

20.150.040E Meanings of Specific Words and Terms Q through T.

Qualified Professional. A person with experience and training in the pertinent scientific discipline, and who is a qualified scientific expert with expertise appropriate for the relevant critical area subject in accordance with WAC [365-195-905\(4\)](#).

A. *Urban Forestry.* Qualified professionals in urban forestry must have academic and field experience that makes them competent in urban forestry. This may include arborists certified by the International Society of Arboriculture or foresters certified by the Society of American Foresters. Qualified professionals in urban forestry must possess the ability to evaluate the health and hazard potential of existing trees, and the ability to prescribe appropriate measures necessary for the preservation of trees during land development.

B. *Critical Areas.* Qualified professionals in critical areas must have obtained a BS or BA or equivalent degree in biology, engineering, environmental studies, fisheries, geomorphology or a related field, and two years of related work experience. In addition:

1. A qualified professional for frequently flooded areas or a geologic hazard must be a registered professional engineer, geologist, engineering geologist or hydrogeologist licensed in the State of Washington with experience in the analyses required for the relevant hazard(s). For frequently flooded areas, a qualified professional may also be an architect where provided by state or federal law.
2. A qualified professional for wetlands must have a minimum of five years experience in wetland science including experience preparing wetland reports for review by regulatory agencies.

Reasonably Funded. A mitigation measure or other transportation system improvement scheduled for completion and designated as funded upon adoption of the most recent version of the Six-Year Street Plan.

Reasonably Safe from Flooding. Development that is designed and built to be safe from flooding based on consideration of current flood elevation studies, historical data, high water marks and other reliable data known to the community. In unnumbered A zones where flood elevation information is not available and cannot be obtained by practicable means, “reasonably safe from flooding” means that the lowest floor is at least two feet above the highest adjacent grade.

Recreational Vehicle. A vehicle which is built on a single chassis, 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection, designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light-duty truck, and designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling, but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

Regional Industry. An industrial or commercial land use which provides significant community-wide or regional economic benefit through the creation of new economic growth and employment opportunity.

Regional Public Facility. A land use which is designed to serve the needs of the community or region affected by the impact(s) of development. Regional Public Facilities include: airports, colleges, hospitals, regional parks or community centers.

Regulatory Flood. The flood used to define the outer boundary lines of the Flood Fringe. The 100-year flood will be the regulatory flood for the purposes of regulations contained in this title, but a lesser or greater flood limit may be set in any ordinance applying FF (Flood Fringe) or FW (Floodway) zoning to any land. The regulatory flood shall be based upon Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) provided by the Federal Insurance Administration (FIA).

Remodel. An internal or external modification to an existing building or structure that does not increase the site coverage.

Remove or Removal. The act of removing a tree by digging up, cutting down or any act which causes a tree to die, significantly impacts its natural growing condition and/or results in diminished environmental benefits or a hazard tree: including but not limited to, damage inflicted on the root system by machinery, storage of material or soil compaction, changing the ground level in the area of the tree's root system, damage inflicted on the tree permitting infections or infestation, excessive pruning, paving with concrete, asphalt or other impervious material within the drip-line or any other action deemed harmful to the tree.

Residential Care Home. Any state or federally approved dwelling used as a residence for the care or rehabilitation of dependent children, the elderly, and the physically and/or mentally handicapped. Residential care homes shall provide care for six or fewer residents.

Residential Care Center. Any state or federally approved facility, other than a clinic, used as a residence for the care or rehabilitation of dependent children, the elderly, and the physically

and/or mentally handicapped. Residential care centers shall provide care to seven or more residents.

Restoration. Measures taken to restore an altered or damaged natural feature including:

- A. Active steps taken to restore damaged critical areas or their buffers to the functioning condition that existed prior to an unauthorized alteration; and
- B. Actions performed to reestablish structural and functional characteristics of the critical area that have been lost by alteration, past management activities, or catastrophic events. See also wetland creation, re-establishment, and rehabilitation.

Right-of-Way, Public. The property held by the city or other governmental jurisdiction for existing and/or future public access including land occupied or intended to be occupied by a street, crosswalk, pedestrian and bike paths, railroad, road, electric transmission line, oil or gas pipeline, water main, sanitary or storm sewer main, street trees or other special use. The usage of the term right-of-way for land division purposes shall mean that every right-of-way hereafter established and shown on a plat or map is to be separate and distinct from the lots or parcels adjoining such right-of-way and not included within the dimensions or areas of such lots or parcels.

Riparian area. The area adjacent to aquatic systems with flowing water (e.g., rivers, perennial or intermittent streams, seeps, springs) that contains elements of both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems which mutually influence each other. Riparian areas are defined differently in and for the purposes of the Vancouver Shoreline Management Master Program.

Riparian Management Area and Riparian Buffer. The regulated areas that include the land from the ordinary high water mark to a specified distance as measured horizontally in each direction. The Riparian Management Area is adjacent to the lake, stream or river, and the Riparian Buffer is adjacent to the Riparian Management Area. See Figure 20.740-1 at VMC [20.740.110\(A\)](#) or Figure 20.170.030-6 at VMC [20.170.030\(I\)](#).

Road. Means the same as street.

Roof. The exterior surface and its supporting structure on the top of a building.

Roof Line. The uppermost line of the roof of a building or, in the case of an extended facade, the uppermost height of said facade.

Runway. A defined area at an airport designed and constructed to accommodate the landing and takeoff of aircraft along its length.

Satellite Earth Station. The facilities used for reception and processing of programming services from a satellite prior to transfer to terrestrial distribution systems or for processing of programming and services from a terrestrial source before transmission via satellite.

School. An institution primarily engaged in academic instruction for all or part of the K through 12 educational program, public, parochial or private, and recognized or approved as such by the state. A school may also include the following uses: common accessory uses such as associated meeting rooms, auditoriums, athletic facilities and support facilities related to school district operations (e.g., offices, kitchens, counseling centers, head start, childcare, adult education, and family support centers) except for transportation, warehouse/storage, and maintenance facilities.

School, Pre. An institution primarily in child training and academic instruction prior to the mandatory first grade.

School, Specialized Instructional. An institution providing instruction and training in a specific service, art, dance, driving, and music. Includes vocation or trade such as business, real estate, travel, auto machinery repair, welding, and skill center.

Search Ring. Regarding wireless communications facilities, a geographic area identified by the communications service provider as necessary within which to locate a wireless facility or to enhance or expand its service.

Secure Community Transition Facility. A residential facility for persons civilly committed and conditionally released from a total confinement facility, operated by the Secretary of Washington Social and Health Services or under contract with the secretary pursuant to RCW [71.09.020\(10\)](#) as described in RCW [71.09.250](#) or as amended.

Sensitive Areas. For the purposes of Chapter [20.770](#) VMC Tree, Vegetation, and Soil Conservation, this includes streams, geologically hazardous areas, fish and wildlife habitat areas, wetlands, and their associated buffers.

Sensitive Resources. Any of the following types of sensitive areas and resources or cultural resources, when properly identified, designated or recorded as such by the applicable local, state or federal regulations:

1. Known archaeological and historical sites (to be recorded with the state);
2. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (as identified in VMC [20.740.110](#));
3. Frequently Flooded Areas (as identified in VMC [20.740.120](#));
4. Geological Hazard Areas (as identified in VMC [20.740.130](#));
5. Wetlands (as identified in VMC [20.740.140](#)); and
6. Tree tracts, set aside for the preservation of tree groves, as defined in VMC [20.770](#) and approved by the city's Urban Forester; and
7. Riparian areas, as identified in the Vancouver Shoreline Management Master Program.
8. Natural soils and native vegetation preserved as part of a low impact development.

SEPA. State Environmental Policy Act, as amended.

SEPA Rules. Chapter [197-11](#) WAC, as adopted, revised, and amended by Ecology.

Service Area. A geographic area described in the city capital facilities plan in which a defined set of public facilities provides service to development within the area, provided, that the service area for schools shall be the applicable school district. Service areas may be separately described for each type of public facility.

Serviceable. For the purposes of 20.775 VMC, Wetland and Water Bodies Protection, serviceable means presently usable.

Setback. The minimum allowable horizontal distance from a given point or line of reference, such as a property line, to the nearest vertical wall or other element of a building or structure or edge of vehicle parking area as defined herein. Where a sidewalk or private roadway is placed in an easement, the setback shall be measured from the back of sidewalk or edge of easement if there is no sidewalk.

Sexually-Oriented Adult Arcade and Sexually Oriented Adult Arcade Premises. Any premises on which any sexually-oriented adult arcade device is located and to which patrons, customers, and/or members of the public are admitted.

Sexually-Oriented Adult Arcade Device. Also known as panorama, preview, picture arcade, or peep show, any device which, for payment of a fee, membership fee or other charge, is used to

exhibit or display a picture, view, film, videotape or videodisc, live show or other graphic display of specified anatomical areas. All such devices are denominated under this ordinance by the term sexually-oriented adult arcade device.

Sexually-Oriented Adult Entertainment. Any entertainment conducted in a public place of amusement where such entertainment involves a person appearing or performing in a state of nudity, as defined herein.

Sexually-Oriented Adult Entertainment Premises. Any premises to which the public, patrons or members are invited or admitted and wherein an entertainer provides sexually-oriented adult entertainment on a regular basis and as a substantial part of the business operation.

Shorelines of the State. Shorelines as defined in the Shoreline Management Master Program.

Short Plat. A map or representation of a short subdivision.

Short-Term Rental. A dwelling unit or individual rooms within a dwelling unit that are rented to a guest(s) by a short-term rental operator for fewer than 30 consecutive days. A short-term rental is not considered a hotel, motel or bed and breakfast.

Short-Term Rental Operator. Any person who receives payment for owning or operating a dwelling unit, or portion thereof, as a short-term rental unit.

Sidewalk. A facility made of concrete or other approved material for the conveyance of pedestrians usually adjacent to a street or between streets.

Sign. Any structure, device, advertisement, advertising device or visual representation intended to advertise, identify or communicate information to attract the attention of the public for any reason.

Sign Area. Means the entire area of a sign on which graphics, letters, figures, symbols, trademarks and/or text is to be placed, excluding sign structure, architectural embellishments and framework. Sign area is calculated by measuring the perimeter enclosing the extreme limits of the module or sign face containing the graphics, letters, figures, symbols, trademarks, and/or text; provided, however, the area of any sign using individual letters, numbers or symbols with a canopy, awning or wall as the background, without added decoration or change in the canopy, awning or wall, shall be the area within the shortest line drawn to include all letters, design and tubing which are a part of the sign or structure. For illuminated awnings the

area shall be limited to the area within the shortest line drawn to include all copy and graphics, excluding illuminated areas outside of these lines.

Sign, Awning. A sign attached to or incorporated into an awning.

Sign, Billboard. An outdoor advertising structure, 12 foot by 25 foot or larger, designed and constructed to carry posters.

Sign, Business Complex. A sign which is typically free-standing and is designed to identify multiple businesses in a business complex.

Sign, Canopy. A sign attached to or incorporated into a canopy.

Sign, Commercial. Any sign that advertises a product, service, entertainment or commodity sold or offered on the premises where it is located.

Sign, Complex. (Auto Dealership Plan District). A sign with the purpose of identifying the area and/or containing more than one manufacturers brand.

Sign, Construction. A temporary sign giving the name or names of principal contractors, architects, lending institutions, or other persons or firms responsible for construction on the site where the sign is located, together with other related information.

Sign, Directional. A sign designed and erected solely for the purpose of traffic or pedestrian direction, and which is placed on the property to which or on which the public is directed.

Sign, Electronic Message Center (EMC). Electronic message center (EMC) means an electrically activated sign whose message content, either in whole or in part, may be changed by means of electronic programming.

Sign, Elevation. Regarding sign regulations, the portion of any building exterior enclosing the applicant's place of business, measured horizontally by width of occupancy and vertically by height of occupancy on the street building frontage. In the case of a single-story building, vertical height of occupancy is measured to the eave or parapet line. For partial occupancy in a multi-story building, vertical height of occupancy is measured from floor line to floor line.

Sign Face. Means the portion of the sign on which the graphics, letters, figures, symbols, trademark or text is placed.

Sign, Fascia. A flat sign which projects less than one foot from the face or wall of the building, including parapet, upon which it is affixed, painted or attached, running parallel for its whole length to the face or wall of the building, and which does not extend beyond the horizontal width of such building.

Sign, Flashing. Any sign which contains an intermittent or flashing light source or which includes the illusion of intermittent or flashing light by means of animation or an externally-mounted intermittent light source. Time and temperature signs are excluded from this definition. For the purpose of this Title, EMC's (consistent with the standards of VMC Section [20.960.060](#) I and Section [20.960.070](#) I) shall not be considered flashing signs.

Sign, Franchise. (Auto Dealership Plan District). A sign that identifies the manufacturers brand and/or name.

Sign, Free Standing. (Pole Signs and Monument Signs). A sign that is not attached to a building and is erected on a frame connected to the ground. Pole signs and monument signs are specific types of freestanding signs. A freestanding sign does not include a portable sign.

Sign Height. The vertical distance measured from grade at the point of support to the top of the sign or the sign's structure.

Sign Maintenance. The repair or refurbishment of a sign, sign structure or any part of each.

Sign, Marquee. A sign attached to or incorporated into a marquee.

Sign, Messages Without a Cabinet, Area of. The area of any single geometric shape which encompasses all lettering and/or graphic message.

Sign, Monument. Means a sign and supporting structure which is attached to the ground and has similar top and bottom dimensions and is constructed as a solid structure or one which gives the appearance of a continuous and unbroken mass, with no separations between the sign and the base.

Sign, Multi-faced. A sign with more than one face. These types of signs shall be considered one (1) sign for the purpose of determining the number of signs allowed.

Sign, NIT. A measurement of brightness used to rate luminous displays. NIT is expressed in "candelas per square meter".

Sign, Official. Means the same as Public-Sector Sign.

Sign, Off-Premises. A third-party sign that advertises goods, products, services or facilities or directs persons to a location different from where the sign is installed.

Sign, On-Premises. A sign which carries only advertisement strictly incidental to a lawful use of the premises on which it is located, including signs or sign devices indicating the business transacted, services rendered, goods sold or produced on the premises, name of the business, and name of the person, firm or corporation occupying the premises.

Sign, Pole. A sign that is supported permanently upon the ground by poles or braces and not attached to any building.

Sign, Political Campaign. Any temporary sign which displays the name and/or picture of an individual seeking election or appointment to a public office or which pertains to a forthcoming public election or referendum or which advocates political views or policies.

Sign, Portable – Permanent. Permanent portable signs shall be defined as “onsite” signs placed in the right-of-way along the business frontage and on the same side of the street of the building or establishment which it advertises. Permanent portable signs shall be meant for continuous display during the hours the business is open and shall have the primary purpose of identifying the business.

