Group	Two or more principal structures, each a single dwelling unit (not including manufactured housing units), that are located on the same Zoning lot. This definition does not refer to accessory dwellings units, such as garage apartments or guest houses.
Dwelling, Multi-Family	A building containing three or more dwelling units, including residential condominiums and apartments.
Earth Roads	Those in which the traveled roadway is constructed of compacted earth material creating an earthen driving surface.
Easement	A privilege or right of use, access or enjoyment granted on, above, under or across a particular tract of land by the landowner to another person.
Easement, Drainage	The right of access of stormwater runoff from the adjacent natural drainage basin into the drainageway within the drainage easement.
Eco-Tourism	Tourism involving travel to areas of natural or ecological interest, typically under the guidance of a naturalist, for the purpose of observing wildlife and learning about the environment.
Educational Nursery	See "Pre-School" for definition.
Enlargement	An increase in the size of an existing structure or use, including physical size of the property, building, parking, or other improvements. Enlargement would also include the addition of other structures or uses on the lot.
Exotic Animal	See "Animal, Exotic" for definition.
Facade	The entire building wall, fascia, windows, doors, canopy and on any complete elevation.

TERM	DEFINITION
Family	An individual, or two or more persons related by blood or marriage living together; or a group of not more than six individuals, including live-in servants, not related by blood or marriage but living together as a single housekeeping unit. Residents of Community Residential Care Facilities licensed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) for nine or fewer individuals shall be considered a family.
Family Day Care Home	An occupied residence in which child day care is provided on more than two days a week for periods of less than 24 hours, but more than four hours, for no more than six children, including those children living in the home and children received for day care who are related to the resident caregiver. Family day care homes are licensed by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS). (See S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, Section § 20-7-2700).
Family, Immediate	The property owner's or property owner's spouse's, parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, aunts or uncles.
Farm	A parcel of land five acres or more that is used for one or more of the following: the tilling of the land, the raising of crops, fruits, and vegetables, and the raising and keeping of animals and plants.
Farm Labor Housing, Dormitory	A structure designed or constructed as accommodations for transient farm workers for more than ten unrelated persons, which is not designed as an apartment building with individual attached units.
Farm Labor Housing	A building or structure which is designed or constructed as a place of residence for up to ten unrelated, transient farm workers living as a single housekeeping unit.
Farmers Market	An open air structure, other than a roadside stand, used for the retail sale of fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, eggs, flowers, herbs, or plants. No more than 50% of gross receipts may be derived from the sale of other unprocessed food stuffs; home processed food products such as jams, jellies, pickles, sauces, or baked goods, and home-made handicrafts; and commercially packaged handicrafts or commercially processed or packaged foodstuffs. Produce sold may be grown on the property where the Open Air Market is located or may be trucked in from area farms. Vehicles, boats, and RVs cannot be stored or sold as part of Open Air Market operations.
Fast Food Restaurant	See "Restaurant, Fast Food" for definition.
Fence (or Wall)	A structural device erected to serve as an architectural element, landscape element, visual screen or physical barrier.
Financial Guarantee	Surety intended to ensure that all improvements, facilities, or work required by this Ordinance will be completed, restored or maintained in compliance with this Ordinance. (See Article 8.14)

TERM	DEFINITION
Financial Service	An establishment primarily engaged in the provision of financial and banking services.
Flag	A piece of fabric or other flexible material, usually rectangular and of distinctive design which is used as a symbol, such as for a nation, state, locality, or corporation.
Flag Lot	See "Lot, Flag" for definition.
Flashing Sign	See "Sign, Flashing" for definition.
Floor Area	The sum of the gross horizontal areas of the several floors of the building, measured from the exterior faces of the exterior walls or from the center lines of walls separating two buildings, computed as follows: (1) floor space devoted to the principal use of the premises, including accessory storage areas located within selling or working space, such as counters, racks, or closets; (2) any basement floor area devoted to the production or processing of goods or to business or professional offices. Floor area shall not include space devoted primarily to storage purposes (except as otherwise noted herein), off-street parking or loading facilities, including ramps, and maneuvering space, or basement floor area, other than area devoted to retailing activities, the production or processing of goods, or business or professional offices.
Florist	A commercial activity offering for sale cut flowers, ornamental plants, floral arrangements, real or artificial, and related accessories including cards, figurines, and indoor ornamental fixtures.
Food Sales	An establishment primarily engaged in the retail sale of food for home consumption. These establishments may include the sale of beer and wine in unopened containers for off-premise[s] consumption where the sale of products other than beer and wine comprise at least 51 percent of the gross sales of the establishment, and at least 51 percent of the total display or shelf space is devoted to products other than beer and wine.
Forestry Operations, Bona Fide	"Bona fide forestry operations" shall mean that the property is eligible for, and actually used for forestry or timber operations, and written application has been approved by the County Assessor for the special assessment for agricultural use for the property in question pursuant to SC Code Section 12-43-220, SC Department of Revenue Regulation 117-1780.1., and other applicable statutes, rules and regulations.
Free-Standing Sign	See "Sign, Free-standing" for definition.
Freight Forwarding Facility	A building or area in which freight brought by truck, air, or ship is assembled and/or stored for routing or reshipment. This facility does not include permanent or long-term accessory storage of goods, but may include storage areas for trucks and repair of trucks associated with the facility. This definition includes truck terminals, marine terminals, and packing and crating facilities.
Freshwater Wetlands	See "Wetlands, Freshwater" for definition.
Front Lot Line	See "Lot Line, Front" for definition.

TERM	DEFINITION
Front Setback	See "Setback, Front" for definition.
Funeral Service	An establishment engaged in undertaking services such as preparing the human or animal dead for burial and arranging and managing funerals.
Garage (Private)	An accessory structure or space on a lot with a dwelling unit devoted to or designed for the storage of automobiles and small (one-half-ton capacity or less) trucks and not used for business purposes or occupancy.
Garage Apartment	A single dwelling unit located over a private detached garage and containing square footage no greater than that of the garage.
Garden Supplies Center	A commercial activity offering for sale indoor or outdoor plants, garden fixtures, packaged plant food, or pesticides, garden tools, manually or power operated with associated parts and accessories. Not included is farm equipment elsewhere provided for in this Ordinance.
Gasoline Service Station	Any premises used primarily for the retail sale of fuel for automobiles, light and medium trucks, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, and other consumer motor vehicles. Gasoline service stations may include light maintenance such as engine tune-ups, lubrication, minor repairs, and carburetor cleaning, but shall not include heavy vehicle maintenance activities such as engine overhauls, automobile painting, and body fender work. This term may also include the sale of motor vehicle accessories, or used tires taken in trade on the premises, but does not include vehicle, moving truck, or trailer sales or rental.
General Contractor	An establishment that has the ability to furnish a variety of building materials and provide multiple construction services at a specified price.
Golf Course	A tract of land laid out for at least nine holes for playing the game of golf and improved with tees, greens, fairways, and hazards and that may include a clubhouse and shelter.
Government Office	Federal, state, county or city offices, administrative, clerical or public contact services, together with incidental storage and maintenance of necessary vehicles.

