

ARTICLE II. BASIC DEFINITIONS**Section 17: Definitions of Basic Terms**

The words and phrases defined in this section shall have the meaning indicated when used in this ordinance, unless otherwise specifically provided, or unless clearly required by the context.

1. *Adult Assisted Living*. A facility for six or fewer persons over the age of 62 who cannot live independently and who need assistance with daily chores and housekeeping.
2. *Adult Care Center*. A licensed facility for four or more aged, infirmed, or disabled adults which is operated during a part of the day only, which provides supplementary care and protection of individuals who reside elsewhere.
3. *Alley*. A right-of-way less than 30 feet in width designated as an alley on the plat recorded in the land records of Loudoun County or dedicated as such in a deed.
4. Repealed. (12/10/15)
5. *Animal Hospital*. A facility rendering surgical and medical treatment to animals and providing overnight accommodations for such animals, but not including crematory facilities. (Added 9/13/01)
- 5a. *Application, Active*: Any zoning map amendment, zoning text amendment, site plan application, subdivision application, or other approval request provided by this ordinance that has been officially accepted by the Zoning Administrator as a complete application and is not considered inactive, has not been withdrawn by the applicant or has not received a final decision. (Added 5/8/14)
- 5b. *Application, Inactive*: Any site plan application, subdivision application, or other approval request provided by this ordinance that has been officially accepted by the Zoning Administrator as a complete application but has been deemed inactive by the Middleburg Planning Commission under Article 5, Section 66 of the Middleburg Zoning Ordinance. (Added 5/8/14)
6. *Auto Repair Garage*. A building designed and used for the storage, care, repair, or refinishing of motor vehicles including both minor and major mechanical overhauling, paint and body work.
7. Repealed. (12/10/15)
8. Repealed. (12/10/15)
9. *Basement or Cellar*. That portion of a building that is partly or completely below grade. A basement or cellar shall be counted as a story if the vertical distance from the average adjoining grade to the ceiling is over five feet.
10. *Bed and Breakfast*. An owner-occupied dwelling unit containing no more than three guest rooms where lodging, with or without meals, is provided for compensation.

11. *Boarding House.* A dwelling in which, as a home occupation and for compensation, lodging, meals, or both are furnished to no more than nine guests. Such dwelling shall contain no more than five guest rooms.
12. *Building.* A structure designed to be used as a place of occupancy, storage or shelter.
13. *Building, Accessory.* A building that is located on the same lot as a principal building and is used incidentally to a principal building or that houses an accessory use.
14. *Building, Principal.* The primary building on a lot or a building that houses a principal use.
15. *Building Height.* The vertical distance measured from the average elevation of the finished grade adjoining the building at all exterior walls or surfaces to the highest point of the building. Where the finished ground level slopes away from the exterior walls, the average finished grade shall be established by the lowest points within the area between the building and the lot line or, where the lot line is more than six feet from the building, between the building and a point six feet from the building. (Amended 12/9/99)
16. *Building Line (or Set Back Building Line).* Line beyond which the foundation wall and/or any enclosed porch, vestibule, or other such portion of a building shall not project.
17. *Building Supply.* A building or structure in which building or construction and home improvement materials are offered or kept for sale at retail or wholesale. (Added 10/09/03)
18. *Car Wash, Recycling.* A structure or portion thereof with machine- or employee hand-operated facilities for washing, cleaning, polishing or waxing motor vehicles, which employs state-of-the-art water reclamation and conservation technology that may include, but not be limited to one or more underground water reclamation tanks, re-pressurization pump and filtering system. (Added 2/11/99)
19. *Caretaker's Dwelling.* A secondary dwelling unit or apartment contained within, or detached from, a principal non-residential structure which is 1) used as a residence by a caretaker or watchman, or 2) inhabited to provide added security to the premises. The caretaker's dwelling shall be accessory to the principal structure. (Added 6/10/04)
20. *Child Care Center.* A building where care, protection and supervision of more than five children are provided, on a regular schedule, during any part of the day but not for an entire 24-hour period.
21. *College, University.* An institute of higher education authorized by the Commonwealth of Virginia to award baccalaureate or higher degrees, which may include on-site student, faculty and employee housing facilities. (Added 9/13/01)
22. *Commercial Greenhouse Operations.* A building and/or land for the growing for sale of flowers, fruits, vegetables, plants, shrubs, trees, and/or similar vegetation, with or without on-site sales. (Added 10/09/03)

