

Chapter 125. Zoning

Article IV. District Regulations

§ 125-9. Woodland-Conservation (W-C).

[Amended 4-8-1991; 12-9-1991; 4-12-1993; 5-11-1999; 7-13-1999; 2-12-2002; 6-10-2003; 6-21-2005; 12-19-2006; 12-16-2008; 4-21-2009; 6-16-2009; 10-20-2009; 4-20-2010; 9-16-2014; 2-7-2017]

- A. Statement of intent. It is the intent of this district to perpetuate the rural atmosphere, open space and scenic landscape of the area. This district is established for the specific purpose of conserving natural resources, protecting fragile environmental areas, reducing soil erosion, protecting watersheds, reducing hazards from flooding and protecting existing farmland. This district covers portions of the County which are occupied by mountain areas, heavily forested areas and other open space uses such as recreation areas, floodplains and farms. The area also contains portions where the depth to bedrock is shallow and presents some limitations to development. The protection of the Shenandoah River is also essential, and because of potential pollution problems due to on-lot sewage effluent, erosion and sedimentation from construction and disturbing of the landscape, the area near the river must remain open in nature.
- B. Permitted uses shall be as follows:
- (1) Forest, scenic and wildlife preserves and conservation areas.
 - (2) Agriculture.
 - (3) Wayside or roadside stand or market.
 - (4) Single-family detached dwellings.
 - (5) Cemeteries; police, fire and rescue squad stations; other essential public services.
 - (6) Portable sawmills, portable chipping mills, and portable shaving mills.
 - (7) Bed-and-breakfast establishments and short-term tourist rentals, subject to the provisions of § 125-30.21.
[Amended 8-1-2017]
 - (8) Manufactured homes and individual mobile homes.
 - (9) Electric facilities operated at 40 kilovolts or less.
 - (10) Confined feeding operations pursuant to the requirements of Article VI of this chapter and pursuant to all other provisions of this chapter.
 - (11) Only one permitted principal residential structure shall be allowed on any lot, tract or parcel of land.

- C. Permitted accessory uses located on the same lot with the permitted principal use shall be as follows:
- (1) Private garage or private parking area.
 - (2) Signs pursuant to § 125-20.
 - (3) Home occupations pursuant to § 125-15.
 - (4) Customary accessory uses and buildings, provided that they are clearly incidental to the principal use pursuant to § 125-16.
 - (5) Guesthouse, as defined in § 125-4.
 - (6) Family day home (less than five unrelated children).
 - (7) Small system wind energy facility.
 - (8) Windmill.
- D. Uses permitted by special permit shall be as follows:
- (1) Lodges or clubs for climbing, hunting, fishing, gunning, nature observation or other similar recreation purposes pursuant to § 125-22.
 - (2) Commercial outdoor recreation areas and facilities: parks (except amusement parks), playgrounds, picnic grounds, swimming clubs, country clubs, golf courses and driving ranges, miniature golf courses; archery; laser tag; paintball; and other similar uses, all pursuant to § 125-22.
 - (3) Churches and public schools.
 - (4) Electric facilities operated above 40 kilovolts.
 - (5) Publicly owned sanitary landfills which meet all federal, state and County requirements and regulations.
 - (6) Outdoor commercial recreation areas and facilities: camps and campgrounds pursuant to § 125-66.
 - (7) Pole-designed tower facilities or pole-designed structures not to exceed 100 feet in height with a minimum setback from all property lines of 200 feet, to be used for the primary purpose of communications, including, by way of illustration but not limited to, the following: telephone, radio, television, cable, and signal by special use permit.
 - (8) Commercial sawmills, commercial chipping mills, and commercial shaving mills pursuant to § 125-30.4.
 - (9) Commercial workshops, as defined in § 125-4.
 - (10) Veterinarian clinics, pet grooming, boarding and breeding of animals, as defined in § 125-4.
 - (11) Family day home (five or more unrelated children) pursuant to § 125-30.6.
 - (12) Small system wind energy facility.
 - (13) Windmill.

(14) Wholesale businesses and storage warehouses within "confined poultry feeding operation" buildings constructed prior to October 1, 2009. Storage of personal property of the property owner and all agricultural uses are exempt.

(15) Banquet facility and event facility.

(16) Auto repair service facility/public garage.

(17) Indoor and outdoor shooting ranges.^[1]

[1] *Editor's Note: Former Subsection D(18), Air bed-and-breakfast establishments, which immediately followed this subsection, was repealed 8-1-2017.*

(18) Commercial parking facilities.

[Added 3-17-2020]

E. Minimum lot size shall be as follows: area: 1 3/4 acres; width at setback line: 150 feet. Lots on cul-de-sac may have width reduced to 50 feet.

F. Minimum yard dimensions shall be as follows: front yard: 50 feet, except cul-de-sac lots may be 70 feet; each side yard: 20 feet; rear yard: 50 feet.

G. Maximum coverage and height shall be as follows: maximum building coverage: 15%; maximum height from average grade: 35 feet/2 1/2 stories. All accessory buildings shall be less than the main building in height, except as provided for in § 125-14D.

H. Any new structure designed to be occupied as a residence, church, school, community center or commercial establishment or industry or any other structure designed for public occupancy shall not be located closer than 300 feet from any confined feeding operation as defined in § 125-32, Article VI, of this chapter.

I. All wells in W-C Zoned Districts shall be a Class III "B" well and shall maintain a fifty-foot setback from all property lines adjacent to parcel(s) three acres or larger that are used for an agricultural operation, as defined in § 3.1-22.29(B), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.^[2] A variance may be sought through the Page County Board of Zoning Appeals for a well location closer than 50 feet to the property line if either of the following criteria listed can be achieved: i) the owner of the adjacent property that is used for an agricultural operation may grant written permission for construction within 50 feet of the property line; or ii) certification by the Page County Health Department that no other site on the property complies with zoning regulations for the construction of a private well. If approved, a variance conveyance form, which is part of the Page County appeal/variance application, must be recorded at the Page County Circuit Court within 90 days of the approval. Failed private drinking water wells that must be replaced by order of the local health department shall follow state health regulations for determining a site for a new well and are exempt from adhering to the foregoing variance procedure.

[2] *Editor's Note: See now Code of Virginia, § 3.2-300.*

J. Site plan. Before obtaining a zoning permit for the uses listed within this district either as a permitted use, accessory use or by special use permit a site plan shall be submitted with the zoning application (prior to construction). The site plan should include:

(1) Boundary of the parcel with project name, tax map number, and owner name and contact information.

(2) Building location and setbacks from property lines.

(3) Parking spaces.

(4) Proposed signs.

(5) Lighting with a description.