TERM	DEFINITION
Grade	For the purpose of determining building height: 1. For buildings adjoining one street only, it is the elevation of the sidewalk directly opposite the center of that wall which adjoins the street; in such case where the average elevation of the finished ground surface adjacent to the exterior walls of the building is lower than the elevation of the sidewalk grade, or where there is no sidewalk grade, or where there are no sidewalks, the grade shall be the average elevation of the ground on the lowest side adjacent to the exterior walls of the building. 2. For buildings adjoining more than one street, it is the elevation of the sidewalk directly opposite the center of the wall adjoining the street having the lowest sidewalk elevation. 3. For buildings having no wall adjoining the street, it is the average level of the finished ground surface adjacent to the exterior walls of the building. 4. All walls which are approximately parallel to and not more than 25 feet from a front lot line shall be considered as adjoining the street. In alleys, the surface of the paving shall be considered to be the sidewalk elevation. Where the elevation of the sidewalk or alley paving has not been established, the Public Works Director shall determine such elevation for the purpose of this Ordinance.
Grand Tree	Any tree with a diameter breast height of 24 inches or greater, with the exception of pine tree and Sweet Gum tree (<i>Liquidamber styraciflua</i>) species.
Greenhouse	A partially or fully enclosed structure which is used for the growth of plants.
Greenhouse Production	Ornamental plants or food crops grown for wholesale sale within an enclosed structure or under cover.
Ground Cover	Low-growing plant material less than 18 inches in height.
Group Care Home, Residential	A staffed residence, licensed by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), with a population of fewer than 20 children who are in care apart from their parents, relatives, or guardians on a full-time basis. Group Care Homes are classified by different levels of care ranging from independent to assisted living.
Group Residential	The residential use of a site, on a weekly or longer basis, for occupancy by groups of more than six persons not defined as a family, such as fraternity or sorority houses, dormitories, or residence halls. This term does not include rooming or boarding houses.
Health Care Laboratory	A facility primarily involved in the testing, diagnosis, or observation of medical or dental samples collected at health care facilities. The samples are generally sent to the laboratory from off-premises facilities.

TERM	DEFINITION
Heavy Commercial Trailer	A trailer vehicle used for any commercial purpose and having more than four (4) tires and which is greater than fifteen (15) feet in overall length. Examples of heavy trailers include, but shall not be limited to "container chassis", "dump bodies", "reefers", and other trailers commonly utilized within the commercial shipping industry.
Heavy Commercial Vehicle	A Class 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 Vehicle as defined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). For the purposes of this Ordinance, this definition does not include 6-wheel pickup trucks, motor homes, campers, or recreational vehicles.
Heavy Construction Services	Services involved in road, bridge, building, or other infrastructure construction.
Height (of Signs)	The vertical distance measured from ground level at the base of the sign structure to the highest point of sign structure.
Historic Site	A structure or place of outstanding historical and cultural significance and designated as such by Charleston County, the State of South Carolina, or the National Register of Historic Places.
Home Occupation	An accessory use of a dwelling unit or its accessory structure for gainful employment.
Home Health Agencies	A public, nonprofit, or proprietary organization licensed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) which furnishes or offers to furnish home health services. These services include part-time or intermittent skilled nursing care, as ordered by a physician and provided by or under the supervision of a registered nurse, and at least one other therapeutic service. The majority of home health services are furnished on a visiting basis in a place of temporary or permanent residence used as the individual's home. (See S.C. DHEC Regulation 61-77, Standards for Licensing Home Health Agencies)
Home Improvement Center	A facility with over 5,000 square feet of floor area engaged in the retail sale of various basic hardware lines, such as tools, builders' hardware, paint and glass, housewares and household appliances, and garden supplies. Facilities under 5,000 square feet shall be considered a "hardware store."
Homeowners' (or Property Owners') Association	A formally constituted non-profit association or corporation made up of the property owners and/or residents of a fixed area. The Homeowners' or property owners' association may take responsibility for costs and upkeep of common open space or facilities, or enforce certain covenants and restrictions.

TERM	DEFINITION
Horticultural Production	Land used to grow horticultural and floricultural specialties (such as flowers, shrubs, or trees intended for ornamental or landscaping purposes) for wholesale or retail sale in order to be transplanted to a different location. Retail sales shall not comprise more than 25 percent of gross sales. This definition excludes crop and greenhouse production that have been identified elsewhere in this Ordinance.
Horticulture and Landscaping Services	This activity shall include landscaping, tree trimming, tree removal, and other similar services together with associated equipment and machinery directed toward the care of trees, plants, or lawns.
Hospital	A licensed facility primarily providing in-patient medical, surgical, or psychiatric care for a period exceeding 24 hours. Hospital facilities may also include out-patient services and the following types of accessory activities: out-patient diagnostic and treatment centers, rehabilitation facilities, offices, laboratories, teaching facilities, meeting areas, cafeterias, maintenance, and parking facilities. This definition includes General Hospitals, Specialized Hospitals, Chronic Hospitals, Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospitals or Hospices. (See S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control Regulation 61-16, Standards for Licensing—Hospital and General Infirmaries, and Regulation 61-78, Standards for Licensing—Hospices.)
Hotel-Motel	A building or portion thereof, or a group of buildings, which provides sleeping accommodations, with or without meal service, for transients on a daily or weekly basis, whether such establishment is designated as a hotel, inn, automobile court, motel, motor inn, motor lodge, tourist cabin, tourist court, or tourist home.
Household	Same as definition for "Family."
Household Pet	See "Pet, Household" for definition.
Hydroponics	Land used to produce, for wholesale sale, plants grown in nutrient-enriched water, where no soil is used.
Illuminated Sign	See "Sign, Illuminated" for definition.
Immediate Family	See "Family, Immediate" for definition.
Impound Yard	A facility that provides temporary outdoor storage for: (1) mechanically operable/drivable, licensed vehicles that are to be claimed by titleholders or their agents; and/or (2) wrecked motor vehicles awaiting insurance adjustments and transport to repair shops. This term excludes: scrap and salvage yards/services; junk yard; towing facilities; vehicle storage; and accessory storage of inoperable vehicles.
Indigenous Produce	Fresh fruit, vegetables, and agronomic crops (crops such as field corn, soybean, wheat, and oats) grown in, or [which] are characteristic of Charleston County. This term specifically excludes livestock, animals, or seafood.
Indoor Recreation and Entertainment	See "Recreation and Entertainment, Indoor" for definition.

TERM	DEFINITION
Inoperable Vehicle	Any motor-driven vehicle, regardless of size, which is incapable of being self-propelled upon the public streets of the County or which does not meet the requirements for operation upon the public streets, including a current motor vehicle registration.
Interior Lot Line	See "Lot Line, Interior" for definition.
Interior Lot	See "Lot, Interior" for definition.
Interior Setback	See "Setback, Interior" for definition.
Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded	A facility licensed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) that serves four or more mentally retarded persons or persons with related conditions. This facility provides health or rehabilitative services on a regular basis to individuals whose mental and physical conditions require services including room, board, and active treatment for their mental retardation or related conditions. (See S.C. DHEC Regulation 61-13, Standards for Licensing-habilitation Centers for the Mentally Retarded or Persons with Related Conditions)
Junk Yard	See "Salvage Yard" for definition.
Kennel	A facility that provides boarding for three or more dogs, cats, or other household pets for a fee, and may include grooming, breeding, training, or selling of animals.
Landfill	A disposal facility or part of a facility where solid waste is placed in or on land.
Landscape Buffer	See "Buffer, Landscape" for definition.
Letter of Coordination	Formal correspondence from an agency, organization, or individual which expresses acknowledgement and/or consent of an application, project, or proposal.
Liquor, Beer, or Wine Sales	An establishment primarily engaged in the retail sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption. This definition includes all retail stores where the sales of alcoholic beverages comprise 49 percent or more of gross sales.
Lodge	See "Social Club" for definition.
Lot	A designated parcel, tract, or area of land established by plat, subdivision, or as otherwise permitted by law, to be separately owned, used, developed, or built upon and is recorded with the Register of Mesne Conveyance of Charleston County.
Lot Area	The total area included within the boundaries of a Zoning lot, measured in a horizontal plane.
Lot, Corner	Either a Zoning lot bounded entirely by streets or a Zoning lot which adjoins the point of intersections or meeting of two or more streets and in which the interior angle formed by the street lines is 135 degrees or less. If the street lines are curved, the angle shall be measured at the point of intersection of the extensions of the street lines in the directions which they take at the intersection of the street line with the side lot line and with the rear lot line of the lot. If the street line is curved at its point of intersection with the side lot line or rear lot line, the tangent to the curve at that point shall be considered the direction of the street line.