Sign, Portable – Temporary. Temporary portable signs shall be defined as “off-site” signs placed in the right-of-way advertising an approved business or use. Temporary portable signs shall be displayed during the hours the business is open and shall have the sole purpose of identifying the business or providing directions.

Sign, Private Non-Commercial. Any sign under 6 square feet that does not advertise a product, service, entertainment, or commodity sold or offered on the premises where it is located.

Sign, Projecting. Shall mean any sign other than a wall sign, which is attached to or projects 12 inches or more from a structure or building face or wall.

Sign, Public-Sector. Any sign erected by any federal, state, county or city governmental agency or at the direction of any such governmental agency or court.

Sign, Public Service Information. A sign that provides general public service information to the public such as time, date, temperature, weather or directional information.

Sign, Reader Board. A sign constructed for the placing of advertising messages, which messages are changeable by use of manually removable or electrically changeable letters.

Sign, Rooftop. A sign erected upon the roof of a building, the entire face of which is situated above the roof line of the building to which it is attached, and which is wholly or partially supported by said building.

Sign, Rotating. A sign, any portion of which moves or is movable by any mechanical manner.

Sign, Secondary. A second free-standing sign on a given frontage in excess of 300 linear feet.

Sign, Sidewalk. A portable sign, typically in the shape of an inverted V, with two sign boards attached to each other at the top of the sign; also known as a sandwich board or A-frame sign. Each board shall be considered a separate sign face for purposes of determining allowable area of sign.

Sign, Temporary. Any sign that is not permanently installed or affixed to any sign structure or building, and not displayed for longer than 30 consecutive calendar days. In the case of construction project signs, they may be maintained for the duration of construction.

Sign, Time and Temperature. Means the same as Public Service Information Sign.

Sign, Vehicle. Any sign attached to or placed on a parked vehicle or trailer used principally for advertising purposes, rather than transportation, but excluding signs relating to the sale, lease, or rental of the vehicle or trailer and excluding signs which identify a firm or its product on a vehicle operated during the normal course of business.

Sign, Video. A sign providing information in both a horizontal and vertical format (as opposed to linear), through use of pixel and sub-pixel technology having the capacity to create continuously changing sign copy in a full spectrum of colors and light intensities.

Sign, Wall. Means the same as Painted Wall or Wall Graphic.

Sign, Window. Any sign affixed to (or painted on) the inside or outside of a window and intended to be viewed from the exterior of the structure.

Single Impact. An individual incidence of noise, actually measured in decibels, which may be heard on a property and which may be greater or lesser than the Ldn value, which is derived from the logarithmic averaging of single impacts within a period of time.

Significance. A quality of a property which helps one understand the history of the local area, state or nation by illuminating the local, statewide or nationwide impact of the events or persons associated with the property or its architectural type or style in information potential. The local area may be as large as Clark County or Southwest Washington or as small as a neighborhood. Local significance may apply to a property that illustrates a theme that is important to one or more localities; state significance to a theme important to the history of the state; and national significance to property of exceptional value in representing or illustrating an important theme in the history of the nation.

Single Room Occupancy (SRO). Occupancy by a single individual of a unit that contains no sanitary facilities or food preparation facilities or contains either but not both types of facilities.

Site. Any plot or parcel of land or combination of contiguous lots or parcels of land.

Six-Year Street Plan. That portion of the city's Capital Facilities Plan which inventories planned street and road construction and improvement, and which designates such construction projects and improvements as funded or nonfunded.

Slope. The deviation of a surface from horizontal, usually expressed in percent or degrees.

SMA. The State Shoreline Management Act of 1971, as amended.

Soft Armoring Techniques. Techniques that apply the principles of the biological, ecological, and soils sciences and structural engineering to build structures which, using live plant materials as a main structural component, stabilize the soil against erosion, sedimentation, and flooding. Also referred to as "bioengineering techniques."

Sound Transmission Reduction. Reduction of sound or noise from unit to unit utilizing the standards of the City Adopted Building Code(s).

Special Provisions. Street construction requirements peculiar to a special project that are not otherwise thoroughly or satisfactorily detailed and set forth in the standard specifications or standard plans.

Special Valuation Tax Incentive Program. The local option program that makes available to property owners a special tax valuation for rehabilitation of historic register properties under which the assessed value of an eligible historic property is determined at a rate that excludes, for up to ten years, the actual cost of the rehabilitation.

Specified Anatomical Areas. Regarding Adult Businesses, less than completely and opaquely covered: human genitals, pubic region, buttock and female breast below a point immediately above the top of the areola; and human male genitals in a discernibly turgid state even if completely and opaquely covered.

Specified Sexual Activities. Regarding Adult Businesses, human genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal; acts of human masturbation, sexual intercourse or sodomy; and fondling or other erotic touching of human genitals, pubic region, buttock or female breast.

Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). A classification pursuant to the Standard Industrial Classification Manual issued by the United States Office of Management and Budget. This system was replaced by the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

Start of Construction. The start of permanent construction or substantial improvement activity on a site within 180 days of the issuance of a building permit. Permanent construction activities include the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of pilings, construction of columns or any work beyond site preparation, excavation, setting of temporary forms or the placement of accessory buildings; or the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation. For a substantial improvement, the actual start of construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

Stealth Design. A wireless communications facility's support structure, antennae or accessory equipment structure that is designed to blend in with the existing physical environment, and reduce visual impacts to the extent possible.

Storage, Open. Storage of property outside of a fully enclosed building.

Storage Space. Sufficient space, either in individual dwelling units or common storage rooms, to provide adequate, secure, and convenient storage for items owned by building tenants.

Stormwater. Stormwater is that portion of precipitation that does not naturally percolate into the ground or evaporate, but flows via overland flow, interflow, pipes and other features of a

stormwater drainage system into a defined surface waterbody or a constructed infiltration facility.

Stormwater Conveyance. Parts of a stormwater facility (such as pipes, culverts, swales, etc.) that are constructed specifically to transport water from one point to another. See Stormwater Facility.

Stormwater Facility. A constructed component of a stormwater drainage system, designed or constructed to perform a particular function or multiple functions. Stormwater facilities include, but are not limited to, pipes, swales, ditches, culverts, street gutters, detention ponds, retention ponds, constructed wetlands, infiltration devices, catch basins, oil/water separators, biofiltration swales, bioretention, permeable pavement, and vegetated roofs.

Stormwater Manual. Stormwater Manual means the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, which is the 5-volume technical manual prepared by the Washington State Department of Ecology Water Quality Program, December 2014, Publication No. 14-10-055 (a revision of Publication No. 12-10-030), 5 volumes, and as hereafter amended.

Stormwater Permit. Stormwater Permit means the City of Vancouver's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit issued August 1, 2013, which was modified, Effective January 16, 2014, by the Washington State Department of Ecology, and as hereafter amended or reissued.

Story. That portion of a building between the surface of any floor and the surface of the next floor above it; or, if there is no floor above it, the space between such floor and ceiling.

Stream. Water contained within a channel, either perennial or intermittent, and classified according to WAC [222-16-030](#) or WAC [222-16-031](#). Streams also include natural watercourses modified by humans. Streams do not include drainage ditches which are not modifications of natural watercourses.

Street. A private or public way designed primarily for vehicular traffic. It includes the terms road, highway, avenue, boulevard, thoroughfare, or other traffic way, and usually includes improvements, including curbs, sidewalks, and street pavement within the right-of-way.

Street Frontage. The linear frontage of a parcel of property abutting a single public street.

Street Functional Classification System. The adopted hierarchy of street use as it relates to volume, speed, regional, area-wide, and local characteristics.

Street, Private. A thoroughfare that is privately owned providing a means of access to a property or properties.

Street, Public. A thoroughfare or right-of-way dedicated, deeded, condemned or otherwise acquired by the public for use as such, other than an alley, which affords the principal means of access to abutting property including avenue, place, way, drive, lane, boulevard, highway, road, and any other thoroughfare.

Structure. Anything constructed or built, any edifice, building of any kind or any piece of work artificially built-up or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner, which requires location on the ground or is attached to something having a location on the ground, including swimming pools, wading pools and covered patios, excepting outdoor areas such as paved areas, walks, tennis courts and similar recreation areas. For the purposes of VMC [20.740.120](#), Frequently Flooded Areas, a structure is a walled and roofed building, or a gas or liquid storage tank that is principally above ground.

Subdivision. The division or re-division of land into ten or more lots for the purpose of sale, lease or transfer of ownership. The term subdivision also applies to an area or tract of land that has been subdivided.

Subdivision, Short. The division, re-division or partition of land into nine or fewer lots, tracts, parcels, sites or divisions for the purpose of sale, lease or transfer of ownership.

Substantial Damage. Damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its pre-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

Substantial Disturbance. Disturbance such that little or no useful archaeological data could be obtained.

Substantial Improvement. Any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the structure either:

1. Before the improvement or repair is started; or
2. If the structure has been damaged and is being restored, before the damage occurred.

“Substantial improvement” is considered to occur at the start of construction. “Substantial improvement” does not include either:

1. Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions; or
2. Any alteration of a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places or a State Inventory of Historic Places.

Substantial Noise Impact. Exterior noise levels greater than Ldn 65, which impact necessitates special sound insulation to produce noise levels of 45 Ldn or less within the interior of a residential structure.

Survey, Archaeological. Regarding archaeological resource protection, a procedure by which an archaeologist makes a determination of the presence or absence of an archaeological site in a disturbance area, a preliminary assessment of the site’s potential significance, and a recommendation for further evaluation, avoidance, mitigation or recovery of resources in compliance with the provisions of [20.710](#) VMC.

System Development Charge (SDC). The connection fee charged so that the property upon which it is imposed will pay its equitable share of the costs of water-sewer system facilities which are system-wide in nature and are not site-specific needs, including such property’s equitable share of the amount required to upgrade such system to meet the demands imposed by the development.

System Improvements. Public facilities that are included in the capital facilities plan and are designed to provide service areas within the community at large, in contrast to project improvements.

Telecommuting. The use of telephones, computers or other similar technology to permit an affected employee to work at home or at a location closer to home than the affected employer’s principal worksite.

Temporary. A period not to exceed one year except as otherwise provided in this title.

Tenant Improvements. Construction improvements typically made to the interior of a nonresidential building to fit the building to a particular tenant's needs, or to create separate tenant spaces. Typically it involves such things as adding or removing walls, ceilings and doors; re-wiring for electrical outlets and lighting; and providing plumbing, sprinklers, counters and walk-in coolers, often as part of a separate lease space in a building.

Through-Ventilation. The encouragement of natural cross-ventilation.

Total Developable Land (TDL). That portion of the subject property remaining once sensitive areas are subtracted from the total acreage of a property or collection of properties proposed for development.

Tract. A piece of land set aside in a separate area for dedication to the public, a homeowner's association, or other entity, (e.g., open space, recreational facilities, and tree preservation) wetland or other sensitive lands.

Traffic Study. A study of traffic behavior by a licensed engineer.

Transit. A multiple-occupant vehicle operated on a for-hire, shared-ride basis, including bus, ferry, rail, shared-ride taxi, shuttle bus or vanpool.

Transit Facility. A development provided by a public transportation provider, which is designed to aid or encourage community use or multi-modal public transportation system, such as bus and van/carpools.

Transitional Surfaces. An area extending outward at 90 degree angles to an airport's runway centerline at a slope of seven feet horizontally for each foot vertically.

Transitional Zone. The areas beneath the transitional surfaces.

Transplant. The relocation of a tree from one place to another on the same property.

Tree. Any self-supporting perennial woody plant that matures at a height greater than 26 feet and is generally referred to in the nursery and landscape industry as a tree.

Tree Farm. See Commercial Nursery.

Tree, Hazard. Any tree with a combination of structural defect and/or disease and a proximity to persons or property which makes it subject to a high probability of failure, as recommended by a qualified arborist.

Tree, Mitigation. A tree planted and retained to achieve the required tree density for a parcel or to replace a tree removed in violation of city ordinance.

Tree, Nuisance. A tree that is causing physical damage to property or has been damaged by past maintenance practices, and for which horticultural practices cannot correct the problem.

Tree Preservation. The retention of a tree or trees during and after construction.

Tree, Specimen. A tree that has been given greater than standard tree density value by the planning official through the evaluation process.

Tree, Street. A tree located within a street right-of-way or street tree easement, adjacent to public or private streets, including undeveloped areas.

Tree Tract. A separate deeded tract of land, specifically set aside for the preservation and/or planting of trees. Stormwater retention/detention facilities, sensitive areas, and other common areas may be considered tree tracts if they currently support the growth of trees.

Tree Unit. A unit of measurement based upon the size of the tree as set forth in Chapter [20.770](#) VMC, Tree, Vegetation, and Soil Conservation.

Tree, Vegetation and Soil Plan. A plan that contains specific information pertaining to the protection of healthy soil, and the preservation, and planting of trees and native vegetation pursuant to Chapter [20.770](#) VMC, Tree, Vegetation, and Soil Conservation.

Tree, Vegetation and Soil Protection Area (TVSPA). A separate tract of land, which may or may not be deeded as such, specifically set aside for the preservation of healthy soils and the preservation or planting of existing and/or native vegetation and trees. Stormwater retention/detention facilities, critical area buffers and other common areas may be considered TVSPA if they currently or are improved to an extent where they can support healthy soils and the growth of native vegetation and trees. The purpose of these areas for preserving healthy soils, preserving and/or planting native vegetation and trees is stated on the face of the plat when applicable.

Tribe or Tribes. Regarding Archaeological Preservation, any federally-recognized or other local Native American government organization which may consider the site to be of historic or cultural significance.

Truck, Heavy. Trucks, including truck tractors and similar vehicles, with two or more rear axles.

Truck, Light. Trucks and similar vehicles with single rear axles and single rear wheels.

Truck, Medium. Trucks and similar vehicles other than truck tractors with single rear axles and dual rear wheels. Truck tractors are in the Heavy Truck category. (Ord. M-4325 § 3, 2020; Ord. M-4179 § 65, 2016; Ord. M-4034 § 2, 2012)

The Vancouver Municipal Code is current through Ordinance M-4392, passed November 21, 2022.

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20.160.020 Listing of Use Classifications.