23. *Conference Center*. A facility used for non-profit, business or professional conferences, seminars and training programs with accommodations limited to conference attendees. Accommodations may be included for sleeping, eating and recreation. (Added 9/13/01)
24. *Conservancy Lot*. A privately-owned, single-family residential lot in a conservancy subdivision, which will remain as a large parcel, the bulk of which is in permanent open space easement and a portion of which is designated a building area for the dwelling. (Added 9/13/01)
25. *Corporate Office*. A single-tenant office building(s) that houses the corporate or regional offices of a group or organization wherein the primary use is the conduct of business and which may include meeting rooms, data processing, training facilities and other office service functions for employees such as a cafeteria for use by employees and visitors, but not open to the general public. (Added 9/13/01)
26. *Corporate Retreat*. A facility owned and operated by a private or non-profit corporation for the purpose of providing a rural training center and retreat for its employees and which may include conference and meeting facilities, eating facilities, and recreational amenities of a rural nature, none of which shall be open to the general public. (Added 9/13/01)
27. *Country Club*. Land area and buildings containing recreational facilities such as a swimming pool and tennis courts, a clubhouse (which may include a restaurant), and customary accessory uses, either private or open to the public. (Added 9/13/01; Amended 5/12/06)
28. *Country Inn*. A business offering overnight accommodations and dining in a rural setting, preferably in an historic structure, with between 4 and 20 guest rooms and a full-service restaurant providing meals to guests and the general public. (Added 9/13/01)
29. Repealed. (12/10/15)
30. *Developer*. A person who is responsible for any undertaking that requires a zoning permit, special use permit or sign permit.
31. *Development*. A use or activity which is to be done pursuant to a zoning permit, special use permit or sign permit.
32. Repealed. (12/10/15)
33. *Dwelling*. A building or portion thereof arranged or designed to provide living facilities for one or more families.
34. *Dwelling, Multi-Family*. A building containing three or more dwelling units (an apartment house), but not including townhouses.
35. *Dwelling, Single Family Attached (Townhouse)*. One of three or more dwelling units having a common or party wall separating dwelling units, each with direct access to the outside.
36. *Dwelling, Single Family Detached*. A building containing not more than one dwelling unit entirely surrounded by open space on the same lot.

37. *Dwelling, Two-Family (Duplex)*. Building containing two dwelling units, arranged one above the other or side by side, or some combination of the two.
38. *Dwelling Unit*. One or more rooms containing sleeping, kitchen and bathroom facilities for and used or held for use as a permanent residence by one family.
39. *Easement, Utility*. The right of a person, government agency, or public utility company to use public or private land owned by another for the specific purpose of providing utility services or locating utility service facilities thereon.
40. *Equestrian Facilities*. The use of land, buildings, or structures for the training of horses and riders, the boarding of horses and/or the staging of equestrian events. (Added 9/13/01)
41. *Family*. One or more persons living together as a single housekeeping unit.
42. *Family Day Home*. A residence in which no more than five children, excluding the provider's own children and any children living in the home, receive care, protection and supervision for compensation on a regular schedule, during any part of the day but not for an entire 24-hour period. A family day home shall be deemed a single-family occupancy for purposes of this ordinance.
43. *Financial Institution*. An establishment frequented in person by customers for purposes of such state and federally regulated business as banking, obtaining loans, and depositing or withdrawing money. The term "financial institution" shall not be deemed to include establishments such as pawn shops where goods are bailed for security for loan redemptions, places where goods are consigned for sale, establishments that make small, short term consumer loans secured by a title to a motor vehicle, or establishments that provide check cashing, payday cash advance, payroll advance, short-term cash loans, short term cash advance, instant payday cash advance, short term money loan services, or similar services to individuals for a specific fee. (Added 10/9/03; amended 6/9/11)
44. *Fitness Center*. A health, athletic, or recreational club, or private gymnasium that does not fall within the definition of a fitness studio. A fitness center may include use of aerobic training equipment, weight training equipment, saunas, whirlpools, locker rooms and shower facilities. (Amended 10/9/03; Amended 2/14/13)
- 44a. *Fitness Studio*. A commercial establishment of no more than 300 square feet that provides instruction in physical fitness on a personal or group basis. (Added 2/14/13)
45. Repealed. (12/10/15)
46. Repealed. (12/10/15)
47. Repealed. (12/10/15)
48. Repealed. (12/10/15)