TERM	DEFINITION
Lot, Double-Frontage	An interior lot that abuts on two parallel streets or that abuts on two streets that do not intersect at the boundaries of the lot. Lots with access on a street and alley shall not be considered double-frontage lots.
Lot, Flag	A lot with access provided to the bulk of the lot by means of a narrow corridor.
Lot Frontage	The distance for which a Zoning lot abuts on a street.
Lot, Interior	A lot with only one front lot line.
Lot Line	A line of record bounding a lot which divides one lot from another lot or from a public or private street or any other public space.
Lot Line, Front	The lot line separating a lot from the street that is used as the primary access point to the lot.
Lot Line, Interior	The lot line other than a front lot line.
Lot Line, Rear	The lot line opposite and most distant from the front lot line.
Lot Line, Side	Any lot line other than a front or rear lot line.
Lot, Through	See "Lot, Double-Frontage" for definition.
Lot Width	1. Width of an Interior lot: the length of the front lot line or its chord. 2. Width of a Corner or Double-Frontage Lot: (a) if there are two front lot lines, the shorter of such lines or its chord; (b) if there are more than two front lot lines, the average length of the two shortest of such lines or their chords. 3. Width of lots served by a cul-de-sac: width shall be measured at the building line.
Lots of Record, Approved	A platted parcel or parcels of land created and recorded with the Register of Mesne Conveyance of Charleston County since January 1, 1955, in conformance with the subdivision regulations and bearing the Planning Commission or County Council stamp of approval, or identical parcels created and recorded by plat or meets and bounds prior to January 1, 1955.
Lot, Zoning	Any lot that falls within the jurisdiction of Charleston County's Zoning and Land Development Regulations.
Lounge	See "Bar" for definition.
Low Intensity Lighting	Required lighting associated with LED electronic message boards. LED lighting shall automatically provide day and night dimming to reduce the illumination intensity of the sign from one hour after sunset to one hour prior to sunrise and provide adjustments in the light levels to a maximum of 0.3 foot candles over ambient light levels as measured head on (at a ninety (90) degree angle) 150 feet away from the sign.
Main Utility Lines	Those facilities including piping, conduits, outlets, and other appurtenances necessary for the proper functioning of essential services to a development including water, electricity, gas, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, cable, communications, etc.

TERM	DEFINITION
Maintenance Guarantee	Any security which may be required and accepted by the County to ensure that necessary improvements are maintained and will function as required for a specific period of time.
Major Recreational Equipment	Any boat, boat trailer, camper or other recreational vehicle with a length of more than 25 feet.
Manufactured Housing Park	A zoning lot on which two or more manufactured housing units are parked or any zoning lot on which space for the parking of manufactured housing unit is rented. The term does not include manufactured housing unit subdivisions or premises where unoccupied manufactured housing units, whether new or used, are parked for the purpose of inspection, sale, storage, or repair; or recreational vehicle parks.
Manufactured Housing Unit	Any residential dwelling Unit Constructed to Standards and Codes Set Forth by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, including the Federal Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. Article 5401). The term does not include recreational vehicles, travel trailers or motorized homes licensed for travel on highways, nor manufactured housing units designed and built to meet applicable requirements of South Carolina Modular Buildings Construction Act.
Manufactured Housing Unit, Replacement	A manufactured housing unit that replaces a legally established manufactured housing unit located on an individual lot.
Manufacturing and Production	An establishment engaged in the manufacturing, processing, fabrication, packaging, or assembly of goods. Natural, man-made, raw, secondary, or partially completed materials may be used. Products may be finished or semi-finished and are generally made for the wholesale market, for transfer to other plants, or to order for firms or consumers. Goods are generally not displayed or sold on site, but if so, this is a subordinate part of sales. Relatively few customers come to the site.
Marina	A marina is any of the following: (a) lock harbor facility; (b) any facility which provides fueling, pump-out, maintenance or repair services; or (c) any facility which has permanent docking space for 11 or more watercraft slips (d) any water area with a structure which is used for docking or otherwise mooring vessels and constructed to provide temporary or permanent docking space for more than ten boats; (e) a dry stack facility. All marinas shall be considered a Water-Dependent Use (Article 5.3).
Maximum Extent Feasible	The point at which all possible measures have been undertaken by the applicant, at which point further measures would involve physical or economic hardships that would render a development project unfeasible or would be unreasonable in the judgment of a review or Decision-Making Body.
Mean Sea Level	Elevation 0.0 as determined by NGVD29 datum.

TERM	DEFINITION
Medical Office (or Outpatient Clinic)	An office or clinic for the private practice of health care professionals licensed by the State of South Carolina. The majority of patient encounters in the office or clinic involve examination, diagnosis, treatment, or surgical procedures on an outpatient basis not extending beyond a 24 hour period. This definition excludes any facilities that have been more specifically defined in this Ordinance.
Medical Services	Any services provided by a licensed medical practitioner.
Microbrewery	A facility for the production and packaging of beer as allowed by SC Code Title 61, Chapter 4, as amended, with a capacity of not more than 5,000 barrels per year.
Mini Warehousing	Same definition as "Self-Service Storage."
Minor Street	See "Street, Minor" for definition.
Mixed Use/Occupancy	Occupancy of a building or land for more than one use.
Mixed-Use Structure	A structure containing both residential and nonresidential uses.
Modular Building Unit	A building including the necessary electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilating, and other service systems, manufactured off-site and transported to the point of use for installation or erection, with or without other specified components, as a finished building and not designed for ready removal to another site. A modular Building Unit must meet the applicable requirements of the South Carolina Modular Buildings Construction Act. This term is not to be limited to residential dwellings.
Motor Vehicle	Every vehicle that is self-propelled that can be licensed and registered to be driven on public streets, roads or rights-of-ways, except mopeds, and every vehicle that is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails.
Monument Sign	See "Sign, Monument" for definition.
Mulching Operation	An operation that produces mulch. Mulch consists of organic substances placed on the earth as a protective covering around plants to retard weed growth and prevent moisture evaporation and freezing of roots.
Multi-Family Dwelling	See "Dwelling, Multi-Family" for definition.
Museum	A registered nonprofit organization displaying, preserving, and/or exhibiting objects of community and cultural interest in one or more of the arts and sciences.
Nature Exhibition	A public display of materials or living things of the outdoors, including the re-creation of natural wildlife habitats native to the Charleston area. This term does not include facilities, such as zoos, where the primary purpose is the display of live animals.
Non-Commercial Copy	Material written for informational purposes only. This material is non-promotional and does not advertise a business or service.

TERM	DEFINITION
Nonconforming Lot	A tract of land, designated on a duly recorded subdivision plat, or by duly recorded deed, or by other lawful means, that complied with the lot area, lot width and lot depth standards of the zoning district in which it was located at the time of its creation, but which does not comply with the minimum lot area, lot width or lot depth requirements of the zoning district in which it is now located.
Nonconforming Sign	A sign that was legally established but which no longer complies with the Sign Regulations of Article 9.11.
Nonconforming Structure	A building or structure that was legally established but which no longer complies with the Density/Intensity and Dimensional Standards of the underlying zoning district.
Nonconforming Use	A use that was legally established but which is no longer allowed by the use regulations of the zoning district in which it is located.
Nursery (Plant)	Same as definition for "Horticultural Production."
Office	Unless the context clearly suggests a more specific meaning, the term office shall mean any of the following: Government Office, Administrative or Professional Office or Medical Office.
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) Critical Line Area	This line is defined by South Carolina Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management at the date of application and determines their jurisdiction.
Office/Warehouse Complex	A structure or group of structures offering compartments of varying size for rental to different tenants for the storage of commercial goods or wares, conducting of certain retail trade activities, or provision of those personal or business services permitted by zoning.
Off-Premises Sign	See "Sign, Off-Premises" for definition.
Opaque Screening	See "Screening, Opaque" for definition.
Open Space	Land and water areas retained for use as active or passive recreation areas or for resource protection in an essentially undeveloped state.
Open (Or Field) Storage	The location of bulk items, assemblies or sub-assemblies in areas exposed to weather, in whole or in part, for the end use of further manufacturing process, sale or transportation. This shall include, but not be limited to, open display of transportation vehicles, marine craft, aircraft, manufactured housing units, modules, recreation vehicles, junk yards, or "piggy-back" containers. It does not include uses that are totally enclosed.
On-Premises Sign	See "Sign, On-Premises" for definition.

