

2.722 Dwelling site. "Dwelling site" means a designated location for residential use by one or more persons using temporary or movable shelter, including camping and recreational vehicle sites.

2.723 Dwelling unit. "Dwelling unit" means any structure or portion of a structure, or other shelter designed as short or long-term living quarters for one or more persons, including rental or timeshare accommodations such as motel, hotel, and resort rooms and cabins.

2.724 Extractive use. "Extractive use" means the use of land for surface or subsurface removal of sand, gravel, rock, industrial minerals, other nonmetallic minerals, and peat not regulated under Minnesota Statutes, sections 93.44 to 93.51.

2.725 Forest land conversion. "Forest land conversion" means the clear cutting of forested lands to prepare for a new land use other than reestablishment of a subsequent forest stand.

2.726 Guest Cottage. "Guest cottage" means a structure used as a dwelling unit that may contain sleeping spaces and kitchen and bathroom facilities in addition to those provided in the primary dwelling unit on a lot.

2.727 Hardship. "Hardship" means the same as that term is defined in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 462.

2.728 Height of building. "Height of building" means the vertical distance between the highest adjoining ground level at the building or ten feet above the lowest ground level, whichever is lower, and the highest point of a flat roof or average height of the highest gable of a pitched or hipped roof.

2.729 Industrial use. "Industrial use" means the use of land or buildings for the production, manufacture, warehousing, storage, or transfer of goods, products, commodities, or other wholesale items.

2.730 Intensive vegetation clearing. "Intensive vegetation clearing" means the complete removal of trees or shrubs in a contiguous patch, strip, row, or block.

2.731 Lot. "Lot" means a parcel of land designated by plat, metes and bounds, registered land survey, auditors plot, or other accepted means and separated from other parcels or portions by said description for the purpose of sale, lease, or separation.

2.732 Lot width. "Lot width" means the shortest distance between lot lines measured at the midpoint of the building line.

2.733 Nonconformity. "Nonconformity" means any legal use, structure or parcel of land already in existence, recorded, or authorized before the adoption of official controls or amendments thereto that would not have been permitted to become established under the terms of the official controls as now written, if the official controls had been in effect prior to the date it was established, recorded or authorized.

2.734 Ordinary high water level. "Ordinary high water level" means the boundary of public waters and wetlands, and shall be an elevation delineating the highest water level which has been maintained for a sufficient period of time to leave evidence upon the landscape, commonly that point where the natural vegetation changes from predominantly aquatic to predominantly terrestrial. For watercourses, the ordinary high water level is the elevation of the top of the bank of the channel. For reservoirs and flowages, the ordinary high water level is the operating elevation of the normal summer pool.

2.735 Planned unit development. "Planned unit development" means a type of development characterized by a unified site design for a number of dwelling units or dwelling sites on a parcel, whether for sale, rent, or lease, and also usually involving clustering of these units or sites to provide areas of common open space, density increases, and a mix of structure types and land uses. These developments may be organized and operated as condominiums, time-share condominiums, cooperatives, full fee ownership, commercial enterprises, or any combination of these, or cluster subdivisions of dwelling units, residential condominiums, townhouses, apartment buildings, campgrounds, recreational vehicle parks, resorts, hotels, motels and conversions of structures and land uses to these uses.

2.736 Public waters. "Public waters" means any waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 105.37, subdivisions 14 and 15.

2.737 Residential planned unit development. "Residential planned unit development" means a use where the nature of residency is nontransient and the major or primary focus of the development is not service-oriented. For example, residential apartments, manufactured home parks, time-share condominiums, townhouses, cooperatives, and full fee ownership residences would be considered as residential planned unit developments. To qualify as a residential planned unit development, a development must contain at least five dwelling units or sites.

2.738 Semipublic use. "Semipublic use" means the use of land by a private, nonprofit organization to provide a public service that is ordinarily open to some persons outside the regular constituency of the organization.

2.739 Sensitive resource management. "Sensitive resource management" means the preservation and management of areas unsuitable for development in their natural state due to constraints such as shallow soils over groundwater or bedrock, highly erosive or expansive soils, steep slopes, susceptibility to flooding, or occurrence of flora or fauna in need of special protection.

2.740 Setback. "Setback" means the minimum horizontal distance between a structure, sewage treatment system, or other facility and an ordinary high water level, sewage treatment system, top of a bluff, road, highway, property line, or their facility.

2.741 Sewage treatment system. "Sewage treatment system" means a septic tank and soil absorption system or other individual or cluster type sewage treatment system as described and regulated in Section 5.8 of this ordinance.