A. Residential use types.

1. *Household Living.* Living facilities for small groups (households) of people who are related or unrelated, featuring self-contained units including facilities for cooking, eating, sleeping, and hygiene. Tenancy is longer than 30 calendar days. Household structures include single-family detached and attached dwellings; duplexes; multi-family dwellings; and modular and manufactured housing units. Most types of senior housing, (e.g., congregate care or assisted living) are considered to be household living if residents live in self-contained units, even if there are also shared facilities within the building. The maximum number of people who may reside in any given dwelling unit shall be determined by the city adopted building code.
2. *Group Living.* Living facilities for groups of individuals that include at least one person residing on the site who is responsible for supervising, managing, monitoring and/or providing care, training or treatment of residents. Larger group living facilities may also be characterized by shared facilities for eating, hygiene and/or recreation. Examples include nursing/convalescent homes, residential care homes or centers; single-room occupancy (SROs) facilities; sororities/fraternities and convents/monasteries. Tenancy is typically 30 days or more. Excludes detention and post-detention facilities (see subsection [\(E\)\(5\)](#) of this section, Detention and Post-Detention Facilities).
3. *Home Occupation.* Commercial, office or other economic activity wholly contained within the residence or accessory building within which it is located, and is clearly subordinate to the primary residential use.
4. *Medical Center Residential.* Extended stay facilities and medical center uses that typically occur in a residential setting, if approved through a Public Facilities Master Plan pursuant to Chapter [20.268](#) VMC. Examples include extended stay housing for employees and patient families and midwifery practices that occur in a single-family residential scaled structure. Maximum occupancy and other parameters may be determined through the master plan review process.
5. *Short-Term Rental.* A dwelling unit or individual rooms within a dwelling unit that are rented to a guest(s) by a short-term rental operator for fewer than thirty consecutive days.

B. *Civic use types.*

1. *Basic Utilities.* Unstaffed community infrastructure, including but not limited to water tanks, sewer pump stations, telephone exchanges, and electric power substations. Excludes facilities that include offices, service centers and/or material storage (See subsection [\(C\)\(6\)](#) of this section, Office, and subsection [\(D\)\(1\)](#) of this section, Industrial Services).
2. *Colleges.* Institutions of higher education. Accessory uses may include classrooms, laboratories, theaters, auditoriums, libraries, dormitories, eating facilities, bookstores, other small-scale retail, general offices, and parking. Excludes private, profit-making trade, and vocational schools (see subsection [\(C\)\(4\)\(b\)](#) of this section, Personal Services). Such a facility that has regional or state-wide significance is classified as an Essential Public Facility by the provisions of the Growth Management Act.
3. *Community Centers.* Public, private, and nonprofit social, resource and multi-purpose facilities that are open to the public for free or fee (including membership fees). Examples include: community centers; senior centers; homeless day centers. Accessory uses may include offices, food preparation and service, child care, laundry facilities, showers, health assessments, classrooms and related activities.
4. *Community Recreation.* Public, private, and nonprofit recreational, social and multi-purpose facilities that are open to the public for free or fee (including membership fees). Examples include: health/fitness clubs; indoor or outdoor tennis/racquetball and soccer clubs and other sports fields; indoor/outdoor swimming pools; boat launches; golf courses, and shooting ranges. Accessory uses may include clubhouses, pro shops, offices, locker rooms, restaurants/delis/concession stands, child care facilities, restrooms, maintenance facilities, and parking. Excludes such facilities when collocated in a public park (see subsection [\(B\)\(9\)](#) of this section, Parks/Open Space); and certain types of indoor recreational facilities (see subsection [\(C\)\(3\)\(b\)](#) of this section, Indoor Entertainment).
5. *Cultural Institutions.* Public or nonprofit cultural facilities including libraries, museums, historic sites, and galleries.
6. *Day Care.*
 - a. *Child Care.* As defined by the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) State Statute:

- i. *Family Child Day Care Home*. A facility where a person regularly providing care during part of the 24-hour day to 12 or fewer children in the family abode of the person or persons under whose direct care the children are placed.
- ii. *Child Care Center*. A person or agency that provides care for 13 or more children during part of the 24-hour day.

b. *Adult Day Care*. Provision of daytime services, including respite, recreational, social and therapeutic activities, to disabled and/or elderly adults in a group setting.

Categories include:

- i. *Residential Adult Day Care*. Provision of adult day care services for six or fewer handicapped and/or elderly adults, with or without compensation, in the home of the provider.
- ii. *Institutional Adult Day Care*. Provision of adult day care services for seven or more handicapped and/or elderly adults either in a residential or institutional, e.g., nursing home, setting.

7. *Emergency Services*. Public safety facilities including police and fire stations, and emergency communications, but not including ambulance services.

8. *Medical Centers*. Facilities providing inpatient, outpatient, emergency, and related ancillary services to the sick and infirm, including drug and alcohol treatment. Usually developed in campus setting. Accessory uses may include diagnostic and treatment facilities; laboratories; surgical suites; kitchen/food service facilities; laundry; housekeeping and maintenance facilities; administrative offices; and parking. Medical centers may also include free-standing offices for hospital-based and/or private-practice physicians and other allied health care professionals; these medical office buildings are regulated as offices. (see subsection [\(C\)\(6\)\(b\)](#) of this section) Such a facility that has regional or state-wide significance is classified as an Essential Public Facility by the provisions of the Growth Management Act.

9. *Parks/Open Space*. Lands that are maintained in a natural state and/or developed that are designed for public active and passive recreation. Examples include parks, public squares, recreational trails and nature preserves. Does not include areas in active

cultivation (see subsection [\(E\)\(1\)](#) of this section, Agriculture/Horticulture); or cemeteries (subsection [\(E\)\(4\)](#) of this section, Cemeteries).

- a. *Neighborhood parks.* Small parks usually no greater than five acres designed to serve the immediate neighborhood. Access is on foot or bicycle with little or no on-site parking provided. Accessory uses may include low-impact outdoor playing/practice fields (without associated parking), playgrounds, sports courts, picnic areas, educational/interpretive facilities, walking/jogging paths, restrooms, and seating areas. May collocate with schools.
- b. *Community parks.* Larger parks typically 15 acres or larger designed to serve a larger geographic area than a neighborhood park. Access is on foot and by bicycle, transit, and vehicle. May contain one or more Community Recreation uses as defined in subsection [\(B\)\(4\)](#) of this section. Other accessory uses may include walking/jogging trails; picnic shelters; outdoor performance facilities; off-leash dog, bicycle, and skateboard parks; sports courts, community gardens; bicycle, pedestrian, and transit amenities; educational/interpretive facilities; viewpoints; concessions; restrooms; caretaker and maintenance facilities; and parking. May collocate with schools.
- c. *Regional parks.* Any park greater than 100 acres designed to serve regional needs. Accessory uses include any of the facilities found in neighborhood and community parks.
- d. *Trails.* Publicly accessible walking, jogging or bike trails that extend beyond the boundaries of a single subdivision or development project. Accessory uses may include signage/maps; interpretive centers; viewpoints; and trailhead facility, restrooms, and parking. Does not include trails or portions of trails created as part of Neighborhood, Community and Regional Parks.

10. *Postal Service.* Refers to postal services and processing as traditionally operated by the U.S. Postal Service. Such facilities include customer sales, mail sorting, and fleet truck storage. Excludes profit-making parcel post or mail services (see subsection [\(C\)\(4\)\(b\)](#) of this section, General Retail, Personal Services).

11. *Religious Institutions.* Permanent places of religious worship that may include related accessory uses that are clearly incidental and secondary to religious worship, congregation, and teaching such as administrative offices; child care centers/pre-schools; classrooms for

religious instruction; auditoriums; social halls; rectories; and gymnasiums, playgrounds and other recreational facilities. May include on-site functions related to ministry to the poor such as emergency overnight shelter, food service, group meals and food and clothing pantries.

12. *Schools*. Public and private pre-school, kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high schools. Accessory uses include administrative offices; classrooms and laboratories; kitchen/cafeterias; auditoriums; gymnasium, swimming pools; playing fields and related indoor and outdoor physical education facilities; and storage and maintenance facilities. The programs and activities of other public and nonprofit organizations including those associated with adult education, after-school care, recreation and social services may collocate in a school facility. Such a facility that has regional or state-wide significance is classified as an Essential Public Facility by the provisions of the Growth Management Act.

13. *Social/Fraternal and Clubs/Lodges*. Nonprofit organizations with social, philanthropic and/or recreational functions and activities.

14. *Transportation Facilities*. Bus, trolley, street car; light and heavy rail transit stops and stations; water taxi and ferry stations; and accessory bicycle parking. Excludes airports (see subsection [\(E\)\(2\)](#) of this section, Airports/Airparks); public streets and sidewalks; and heavy and light rail maintenance/switching yards (see subsection [\(D\)\(3\)](#) of this section, Railroad Yards); and heliports (see subsection [\(E\)\(7\)](#) of this section, Heliports). Such a facility that has regional or state-wide significance is classified as an Essential Public Facility by the provisions of the Growth Management Act.

15. *Park & Ride Facilities*. Park & Ride facilities means parking facilities that serve motorists transferring to or from urban public transportation vehicles or private car-pool vehicles.

C. *Commercial use types*.

1. *Commercial and Transient Lodging*. Residential facilities such as hotels, motels, rooming houses, bed-and-breakfast establishments, and homeless shelters where tenancy is typically less than one month. May include accessory meeting, convention facilities, and food preparation and service.

2. *Eating and Drinking Establishments.* Establishments that sell prepared food and beverages for consumption on site or take-away including restaurants, delicatessens, bars, taverns, brew pubs, espresso bars, and group meal service.

3. *Entertainment-Oriented.*

a. *Adult Entertainment.* Facilities including adult motion picture theaters; adult video/book stores; and topless, bottomless, and nude dance halls which include materials and activities characterized or distinguished by an emphasis on matters depicting specified sexual activities or anatomical areas.

b. *Indoor Entertainment.* Commercial indoor facilities such as bowling alleys, arcades, trampoline or bounce house facilities, shooting ranges, movie, and live performance theaters.

c. *Major Event Entertainment.* Facilities such as auditoriums, stadiums, arenas, amphitheaters, convention centers, and race tracks which provide athletic, cultural or entertainment events and exhibits for large groups generally exceeding 1,000 spectators.

4. *General Retail.*

a. *Sales-Oriented.* Establishments which provide consumer-oriented sales, leasing and rental of consumer, home and business goods including art; art supplies; bicycles; clothing; dry goods; electronic equipment; fabric; gifts; groceries; hardware; household products; jewelry; pets and pet products; pharmaceuticals; plant; printed materials; stationery; videos; and clothing and food pantries. Excludes large-scale consumer products (see subsection [\(C\)\(4\)\(d\)](#) of this section, Bulk Sales); and those sold primarily outdoors (see subsection [\(C\)\(4\)\(e\)](#) of this section, Outdoor Sales).

b. *Personal Services.* Establishments which provide consumer services such as banks and credit unions; barber and beauty shops; automated teller machines (ATMs) and related automated vending facilities; pet grooming; laundromats and dry cleaners; copy centers; photographic studios; specialized instructional schools; trade/vocational schools; massage therapy; acupuncture; and mortuaries.

c. *Repair-Oriented.* Establishments which engage in the repair of consumer and business goods including television and radios; bicycles; clocks; jewelry; guns; small

appliances and office equipment; tailors and seamstresses; shoe repair; locksmiths; and upholsterers.

d. *Bulk Sales*. Establishments which engage in the sales, leasing and rental of bulky items requiring extensive interior space for display including furniture, large appliances, and home improvement sales.

e. *Outdoor Sales*. Establishments that engage in sales requiring outdoor display and/or storage including lumberyards and nurseries.

5. *Motor Vehicle Related*.

a. *Motor Vehicle Sales/Rental*. Includes car, light and heavy truck, mobile home, boat and recreational vehicle sales, rental and service.

b. *Motor Vehicle Servicing/Repair*. Free-standing vehicle servicing and repair establishments including quick and general vehicle service, car washes and body shops not an accessory to new vehicle sales.

c. *Vehicle Fuel Sales*. Establishments engaging in the sale of gasoline, diesel fuel, and oil products for cars, trucks, recreational vehicles, and boats.

d. *Electric Vehicle (EV) Basic Charging Station*. A slow to medium level charging station for electric vehicles that is typically accessory to another use, such as single family residences, apartments, and businesses. Level 1 (120 volt AC) is considered slow charging. Level 2 (208 or 240 volt AC) is considered medium charging.

e. *Electric Vehicle (EV) Rapid Charging Station*. An industrial grade electrical outlet that allows for faster charging of electric vehicle batteries through higher power levels and that meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by Chapter [19.28](#) RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW [19.27.540](#). Such stations are also known as Level 3 facilities and are considered fast or rapid charging (480-volt AC), and are generally available to the public.

f. *Electric Vehicle (EV) Battery Exchange Station*. A facility that will enable an electric vehicle with a swappable battery to enter a drive lane and exchange the depleted battery with a fully charged battery. Such exchange stations may use a fully automated

process, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by Chapter [19.27](#) RCW.

6. *Office.*

a. *General Office.* Government, business and professional offices that operate during typical weekday hours. Examples include local, regional, state, and federal offices and agencies; veterinary clinics; medical and dental laboratories; blood collection centers; offices for attorneys, architects, accountants, engineers, stockbrokers, real estate agents, mortgage bankers, insurance brokers, and other consultants; headquarters offices; sales offices; radio, and television studios. Also includes painting, landscaping, building and janitorial contractors where the indoor storage of materials and equipment are incidental to the office use. If this storage exceeds 50 percent of occupied space, such uses are classified as Industrial Services (see subsection [\(D\)\(1\)](#) of this section). Offices that are part of and are located within a firm in another use category are considered accessory to the firm's primary activity. Also excludes medical office and related facilities (see subsection [\(C\)\(6\)\(b\)](#) of this section).

b. *Medical Office.* Offices for physicians, dentists, chiropractors, and allied health care professionals; free-standing outpatient health care facilities; urgency clinics; naturopathic, and homeopathic facilities; and home health organizations that provide on-site services to patients and that generally operate during typical peak weekday hours.

c. *Extended Office.* Offices that operate during nontraditional hours including evenings, nights, and weekends. Examples include taxis and other vehicles for hire, funeral homes and accessory crematoria, telemarketing/service centers and internet communication centers. Accessory uses may include fleet vehicle parking, communication switching and other equipment and limited storage of goods.

7. *Non-Accessory Parking.* Any private or public vehicle and bicycle parking, either paid or free, which is not accessory to a primary use. Includes public and private parking structures and lots; and free-standing fleet vehicle parking lots.

8. *Self-Service Storage.* Commercial operations that provide rental of storage space to the public. The storage areas are designed to allow private access by the tenant for storing or removing personal property. These facilities do not include outdoor storage or moving and

storage companies where there is no individual storage or where employees are primary movers of the goods to be stored (see subsection [\(D\)\(5\)](#) of this section, Warehouse/Freight Movement). No tenant may use a self-service storage facility for residential purposes. Self-service storage is synonymous with self-service storage facility and mini-storage.