49. *Floor Area Ratio (FAR)*. A number or percentage, derived by dividing the gross floor area of the buildings on any lot by the lot area. The floor area ratio multiplied by the lot area produced the maximum amount of floor area that may be constructed on such lot. (Added 5/12/06)
50. *Greenbelt Open Space*. Open space designed to provide buffers and to protect scenic views as seen from existing roadways and from public spaces. (Added 9/13/01)
51. *Group Home*. A residential facility in which more than eight mentally ill, mentally retarded, or developmentally disabled persons reside, with one or more resident counselors or other staff persons. Mental illness and developmental disability shall not include current illegal use of or addiction to a controlled substance as defined in Section 54.1-3401 of the State Code. A residential facility shall be deemed to be any group home or other residential facility for which the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services is the licensing authority pursuant to the State Code.
52. *Gross Floor Area*. The total floor area of a building measured by adding the outside dimensions of the building at each floor level intended for occupancy or storage.
53. *Height (Other than Building Height)*. The vertical distance on the side of the structure facing an adjacent street or adjacent lot measured from the lowest exposed point of the structure being measured to the highest point of the structure. Except as provided elsewhere in this ordinance, elements attached to or incorporated into a structure, including, but not limited to columns, finials, pillars, and pilasters, shall be deemed a part of the structure and shall be considered in measuring height. Grades shall not be adjusted under or around a structure if it has the effect of circumventing the maximum height allowances set forth in this ordinance (also see Building Height). (Amended 12/9/99)
- 53a. *Helistop*. A temporary or permanent helicopter landing area either at ground level or elevated on a structure, for the sole purpose of pickup and discharge of passengers and cargo from non-commercial helicopters for personal use and not including facilities for maintenance and overhaul, fueling service, storage space or hangers. Such an area shall contain no operation facilities other than one (1) tie-down space and such additional facilities as are required by law, ordinance or resolution. No landings of commercial helicopters shall be allowed under this definition. (Added 3/13/14)
54. *Home Occupation*. An occupation, profession, activity or use that is clearly a customary, incidental and secondary use conducted entirely within a dwelling and does not change the exterior of the property or affect the residential character of the neighborhood.
55. *Indoor Theatre*. A building designed for the enactment of dramatic performances and/or showing of motion pictures. (Added 10/09/03)
56. *Inn*. A professionally-run business that offers overnight accommodations and may include a full-service restaurant providing breakfast, lunch and dinner to guests and the general public. The number of guest rooms may range from 4 to no more than 20.
- 56a. *Library*. A facility for the custody, circulation and administration of a collection of books, manuscripts, and reference materials, but generally not for the sale of such, and designed to be open to the public. (Added 11/13/14)