TERM	DEFINITION
Outdoor Living Space	Uncovered, horizontal open space on a Zoning lot, which space: 1. Does not include loading or parking areas, driveways, or refuse storage area and is so arranged as to prevent entry by motor vehicles; 2. Is paved, landscaped, or otherwise improved to make it suitable for passive or active outdoor recreational use and in the case of roofs and balconies is so arranged as to be safe for use by children; 3. Is readily accessible to the residents of the building for which it is required; and 4. May include land, balcony, and roof areas.
Outdoor Recreation and Entertainment	See "Recreation and Entertainment, Outdoor" for definition.
Outpatient Clinic	See "Medical Office" for definition.
Outpatient Facilities for Chemically Dependent or Addicted Persons	A facility licensed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) providing specialized non-residential services for chemically dependent or addicted persons and their families. The outpatient services are based on an individual treatment plan in a non-residential setting including diagnosis, treatment, individual and group counseling, family therapy, vocational and educational development counseling and referral services. (See Standards for Licensing, S.C. DHEC Regulation 61-93.)
Parcel	A contiguous lot or tract of land owned and recorded as the property of the same person or persons, or controlled by a single entity.
Parking Lot	An open area providing off-street parking for the motor vehicles of residents, tourists, customers, or employees on a temporary, daily, or overnight basis.
Parking Garage	A building where residents, tourists, customers, or employees park their motor vehicles on a temporary or daily basis with a service charge or fee being paid to the owner or operator.
Parking, Off-site	The minimum number of required parking spaces for the existing or proposed use(s) not on the parcel for which the use(s) is located.
Parking, On-site	The minimum number of required parking for the existing or proposed use(s) on the parcel for which the use(s) is located.
Parking, Required	The minimum number of parking spaces for a specific use(s) as defined in this Ordinance. Required parking spaces cannot be located within public right-of-ways.
Parking, Shared	Parking for uses with different operating hours or peak business periods that share required off-street parking spaces.
Parks and Recreation	Parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, recreation facilities, and open spaces available to the general public, either without a fee or under the management or control of a public agency.
Parole or Probation Office	An office for those who supervise parolees or persons placed on probation by a court in criminal proceedings.

TERM	DEFINITION
Parties in Interest	Any individual, associations, corporations or others who have expressed an interest in writing in an application pending before the Planning Department and that has been received by the Planning Director.
Passive Recreation Area	Areas in and located due to the presence of a particular natural or environmental setting and that may include conservation lands providing for both active and passive types of resource-based outdoor recreation activities that are less formalized or program-oriented than activity-based recreation. Resource-based outdoor recreation means and refers to activities requiring a natural condition such as boating, fishing, camping, nature trails and nature study. Farms are considered as passive open space if they are protected from development by a conservation easement.
Paved Streets	Those in which the traveled roadway is constructed of a layer or layers of materials with the surface usually being constructed of Portland cement concrete or asphaltic concrete.
Pavement	The uppermost layer of material placed on the street usually as the wearing or riding surface. This term is used interchangeably with "surface course" or "surfacing" and will usually imply Portland cement concrete or asphalt concrete, but may include "rocking."
Pawn Shop	A use engaged in the loaning of money on the security of property pledged in the keeping of the pawnbroker, and the incidental sale of such property.
Pedestal Sign	See "Sign, Pedestal" for definition.
Pennants, Streamers, and Other Moving Devices	Pennants, ribbons, streamers, spinners, light bulbs, or other similar moving devices when part of a sign, or when used to draw attention to a business or its signs.
Person	Individual, proprietorship, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity.
Personal Improvement Education	An establishment primarily engaged in the provision of information or instruction relating to a particular subject or hobby. This term excludes any educational services more specifically defined in this Ordinance.
Personal Improvement Service	An establishment primarily engaged in the provision of informational, instructional, personal improvements or similar services, excluding any services that have been more specifically defined in this Ordinance.
Pet, Household	Domestic animals typically kept for company or enjoyment within the home. Household pets shall include, but not be limited to: domestic cats; domestic dogs; domestic ferrets; gerbils; guinea pigs; hamsters; domestic laboratory mice; domestic rabbits; goldfish, canaries and parrots.
Pet Grooming Salons	An establishment primarily engaged in the grooming of household pets.
Pet Store	An establishment primarily engaged in the retail sale of household pets.

TERM	DEFINITION
Planning Director	Planning Director shall mean the Director of the Planning Department of Charleston County or the authorized designee or representative of the Director.
Plants	The term plants is meant to include seed, seedlings, nursery stock, roots, tubers, bulbs, cuttings, and other plant parts used in the propagation of field crops, vegetables, fruits, flowers, or other plants.
Plat	A diagram drawn to engineer's scale showing all essential data pertaining to the boundaries and subdivision of a tract of land as determined by a professional land surveyor.
Plat, Approved and Recorded	A diagram drawn to engineer's scale showing all essential data pertaining to the boundaries and subdivision of a tract of land as determined by a professional land surveyor, illustrating the boundaries that correspond with the current recorded deed, is approved by the Planning Department and recorded in the Register Mesne Conveyance (RMC) Office.
Portable Sign	See "Sign, Portable" for definition.
Permanent Storage Unit	Any manufactured housing unit, modular building unit, or pre-manufactured container unit exceeding 120 square feet in size that is used solely for non-residential purposes.
Postal Service, United States	Postal services, including post offices, bulk mail processing, or sorting centers operated by the United States Postal Service.
Pre-Manufactured Container Unit	A standardized, reusable vessel that is or appears to be by (1) originally, specifically or formerly designed for or used in the packing, shipping, movement or transportation of freight, articles, goods or commodities, or (2) designed or capable of being mounted or moved on a rail car, or (3) designed for or capable of being mounted on a chassis or bogie for movement by truck trailer or loaded on a ship.
Pre-School	A school, with an accredited training program and staffed with certified teachers, for children who are not old enough to attend kindergarten.
Preserved	To remain relatively unchanged. In relation to open space, preserved shall mean land placed in a Conservation Easement with a permanent deed restriction that prohibits further development.
Principal Use	The primary or predominant use to which a property is or may be devoted and to which all other uses on the premises are accessory.
Principal Building	See "Building, Principal" for definition.
Professional Office	A use providing professional or consulting services in the fields of law, architecture, design, engineering, accounting, and similar professions. This term does not include "Medical Office or Clinic" or "Parole or Probation Office."
Property Owners' Association	See "Homeowners' Association" for definition.
Property Owner	The holder of the title in fee simple and every mortgagee of record.

TERM	DEFINITION
Prosthetic Manufacturing (limited)	A business which performs technical procedures related to the design, fabrication and fitting of custom-made artificial limbs or denture/orthodontic devices, and does not use hazardous materials in the manufacturing process. The majority of processes undertaken in this setting involve device design and manufacturing as prescribed by a health care professional licensed by the State of South Carolina, with no patient interaction.
Protected Tree	Any tree on a parcel with a diameter breast height of eight (8) inches or greater prior to development and all trees within required buffers or required landscape areas.
Publicly Designated Area	An area set aside for public use, by any federal, state, or local government.
Public (or Community) Health Care Center	A publicly owned facility or not-for-profit organization providing health services for ambulatory patients. These centers can include related facilities, such as laboratories, clinics, and administrative offices typically operated in connection with such care centers. This term does not include facilities to treat mental health or substance abuse.
Public Project	Any project by or for a public agency using real property, as owner or tenant that falls within the jurisdiction of Charleston County. These public agencies include: 1. Agencies and departments of the State of South Carolina, 2. Counties, county agencies and departments, and 3. Municipalities, municipal agencies, and departments.
Public Works Director	The Director of the Department of Public Works of the County of Charleston or an authorized representative.
Rack	A storage slip for a boat in a dry stack storage facility.
Railroad Facility	Railroad yards, equipment servicing facilities, and terminal facilities.
Real Estate Sign	See "Sign, Real Estate" for definition.
Rear Lot Line	See "Lot Line, Rear" for definition.
Rear Setback	See "Setback, Rear" for definition.
Recreation and Entertainment, Indoor	Participatory and spectator-oriented recreation and entertainment uses conducted within an enclosed building, excluding any sexually oriented businesses.
Recreation and Entertainment, Outdoor	Participatory and spectator-oriented recreation and entertainment uses conducted in open, partially enclosed, or screened facilities, excluding any sexually oriented businesses.
Recreation (or Vacation) Camp	An area or tract of land primarily used for recreational purposes that retains an open air or natural character. Accommodations for temporary occupancy, such as cabins and tents, may be located or placed in these areas. This definition does not include areas for recreational vehicles or motorized campers.
Recreational Vehicle	A highway vehicular, portable structure designed as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreational, and vacation uses. The term includes camping trailer, motor home, travel trailer, and truck campers; the term does not include manufactured housing units.