9. *Marina*. A facility that provides secure moorings for recreational or commercial boats.

10. *Artisan and Specialty Goods Production*. Small scale businesses that manufacture artisan goods or specialty foods. Small manufacturing production aims at direct sales rather than the wholesale market. This small-scale manufacturing use is intended to be allowed where compatible with the commercial and residential fabric of the city center. An allowance for public viewing or customer service space is required with artisan and specialty goods production. This use category includes the following uses: Sugar and confectionary, fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty foods, bakeries and tortilla manufacturing; artisan leather, glass, cutlery, hand tools, wood, paper, ceramic, textile and yarn products; microbreweries, microdistilleries, and wineries. Refer to Commercial and Mixed-Use Districts Use Table 20.430.030-1 and Special Limitations on Uses, VMC [20.430.050](#).

D. *Industrial use types*.

1. *Industrial Services*. Includes the repair and servicing of industrial and business machinery, equipment and/or products. Examples include welding shops; machine shops; sales, repair, storage, salvage or wrecking of heavy machinery, metal and building materials; towing and vehicle storage; auto and truck salvage and wrecking; heavy truck servicing and repair; tire recapping and retreading; truck stops; building, heating, plumbing or electrical contractors; exterminators; janitorial and building maintenance contractors where the indoor storage of materials is more than incidental to the office use (see subsection [\(C\)\(6\)\(a\)](#) of this section); fuel oil distributions; solid fuel yards; laundry, dry-cleaning and carpet cleaning plants; and photo-finishing laboratories.

2. *Manufacturing and Production*. Includes production, processing, assembling, packaging or treatment of semi-finished or finished products from raw materials or previously prepared materials or components. Manufacturing production is intended for the wholesale market rather than for direct sales.

3. *Railroad Yards*. A terminus of several light or heavy railroad lines where the loading, unloading, transshipment, switching, maintenance, and storage of rail cars is undertaken.

4. *Research and Development.* Facility featuring a mix of uses including office, research laboratories, and prototype manufacturing. If the use contains no on-site manufacturing component, then it is considered General Office (see subsection [\(C\)\(6\)\(a\)](#) of this section).
5. *Warehouse/Freight Movement.* Uses involved in the storage and movement of large quantities of materials or products indoors and/or outdoors; associated with significant truck and/or rail traffic. Examples include free-standing warehouses associated with retail furniture or appliance outlets; household moving and general freight storage; food banks; cold storage plants/frozen food lockers; weapon and ammunition storage; major wholesale distribution centers; truck, marine and air freight terminals and dispatch centers; bus barns; grain terminals; and stockpiling of sand, gravel, bark dust or other aggregate and landscaping materials.
6. *Waste-Related.* Uses that receive solid or liquid wastes from others for disposal on the site or for transfer to another location, uses that collect sanitary wastes or uses that manufacture or produce goods or energy from the composting of organic material. Examples include: recycling/garbage transfer stations; landfills; composting, energy recovery and sewage treatment plants; and hazardous waste handling and transfer facilities that do not treat or dispose of hazardous waste, as that term is defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title [40](#), Part 261. Such a facility that has regional or state-wide significance is classified as an Essential Public Facility by the provisions of the Growth Management Act. Hazardous waste or disposal facilities are not included in this classification and are therefore not permitted in the city of Vancouver.
7. *Wholesale Sales.* Involves sales, leasing or rental of equipment or products primarily intended for industrial, institutional or commercial businesses. Businesses may or may not be open to the general public, but sales to the general public are limited. Examples include the sale or rental of machinery, equipment, building materials, special trade tools, welding supplies, machine parts, electrical supplies, janitorial supplies, restaurant equipment, and store fixtures; mail order houses; and wholesalers of food, clothing, auto parts, and building hardware.
8. *Major Utility Facilities.* Those facilities which have a substantial public impact, including but not limited to: sewage treatment plants and lagoons; electric generation facilities including biomass and coal energy generating facilities; and essential public facilities as defined in Chapter [20.855](#) VMC, Essential Public Facilities.

E. *Other use types.*

1. *Agriculture/Horticulture.* Open areas devoted to the raising of fruits, vegetable, nuts, nursery stock and/or flowers, including community gardens; may include on-site sales of products grown on the site. Excludes nurseries (see subsection [\(C\)\(4\)\(e\)](#) of this section, Outdoor Sales).
2. *Airports/Airparks.* Includes aircraft runways, landing strips and uses supporting airport operations such as control towers, hangars, and fuel storage facilities. Also includes uses incidental to airports such as aerial mapping; air cargo warehousing and distribution, airport pilot training schools; aircraft sales and repair; aviation clubs and museums; and public transportation transfer areas. Such a facility that has “regional” or “state-wide” significance is classified as an Essential Public Facility by the provisions of the Growth Management Act.
3. *Animal Kennel/Shelters.* Animal kennel and shelter facilities for the overnight boarding of dogs, cats and other domestic pets. Excludes dog day care (see subsection [\(E\)\(6\)](#) of this section, Dog Day Care); and veterinary clinics (see subsection [\(C\)\(6\)\(a\)](#) of this section, General Offices).
4. *Cemeteries.* Facilities for storing human remains. Accessory uses may include chapels, mortuaries, crematoria, mausoleums, administrative offices, maintenance facilities, and parking.
5. *Detention and Post-Detention Facilities.* Uses which have the characteristics of Group Living but are devoted to the housing, training and supervision of those under judicial detention. Examples include prisons; jails; probation centers; juvenile detention homes; and related post-incarceration and half-way houses. Such a facility that has regional or state-wide significance is classified as an Essential Public Facility by the provisions of the Growth Management Act.
6. *Dog Day Care.* Dog Day Care shall mean any premises containing four or more dogs, which are five months or older, where these domestic animals are dropped off and picked up daily for temporary care on site and where they may be groomed, trained, exercised, and socialized, but are not kept or boarded overnight, bred, sold or let for hire. Excludes Animal Kennel/Shelters (see subsection [\(E\)\(3\)](#) of this section, Animal Kennel/Shelters).

7. *Heliports*. Public or private facilities designed for the landing, departure, storage, and fueling of helicopters.
8. *Mining*. Uses that mine or extract mineral or aggregate resources from the ground for off-site use. Accessory uses may include storage, rock crushing, sorting, and transfer facilities.
9. *Rail Lines/Utility Corridors*. The regional corridors in public or private ownership dedicated for use by rail lines; above-grade or underground power or communication lines; water, sewer and storm sewer lines or similar services.
10. Temporary Uses
11. *Wireless Communication Facilities*. Includes publicly and privately owned towers and related transmitting equipment for television; FM/AM radio; cellular and two-way radio and microwave transmission; and related ancillary equipment buildings. Does not include radio/television transmission facilities that are part of the public safety network (see subsection [\(B\)\(7\)](#) of this section, Emergency Services). Does not include amateur (ham) radio antennas or towers. (Ord. M-4187 § 3, 12/05/2016; Ord. M-4103 § 4, 11/17/2014; Ord. M-4024 § 5, 09/10/2012; Ord. M-4002 § 4, 12/05/2011; Ord. M-3959 § 4, 07/19/2010; Ord. M-3931, Amended, 11/19/2009; Ord. M-3931 § 1, 11/02/2009; Ord. M-3922 § 3, 07/06/2009; Ord. M-3847 § 2, 11/19/2007; Ord. M-3832 § 2, 06/18/2007; Ord. M-3701 § 3, 05/02/2005; Ord. M-3663 § 3, 08/02/2004; Ord. M-3643, 01/26/2004)

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20.210.030 Exempt Activities.

A. *Exemptions.* Unless specified elsewhere in this title, the following development activities are exempt from the procedural requirements of this chapter:

1. Landscaping or landscape alterations, unless such landscaping or alterations would require a permit or approval pursuant to this title or modify or violate an approved plan, plat or a condition of approval of a prior permit. In such instance of modification, the permit shall be processed as a modification of the prior permit under Section [20.210.140](#) VMC, a plat alteration or other applicable procedure.
2. Normal or emergency repair or maintenance of public or private buildings, structures, landscaping or utilities.
3. A change of any legally-established use except if the change of use requires an increase in the number of parking spaces provided, requires a conditional use permit under Chapter [20.245](#), requires Type I or Type II site plan approval under Chapter [20.270](#) VMC, Site Plan Review, or is otherwise classified in this title as a Type I, II, III or IV action.
4. Building permits required pursuant to the City Adopted Building Code for construction not requiring a development application under Title [20](#).
5. On-site utility permits not obtained in conjunction with a specific development application, including but not limited to sewer hook-ups, water hook-ups, right-of-way permits, grading permits, and fire department permits.
6. Home occupation permits.
7. Sign permits.
8. Approval of escrow agreements/accounts.
9. All developments and buildings that are engaged in agriculture as defined in Chapter [20.160](#) VMC, Use Classifications.
10. Interior remodeling and tenant improvements unless site plan review is triggered under Section [20.270.020\(C\)](#) or [\(D\)](#).

11. Independent archaeological predeterminations or surveys not associated with a development application.

12. Short-Term Rental permits

B. *Other regulations apply.* Exemptions in (A) above are subject to all other applicable standards and requirements of the Vancouver Municipal Code. (Ord. M-3692 § 12, 02/28/2005; Ord. M-3643, 01/26/2004)

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20.410.030 Uses.

A. *Types of uses.* For the purposes of this chapter, there are four kinds of use:

1. A permitted (P) use is one that is permitted outright, subject to all of the applicable provisions of this title.
2. A limited (L) use is permitted outright providing it is in compliance with special requirements, exceptions or restrictions.
3. A conditional use (C) is a discretionary use reviewed through the process set forth in Chapters [20.245](#) and [20.210](#) VMC, governing conditional uses and decision-making procedures, respectively.
4. A prohibited use (X) is one that is not permitted in a zoning district under any circumstances.

B. *Use table.* A list of permitted, limited, conditional, and prohibited uses in low-density residential districts is presented in Table 20.410.030-1.

Table 20.410.030-1. Lower-Density Residential Districts Use Table

USE	R-2	R-4	R-6	R-9	R-17
RESIDENTIAL					
Household Living	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹
Group Living	P/X ¹	P/X ¹	P/X ¹	P/X ¹	P/X ¹
Home Occupation	L ²	L ²	L ²	L ²	L ²
Medical Center Residential	L ²³	L ²³	L ²³	L ²³	L ²³
Short-Term Rental	L²⁶	L²⁶	L²⁶	L²⁶	L²⁶
HOUSING TYPES					
Single Dwellings, Attached	L ¹⁸	L ¹⁸	L ¹⁸	L ¹⁸	L ¹⁸
Single Dwellings, Detached	P	P	P	P	P

USE	R-2	R-4	R-6	R-9	R-17
Accessory Dwelling Units	L ⁴	L ⁴	L ⁴	L ⁴	L ⁴
Duplexes ²²	L ²¹	L ²¹	L ²¹	L ²¹	L ²⁴
Multi-Dwelling Units	X	X	X	X	L ²⁴
Existing Manufactured Home Developments	L ⁵	L ⁵	L ⁵	L ⁵	L ⁵
Designated Manufactured Homes	L/X ¹⁹	L/X ¹⁹	L/X ¹⁹	L/X ¹⁹	L/X ¹⁹
New Manufactured Homes	L ²⁰	L ²⁰	L ²⁰	L ²⁰	L ²⁰
Cottage Cluster Housing	p ²⁵	p ²⁵	p ²⁵	p ²⁵	X
CIVIC (Institutional)					
Basic Utilities	C	C	C	C	C
Colleges	C	C	C	C	C
Community Centers	X	X	X	X	X
Community Recreation	C ⁶	C ⁶	C ⁶	C ⁶	C ⁶
Cultural Institutions	P/C ⁷	P/C ⁷	P/C ⁷	P/C ⁷	P/C ⁷
Day Care					
– Family Day Care Homes	p ⁸	p ⁸	p ⁸	p ⁸	p ⁸
– Child Care Centers	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹
– Adult Day Care	L/C/X ⁹	L/C/X ⁹	L/C/X ⁹	L/C/X ⁹	L/C/X ⁹
Emergency Services (except ambulance services)	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹
Ambulance Services	X	X	X	X	X
Medical Centers	X	X	X	X	X
Parks/Open Space					

USE	R-2	R-4	R-6	R-9	R-17
– Neighborhood Parks	P	P	P	P	P
– Community Parks	P	P	P	P	P
– Regional Parks	C	C	C	C	C
– Trails	P	P	P	P	P
Postal Service	C	C	C	C	C
Religious Institutions	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹
Schools	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹	L/C ¹¹
Social/Fraternal Clubs	X	X	X	X	X
Transportation Facilities	C ¹²	C ¹²	C ¹²	C ¹²	C ¹²
COMMERCIAL					
Commercial and Transient Lodging	L/C/X ¹³	L/C/X ¹³	L/C/X ¹³	L/C/X ¹³	L/C/X ¹³
Eating/Drinking Establishments	X	X	X	X	X
Entertainment-Oriented					
– Adult Entertainment	X	X	X	X	X
– Indoor Entertainment	X	X	X	X	X
– Major Event Entertainment	X	X	X	X	X
General Retail					
– Sales-Oriented	C ¹⁴	C ¹⁴	C ¹⁴	C ¹⁴	C ¹⁴
– Personal Services	C ¹⁴	C ¹⁴	C ¹⁴	C ¹⁴	C ¹⁴
– Repair-Oriented	X	X	X	X	X
– Bulk Sales	X	X	X	X	X

USE	R-2	R-4	R-6	R-9	R-17
– Outdoor Sales	X	X	X	X	X
Motor Vehicle Related					
– Motor Vehicle Sales/Rental	X	X	X	X	X
– Motor Vehicle Servicing/Repair	X	X	X	X	X
– Vehicle Fuel Sales	X	X	X	X	X
– EV Basic Charging Stations (accessory only)	P	P	P	P	P
– EV Rapid Charging Stations (accessory only)	P	P	P	P	P
– EV Battery Exchange Stations	X	X	X	X	X
Offices					
– General	X	X	X	X	X
– Medical	X	X	X	X	X
– Extended	X	X	X	X	X
Nonaccessory Parking	X	X	X	X	X
Self-Service Storage	X	X	X	X	X
Marinas	C	C	C	C	C
INDUSTRIAL					
Industrial Services	X	X	X	X	X
Manufacturing and Production	X	X	X	X	X
Railroad Yards	X	X	X	X	X
Research and Development	X	X	X	X	X

USE	R-2	R-4	R-6	R-9	R-17
Warehouses/Freight Movement	X	X	X	X	X
Wholesale Sales	X	X	X	X	X
Waste-Related	X	X	X	X	X
Major Utility Facilities	X	X	X	X	X
OTHER					
Agriculture/Horticulture	P	P	P	P	P
Airports/Airparks	X	X	X	X	X
Animal Kennels/Shelters	X	X	X	X	X
Cemeteries	C ¹⁵	C ¹⁵	C ¹⁵	C ¹⁵	C ¹⁵
Detention and Post-Detention Facilities	X	X	X	X	X
Dog Day Care	X	X	X	X	X
Heliports	X	X	X	X	X
Recreational or Medical Marijuana Facilities	X	X	X	X	X
Medical Marijuana Cooperatives	X	X	X	X	X
Mining	X	X	X	X	X
Rail Lines/Utility Corridors	P	P	P	P	P
Temporary Uses	L ¹⁶	L ¹⁶	L ¹⁶	L ¹⁶	L ¹⁶
Wireless Communication Facilities	L/C/X ¹⁷	L/C/X ¹⁷	L/C/X ¹⁷	L/C/X ¹⁷	L/C/X ¹⁷

1 Residential care homes, state or federally approved, with six or fewer residents and any required on-site residential staff permitted by right; all larger group living uses prohibited.