2.742 Sewer system. "Sewer system" means pipelines or conduits, pumping stations, and force main, and all other construction, devices, appliances, or appurtenances used for conducting sewage or industrial waste or other wastes to a point of ultimate disposal.

2.743 Shore impact zone. "Shore impact zone" means land located between the ordinary high water level of a public water and a line parallel to it at a setback of 50 percent of the structure setback.

2.744 Shoreland. "Shoreland" means land located within the following distances from public waters; 1,000 feet from the ordinary high water level of a lake, pond, or flowage; and 300 feet from a river or stream, or the landward extent of a floodplain designated by ordinance on a river or stream, whichever is greater. The limits of shorelands may be reduced whenever the waters involved are bounded by topographic divides which extend landward from the waters for lesser distances and when approved by the commissioner.

2.745 Significant historic site. "Significant historic site" means any archaeological site, standing structure, or other property that meets the criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places or is listed in the State Register of Historic Sites, or is determined to be an unplatted cemetery that falls under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 308.07. A historic site meets these criteria if it is presently listed on either register or if it is determined to meet the qualifications for listing after review by the Minnesota state archaeologist or the director of the Minnesota Historical Society. All unplatted cemeteries are automatically considered to be significant historic sites.

2.746 Steep slope. "Steep slope" means land where agricultural activity or development is either not recommended or described as poorly suited due to slope steepness and the site's soil characteristics, as mapped and described in available county soil surveys or other technical reports, unless appropriate design and construction techniques and farming practices are used in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance. Where specific information is not available, steep slopes are lands having average slopes over 12 percent, as measured over horizontal distances of 50 feet or more, that are not bluffs.

2.747 Structure. "Structure" means any building or appurtenance, including decks, except aerial or underground utility lines, such as sewer, electric, telephone, telegraph, gas lines, towers, poles, and other supporting facilities.

2.748 Subdivision. "Subdivision" means land that is divided for the purpose of sale, rent, or lease, including planned unit developments.

2.749 Surface water-oriented commercial use. "Surface water-oriented commercial use" means the use of land for commercial purposes, where access to and use of a surface water feature is an integral part of the normal conductance of business. Marinas, resorts, and restaurants with transient docking facilities are examples of such use.

2.750 Toe of the bluff. "Toe of the bluff" means the lower point of a 50-foot segment with an average slope exceeding 18 percent.

2.751 Top of the bluff. "Top of the bluff" means the higher point of a 50-foot segment with an average slope exceeding 18 percent.

2.752 Variance. "Variance" means the same as that term is defined or described in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 462.

2.753 Water-oriented accessory structure or facility. "Water-oriented accessory structure or facility" means a small, above ground building or other improvement, except stairways, fences, docks, and retaining walls, which, because of the relationship of its use to a surface water feature, reasonably needs to be located closer to public waters than the normal structure setback. Examples of such structures and facilities include boathouses, gazebos, screen houses, fish houses, pump houses, and detached decks.

2.754 Wetland. "Wetland" means a surface water feature classified as a wetland in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Circular No. 39 (1971 edition.)

2.755 Zoning Administrator. "Zoning Administrator" is the person appointed from time to time by the Vergas City Council to administer this ordinance.

SECTION 3.0 ADMINISTRATION.

3.1 Permits Required.

3.11 General Requirements. A permit is required for the construction of buildings or building additions (and including such related activities as construction of decks and signs), the installation and/or alteration of sewage treatment systems, and those grading and filling activities not exempted by Section 5.3 of this ordinance. A Site Permit shall also be obtained prior to moving a structure. Application for a permit shall be made to the Zoning Administrator on the forms provided and accompanied by a fee as established from time to time by the Council. Said fees shall be kept by the Zoning Administrator on a separate Fee Schedule. The application shall include a scale drawing of the proposal, and the necessary information so that the Zoning Administrator can determine the site's suitability for the intended use and that a compliant sewage treatment system will be provided. The Zoning Administrator may require an onsite inspection prior to issuing such a permit. The applicant shall notify the Zoning Administrator once the building footings have been constructed. The Zoning Administrator shall require use of the city sewer system, unless a variance has been issued for an on-site sewage treatment system.

3.12 Sewage Treatment. Before a Site Permit is issued the terms of this Ordinance shall be met. A permit authorizing an addition to an existing structure shall stipulate that an identified nonconforming sewage treatment system, as defined by Section 5.8 shall be reconstructed or replaced in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance. The Zoning Administrator shall require use of the city sewer system, unless a variance has been issued for reconstruction or replacement of the existing on-site sewage treatment system.