TERM	DEFINITION
Recreational Vehicle Park	Any lot of land upon which two or more recreational vehicle sites are located, established, or maintained for occupancy as temporary living quarters for purposes of recreation or vacation. This term does not include any premises on which unoccupied recreational vehicles, whether new or used, are parked for the purposes of inspection, sale, storage, or repair.
Recreation Watercraft Rental	See "Charter Boat Rental" for definition.
Recycling Center	An establishment engaged in the processing, collection and transfer of recyclable materials. Typical recyclable materials include: glass, paper, plastic, cans, motor oil, or other source-separated, non-decayable materials.
Recycling Collection (Drop-Off) Facility	A facility used for the collection and transfer, but not the actual processing, of any of the following recyclable materials: glass, paper, plastic, cans, or other source-separated, non-decayable materials. "Recyclable materials" at a Recycling Collection Facility shall not include motor oil, chemicals, household appliances, tires, automobiles, automobile parts, or decayable materials.
Rehabilitation Facility	A facility operated for the primary purpose of assisting in the rehabilitation of disabled individuals through an integrated program of medical, psychological, social, or vocational evaluation and services under competent professional supervision.
Religious Assembly	A church, synagogue, temple, monastery, convent, retreat center or any permanent or temporary building providing regular, organized religious worship of any denomination and religious education incidental thereto, but excluding private primary or secondary educational facilities day care facilities. A property tax exemption obtained pursuant to state law shall constitute prima facie evidence of religious assembly use.
Relocated Tree	A protected tree that has been relocated in accordance with the requirements of this Ordinance.
Remodel	The internal or external alteration or change, in whole or in part, of a structure or thing that changes its characteristic appearance or the fundamental purpose of its existing design or arrangement and the uses contemplated. Not included in this meaning are the terms "enlargement" and "extension".
Repair	The mending or restoration of a building or structure to a sound or good state, at or nearest to its original designed condition, due to decay, dilapidation, damage or partial destruction. Such work shall not change the size or shape in whole or in part of a building or structure to expand a use. It shall include the terms "renovation", "rebuilding" and "reconstruction" for purposes of this Ordinance.
Repair, Minor	A repair affecting 25 percent or less of the gross floor area of a structure.

TERM	DEFINITION
Repair Service, Commercial	An establishment engaged in the repair or servicing of industrial, business or consumer machinery, equipment, tools, scientific or professional instruments, or similar products or by-products. Firms that service consumer goods do so mainly by providing centralized services for separate retail outlets.
Repair Service, Consumer	An establishment primarily engaged in the provision of repair services to individuals and households rather than firms, but excluding vehicle and commercial repair services.
Replacement Manufactured Housing Unit	See "Manufactured Housing Unit, Replacement" for definition.
Required Tree	Term used to refer, either collectively or separately, to all trees required to be retained or replaced by Article 9.4 including: all grand trees, all protected trees and all trees required by Article 9.5.
Residential Building or Use	A residential building is a building containing only residential uses and uses accessory thereto.
Residential Group Care Home	See "Group Care Home, Residential" for definition.
Residential Treatment Facility for Children and Adolescents	A facility licensed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) operated for the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and care of two or more children and/or adolescents in need of mental health treatment. The services include a special education program, recreational facilities, and residential treatment. This definition excludes facilities that are appropriately licensed by the State Department of Social Services. (See S.C. DHEC Regulation 61-103, Standards for Licensing—Residential Treatment Facilities for Children and Adolescents)

TERM	DEFINITION
Resource Extraction	(a) the breaking of the surface soil to facilitate or accomplish the extraction or removal of ores or mineral solids for sale or processing or consumption in the regular operation of a business; (b) removal of overburden lying above natural deposits of ore or mineral solids and removal of the mineral deposits exposed, or by removal of ores or mineral solids from deposits lying exposed in their natural state. Removal of overburden and the mining of limited amounts of ores or mineral solids are not considered mining when done only for the purpose of determining location, quantity, or quality of a natural deposit if no ores or mineral solids removed during exploratory excavation or mining are sold, processed for sale, or consumed in the regular operation of a business and if the affected land does not exceed two acres in area. Mining does not include plants engaged in processing minerals except as the plants are an integral on-site part of the removal of ores or mineral solids from natural deposits. Mining does not include excavation or grading when conducted solely in aid of on-site farming or of on-site construction. Mining does not include dredging operations where the operations are engaged in the harvesting of oysters, clams, or the removal of shells from coastal bottoms.
Responsible Entity	Defined as either (1) the unit of local government responsible under South Carolina law for the maintenance of the roadway; or 2) in the case of private roadways (non-publicly maintained), the owner of the property on which the roadway is located, or if existing, a homeowners association previously created to maintain the roadway.
Restaurant, Fast Food	An establishment that offers quick food service, which is accomplished through a limited menu of items already prepared and held for service, or prepared, fried or griddled quickly, or heated in a device such as a microwave oven. A Fast-Food Restaurant generally has one or more of the following characteristics: 1. It serves ready-to-eat foods, frozen deserts, or beverages in edible or paper, plastic or disposable containers; 2. It serves foods that customers carry to the restaurant's seating facilities, to motor vehicles, or off-premises; or 3. It serves foods through a pass-through window, (which includes any and all drive-in restaurants) Alcoholic beverages shall not comprise more than 25 percent of gross receipts.
Restaurant, General	An establishment engaged in the preparation and retail sale of food and beverages for on-premises consumption, where the sales of alcoholic beverages does not comprise more than 25 percent of gross receipts. This definition does not include Fast-Food Restaurants.

TERM	DEFINITION
Retail Sales and Service, General	An establishment primarily engaged in the sale of new or used products to the general public, but excluding those establishments more specifically defined in this Ordinance.
Retirement Housing	The use of a site for one or more dwelling units designed for independent living and marketed specifically for the elderly, persons with physical disabilities or both.
Retirement Housing, Limited	The use of an existing dwelling unit for independent living and marketed specifically for the elderly, persons with physical disabilities or both, with ten or fewer residents.
Review Body	The entity that is authorized to recommend approval or denial of an application or permit required under this Ordinance.
Right-of-Way	Land that has been, or is being, dedicated for the construction and maintenance of a street. "Right-of-Way" may also be used to identify an area dedicated for use as part of a drainage system or utility corridor.
Road, Major	Major roads include interstates, arterial roads, and collector roads, all as defined in this Ordinance.
Roadside Stand	A small open air structure for the retail sale of sweetgrass baskets or indigenous produce grown or produced on the property where the Roadside Stand is located. This definition does not include Farmers Markets.
Roadway	The entire area between the outside limits of construction, including appertaining structures, all slopes, ramps intersections, drive, and side ditches, channels waterways, etc., necessary for proper drainage. This term shall in general be considered synonymous with "street" or "road".
Rock Road	Those in which the traveled roadway is constructed of compacted rock material creating a rock driving surface.
Roof Sign	See "Sign, Roof" for definition.
Rooming House	A residential building other than a Hotel-Motel in which rooms are provided for compensation for three or more, but not exceeding 20, adult persons not related by blood, marriage, or adoption to the owner. The rooms must be booked by pre-arrangement for definite periods of time on either a weekly or monthly basis.
Rural Area	The area designated as the "Rural Area" in the <i>Comprehensive Plan</i> .
Safety Service	Facilities for the conduct of public safety and emergency services.
Scenic Road	A road or highway designated scenic by Charleston County or by the State of South Carolina.
School, Primary	A public, private or parochial school offering instruction at the elementary school level in the branches of learning and study required to be taught in the public schools of South Carolina.
School, Secondary	A public, private or parochial school offering instruction at the middle (junior) and senior high school levels in the branches of learning and study required to be taught in the public schools of South Carolina.