2 Subject to the provisions of Chapter [20.860](#) VMC, Home Occupations.

3 *Reserved for future use.*

4 Subject to the provisions of Chapter [20.810](#) VMC, Accessory Dwelling Units.

5 Subject to the provisions of Chapter [20.880](#) VMC, Manufactured Home Parks. Manufactured home developments established prior to July 1, 2005, are exempt from the standards of VMC [20.410.050\(F\)](#), Criteria for Placement of Manufactured Homes, and may continue to exist and expand within existing previously approved boundaries. An existing manufactured home in a development or subdivision may be replaced or may be relocated either to an approved manufactured home development or an approved manufactured home subdivision.

6 Subject to provisions in VMC [20.895.040](#), Community Recreation and Related Facilities.

7 Libraries only permitted outright; all other cultural institutions are conditional uses.

8 Family day care homes for no more than 12 children are permitted when licensed by the state.

9 Adult day care facilities for six or fewer adults allowed as limited uses subject to compliance with the development standards governing home occupations, per VMC [20.860.020\(B\)\(1\)](#) through [\(B\)\(7\)](#); facilities with seven to 12 adults allowed as conditional uses; and larger facilities are prohibited.

10 *Repealed by M-4289.*

11 Schools, religious institutions, government buildings, fire stations, child care centers, and emergency services facilities that meet all of the criteria contained in VMC [20.410.050\(D\)](#) are permitted by right; all others require conditional use approval. Child care centers permitted by right shall be consistent with Chapter [20.840](#) VMC, Child Care Centers, and be subject to Type II review pursuant to VMC [20.210.050](#).

12 Except bus, trolley and streetcar stops, including bus shelters, which are allowed by right.

13 One- and two-bedroom bed-and-breakfast facilities are permitted outright and three- to six-bedroom bed-and-breakfast facilities are allowed as conditional uses, with all bed-and-breakfast facilities subject to provisions of Chapter [20.830](#) VMC, Bed and Breakfast Establishments. No more than six bedrooms are allowed under any circumstances. All other commercial lodging is prohibited.

14 Retail commercial uses limited to 1,500 gsf per use to a maximum of 5,000 square feet in planned developments of 150 units or more. See VMC [20.260.020\(B\)\(1\)\(b\)\(2\)](#).

15 Subject to provisions in VMC [20.895.030](#).

16 Subject to provisions in Chapter [20.885](#) VMC, except sales of fireworks which are prohibited in residential zones.

17 Building-mounted antennas are allowed by conditional use on nonresidential buildings in single-family residential zones subject to requirements contained in Chapter [20.890](#) VMC, Wireless Communication Facilities.

18 Subject to VMC [20.260.020\(B\)\(1\)\(a\)\(2\)](#), planned development, VMC [20.910.050](#), Zero Lot Line Developments, and Chapter [20.920](#) VMC, Infill Development Standards.

19 A “designated manufactured home” is exempt from the development standards of VMC [20.410.050\(F\)](#) and may continue to exist and expand. An existing unit may be replaced or may be relocated either to an approved manufactured home development or an approved manufactured home subdivision. After July 1, 2005, only “new manufactured homes” that also meet the “designated manufactured home” criteria will be permitted on individual lots not part of an existing approved manufactured home development or manufactured home subdivision, except that a new manufactured home placed on an individual lot after July 1, 2005, may be relocated as permitted by this title if within five years of the date of the original placement.

20 Subject to VMC [20.410.050\(F\)](#), Development Standards – Criteria for Placement of Manufactured Homes.

21 Subject to Chapter [20.920](#) VMC, Infill Development Standards.

22 Existing duplexes built on lots meeting the minimum infill lot size standards of Table [20.920.060](#)-1 shall be considered conforming uses even if not part of an infill development.

23 Medical center residential uses, as defined in VMC [20.160.020](#), are permitted outright if approved through a public facilities master plan per VMC [20.680.040](#).

24 Two-family dwellings (duplexes), three-family, or four-family dwellings are permitted subject to density and development standards of the R-17 district.

25 Pursuant to Chapter [20.950](#) VMC, Cottage Cluster Housing.

[26 Subject to the provisions in Chapter 20.835 VMC, Short-Term Rentals](#)

(Ord. M-4377 § 2(a), 2022; Ord. M-4325 § 3, 2020; Ord. M-4289 § 4, 2019; Ord. M-4255 § 6, 2018; Ord. M-4254 § 3(BB), 2018; Ord. M-4187 § 5, 2016; Ord. M-4071 § 7, 2014; Ord. M-4066 § 5, 2013; Ord. M-4035 § 2, 2012; Ord. M-4034 § 10, 2012; Ord. M-4024 § 6, 2012; Ord. M-4002 § 5, 2011; Ord. M-3931 § 9, 2009; Ord. M-3922 § 19, 2009; Ord. M-3840 § 18, 2007; Ord. M-3709 § 4, 2005; Ord. M-3663 § 12, 2004; Ord. M-3643, 2004)

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20.420.030 Uses.

A. *Types of uses.* For the purposes of this chapter, there are four kinds of use:

1. A permitted (P) use is one that is permitted outright, subject to all of the applicable provisions of this title.
2. A limited (L) use is permitted outright providing it is in compliance with special requirements, exceptions or restrictions.
3. A conditional use (C) is a discretionary use reviewed through the process set forth in Chapters [20.245](#) and [20.210](#) VMC, governing conditional uses and decision-making procedures, respectively.
4. A prohibited use (X) is one that is not permitted in a zoning district under any circumstances.

B. *Use table.* A list of permitted, limited, conditional, and prohibited uses in higher-density residential zones is presented in Table 20.420.030-1.

Table 20.420.030-1. Higher-Density Districts Use Table

USE	R-18	R-22	R-30	R-35	R-50
RESIDENTIAL					
Household Living	P	P	P	P	P
Group Living	P	P	P	P	P
Home Occupations	L ³	L ³	L ³	L ³	L ³
Short-term rentals	L²⁶	L²⁶	L²⁶	L²⁶	L²⁶
HOUSING TYPES					
Single Dwelling Units, Attached	p ^{4, 25}	p ^{4, 25}	p ^{4, 25}	X	X
Single Dwelling Units, Detached	p ^{4, 25}	p ^{4, 25}	p ^{4, 25}	X ⁵	X ⁵

USE	R-18	R-22	R-30	R-35	R-50
Accessory Dwelling Units	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹	P ^{1, 24}
Duplexes	P ⁴	P ⁴	P ⁴	P ⁴	P ⁴
Multi-Dwelling Units	P ⁴	P ⁴	P ⁴	P ⁴	P ⁴
Manufactured Home Developments	L ⁷	L ⁷ /X	L ⁷ /X	L ⁷ /X	L ⁷ /X
Designated Manufactured Homes	L/X ²³	X	X	X	X
New Manufactured Homes	L ²³	X	X	X	X
CIVIC (Institutional)					
Basic Utilities	C	C	C	C	C
Colleges	C	C	C	C	C
Community Centers	C	C	C	C	C
Community Recreation	C ⁸	C ⁸	C ⁸	C ⁸	C ⁸
Cultural Institutions	P/C ⁹	P/C ⁹	P/C ⁹	P	P
Day Care					
- Family Day Care Homes	P/C ¹⁰	P/C ¹⁰	P/C ¹⁰	P/C ¹⁰	P/C ¹⁰
- Child Care Centers	L/C ¹⁴	L/C ¹⁴	L/C ¹⁴	L/C ¹⁴	L/C ¹⁴
- Adult Day Care	P/C ¹¹	P/C ¹¹	P/C ¹¹	P/C ¹¹	P/C ¹¹
Emergency Services (except ambulance services)	C ¹²	C ¹²	C ¹²	C ¹²	C ¹²
Medical Centers	C	C	C	C	C
Parks/Open Space					
- Neighborhood Parks	P	P	P	P	P
- Community Parks	P	P	P	P	P

USE	R-18	R-22	R-30	R-35	R-50
- Regional Parks	C	P	P	P	P
- Trails	P	P	P	P	P
Postal Service	C	C	C	C	C
Religious Institutions	L/C ¹⁴	L/C ¹⁴	L/C ¹⁴	L/C ¹⁴	L/C ¹⁴
Schools	L/C ¹⁴	L/C ¹⁴	L/C ¹⁴	L/C ¹⁴	L/C ¹⁴
Social/Fraternal Clubs	C ⁶	C ⁶	C ⁶	C ⁶	C ⁶
Transportation Facilities	P/C ¹⁵	P/C ¹⁵	P/C ¹⁵	P/C ¹⁵	P/C ¹⁵
COMMERCIAL					
Commercial and Transient Lodging	L/X ¹⁶	L/X ¹⁶	L/X ¹⁶	L/X ¹⁶	L/X ¹⁶
Eating/Drinking Establishments	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X
Entertainment-Oriented					
- Adult Entertainment	X	X	X	X	X
- Indoor Entertainment	X	X	X	X	X
- Major Event Entertainment	X	X	X	X	X
General Retail					
- Sales-Oriented	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X
- Personal Services	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X
- Repair-Oriented	X	X	X	X	X
- Bulk Sales	X	X	X	X	X
- Outdoor Sales	X	X	X	X	X
Motor Vehicle Related					
- Motor Vehicle Sales/Rental	X	X	X	X	X

USE	R-18	R-22	R-30	R-35	R-50
- Motor Vehicle Servicing/Repair	X	X	X	X	X
- Vehicle Fuel Sales	X	X	X	X	X
- EV Basic Charging Stations (accessory only)	P	P	P	P	P
- EV Rapid Charging Stations (accessory only)	P	P	P	P	P
- EV Battery Exchange Stations	X	X	X	X	X
Offices					
- General	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X
- Medical	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X	L ¹⁷ /X
- Extended	X	X	X	X	X
Self-Service Storage	X	X	X	X	X
Nonaccessory Parking	X	X	X	X	X
INDUSTRIAL					
Industrial Services	X	X	X	X	X
Manufacturing and Production	X	X	X	X	X
Railroad Yards	X	X	X	X	X
Research and Development	X	X	X	X	X
Warehouses/Freight Movement	X	X	X	X	X
Wholesale Sales	X	X	X	X	X
Waste-Related	X	X	X	X	X

USE	R-18	R-22	R-30	R-35	R-50
Major Utility Facilities	X	X	X	X	X
OTHER					
Agriculture/Horticulture	P	P	P	P	P
Airports/Airparks	X	X	X	X	X
Animal Kennels/Shelters	X	X	X	X	X
Cemeteries	C ¹⁸	C ¹⁸	C ¹⁸	C ¹⁸	C ¹⁸
Detention & Post Detention Facilities	X	X	X	X	X
Dog Day Care	C ¹⁹	C ¹⁹	C ¹⁹	C ¹⁹	C ¹⁹
Heliports	X ²⁰	X ²⁰	X ²⁰	X ²⁰	X ²⁰
Recreational or Medical Marijuana Facilities	X	X	X	X	X
Medical Marijuana Cooperatives	X	X	X	X	X
Mining	X	X	X	X	X
Rail Lines/Utility Corridors	C	C	C	C	C
Basic Utilities	P	P	P	P	P
Temporary Uses	L ²¹	L ²¹	L ²¹	L ²¹	L ²¹
Wireless Communication Facilities	L/C/X ²²	L/C/X ²²	L/C/X ²²	L/C/X ²²	L/C/X ²²

1 Subject to the provisions of Chapter [20.810](#) VMC, Accessory Dwelling Units.

2 *The language for this footnote has been deleted.*

3 Subject to the provisions of Chapter [20.860](#) VMC, Home Occupations.

4 Provided the minimum required residential density is met, on an overall project basis.

5 Single-family dwelling units legally established prior to March 11, 2004, shall be considered permitted uses.

6 Subject to the provisions of VMC [20.895.040](#), Community Recreation and Related Facilities.

7 Subject to the provisions of Chapter [20.880](#) VMC, Manufactured Home Parks. Manufactured home developments established prior to July 1, 2005, are exempt from the standards of VMC [20.420.050\(G\)](#), Criteria for Placement of Manufactured Homes, and may continue to exist and expand within existing previously approved boundaries. An existing manufactured home in a development or subdivision may be replaced or may be relocated either to an approved manufactured home development or an approved manufactured home subdivision. Manufactured home developments in the R-22, R-30, R-35 zones are allowed as a limited use (L) only as part of a Chapter [20.260](#) VMC planned development that meets overall minimum density standards for the applicable zone.

8 Subject to the additional provisions in VMC [20.895.040](#).

9 Libraries permitted only; all other cultural institutions are conditional uses.

10 Family day care homes for no more than 12 children are permitted when licensed by the state. Child care centers are permitted as conditional uses, subject to the provisions of Chapter [20.840](#) VMC, Child Care Centers, unless part of a planned development, in which case they are approved subject to Chapter [20.260](#) VMC. All child care facilities must be licensed by the state.

11 Adult day care facilities with 12 or fewer clients are permitted outright; larger facilities are permitted as conditional uses.

12 *The language for this footnote has been deleted.*

13 *Repealed by M-4289.*

14 Schools, child care centers, and religious institutions that meet all of the locational criteria contained in VMC [20.420.050\(F\)](#) are permitted by right; all others require conditional use approval. Child care centers permitted by right shall be consistent with Chapter [20.840](#) VMC, Child Care Centers, and be subject to Type II review pursuant to VMC [20.210.050](#).

15 Except bus, trolley and streetcar stops, including bus shelters, which are allowed by right.

16 Bed-and-breakfast establishments as limited uses subject to provisions of Chapter [20.830](#) VMC, Bed and Breakfast Establishments; all other commercial and transient lodging prohibited.