- 56b. *Lodging, Limited Residential.* The secondary use of a residential dwelling or a portion thereof to provide room or space that is suitable for occupancy for dwelling, sleeping, or lodging purposes, for a period of fewer than 30 consecutive days, in exchange for a charge for the occupancy, provided only that 1) the primary use of the dwelling shall remain residential, 2) any applicable taxes required to be collected and remitted by state and local law for each booking transaction are collected and remitted, and 3) such secondary use does not include simultaneous occupancy by more than one party under separate contracts. (Added 10/13/16)
57. *Lodging Unit.* A room or group of rooms not including independent kitchen facilities, forming a single habitable unit, used or intended to be used for living and sleeping by transient occupants; provided, however, that lodging units may be configured to share kitchen facilities. (Added 5/12/06)
58. *Lot.* A parcel of land whose boundaries have been established by some legal instrument such as a recorded deed or a recorded map and which is recognized as a separate legal entity for purposes of transfer of title.
59. *Lot Area.* The total horizontal area included within the rear, side, and front lot lines or proposed street lines. No alley, public way, public land, or area proposed for future street purposes either public or private shall be included in the calculation of lot area.
60. *Lot, Corner.* A lot abutting on and at the intersection of two or more streets.
61. *Lot Coverage, Building.* The percentage of a lot area occupied or covered by the ground area of principal and accessory buildings or other roofed areas on such lot. (Amended 7/28/22)
- 61a. *Lot Coverage, Impervious.* The percentage of a lot area composed of any material that significantly impedes or prevents natural infiltration of water into the soil. Impervious Lot Coverage includes, but is not limited to: (a) Building Lot Coverage, as defined; (b) unroofed porches, decks, patios and the like; (c) driveways and parking areas; (d) sidewalks and other walkways; (e) any concrete, asphalt, or compacted gravel surface; and (f) other surfaces not composed of living ground cover or live planting areas. Patios, driveways, parking areas, and walkways constructed of pervious pavers, void structured concrete/plastic grid reinforced paving systems or other similar materials may be calculated at 50% of the actual area of coverage when, at the discretion of the Administrator, the materials are properly designed and installed to allow for infiltration of water. (Added 7/28/22)
62. *Lot Depth.* The horizontal distance between the front and rear lot lines measured from the midpoint of the front lot line to the midpoint of the rear lot line.
63. *Lot, Interior.* Any lot other than a corner lot; including a through lot.
64. *Lot Line.* A line dividing one lot from another lot or from a street or alley.
65. *Lot Line, Front.* The lot line abutting a street on an interior lot, the shortest lot line abutting a street on a corner lot, or the interior lot line most parallel to and nearest the street from which access is obtained for a flag lot.

66. *Lot Line, Rear.* The lot line generally opposite or parallel to the front lot line, except in a through lot. If a rear lot line is less than ten feet long or the lot is pointed at the rear, the rear lot line is assumed to be a line at least ten feet long, lying wholly within the lot, parallel to the front lot line, or if the front lot line is curved, parallel to the chord of the arc of the front lot line.
67. *Lot Line, Side.* Any lot line not a front or rear lot line.
68. *Lot, Through.* A lot having its front and rear yards each abutting on a street.
69. *Lot Width.* The horizontal distance between side lot lines measured at the front property line and at the required front setback.
70. *Lowest Floor.* The lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). (Added 6/14/01)
71. Repealed. (12/10/15)
- 71a. *Museum.* A facility operated by a nonprofit organization for the primary purpose of the acquisition, preservation, study and exhibition of works of artistic, historical or scientific interest or value and designed to be open to the public. (Added 11/13/14)
72. *Nonconforming Lot.* A lot existing at the effective date of this ordinance that does not meet the minimum area requirements of the district in which the lot is located.
73. *Nonconforming Project.* Any structure, development, or undertaking that is incomplete at the effective date of this ordinance and would be inconsistent with any regulation applicable to the district in which it is located if completed as proposed or planned.
74. *Nonconforming Situation.* A situation that occurs when, on the effective date of this ordinance, any existing lot or structure or use of an existing lot or structure does not conform to one or more of the regulations applicable to the district in which the lot or structure is located.
75. *Nonconforming Use.* A nonconforming situation that occurs when property is used for a purpose or in a manner made unlawful by the use regulations applicable to the district in which the property is located. The term also refers to the activity that constitutes the use made of the property.
76. *Nursery School.* A facility that provides a curriculum of pre-school education, including kindergartens. (Added 10/09/03)
77. *Nursing Home.* An institutional facility which provides skilled and intermediate nursing care and medical supervision at a lower level than that provided in a hospital.
78. Repealed. (12/10/15)
79. *Open Air Market.* A principal use which includes the sale of horticultural or agricultural products, including nursery stock, Christmas trees, fresh produce, honey, cider and similar products.