TERM	DEFINITION
Scrap and Salvage Service (or Junk Yard)	An establishment primarily engaged in the storage, retail or wholesale sale, assembling, dismantling, sorting, distributing, or other processing of scrap, used equipment, mechanical components, or waste materials. This term excludes impound yards and towing facilities.
Screening (Elements)	Various combinations of walls, fences, earthen berms, trees, shrubbery, and landscape materials which comprise a screening plan approved by the Planning Director to fulfill the requirements and serve the purposes of Article 9.5.
Screening, Opaque	A combination of screening elements, approved by the Planning Director, designed to substantially or completely obscure horizontal views between abutting or adjacent properties. When plant materials are used for screening, the screening shall be opaque at the time of plant maturity.
Screening, Semi-Opaque	A combination of screening elements in compliance with the requirements of Article 9.5 designed to partially obscure horizontal views between abutting or adjacent properties.
Self-Service Storage (or Mini Warehousing)	Storage services primarily for personal effects and household goods within enclosed storage areas having individual access, but excluding use as workshops, hobby shops, manufacturing, or commercial activity.
Semi-Opaque Screening	See "Screening, Semi-Opaque" for definition.
Service Station	See "Gasoline Service Station" for definition.
Setback	A required minimum distance from a lot line or street right-of-way, or OCRM Critical Line that establishes an area within which a structure shall not be erected.
Setback, Front	The setback measured from a street right-of-way
Setback, Interior	The setback measured from any interior lot line
Setback, OCRM Critical Line	The setback measured from the Critical Line, as determined by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management at the time of application.
Setback, Rear	The setback measured from the rear lot line, or if the rear lot line is not located on high ground, the OCRM Critical Line Setback shall apply (See "Setback, OCRM Critical Line" definition)
Setback, Side	Any setback other than a rear or front setback.
Settlement Areas	The areas designated as "settlement areas" by the adopted Charleston County <i>Comprehensive Plan</i> .
Sewage Collection Service Line	A non-lateral line connecting development to a sewage collector or trunk line.
Sexually Oriented Businesses	Definitions provided in Section 6.4.18C.
Short-term Lender	A Deferred Presentment Lender or a Title Loan Lender.
Shrub	A self-supporting perennial plant of low stature characterized by multiple stems and branches running continuous from the base.
Side Lot Line	See "Lot Line, Side" for definition.
Side Setback	See "Setback, Side" for definition.
Sign	Any device or visual communication that is used to announce, direct attention, inform, or advertise to the public.

TERM	DEFINITION
Sign, Abandoned	A sign advertising a person, business, service, event or other activity that is no longer available or a sign containing inaccurate or outdated information.
Sign, Animated	Any sign so designed as to facilitate or permit the rotation, oscillation, or other movement of the sign or of any of its visible parts.
Sign, Area of	The entire area within a continuous perimeter, enclosing the extreme limits of sign display, including any frame or border. Curved, spherical, or any other shaped sign face shall be computed on the basis of actual surface area. The area of signs composed of individual letters, numerals, or other devices shall be the sum of the area of the smallest rectangle or other geometric figure encompassing each of said letters or devices. Area devoted to required house numbers shall not be included in the calculation of maximum sign area. The calculation for a double-faced sign shall be the area of one face only. Double-faced signs shall be constructed so that both faces are either parallel or have an interior angle of less than 90 degrees, and the two faces shall not be more than 12 inches apart.
Sign, Bona Fide Agricultural Use	A sign specifically used for the advertisement of products from bona fide agricultural uses, related activities and farm identification that meets the requirements of this Ordinance.
Sign, Flashing	Any lighted or electrical sign that emits light in sudden transitory bursts. For purposes of this Ordinance, strobe lights in window fronts visible from public rights-of-way are included in this definition. On/off time and temperature signs and message boards are not considered flashing signs for the purpose of this Ordinance.
Sign, Free-Standing	A sign supported by a sign structure secured in the ground and which is wholly independent of any building, other than the sign structure, for support. A sign on a fence shall be considered a freestanding sign.
Sign, Height of	The vertical distance measured from the street grade elevation at the base of the sign structure to the highest point of the sign structure.
Sign, Illuminated	A sign designed to give forth artificial light or to reflect artificial light from a source incorporated in or associated with such sign.
Sign Imitating Traffic Devices (Signals)	Signs of such size, location, movement, content, coloring or of a manner of illumination that could be confused with or construed to be traffic control devices; or hide from view any traffic or street signal; or obstruct the view in any direction from a street intersection.
Sign Imitating Traffic Signs	Signs that imitate official traffic signs or signals or signs that contain the words 'stop', 'go', 'danger', 'slow', 'caution', 'warning', or similar words in such a fashion as to imitate official traffic signs or signals.

TERM	DEFINITION
Sign in Disrepair	Any sign that contains damaged or defective parts, or otherwise presents an unsightly appearance due to lack of maintenance.
Sign in Marshes	Signs erected or displayed in a marsh area or on land subject to periodic inundation by tidal action.
Sign, Campaign	A sign that identifies or urges support for a specific political issue scheduled for inclusion on an upcoming election ballot or a sign that identifies or urges support for a political party or candidate for national, state, or local public office.
Sign, LED (Light Emitting Diode) Message Board	An electronic portion of a free standing sign that channels light through tubes to create patterns that can produce changing display. LED signs must comply with all regulations of this Ordinance.
Sign, Monument	A free-standing sign with a sign (support) structure that: (1) is designed as one architecturally unified and proportional element with the sign itself, (2) is at least 90 percent of the width of the sign face and (3) is solid from grade at the base of the sign to the top of the sign structure.
Sign, Nonconforming	See "Nonconforming Sign" for definition.
Sign, Off-Premises Bona Fide Agricultural Use	Off-premises signs advertising products from Bona Fide Agricultural uses, related activities and farm identification.
Sign, Off-Premises	Any sign located or proposed to be located at any place other than within the same platted parcel of land on which the specific business or activity being identified on such sign is itself located or conducted.
Sign, On-Premises	A sign which directs attention to a business or profession conducted, or to a principal commodity, service or entertainment sold or offered on the premises where such sign is located.
Sign, Pedestal	A free-standing sign with a sign (support) structure that: (1) is designed as one architecturally unified and proportional element with the sign itself, (2) is at least 50 percent of the width of the sign face and (3) is solid from grade at the base of the sign to the top of the sign structure.
Sign, Political	A sign containing language that expresses a point of view on a political issue or identifies a specific political party, political organization, or political official unrelated to an upcoming election.
Sign, Portable	Signs which usually rest on the ground on wheels or metal legs, and may be temporarily anchored by weights and/or cables attached to stakes driven into the ground.
Sign, Real Estate	Temporary sign advertising the real property upon which the sign is located for rent or lease or sale; advertising a business or businesses to be located on the premises; or advertising the architect, contractor, developer, finance organization, subcontractor or material vendor upon which property such individual is furnishing labor, services or material.