17 New commercial uses allowed as limited uses subject to special development restrictions in VMC [20.420.060](#). Existing commercial uses permitted if legally established prior to code effective date. However, alterations and expansions shall be subject to Chapter [20.245](#) VMC, Conditional Use Permits.

18 Subject to the provisions in VMC [20.895.030](#).

19 Subject to the provisions of Chapter [20.850](#) VMC, Dog Day Care.

20 Except as an accessory to a medical center.

21 Subject to provisions of Chapter [20.885](#) VMC, except sale of fireworks prohibited in residential zones.

22 Subject to the provisions of Chapter [20.890](#) VMC, Wireless Communication Facilities.

23 A “designated manufactured home” is exempt from the development standards of VMC [20.420.050\(G\)](#) and may continue to exist and expand. An existing unit may be replaced or may be relocated either to an approved manufactured home development or an approved manufactured home subdivision. After July 1, 2005, only “new manufactured homes” that also meet the “designated manufactured home” criteria will be permitted on individual lots not part of an existing approved manufacturing home development or manufactured home subdivision, except that a new manufactured home placed on an individual lot after July 1, 2005, may be relocated as permitted by this title if within five years of the date of the original placement.

24 Permitted only as existing nonconforming uses.

25 Subject to provisions in Chapter [20.410](#) VMC applying to the R-17 zoning district.

26 Subject to the provisions in Chapter 20.835 Short-Term Rentals

(Ord. M-4377 § 2(b), 2022; Ord. M-4289 § 4, 2019; Ord. M-4255 § 7, 2018; Ord. M-4254 § 3(CC), 2018; Ord. M-4223 § 4, 2017; Ord. M-4187 § 6, 2016; Ord. M-4105 § 3, 2014; Ord. M-4071 § 8, 2014; Ord. M-4066 § 5, 2013; Ord. M-4035 § 3, 2012; Ord. M-4024 § 7, 2012; Ord. M-4002 § 6, 2011; Ord. M-3959 § 25, 2010; Ord. M-3931 § 12, 2009; Ord. M-3840 § 20, 2007; Ord. M-3730 § 13, 2005; Ord. M-3709 § 7, 2005; Ord. M-3701 § 15, 2005; Ord. M-3663 § 15, 2004; Ord. M-3643, 2004)

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20.430.030 Uses.

A. *Types of uses.* For the purposes of this chapter, there are four kinds of use:

1. A permitted (P) use is one that is permitted outright, subject to all of the applicable provisions of this title.
2. A limited (L) use is permitted outright providing it is in compliance with special requirements, exceptions or restrictions.
3. A conditional use (C) is a discretionary use reviewed through the process set forth in Chapters [20.245](#) and [20.210](#) VMC, governing conditional uses and decision-making procedures, respectively.
4. A prohibited use (X) is one that is not permitted in a zoning district under any circumstances.

B. *Use table.* A list of permitted, limited, conditional, and prohibited uses in the commercial and mixed use zones is presented in Table 20.430.030-1.

Table 20.430.030-1. Commercial and Mixed-Use Districts Use Table

USE	CN	CC	CG	CX	WX	CPX ¹	MX ²	RGX ⁴⁴	HX ⁵¹
RESIDENTIAL									
Household Living	L ⁴	L ^{4,8}	L ^{4,8}	L ^{42,8}	L ^{5,8}		P ^{6,8}	P ⁸	P ⁸
Group Living	P/C ⁷	P/C ⁷	P/C ⁷	P/C ⁷	P/C ⁷		P ⁶	P	P
Home Occupation	L ¹⁰	L ¹⁰	L ¹⁰	L ¹⁰	L ¹⁰		L ¹⁰	L ¹⁰	L ¹⁰
Short-Term Rentals	L⁵⁵	L⁵⁵	L⁵⁵	L⁵⁵	L⁵⁵		L⁵⁵	L⁵⁵	L⁵⁵
HOUSING TYPES									
Single Dwelling Units, Attached	L ⁴	L ⁴	L ⁴	L ⁴²	L ⁴		P ⁶	P	L ⁴
Single Dwelling Units, Detached	X	X	X	X	X		P ⁶	P	X

USE	CN	CC	CG	CX	WX	CPX ¹	MX ²	RGX ⁴⁴	HX ⁵¹
Accessory Dwelling Units	X	X	X	X	X		P ⁶	P	P
Duplexes	L ⁴	L ⁴	L ⁴	L ⁴²	L ⁴		P ⁶	P	X
Multi-Dwelling Units	L ⁴	L ⁴	L ⁴	L ⁴²	L ⁴		P ⁶	P	L ⁴
Existing Manufactured Home Development	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Designated Manufactured Home	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
New Manufactured Home	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Affordable Housing Projects	X	L ⁸	L ⁸	L ⁸	L ⁸	L ⁸	L ⁸	L ⁸	P
CIVIC (Institutional)									
Basic Utilities	C	C	C	P	C		C	C	C
Colleges	X	C	C	P	C		P	P	P
Community Centers	X	C	C	C	C		C	C	C
Community Recreation	X	L ¹¹	L ¹¹	L ¹¹	L ¹¹		L ¹¹	L ¹¹	L ¹¹
Cultural Institutions	L ¹⁹	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
Day Care									
- Family Day Care Home	P/L ¹³	P/L ¹³	P/L ¹³	P/L ¹³	P/L ¹³		P/L ¹³	P/L ¹³	P/L ¹³
- Child Care Center	L ¹³	L ¹³	L ¹³	L ¹³	L ¹³		P/L ¹³	P/L ¹³	P/L ¹³
- Adult Day Care	P/C ¹⁴	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
Emergency Services	X	C	P	P	C		P	P	P
Medical Centers	X	C	C	P	C		C	P	C

USE	CN	CC	CG	CX	WX	CPX ¹	MX ²	RGX ⁴⁴	HX ⁵¹
Parks/Open Space									
- Neighborhood Parks	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
- Community Parks	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
- Regional Parks	X	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
- Trails	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
Postal Service	L ¹⁹	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
Religious Institutions	X	P	P	P	C		P	P	P
Schools (not truck driving schools)	C	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
Social/Fraternal Clubs	C	L ¹¹	L ¹¹	L ¹¹	L ¹¹		L ¹¹	L ¹¹	L ¹¹
Transportation Facility	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
Park & Ride Facilities									
- Surface	X	L ⁴⁸	L ⁴⁸	X	X	X	X	X	X
- Structure	X	L ⁴⁸	L ⁴⁸	L ⁴⁸	L ⁴⁸	L ⁴⁸	L ⁴⁸	X	L ⁴⁸
COMMERCIAL									
Commercial and Transient Lodging	X	C	P	P	L ¹⁸ /C		L ¹⁸ /C	P	L ¹⁸ /C
Eating/Drinking Establishments	L ^{19/20}	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
Entertainment-Oriented									
- Adult Entertainment	X	X	L ²³	X	X		X	X	X
- Indoor Entertainment	X	P/L ²⁴	P/L ²⁴	P/L ²⁴	P/L ²⁴		P/L ²⁴	P/L ²⁴	P/L ²⁴
- Major Event Entertainment	X	X	P	P	C		C	X	C

USE	CN	CC	CG	CX	WX	CPX ¹	MX ²	RGX ⁴⁴	HX ⁵¹
General Retail									
- Sales-Oriented	L ¹⁹	P	P	P ²⁵	P		P	P ^{25, 46}	P
- Personal Services	L ¹⁹	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
- Repair-Oriented	X	P	P	P	X		P	P	P
- Bulk Sales	X	P	P	P	X		P	C/P ⁵³	P
- Outdoor Sales	X	C	P/L ²⁶	P/L ²⁶	X		P/L ²⁶	X	P/L ²⁶
Artisan and Specialty Goods Production	X	L ⁴⁰	L ⁴⁰	L ⁴⁰	X		X	X	L ^{40,52}
Motor Vehicle Related									
- Motor Vehicle Sales/Rental	X	L ²⁷	P	P	X		C ²⁷	X, L ⁴⁵	X
- Motor Vehicle Servicing/Repair (entirely indoors)	X	L ²⁸	L ²⁸	L ²⁸	X		C ²⁸	X	X
- Vehicle Fuel Sales	X	L ²⁸	L ²⁸	L ²⁸	C		C ²⁸	X	X
- EV Basic Charging Stations (accessory and standalone)	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
- EV Rapid Charging Stations (accessory and standalone)	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
-EV Battery Exchange Stations	X	P	P	P	X		X	P	X
Office									
- General	L ¹⁹	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
- Medical	L ¹⁹	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
- Extended	X	P	P	P	X		X	P	X

USE	CN	CC	CG	CX	WX	CPX ¹	MX ²	RGX ⁴⁴	HX ⁵¹
Marina (See also Chapter 20.760 VMC)	X	P	P	P	P		P	X	P
Non-Accessory Parking	X	C	C	C ⁴³	C		C	C ⁴³	X
Self-Service Storage	X	P ^{3, 50}	P ⁵⁰	X	X		X	X	X
INDUSTRIAL									
Industrial Services	X	C	C	X	X		X	C/P ⁵⁴	X
Manufacturing and Production	X	C/X ³⁰	P/X ³¹	P/X ⁴¹	X		C/X ³²	P ⁴¹	C/X ³²
Railroad Yards	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Research and Development	X	X	P	C	C		C	P	C
Warehouse/Freight Movement	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Waste-Related	X	X	P ⁴⁷	X	X		X	X	X
Wholesale Sales	X	X	C	C	X		X	X	X
Major Utility Facilities	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
OTHER									
Agriculture/Horticulture	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Airport/Airpark	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Animal Kennel/Shelters	X	L ³³	L ³³	X	X		X	X	X
Cemeteries	X	C ³⁴	P ³⁴	C ³⁴	X		C ³⁴	X	C ³⁴
Detention & Post Detention Facilities	X	X	C/X ³⁵	C/X ³⁵	X		X	X	X
Dog Day Care	L ³⁶	L ³⁶	L ³⁶	L ³⁶	L ³⁶		L ³⁶	L ³⁶	L ³⁶
Heliports	X	X	X	C ³⁷	C ³⁷		C ³⁷	C ³⁷	C ³⁷

USE	CN	CC	CG	CX	WX	CPX ¹	MX ²	RGX ⁴⁴	HX ⁵¹
Medical Marijuana Cooperatives	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Recreational Marijuana, Production or Processing	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Recreational Marijuana Retail	X	L ⁴⁹	L ⁴⁹	X	X		X	X	L ⁴⁹
Mining	X	X	X	X	X		X	C	X
Rail Lines/Utility Corridors	C	P	P	P	C		C	P	C
Temporary Uses	L ²⁶	L ²⁶	L ²⁶	L ²⁶	L ²⁶		L ²⁶	L ²⁶	L ²⁶
Wireless Communication Facilities	X	L/C/X ³⁹	L/C/X ³⁹	L/C/X ³⁹	L/C/X ³⁹		L/C/X ³⁹	L/C/X ³⁹	L/C/X ³⁹

1 Refer to Vancouver Central Park Plan District, Chapter [20.640 VMC](#).

2 Refer to Mixed Use standards in VMC [20.430.060](#).

3 A single ground floor caretaker/security/manager residence is allowed if it is an integral part of a mini-storage building.

4 All or part of residential uses must be located above the ground floor of the structure as specified by VMC [20.430.060\(B\)\(2\)](#) with exception of Community Commercial (CC) zoned properties fronting Broadway Street and located within the Uptown Village District of the Vancouver City Center Subarea Plan (refer to VMC [20.430.020\(B\)](#)).

5 Must have a minimum density of 10 dwelling units/net acre.

6 Allowed pursuant to mixed use standards of VMC [20.430.060](#).

7 Residential Care Homes with six or fewer residents and any required on-site staff permitted by right in housing above the ground floor; all larger group home uses are permitted conditionally.

8 Eligible affordable housing projects must (a) demonstrate eligibility for Washington State Housing Finance Commission Low Income Housing Tax Credits by providing at least 40 percent of units affordable to households at 60 percent of Area Median Income or otherwise as demonstrated eligible for credits; (b) include a guarantee that the threshold is maintained for at least 30 years unless specified longer by the finance

commission; and (c) be located on properties whose borders are within 1,000 feet of a bus rapid transit or other high capacity transit corridor, or transit corridors with existing weekday peak service frequencies of 35 minutes or less, as indicated in the C-Tran 2018-2033 Transit Development Plan.

9 The language for this footnote has been deleted.

10 Subject to the provisions of Chapter [20.860](#) VMC, Home Occupations.

11 Subject to provisions of VMC [20.895.040](#), Community Recreation and Related Facilities.

12 The language for this footnote has been deleted.

13 Family day care homes for no more than 12 children are permitted when licensed by the state. Child care centers (13 or more children) are Limited (L), subject to a Type II procedure in Chapter [20.210](#) VMC. Child care centers can also be approved as part of a Planned Development, Chapter [20.260](#) VMC. In all cases child care centers must meet the standards outlined in Chapter [20.840](#) VMC.

14 In the CN zone, adult day care facilities for six or fewer adults allowed outright in the CN zone, all other facilities are permitted as conditional uses.

15 The language for this footnote has been deleted.

16 The language for this footnote has been deleted.

17 Transportation facilities are permitted except for large or land-intensive facilities such as park-and-ride lots and water taxi and ferry stations.

18 Bed-and-breakfast establishments are allowed as limited uses, subject to the provisions in Chapter [20.830](#) VMC, and all other lodging allowed as conditional uses.

19 Limited uses subject to the development standards in VMC [20.430.040\(D\)](#).

20 Eating and drinking establishments are permitted only in conjunction with another permitted use on site. Exclusively or predominantly drive-through eating and drinking establishments are prohibited.

22 Limited uses subject to the development standards in VMC 20.430.050(B).

23 Subject to provisions in Chapter [20.820](#) VMC, Adult Entertainment.

24 Provisions in VMC [20.895.060](#) apply to Indoor Target Shooting Ranges.

25 Pawnshops allowed in CX and CG Districts only. No more than four pawnshop establishments allowed in the CX District.

26 Subject to provisions in Chapter [20.885](#) VMC, Temporary Uses.

27 Sales/rental lots for motor vehicles only are subject to the following criteria: (a) the lot size is approximately 200 feet by 200 feet, or 100 feet by 100 feet if a corner lot, though smaller lots will be considered if shown to meet all other requirements; (b) reviewed and approved by the city transportation manager for on-site circulation, access, and parking plan; (c) located on a primary arterial with average traffic in excess of 10,000

vehicle trips per day; (d) employee/customer parking is provided at a rate of one space plus an additional space per each 5,000 square feet of lot area; (e) there is no vehicle display in setback areas, and all setbacks are landscaped rather than paved.