80. *Open Space*. Areas of trees, shrubs, lawns, grass, pathways and other natural and man-made amenities not within individual building lots, set aside of the use and enjoyment of residents, visitors and other persons, unoccupied by buildings or facilities unless related to recreational activities. (Added 5/12/06)
81. *Parcel*. See Lot.
82. *Parking Lot Facility*. A site for surface parking which provides one or more parking spaces together with driveways, aisles, turning, and maneuvering areas, incorporated landscaped areas, and features meeting the requirements established by this ordinance. These facilities shall be used to accommodate clients, customers, or employees during the property owner's business hours and may be made available to the public with or without compensation after the normal business hours of the property owner. (Added 2/10/05)
83. *Personal Service Business*. An establishment primarily engaged in providing services involving the care of a person or apparel, including, but not limited to, barber shops, beauty shops, dry cleaning drop off and pickup (but not including onsite dry cleaning), laundromats, shoe repair shops, tailor shops, photographic studios and shipping services. (Added 6/8/17)
84. *Professional Office*. A building or portion of a building where services are performed involving predominately professional persons such as doctors, dentists, lawyers, architects, artists, real estate brokers, insurance agents, accountants, engineers, or urban planners. (Amended 10/09/03)
85. *Real Estate Office*. A building or portion of a building where services performed are predominately the buying or selling of real estate. (Added 10/09/03)
86. *Recreational Uses, Active*. Recreational uses requiring constructed facilities for organized activities, such as playing fields, ball courts and playgrounds. (Added 5/12/06)
87. *Recreational Uses, Passive*. Recreational uses (such as hiking, natural observation, and picnicking) not requiring constructed facilities, but making use of areas which are largely left in their natural state except for basic facilities such as benches, picnic tables and trails. (Added 5/12/2006)
88. *Recreational Vehicle*. A vehicle which is: (a) built on a single chassis; (b) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection; (c) designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and (d) designed not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational camping, travel, or seasonal use. (Added 6/14/01)
89. Repealed. (12/10/15)
90. *Rooming House*. See Boarding House.
91. *Rural Resort*. A private establishment consisting of a detached structure or structures located in a rural setting in which lodging units are offered to transients for compensation as the principal use, along with conference and meeting facilities, restaurant and banquet facilities, and recreational amenities of a rural nature. (Added 5/12/06)

92. *School, Private.* A private or parochial school for the purpose of providing primary and/or secondary education for children, which may include on-site student, faculty and employee housing facilities. (Added 9/13/01)
93. *School, Public.* A public school for the purpose of providing primary and/or secondary education for children. (Added 9/13/01)
94. *Self-Storage Facility.* A structure or group of structures containing individual, self-contained units leased to individuals, organizations, or businesses for self-storage of personal property, with no commercial transactions permitted other than the rental of the storage units.
95. *Service Station.* A building and/or lot where the primary use is the supply and dispensing of motor fuels, oils, batteries, tires or motor vehicle accessories.
96. *Social and Fraternal Club or Lodge.* A private, non- profit establishment which provides social, physical, recreational or benevolent services to its members and their guests. Such establishment shall not be used to operate a trade or business.
97. *Spa.* A facility offering personalized beautification and relaxation treatment and health and well-being programs. Examples of treatment offered may include: body packs and wraps, exfoliation, heat treatments, body toning, waxing, aromatherapy, cleansing facial, non-surgical face-lift, electrolysis, hydrotherapy, steam and sauna treatment, exercise, manicures and pedicures, and make-up consultation and application. (Added 5/12/06)
98. *Story.* That portion of a building included between the surface of any floor and the surface of the floor next above or, if there is no floor above, the space between such floor and the ceiling next above. No story shall be deemed to be a first story, if its floor level is more than five feet above the average level of the finished ground surface adjacent to the exterior walls of such story. A basement shall be counted as a story, if its ceiling is over five feet above the average level of the finished ground surface adjacent to the exterior walls of such story or, if it is intended to be used for business or dwelling purposes. A mezzanine floor shall be counted as a story, if it covers over one-third of the area of the floor next below or if the vertical distance between the floor next below and the floor next above is 20 feet or more.
99. *Story, Half.* A space under a sloping roof, which has the line of intersection of a roof decking and wall face not more than three feet above the top floor level, and in which space not more than two-thirds of the floor area is finished off for use.
100. *Street.* A public or private thoroughfare used or intended to be used, for passage or travel by motor vehicles.
101. *Street, Center Line of.* A line established as a center line of a street by any state, county, town or other official agency or governing body having jurisdiction thereof and shown as such on an officially adopted or legally recorded map or, if there be no center line established or if there exists conflict among several maps, the center line of a street shall be a line lying midway between the street or right-of-way lines thereof. When the street lines are indeterminate and pavement or a well defined traveled way exists, the center line is assumed to be a line midway between the edges of such pavement or traveled way.

102. *Street, Proposed.* Any proposed right-of-way or proposed widening or extension of any existing street or public way shown as a highway or street on the transportation plan of the Comprehensive Plan of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia, and Zoning Map of the Town of Middleburg or shall hereafter be adopted, amended, or extended, or on any preliminary subdivision plan or on any other plan approved by the planning commission and/or the mayor and council.
103. *Street Width.* The shortest distance between street lines, measured across the street right-of-way.
104. *Structure.* Anything constructed or erected for use, occupancy or ornamentation.
105. Repealed. (12/10/15)
106. Repealed. (12/10/15)
107. *Trail.* A path typically devoted to pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles. (Added 5/12/06)
108. *Use.* The activity or function that actually takes place or is intended to take place on a lot.
109. *Use, Accessory.* A use which is customarily incidental and subordinate to, and on the same lot as, the principal use.
110. *Use, Principal.* The primary use and chief purpose of a lot or structure.
111. *Utility Facility, Community or Regional.* All utility facilities other than neighborhood facilities.
112. *Utility Facility, Neighborhood.* A utility facility that is designed to serve the immediately surrounding neighborhood and that must, for reasons associated with the purpose of the utility in question, be located in or near the neighborhood where such facility is proposed to be located.
113. *Very Steep Slope Area.* Land areas with slopes greater than 25%. (Added 5/12/06)
114. *Yard.* An area on the same lot with a building or group of buildings, lying between the building or building group and the nearest lot line, unobstructed from the ground upward and unoccupied except by specific uses and structures permitted by this ordinance.
115. *Yard, Front.* A yard, extending across the full width of a front lot line between side lot lines and from the front lot line to the front building line in depth.
116. *Yard, Rear.* A yard extending across the full width of the lot, except on corner lots where the yard shall extend to the side yard adjacent to a street, and lying between the rear lot line and the nearest line of the building. The depth of the rear yard shall be measured at right angles to the rear line of the lot. (Amended 6/9/16)

117. *Yard, Side.* A yard extending from the front yard to the rear yard measured from and perpendicular to the side lot line, except that a side yard adjacent to a street shall extend from the front yard to the rear lot line. (Amended 6/9/16)
118. *Zoning Permit.* A permit issued by the zoning administrator which authorizes the recipient to make use of property in accordance with the requirements of this ordinance.

Sections 18 through 20: Reserved