TERM	DEFINITION
Sign, Roof	Any sign erected upon, against, or directly above a roof or roof eave, or on or above any architectural appendage above the roof or roof eave.
Sign, Sandwich Board	A sign not secured or attached to the ground or surface upon which it is located, but supported by its own frame and most often forming the cross-sectional shape of the letter "A" when viewed from the side.
Sign, Shared Free-Standing	A free standing sign shared by one or more businesses or residential developments on separate parcels that also share a common property boundary or are located within an approved multi parcel development. One shared sign is allowed per jointly used shared curb cut/entry drive with an allowable maximum of two shared signs per multi tenant development.
Sign, Snipe	A non-permitted sign pasted or attached to utility poles, trees, fences, or other locations.
Sign, Special Sales Event	A temporary sign advertising a Special Sales Event on a parcel with a legally established business. A temporary Special Sales Event Sign may be obtained for a maximum of five Special Sales Events per calendar year with each event not to exceed ten consecutive days.
Sign, Temporary	Signs that are not permanently attached to a building, other structures or the ground and do not meet structural standards recognized and enforced by the Charleston County Building Inspections Services Department.
Sign, Vehicle	A permanent or temporary sign affixed, painted on, or placed in or upon any parked vehicle, parked trailer or other parked device capable of being towed, which is displayed to attract the attention of the motoring public or pedestrian traffic.
Sign, Wall/Facade	A sign painted on or attached to the outside of a building, and erected parallel to the face of a building and supported throughout its length by such building.
Silviculture	The cultivation of a forest for the purpose of harvesting timber.
Single Family, Attached	The use of a site for two or more dwelling units, constructed with common or abutting walls and each located on a separate lot. Also known as townhouses or rowhouses.
Single family, Detached	The use of a site for only one dwelling unit, other than a manufactured housing unit, that is not attached to any other dwelling units.
Single Family, Detached [Affordable]	See Section 6.4.19 for definition.
Single Family, Detached/ Manufactured Housing Unit (Joint Use)	The use of a site for one detached single family dwelling unit and one manufactured housing unit.
Small Animal Boarding	An establishment primarily engaged in the boarding of household pets within an enclosed building.
Snipe Sign	See "Sign, Snipe" for definition.

TERM	DEFINITION
Social (or Civic) Organization	An establishment providing meeting, recreational, or social facilities for a nonprofit association, primarily for use by members and guests of youth organizations, fraternal organizations, and other similar groups. This use does not include any type of residential facility, such as fraternity or sorority houses.
Social Club (or Lodge)	A building, structure, or grounds, or portion thereof, which is owned by or leased to private organizations, social clubs, or non-profit associations for meeting, recreational, or social purposes. The use of such premises is restricted to the members of these organizations and their guests.
Solid Waste Disposal Facility (Public or Private)	All land, structures, other appurtenances and improvements on the land used for treating, storing, or disposing of solid waste. A Solid Waste Disposal Facility may consist of several treatment, storage, or disposal operational units, including, but not limited to, one or more landfills, surface impoundments, or combination thereof.
Special Exception	An exception issued by the Board of Zoning Appeals authorizing a particular use in a specified location within a Zoning district, upon demonstrating that such use complies with all the conditions and standards specified by the Zoning and Land Development Regulations.
Special Event	An activity (occurring one or more times) involving the assembly or the intention of attracting 100 or more people for cultural, ceremonial, educational, or celebratory purposes, which generates revenue, regardless of status. Such assembly includes, but is not limited to: weddings, receptions, recitals, art exhibits, religious ceremonies, limited youth activities, book readings, wine/food tasting events, executive retreats, circuses, fairs, carnivals, festivals, auctions, concerts, and any event which is advertised or marketed in any form including, but not limited to: posters, business cards, internet, and media outlets; serves an entrepreneurial purpose; includes fees/charges for goods/services (e.g. food & drink); and whenever there is an admission fee or leasing fee. This definition does not include private parties or private functions that do not meet the above stated criteria.
Special Trade Contractor	An establishment that specializes in a specific aspect of construction, such as carpentry, electrical, painting, plumbing, roofing, or tile
Stable, Commercial	A building or land where horses are kept for commercial use including boarding, sale, rental, breeding or raising of horses.
Stable, Private	A building or land where horse(s) are kept for private use.
Standard Billboard (Outdoor Advertising Structure)	A Billboard designed to accommodate messages composed of non- digital or electronic copy that utilizes wrapped posters, 30 sheet posters, and eight sheet posters.
Standard Cubic Foot (Scf)	A cubic foot of gas at standard temperature and pressure, which are 68 degrees Fahrenheit and 29.92 inches of mercury.

TERM	DEFINITION
Street	A vehicular way which may also serve in part as a way for pedestrian traffic, whether called a street, highway, thoroughfare, parkway, throughway, road, avenue, boulevard, land, place, alley, mall, or otherwise designated, including the entire area within the right-of-way.
Street, Arterial	A street used primarily or designed to conduct traffic between communities and activity centers, and to connect communities to major state and interstate highways. An arterial is a primary road characterized by high traffic volumes and high speeds.
Street, Collector	A street used or designed to carry traffic from minor streets to arterial or major streets for purposes of this Ordinance. Such streets include those designated as collectors in any <i>Comprehensive Plan</i> or element thereof officially adopted.
Street Line	A lot line separating a street from a lot.
Street, Minor	A street other than an arterial street or collector street used or designated primarily to provide access to abutting property. The term includes marginal access streets which are generally parallel and adjacent to arterial streets, serve abutting properties and provide protection from friction with through traffic. The term minor street includes loop streets and cul-de-sac streets.
Stub Street	A street that intersects with another local street and extends, usually one lot deep, to the property line of the development or rear of the block being developed.
Structure	Anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires more or less permanent location on the ground, or which is attached to something having a more or less permanent location on the ground.
Structural Alteration	See "Alteration, Structural" for definition.
Subdivision	All divisions of a tract or parcel of land into two or more lots, building sites, or other divisions for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of sale, lease, or building development, and includes all division of land involving a new street or change in existing streets, and includes re-subdivision which would involve the further division or relocation of lot lines of any lot or lots within a subdivision previously made and approved or recorded according to law; or, the alteration of any streets or the establishment of any new streets within any subdivision previously made and approved or recorded according to law, and includes combination of lots of record.
Subgrade	The top surface of a roadbed upon which the roadway structure and shoulders are constructed.
Suburban Area	The area designated as the "Suburban Area" in the adopted Charleston County <i>Comprehensive Plan</i> .

TERM	DEFINITION
Subject Property	Property, which may or may not include one or more tax parcels, or the total area impacted by a specific use, e.g., utility service area, facility, easement, or right-of-way. In the case of a utility trunk or service line, the "subject property," for the purpose of Posted Notice, shall be the entire distance or length of the trunk or main line right-of-way or easement and shall be treated as one "subject property."
Sweetgrass Basket Stand	A sweetgrass basket stand is an open air stand that sells handmade baskets from locally grown sweetgrass. Sweetgrass basket stands shall be limited to a 500 square foot covered area.
Swimming Pool	A structure intended for swimming, recreational bathing or wading that contains water over 24 inches (610 mm) deep. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground pools; hot tubs; spas and fixed-in-place wading pools.
Tattoo or Tattooing	To indelibly mark or color the skin by subcutaneous introduction of nontoxic dyes or pigments. The practice of tattooing does not include the removal of tattoos, nor the practice of branding, cutting, scarification, skin braiding, or the mutilation of any part of the body.
Tattoo Facility	Any room, space, location, area, structure, or business, or any part of any of these places where tattooing is practiced or where the business of tattooing is conducted and which is licensed by the Department (SC DHEC) as a tattoo facility.
Temporary Portable Storage Unit	Any structure that is used for storage that is portable and does not have a door or other entranceway into a dwelling unit and that does not have water fixtures within its confines, the use of which is limited solely to storage of inanimate objects.
Temporary Sign	See "Sign, Temporary" for definition.
Tenant Dwelling	A dwelling located on a bona fide farm and which is occupied or designed to be occupied by a non-transient farm worker employed by the owner or operator of the farm.
Through Lot	See "Lot, Double-Frontage" for definition.
Title Loan Lender	A lender which regularly extends short-term non-purchase money loans secured by titles to motor vehicles, such as those regulated by S.C. Code § 37-3-413 (Cum. Supp. 2011). The term does not include other federal or state regulated lenders, banks, credit unions, savings banks and like depository institutions.
Towing Facility	An establishment that provides vehicle towing services and accessory temporary outdoor storage for the vehicles it tows, which shall only include: (1) mechanically operable/driveable, licensed vehicles that are to be claimed by titleholders or their agents; and/or (2) wrecked motor vehicles awaiting insurance adjustments and transport to repair shops. This term excludes: automotive services that have a tow truck on-site; scrap and salvage yards/services; junk yards; impound yards; vehicle storage; and accessory storage of inoperable vehicles.
Trade School	See "Business School" for definition.