28 Subject to provisions in VMC [20.895.070](#), Motor Vehicle Fuel Sales and Repair.

29 The language for this footnote has been deleted.

30 Micro-breweries and manufacturing of optical, medical and dental devices, goods, and equipment allowed by conditional use; all others prohibited.

31 Micro-breweries, bakeries, printing, publishing, binding, lithography, repair shops for tools, scientific/professional instruments and motors, and manufacturing of optical, medical and dental devices, goods, and equipment allowed outright; all others prohibited.

32 Micro-breweries allowed by conditional use; all others prohibited.

33 Subject to provisions in VMC [20.895.020](#), Animal Kennel/Shelters.

34 Subject to provisions in VMC [20.895.030](#), Cemeteries.

35 Secure Transition Facilities as per VMC [20.855.020\(B\)\(6\)\(a\)](#) are prohibited.

36 Subject to the provisions in Chapter [20.850](#) VMC, Dog Day Care.

37 Subject to provisions in VMC [20.895.080](#), Private Landing Strips and Heliports. Airpark related uses are permitted in Pearson Airpark and Evergreen Airport only.

38 The language for this footnote has been deleted.

39 Subject to requirements in Chapter [20.890](#) VMC, Wireless Telecommunications Facilities.

40 Subject to limitations in VMC [20.430.050\(A\)](#). Uses defined in VMC [20.160.020\(C\)\(10\)](#).

41 Printing, binding, lithography, repair shops for tools, scientific/professional instruments and motors, computer research or assembly, and manufacturing of optical, medical and dental devices, goods and equipment permitted outright; all others prohibited.

42 Ground floor residential is allowed within the CX zone with the exception of properties fronting Main Street between Sixth Street and Mill Plain.

43 Parking structures are permitted outright.

44 Allowed subject to provisions of Riverview Gateway Plan District Standards, Chapter [20.680](#) VMC, and associated Master Plan adopted for the area of proposed development.

45 Motor vehicle rental permitted where ancillary to another use.

46 Retail uses shall not exceed 50,000 square feet in total floor space unless included in a mixed use building with other uses accounting for at least 20 percent of floor space, and is in full compliance with Riverview Plan District Design Guidelines.

47 Neighborhood recycling and/or yard debris collection centers which are exempt from a state solid waste handling permit are permitted; all other waste-related uses prohibited. If a neighborhood recycling and/or yard debris collection center is handling organic materials, they shall not be stored on site for a period longer than seven days.

48 See VMC [20.430.040\(E\)](#), Park and Ride Facility Development Standards.

49 Subject to Chapter [20.884](#) VMC.

50 Subject to requirements and standards within the Miscellaneous Special Use Standards for Self-Service Storage, pursuant to VMC [20.895.100](#).

51 Allowed subject to the provisions of the Heights District Plan standards, Chapter [20.670](#) VMC.

52 Permitted in the HX Plan district where commercial uses are permitted.

53 Bulk sales are permitted outright on lots 10 through 15 of the HQ Master Plan (west end of Fishers Quarry area) only. All other areas are conditional.

54 Building, heating, plumbing or electrical contractors, exterminators, janitorial and building maintenance contractors where the indoor storage of materials is more than incidental to the office use and photo-finishing laboratories are permitted outright on lots 10 through 15 of the HQ Master Plan (west end of Fishers Quarry area).

55 Subject to the provisions in Chapter 20.835 Short-Term Rentals

(Ord. M-4374 § 2, 2022; Ord. M-4341 § 3 (Exh. B), 2021; Ord. M-4289 § 4, 2019; Ord. M-4288 § 4, 2019; Ord. M-4255 § 8, 2018; Ord. M-4254 § 3(DD), 2018; Ord. M-4187 § 7, 2016; ACM dated 1/7/2016; Ord. M-4147 § 4, 2015; Ord. M-4071 § 4, 2014; Ord. M-4035 § 4, 2012; Ord. M-4034 § 13, 2012; Ord. M-4024 § 8, 2012; Ord. M-4002 § 7, 2011; Ord. M-4002 § 7, 2011; Ord. M-3959 § 26, 2010; Ord. M-3931 § 16, 2009; Ord. M-3922 § 22, 2009; Ord. M-3911 § 5, 2009; Ord. M-3891 § 5, 2008; Ord. M-3865 § 3, 2008; Ord. M-3840 § 22, 2007; Ord. M-3832 § 6, 2007; Ord. M-3730 § 19, 2005; Ord. M-3709 § 9, 2005; Ord. M-3701 § 17, 2005; Ord. M-3698 § 5, 2005; Ord. M-3667 § 3, 2004; Ord. M-3663 § 17, 2004; Ord. M-3643, 2004)

The Vancouver Municipal Code is current through Ordinance M-4392, passed November 21, 2022.

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20.440.030 Uses.

A. *Types of uses.* For the purposes of this chapter, there are four kinds of use:

1. A permitted (P) use is one that is permitted outright, subject to all of the applicable provisions of this title.
2. A limited (L) use is permitted outright providing it is in compliance with special requirements, exceptions or restrictions.
3. A conditional use (C) is a discretionary use reviewed through the process set forth in Chapters [20.245](#) and [20.210](#) VMC, governing conditional uses and decision-making procedures, respectively.
4. A prohibited use (X) is one that is not permitted in a zoning district under any circumstances.
5. Uses may also be subject to restrictions and standards set forth in the Water Resource Protection Ordinance (VMC Title [14](#)).

B. *Use table.* A list of permitted, limited, conditional, and prohibited uses in the industrial zoning districts is shown in Table 20.440.030-1.

Table 20.440.030-1. Industrial Zoning Districts Use Table

USE	OCI ²⁰	IL ¹	IH	ECX ²⁷
RESIDENTIAL				
Household Living	L ²	L ²	L ²	L ²⁸
Group Living	P ²¹ /X	X	X	P ²¹ /X
Home Occupation	L ³	L ³	L ³	L ³
Short-Term Rentals	L³⁷	X	X	L³⁷
HOUSING TYPES				
Single Dwelling, Attached	L ²	X	X	L ²⁸

USE	OCI ²⁰	IL ¹	IH	ECX ²⁷
Single Dwelling, Detached	X	X	X	X
Accessory Dwelling Units	X	X	X	X
Duplexes	L ²	X	X	L ²⁸
Multi-Dwelling Units	L ²	X	X	L ²⁸
Existing Manufactured Home Developments	X	X	X	X
Designated Manufactured	X	X	X	X
New Manufactured Homes	X	X	X	X
CIVIC (Institutional)				
Basic Utilities	P	P	P	P
Colleges	X	X	X	C
Community Centers	P	X	P	P
Community Recreation	L ²⁴	P	X	L ²⁴
Cultural Institutions	X	P	X	P
Day Care				
- Child Care Center	L ⁴	L ⁴	X	L ⁴
- Adult Day Care	P	P	X	P
Emergency Services (except ambulance services)	P	P	P	P
Medical Centers	C	X	X	P
Parks/Open Space				
- Neighborhood Parks	P	P	P	P
- Community Parks	P	P	P	P
- Regional Parks	C	C	C	C

USE	OCI ²⁰	IL ¹	IH	ECX ²⁷
- Trails	P	P	P	P
Postal Service	X	P	P	X
Religious Institutions	X	X	X	X
Schools	X	X	X	X
Social/Fraternal Clubs	X	X	X	X
Transportation Facility	P/X ²⁶	P	P	P/X ²⁶
Park and Ride Facilities				
Surface	X	L ³¹	L ³¹	X
Structure	L ³¹	L ³¹	L ³¹	L ³¹
COMMERCIAL				
Commercial and Transient Lodging	X	X	X	P
Eating/Drinking Establishments	L	L ⁵	L ⁵	L ⁶
Entertainment-Oriented				
- Adult Entertainment	X	L ⁷	L ⁷	X
- Indoor Entertainment	X	X	X	X
- Major Event Entertainment	X	X	X	X
Artisan Small Scale Manufacturing	X	X	X	P
General Retail				
- Sales-Oriented	L	L ⁶	L/C ⁶	L ⁶
- Personal Services	L	L ⁶	X	L ⁶
- Repair-Oriented	L	L ⁶	X	L ⁶
- Bulk Sales	X	X	X	X

USE	OCI ²⁰	IL ¹	IH	ECX ²⁷
- Outdoor Sales	X	X	P	X
Motor Vehicle Related				
- Motor Vehicle Sales/Rental	X	X	X	X
- Motor Vehicle Servicing/Repair	X	L ⁸	L ⁸	X
- Vehicle Fuel Sales	X	X	L ⁸	L ^{8, 29}
- EV Basic Charging Stations (accessory and stand-alone)	P	P	P	P
- EV Rapid Charging Stations (accessory and stand-alone)	P	P	P	P
- EV Battery Exchange Stations	P	P	X	P
Office				
- General	P	P	L/C ⁹	P
- Medical	P	P	X	P
- Extended	P	P	X	P
Marina (See also Chapter 20.760 VMC)	X	C	X	X
Nonaccessory Parking	C ¹⁰	L ¹⁰ /X	X	L ³⁰
Self-Service Storage	P ³⁵	P ³⁵	X	X
INDUSTRIAL				
Industrial Services	P	P	P	P
Manufacturing and Production	P	P ¹¹	P ¹¹	P
Railroad Yards	X	X	P	X
Bulk Crude Oil Storage and Handling Facilities	X ³⁴	X ³⁴	X ³⁴	X ³⁴
Petroleum/Oil Refineries	X	X	X	X

USE	OCI ²⁰	IL ¹	IH	ECX ²⁷
Research and Development	P	P	C	P
Warehouse/Freight Movement	X	L ¹²	P	X
Waste-Related	X	X	P ²² /X	X
Wholesale Sales	P	L ¹²	X	X
Major Utility Facilities	X	X/P ³²	L ³³	X
OTHER				
Agriculture/Horticulture	X	P	P	X
Airport/Airpark	X	L ¹⁹	P	X
Animal Kennel/Shelters	X	L ¹⁷	L ¹⁷	X
Cemeteries	X	X	C	X
Detention and Post Detention Facilities	X	C/X ¹³	C ¹⁴	X
Dog Day Care	L ¹⁵	L ¹⁵	L ¹⁵	L ¹⁵
Heliports	C	C	C	C
Medical Marijuana Cooperatives	X	X	X	X
Recreational Marijuana Retail	X	X	X	X
Recreational Marijuana Growing or Processing	X	L ³⁶	L ³⁶	X
Mining	C ¹⁸	C ¹⁸	C ¹⁸	C ¹⁸
Rail Lines/Utility Corridors	P/X ²³	P	P	P/X ²³
Wireless Communication Facilities	L ¹⁶	L ¹⁶	L ¹⁶	L ¹⁶

¹ Due to the unique character and combination of uses in the Columbia Business Center area, uses existing prior to March 11, 2004, on parcels zoned IL in the Columbia Business Center may be altered, expanded or replaced regardless of use limitations in Table 20.440.030-1.

- 2** In the OCI zone, multifamily housing allowed above ground floor only as specified by VMC [20.430.060\(B\)\(2\)](#). In all industrial zones, one caretaker residence permitted per use.
- 3** Subject to the conditions in Chapter [20.860](#) VMC, Home Occupations.
- 4** Child care centers allowed as a Limited (L) use, subject to a Type II procedure. Child care centers are permitted in order to provide service for those employees working in the IL district, subject to provisions in Chapter [20.840](#) VMC, Child Care Centers.
- 5** If within an industrial building, these uses shall consume no more than 10 percent of the building's total gross square footage. If freestanding, they shall be considered together with the rest of the project and shall consume no more than 10 percent of the site's total gross square footage.
- 6** These limited uses, separately or in combination, may not exceed 20 percent of the entire building square footage within a development complex. No retail uses shall exceed 40,000 gross square feet (gsf) per building or business; retail uses greater than 40,000 gsf but less than 60,000 gsf require conditional use review.
- 7** Subject to provisions in Chapter [20.820](#) VMC, Adult Entertainment.
- 8** Subject to provisions in VMC [20.895.070](#), Motor Vehicle Fuel Sales and Repair.
- 9** Offices not accessory to a permitted use may not exceed 40,000 gsf; offices greater than 40,000 gsf but less than 60,000 gsf require conditional use review.
- 10** In the OCI zone, nonaccessory surface parking is conditionally permitted on brownfields where subsurface environmental constraints effectively preclude other uses, provided such development complies with applicable local, state and federal environmental standards. In the IL zone, nonaccessory surface parking is permitted, and nonaccessory structured parking is prohibited. In the ECX zone, nonaccessory structural parking only shall be permitted.
- 11** Electroplating and related uses not permitted.
- 12** Permitted as limited use provided all activities, except outdoor storage of materials, are wholly contained within building(s).
- 13** Secure Community Transition Facilities as per Chapter [20.150](#) VMC are prohibited.
- 14** In addition to other detention and post-detention facilities, Secure Community Transition Facilities are allowed by conditional use permit, subject to criteria set forth in VMC [20.855.020\(B\)\(6\)\(a\)](#).
- 15** Subject to provisions in Chapter [20.850](#) VMC, Dog Day Care.
- 16** Subject to requirements in Chapter [20.890](#) VMC, Wireless Telecommunications Facilities.
- 17** Subject to provisions in VMC [20.895.020](#), Kennels/Shelters.
- 18** Surface mining is only allowed by conditional use on sites of 20 acres or larger which are adjacent to existing mining operations. Reclamation activity for existing mining operations approved by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources is a permitted use in any nonresidential zoning district.

- 19** Allow airport/airpark related activities such as hangars, air cargo, and warehousing, pilot schools, aircraft sales and repairs, aviation clubs, and museum in the Light Industrial District (IL). New airports/airparks are prohibited.
- 20** All uses locating the OCI zone shall comply with the special use limitations of VMC [20.440.040\(C\)](#) and [20.440.050\(A\)](#). Development agreements in existence on the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section shall control the uses and development standards of the affected properties. In order to protect the investments made in reliance upon such agreements, improvements made or site plans approved consistent with these agreements shall not be deemed nonconforming.
- 21** Existing legally established group living uses are permitted. New group living is prohibited.
- 22** Ten-day hazardous waste handling and transfer facilities, excluding facilities handling radioactive or high explosive materials, are allowed, provided such facilities: (a) do not repackage waste (except as necessary to address damaged or improper packaging); (b) are located at least 200 feet from any residential zoning district; and (c) do not store hazardous wastes (except for “universal wastes,” as that term is defined in Code of Federal Regulations, Title [40](#), Part 273) for more than 10 days.
- 23** Prohibited within 200 feet of a residential zone.
- 24** Subject to provisions of VMC [20.895.040](#), Community Recreation and Related Facilities.
- 25** The language for this footnote has been deleted.
- 26** Transportation facilities are permitted except for large or land-intensive facilities such as water taxi and ferry stations.
- 27** All uses locating in the ECX zone shall comply with Chapter [20.690](#) VMC, Section 30 Employment Center Plan District. Development agreements in existence on the effective date of this ordinance shall control the uses and development standards of the affected properties, unless property owners choose differently as provided under VMC [20.690.030](#). In order to protect the investments made in reliance upon such agreements, improvements made or site plans approved consistent with these agreements shall not be deemed nonconforming.
- 28** In the ECX zone, multi-family housing is allowed above ground floor only; and one caretaker residence permitted per use.
- 29** Vehicle fuel sales is limited to one operation within the Section 30 Plan District
- 30** The language for this footnote has been deleted.
- 31** See VMC [20.430.040\(E\)](#), Park and Ride Facility Development Standards.
- 32** Major Utility Facilities are prohibited with the exception that sewer treatment plants and lagoons are allowed outright.

33 Biomass and coal energy generating plants are prohibited on Heavy Industrial zoned properties within the Vancouver City Center Subarea and Hough Neighborhood Association boundaries located west of Lincoln Street and east of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad tracks.

34 Existing bulk crude oil storage facilities including vested projects as of July 18, 2016, are prohibited to expand the amount of crude oil storage.

35 Subject to requirements and standards within the Miscellaneous Special Use Standards for Self-Service Storage, pursuant to VMC [20.895.100](#).

36 Subject to compliance with Chapter [20.884](#) VMC, Marijuana Businesses.

37 Subject to the provisions contained in Chapter 20.835 VMC, Short Term Rentals

(Ord. M-4354 § 3(G), 2021; Ord. M-4325 § 3, 2020; Ord. M-4289 § 4, 2019; Ord. M-4288 § 5, 2019; Ord. M-4255 § 9, 2018; Ord. M-4254 § 3(FF), 2018; Ord. M-4187 § 8, 2016; Ord. M-4170 §§ 3, 4, 2016; Ord. M-4147, 2015; Ord. M-4071 § 5, 2014; Ord. M-4057 § 2, 2013; Ord. M-4035 § 5, 2012; Ord. M-4034 § 15, 2012; Ord. M-4024 § 9, 2012; Ord. M-4002 § 8, 2011; Ord. M-3959 § 28, 2010; Ord. M-3931 § 16, 2009; Ord. M-3930 § 7, 2009; Ord. M-3922 § 25, 2009)

Code reviser's note: Ord. M-4147, Amended, 12/07/2015, Effective 01/07/2016 AMC Correction; ACM, Amended, 12/02/2009, Renumber footnote 31; ACM M-3874, Amended, 03/19/2008, Footnote 22 was changed. Deleted other references.

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20.180.060 Planning Fees.

Required planning fees. Fees for planning-related applications, permits, and services are set forth in Table 20.180.060.

Table 20.180.060.

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
1.	Address Changes	\$570.00
2.	Airport Height Combining District	\$812.00
3.	Appeals (to Hearing Examiner, Planning Commission, or City Council)	
A.	Filed by a recognized city neighborhood association	\$173.00
B.	Involving an individual single-family or duplex lot	\$800.00
C.	All other (see SEPA fees for SEPA procedural appeal fee)	\$2,286.00
4.	Archaeological Review	
A.	Predeterminations	
1.	Base fee	\$744.00

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
2.	Plus fee per acre for each acre more than five	\$126.00
B.	Surveys and other special studies	Cost recovery ²
5.	Binding Site Plan	
A.	Conceptual – Requiring subsequent site plan review	
1.	Same as comparable short subdivision or subdivision	See short subdivision or subdivision
B.	Detailed – Not requiring subsequent site plan review	
1.	Same as comparable short subdivision or subdivision	See short subdivision or subdivision
2.	Plus ½ comparable site plan review	See site plan review
6.	Boundary Line Adjustments	
	Base fee	\$1,200.00
	Plus fee per lot for each additional lot more than two	\$389.00
7.	Comprehensive Plan Amendments	\$15,774.00

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
	(includes rezone in conjunction with plan amendment)	
8.	Conditional Use Permit	
A.	Initial (community centers, group meal service, shelters)	\$1,716.00
B.	Initial (all others)	\$9,662.00
C.	Major modification, Type III	\$1,716.00
D.	Minor modification, Type I	\$389.00
9.	Continuance of Public Hearing	
A.	Initiated by applicant after public notice is mailed	\$2,286.00
B.	Resulting from inadequate information provided by the applicant. Does not apply in cases where new information is presented at the hearing by staff or other parties.	\$2,286.00
C.	Hearing examiner reconsideration request	\$2,286.00
10.	Covenant Release – Full and Partial	\$10,173.00
11.	Critical Areas Permit	

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
A.	Single-family and duplex lots (fee per applicable critical area)	
1.	Fish and wildlife habitat areas	\$1,716.00
2.	Frequently flooded areas	\$344.00
3.	Geologic hazard areas	\$344.00
4.	Wetland areas	\$1,716.00
B.	All others (fee per applicable critical area)	
1.	Fish and wildlife habitat areas	\$3,431.00
2.	Frequently flooded areas	\$787.00
3.	Geologic hazard areas	\$787.00
4.	Wetland areas	\$3,431.00
C.	Minor exception request	
1.	Single-family and duplex lots	\$787.00
2.	All others	\$822.00
D.	Reasonable use request	

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
1.	Single-family and duplex lots	\$5,031.00
2.	All others	\$10,006.00
E.	Digitizing critical areas geographic information	Cost recovery ²
12.	Design Review (Downtown)	
A.	Minor exterior reviews only	\$687.00
B.	All others, including new buildings	\$2,286.00
13.	Development Agreement	
A.	Initial	\$7,691.00
B.	Modification	\$3,525.00
C.	Extension	\$654.00
14.	Extension of Preliminary Approval	\$800.00
15.	Grading and Erosion Control Permit (includes plan check and inspection)	
A.	50 cubic yards or less and less than 1 foot in depth	No fee
B.	51 to 100 c.y. or greater than 1 foot in depth	\$149.00

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
C.	101 to 500 c.y.	
1.	Base fee	\$301.00
2.	Plus fee per 100 c.y. (or fraction thereof) above 500 c.y.	\$21.00 (Note: Maximum total grading and erosion control fee shall be \$407.00)
D.	Fees resulting from work in progress without a permit	2 × regular fee
16.	Home Occupation	
A.	General	\$227.00
B.	Penalty – When application is received after code enforcement action has been initiated	2 × regular fee
17.	Impact Fee Deferral for Single-Family Housing (administrative fee per lot)	\$717.00
18.	Joint Use Parking Agreement	\$1,286.00

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
19.	Land Use Permit (single-family residential; sheds; decks; driveways; fences, etc.)	\$60.00
20.	Lot Determination	
A.	Base fee (one to two lots)	\$2,505.00
B.	Plus per-lot fee over two	\$800.00
21.	Master Plan²	
A.	Conceptual (requiring subsequent site plan review)	\$8,887.00
B.	Detailed (not requiring subsequent site plan review)	\$8,887.00 plus ½ applicable site plan review fee
C.	Hybrid (conceptual approval for overall site, plus partial detailed approval)	\$8,887.00 plus ½ applicable site plan review fee for area for which detailed approval is sought
22.	Planned Development	

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
A.	Residential	
1.	Base fee	\$2,779.00
2.	Plus fee per unit	\$126.00
3.	Minimum: Maximum: Subdivision fee reduced by ½ when filed simultaneously.	Min. – \$3,974.00 Max. – \$17,971.00
B.	Nonresidential	
1.	Base fee	\$2,743.00
2.	Plus fee per sq. ft. – Ground floor	\$0.70
3.	Plus fee per sq. ft. – Upper floors	\$0.32
4.	Minimum: Maximum:	Min. – \$4,082.00 Max. – \$26,865.00
C.	Mixed	
1.	Base fee	\$2,743.00

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
2.	Plus fee per sq. ft. – Ground floor	\$0.70
3.	Plus fee per sq. ft. – Upper floors	\$0.32
4.	Minimum: Maximum: No rezone fee. Subdivision reduced by ½ when filed simultaneously.	Min. – \$4,082.00 Max. – \$27,051.00
23.	Planning Official Review	
A.	Temporary use	
1.	Seasonal or special event	\$111.00
2.	Temporary sales office, model home, or unforeseen emergency	\$337.00
3.	Temporary use in a commercial or industrial district	\$1,578.00
B.	Similar use determination or other	\$1,578.00
24.	Plat Alteration	\$7,385.00
25.	Post-Decision Reviews	

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
A.	Post-decision review – Type I	\$389.00
B.	Post-decision review – Type II	\$1,094.00
C.	Post-decision review – Type III	\$1,716.00
26.	Preapplication Conference Process	
A.	Preapplication conference request – Single-family and duplex lots	\$344.00
B.	Preapplication conference request - All others	\$1,211.00
C.	Preapplication waiver request	\$173.00
27.	Zoning Verification Letter (authorizes replacement of destroyed structure)	\$261.00
28.	Reporting (misc. application and permit information)	Cost recovery ²
29.	SEPA Checklist (Environmental Review)	
A.	Grading permit	
1.	Single-family and duplex lots	\$151.00
2.	All other	

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
a.	Base fee	\$1,121.00
b.	Plus fee per acre of land disturbed by the project	\$21.00
B.	Subdivision or planned development	
a.	Base fee	\$915.00
b.	Plus fee per acre of land disturbed by the project	\$10.45
C.	Site plan review – Residential	
a.	Base fee per unit up to five units	\$227.00
b.	Plus fee per unit more than five	\$23.00
D.	Nonprojects (including rezone and annual review applications)	\$2,515.00
E.	All other reviews	
a.	Base fee	\$1,830.00
b.	Plus fee per acre of land disturbed by the project	\$61.00

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
F.	SEPA procedural appeal (See “Appeals – All others” for substantive SEPA appeal fee)	\$148.00
G.	Environmental impact statement (EIS) review	Cost recovery ²
30.	Shoreline Permits	
A.	Shoreline substantial development permit	\$8,001.00
B.	Shoreline conditional use permit	\$8,802.00
C.	Shoreline variance request	\$8,802.00
31.	Short Subdivisions	
A.	Preliminary (nine lots or fewer) plats	\$7,773.00
B.	Final plat check	\$2,641.00
<u>32.</u>	<u>Short-Term Rentals</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>
<u>32-33.</u>	Signs – All Except Sandwich Board Signs	\$389.00
<u>33-34.</u>	Site Plan Review (Type I)	
A.	Residential	\$337.00
B.	Nonresidential	\$1,578.00

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
C.	Qualifying planned action	Same as Type II site plan review fees
34-35.	Site Plan Review (Type II) – Residential	
A.	Base fee	\$1,977.00
B.	Plus fee per unit	\$137.00
C.	Maximum fee	\$27,873.00
35-36.	Site Plan Review (Type II) – Nonresidential	
A.	General case	
1.	Base fee	\$5,372.00
2.	Plus fee per sq. ft. – Ground floor	\$0.22
3.	Plus fee per sq. ft. – Upper floors	\$0.10
B.	Commercial pad within a previously approved site plan that was not originally reviewed for the proposed specific use or structure	\$3,668.00
C.	Land-extensive uses such as a golf course	\$4,422.00
D.	Unoccupied commercial and utility structures	\$2,036.00

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
36-37.	Special Valuation – Historic Preservation	\$582.00
37-38.	Subdivisions – Preliminary	
A.	2 – 9 lots (not qualifying as a short subdivision)	\$8,220.00
B.	10 – 22 lots	\$11,885.00
C.	23+ lots	
1.	Base fee (for first 23 lots)	\$11,885.00
2.	Plus fee per lot (each lot more than 23)	\$296.00
D.	In conjunction with a planned development	½ regular fee
38-39.	Subdivisions – Final Plat Check	\$5,985.00
39-40.	Tenant Improvement, Including Multifamily (if exempt from site plan review)	\$111.00
40-41.	Tree Plan Review	
A.	Levels 1, 2, 4, 5	\$378.00
B.	Levels 3, 6, 7	\$126.00
41-42.	Variance (full fee for 1 variance; ½ cost for 2nd; \$0.00 for 3rd or more)	

Section	Activity	2023 Fees
A.	Type I	
1.	Single-family and duplex lots	\$787.00
2.	All other	\$822.00
B.	Type II	
1.	Single-family and duplex lots	\$2,484.00
2.	All other	\$5,983.00
42.43.	Zoning Certificates	\$857.00
43.44.	Zoning Map or Text Change (not involving comprehensive plan amendment)	\$10,305.00

1 Fees effective on January 1, 2023, shall be further adjusted as provided for under VMC [20.180.050](#).

2 Cost Recovery: Applicants or persons requesting reports will be required to sign an agreement that they will pay the actual cost of the work being performed. Actual costs will be calculated based on the salary and benefits of the employees performing work plus overhead at a rate of 30 percent.

3 Projects with approved master plans, which include preliminary stormwater and transportation plans, shall be entitled to a 30 percent reduction in the fee for stormwater and transportation plan review.

(ACM dated 1/9/2023, CPI Increase; Ord. M-4402 § 3(F), 2023; Amended during 7/22 update; Ord. M-4376 § 11 (Exh. A), 2022; Ord. M-4363 § 10 (Exh. A), 2022; ACM dated 12/28/2021, CPI Increase; ACM dated 11/30/2020, CPI-increase; ACM dated 12/19/2019, CPI Increase; Ord. M-4255 § 4, 2018; ACM dated 11/7/2018, CPI Increase; ACM dated 12/20/2017, CPI Increase; Ord. M-4205 § 1; ACM dated 11/23/2016, CPI Increase; Ord. M-4172 § 3, 2016; ACM dated 12/31/2015, CPI Increase; Ord. M-4097 § 2, 2014; ACM dated 1/1/2014, CPI Increase; Ord. M-4034 § 4, 2012; ACM dated 1/4/2012, CPI Increase; ACM dated 1/25/2011, CPI Increase; Ord. M-3959 § 5, 2010; Ord. M-3932 §§ 2, 3, 2009; Ord. M-3922 § 5, 2009; Ord. M-3895 § 3, 2008; Ord. M-3844

§ 4, 2007; Ord. M-3840 § 5, 2007; Ord. M-3701 § 5, 2005; Ord. M-3692 § 10, 2005; Ord. M-3663 § 4, 2004; Ord. M-3643, 2004)

The Vancouver Municipal Code is current through Ordinance M-4404, passed January 23, 2023.

Disclaimer: The city clerk's office has the official version of the Vancouver Municipal Code. Users should contact the city clerk's office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

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