TERM	DEFINITION
Traditional Neighborhood Design	Development designs intended to enhance the appearance and functionality of the new development so that it functions like a traditional neighborhood or town. These designs make possible reasonably high residential densities, a mixture of residential and commercial land uses, a range of single and multi-family housing types, and street connectivity both within the new development and to surrounding roadways, pedestrian, and bicycle features.
Transitional Housing	A facility providing supervision or detention, or both, for residents making the transition from institutional to community living. This classification includes pre-parole detention facilities and halfway houses for juvenile delinquents and adult offenders. This classification also includes overnight shelters for the homeless and emergency shelters during crisis intervention for victims of crime, abuse, or neglect.
Tree	Any self-supporting woody plant having a single trunk or trunks of two inches DBH or greater and usually having branches.
Tree Protection Fencing	A fence or wall at least four feet in height that ensures the protection of protected and grand trees during development.
Truck Stop	Any building, premises, or land in which or upon which a business, service, or industry involving the maintenance, servicing, storage, or repair of commercial vehicles is conducted or rendered, including the dispensing of motor fuels or other petroleum products directly into motor vehicles and the sale of accessories or equipment for trucks and similar commercial vehicles. Any overnight accommodations and restaurant facilities primarily for the use of truck crews shall be considered as a separate use, and shall follow the use requirements for that particular use as provided for in this Ordinance.
Understory Tree	A tree, ten to twelve feet tall at the time of planting, which will grow to a minimum height of 20 feet at maturity.
Use Allowed by Right	A principal use allowed without the requirement of a special exception.
Utility	A provider of electricity, gas, water, sewage service, telephone, cable or other similar service for principal development, and the provider of the service is publicly regulated.
Utility Service, Major	Facilities and structures that are necessary for the generation, transmission, and/or distribution of utilities to support principal development, such as generation facilities, electrical and telephone switching facilities, electric substations, pumping stations, sewage collection or disposal facilities, water or sewage treatment plants, water storage tanks, sewage collector or trunk lines, water mains, and similar facilities.
Utility Service, Minor	Minor structures, such as lines and poles, that are necessary to distribute utilities and provide service.
Vacation Camp	See "Recreation Camp" for definition.

TERM	DEFINITION
Variance	A relaxation by the Board of Zoning Appeals of the dimensional regulations of the Ordinance where such action will not be contrary to the public interest and where, owing to conditions peculiar to the property and not the results of actions or the situation of the applicant, a literal enforcement of this code would result in unnecessary and undue hardship; and such variance is consistent with Section 6.29.800 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, Title 6, Chapter 29.
Vehicle Rental and Leasing	The rental or leasing of automobiles, light or medium trucks, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, or utility trailers, including incidental storage, maintenance, and servicing. This use does not include boats or other watercraft.
Vehicle Repair, Consumer	An establishment that primarily provides service to automobiles, light and medium trucks, motorcycles or recreational vehicles. These services include the maintenance, repair, or refinishing of motor vehicles, including both minor and major mechanical overhauling, paint and body work. Generally, the customer does not wait at the site while the service or repair is being performed. This term excludes any dismantling or scrap and salvage service.
Vehicle Sales	The sale of automobiles, light or medium trucks, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, or boats, including incidental storage, maintenance, and servicing.
Vehicle Service, Limited	An establishment that provides direct services to motor vehicles where the driver or passengers generally wait in the vehicle or nearby while the service is performed.
Vehicle Sign	See "Sign, Vehicle" for definition.
Vehicle Storage	An establishment offering long or short term storage of operating vehicles or vehicles contracted for repair. This term excludes impound yards, towing facilities, and any dismantling, scrap and salvage service, or junked vehicle yards.
Veterinary Service	An establishment offering veterinary services and hospitals for animals.
Vibration	The periodic displacement or oscillation of the earth.
Vision Clearance Triangle	A triangular area of unobstructed visibility extending from the intersection of a driveway and roadway between three (3) and ten (10) feet in height above grade. The minimum area is formed by the connection of a perpendicular line measuring fifteen (15) feet from the point of intersection at the edge of the travelway into the driveway and a fifteen (15) foot parallel line away from the point of intersection along the roadway.
Wall/Facade Sign	See "Sign, Wall/Facade" for definition.
Wall (or Fence)	A structural device erected to serve as an architectural element, landscape element, visual screen or physical barrier.

TERM	DEFINITION
Warehouse and Distribution Facility	An establishment engaged in the storage or movement of goods, such as manufactured products, supplies, equipment or food. This term excludes bulk storage of materials that are inflammable or explosive or that create hazardous or commonly recognized offensive conditions. Goods are generally delivered to other firms or the final consumer, except for some will-call pickups. There is little on-site sales activity with the customer present.
Waste-Related Use	Uses that collect or receive solid or liquid waste for disposal, treatment, transfer to another location or production of energy from the waste. This term does not include uses otherwise defined as utilities.
Water Service Line	A non-lateral line connecting development to a water main.
Waterfront (Property)	Property within 500 feet of any river, tidal wetland or waterway, including saltwater marshes. Property abutting freshwater wetlands shall not be considered "waterfront" property.
Wetland Buffer	See "Buffer, Wetland" for definition.
Wetlands, Freshwater	Those areas of land that are inundated or saturated by fresh water 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 and delineated as freshwater wetlands by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
Wholesale Sales	An establishment engaged in the wholesale sale of products primarily intended for industrial, institutional, or commercial businesses. The uses emphasize on-site sales or order taking, and often include display areas. Businesses may or may not be open to the general public, but sales to the general public are limited. Products may be picked up on-site or delivered to the customer.
Winery	An agricultural processing facility used for the commercial purpose of processing grapes, other fruit products or vegetables to produce wine or wine related spirits, excluding beer and liquor. Processing includes wholesale sales, crushing, fermenting, blending, aging, storage, bottling, administrative office functions for the winery and warehousing. Retail sales and tasting facilities of wine and related promotional items and winery tours may be permitted as part of the winery operations.
Workforce Housing	An area limited to 1,500 square feet that is devoted to the sampling and sales thereof of wine produced on or off the premises. Sale of food is prohibited; however, incidental provision of food without compensation is allowed.
Written Interpretation	Any review or evaluation by the Planning Director, in written form, concerning the Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations, <i>Comprehensive Plan</i> , or any other relevant documents.
Written Notice	Notice may be sent via U.S. mail or email.

TERM	DEFINITION
Zoning District	A specifically delineated geographic area or zone in Charleston County within which uniform development regulations and requirements govern the use, density, and the placement, spacing, or size of buildings.
Zoning Lot	See "Lot, Zoning" for definition.
Zoning Permit	A permit issued by the Charleston County Planning Department that acknowledges that the intended land use, structure, building, or construction complies with the provisions of the Zoning and Land Development Regulations or authorized variance therefrom. A Zoning Permit shall be required prior to the activities described in Article 3.8.1 of the Ordinance.
Zoo	A facility where live animals are kept for display.

ARTICLE 12.2 INTERPRETATION

For the purpose of this Ordinance, certain words and terms used herein are defined as set forth in this Section. If not specifically defined herein, words and terms shall be defined in Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition.