

Glossary of Terms

- AARP* – see *American Association of Retired Persons*.
- Absentee Ownership* – property that is owned by an individual who does not reside locally. Properties with absentee ownership tend to deteriorate more quickly because the owner is often not aware of the condition of the property.
- Act for the Special Assessment for Land Use Preservation* – Virginia Code Section 58.1-3229 *et seq.* permits a locality to adopt a program of preferential treatment for lands devoted to agricultural, horticultural, forestry, and open space uses.
- ADA* – see *Americans with Disabilities Act*.
- AFD* – see *Agricultural and Forestal Districts*.
- Affordable Housing* – as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is housing for which the occupant is paying no more than 30% of his or her gross income for housing costs, including utilities. Affordable housing strategies can include targeted programs to assist specific demographic groups such as low-income or workforce populations.
- Agricultural and Forestal Districts (AFD)* – a tax relief district established to promote the preservation, protection, and improvement of agricultural and forestal lands for the production of food and other products.
- Alley* – a narrow service street, not intended for heavy traffic, but specifically for access to adjacent businesses or homes.
- Alternative Transportation* – transportation by means other than automobile-based: walking, riding a bike, or taking the bus, for example.
- American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)* – a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization for people 50 and over.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)* – provides civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities and guarantees them equal opportunity in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications. (1990)
- Arterial Streets* – road that connect outer suburban communities with the central part of a community.
- BEV* – see *Blacksburg Electronic Village*.
- BMPs* – see *Best Management Practices*.
- “Big Box”* – large stand-alone retail or wholesale store, often larger than 75,000 square feet of gross floor area, designed in a warehouse style, requiring high parking-to-building area ratios. Also known as value retailers or superstores.
- Blacksburg Electronic Village (BEV)* – the outreach project of Virginia Tech that helps provide an electronic community network for the Town of Blacksburg.
- Blacksburg Strand* – Seven secondary and elementary schools within the Montgomery County Public County School System that educate primarily the children of Blacksburg: Blacksburg Middle School, Margaret Beeks Elementary School, Blacksburg High School, Gilbert Linkous Elementary School, Harding Avenue Elementary School, Kipps Elementary School, and Prices Fork Elementary School.
- Best Management Practices (BMPs)* – land management technique designed to reduce non-point source pollution inputs into receiving waters to improve water quality; actions, which are required by law, to keep soil and other pollutants out of streams and lakes to protect water quality and to prevent new pollution.

- Blueway* – A system of water trails along rivers and lakes that combine recreation and environmental awareness, allowing users to travel between access points, and enjoyment of land-based attractions in the vicinity.
- Broadband* – high speed, digital data communications. Requires special digital telephone lines. Normally more expensive than analog.
- Buffer* – a physical barrier or designated open space that moderates the influence that one land use has on an adjacent land use. For example, trees and yard space intentionally placed to separate a commercial building from a housing community to reduce noise and visual impacts. Can apply to riparian areas as well.
- Bungalow* – an affordable one-story residential house design originally brought to the U.S. from India. This design became popular during the first half of the 20th century.
- Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)* – five- to ten-year plans that show where facilities (such as roads) will be provided; allows local governments to match their capital expenditures with development needs and to guide development to intended areas.
- CBD* *see Central Business District.*
- Central Business District (CBD)* – a business, office, and residential district that provides a full range of services and a variety of uses in a downtown atmosphere.
- CIP*– *see Capital Improvements Plan.*
- Cluster Development* – A residential subdivision comprised typically of single-family suburban homes, but grouped together on smaller lots to create expanses of common open space and to preserve steep slopes, floodplains, and other environmentally sensitive areas. Also called compact development.
- Co-housing Development* – a tightly clustered residential development style that focuses on an internal pedestrian walkway system. Houses are placed to maximize the community's open space. A co-housing development is designed to promote a strong sense of community.
- Co-location* – the use, or construction, of a structure that accommodates more than one telecommunication or broadcasting facility such as antennas or other sending/receiving equipment.
- Collector Streets* – roads designed to carry moderate flows of traffic from between arterial streets and local roads.
- Community Park* – parkland used to serve several neighborhoods within a Blacksburg community.
- Comprehensive Plan* – the document that Virginia localities are legally required to produce, outlining policies the locality plans to achieve in the future related to growth, public services, infrastructure, etc.
- Conservation Easements* – a non-possessory interest in real property imposing limitations or affirmative obligations, the purposes of which include retaining or protecting natural, scenic or open space values of real property; assuring the availability of the property for agricultural use, protecting natural resources, or maintaining air or water quality.
- Contributing Structure* – a site that is designated as significant; it is at least 50 years old and reflects the historic, cultural, or archaeological features of the Town, or region.
- Cool Cities Coalition* – a set of strategies adopted by the Town to ward off global warming with energy conservation solutions. www.coolcities.com
- Corridors* – property along major roads and thoroughfares that influences traffic flow along a given road.

- Cost-Share Program* – a public / private venture by which the Town provides the equipment, labor, and professional services and the private entity provides funding for the cost of materials.
- CRC* – *see Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center.*
- Creek Valley Overlay* – a Town zoning overlay district to regulate land use and development on lands adjacent to streams and creeks to help protect watersheds and environmentally sensitive features.
- Cross-connection* – any actual or potential connection or structural arrangement between a public water supply and any other source or system through which it is possible to introduce into any part of the potable system any used water, water of questionable quality, industrial fluid, gas, or any substance other than the intended potable water with which the system is supplied. Bypass arrangements, jumper connections, removable sections, swivel or changeover devices, and other temporary or permanent devices through which or because of which backflow can or may occur are considered to be cross-connections.
- Cul-de-sac* – street or passage open at only one end; blind alley. Generally found in suburban style residential areas and designed to eliminate through traffic.
- Dark Sky Policies* – compliance practices that reduce glare and light pollution to eliminate wasted energy involving exterior lighting. For example, lights are set to shine down rather than up.
- Demand Side Management* – regional growth is decided by the extent of demand for a region’s product.
- Density Bonuses* – allocation of development rights that allow a parcel or tract of land to accommodate additional building square footage or additional residential units beyond the maximum for which the tract of land is zoned. These are usually in exchange for the provision or preservation of an amenity at the same site or at another location.
- Digital Divide* – the growing division between people connected to the internet, government e-services and e-mail and those who are not connected due to cost, lifestyle choice or education. The digital divide can be quite apparent between generations.
- District Park* – parkland used to serve the active recreational needs of the Town of Blacksburg; usually flatters properties, such as open fields or former farm fields, with buffers concentrated heavily on property borders and between nodes of activity.
- Dwelling Unit* – a room or group of connected rooms containing cooking, bathroom and sleeping facilities, constituting a separate, independent housekeeping unit, physically separated from any other dwelling unit in the same structure. Examples include houses, apartments, townhouses, duplexes, etc.
- E³* – *see Exemplary Environmental Enterprise.*
- Exemplary Environmental Enterprise (E³)* – A certification the Town of Blacksburg has achieved through The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality’s Environmental Excellence Program that encourages superior performance through environmental management systems and pollution prevention.
- E-Government* – electronic government; refers to the trend toward electronically provided government services to enhance traditional methods of conducting transactions, providing information, and facilitating citizen interaction.
- Easement* – an interest in real property that is held by someone other than the property owner, which limits all or part of the property to a specific use or condition.

- Emissions Requirement* – standards established by the federal government pertaining to what kind and how much of a certain gas is permissible to be emitted into the atmosphere. This is most often in regard to industrial and automobile emissions, etc.
- Fiber-Optic Technology* – strands of glass, yet stronger than steel, designed to carry vast amounts of data that can be transmitted by means of light-tightly focused laser beams.
- Fiscal Year* – an accounting period of any twelve months as established by the locality (October 1st to September 30th, April 1st to March 31st, July 1st to June 30th, etc.)
- Floodplain, Natural* – relatively flat land adjoining a river, creek, or stream subject to regular flooding.
- Floodproofing* – any combination of structural and nonstructural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures that reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures and their contents.
- Floor area* – The gross floor area is the sum of the horizontal areas of the several stories of a building, measured from the exterior faces of exterior walls, or in the case of a common wall separating two buildings, from the centerline of such common wall. Gross floor area excludes basements and attics.
- Gateways* – entrances into a community or specific areas of a community, typically along major transportation corridors.
- GIS or Geographic Information Systems* – A system for creating, storing, analyzing, and managing spatial data and associated attributes.
- Grandfather Clause* – provisions made in the zoning ordinance that allows nonconforming uses to continue legally if they were in effect prior to the passage of laws which then prohibit the use.
- Grass Pavers* – a somewhat pervious surface of pavement material that is designed to allow grass to grow up and through the pavement surface. They can significantly reduce water runoff. Brick and concrete are the most common materials used as grass pavers.
- Greek Housing* – buildings owned and operated by fraternal organizations; fraternity/sorority houses.
- Green Infrastructure* – an interconnected network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitats, greenways, parks, conservation lands, working farms and other open space areas that support native species, maintains natural ecological processes, sustains air and water resources and contributes to the health and quality of life for communities and people.
- Greenway* – linear stretches of open space, used as either public or private spaces, usually in the form of parks or trails. Serve as environmental buffers as well.
- Groundwater* – underground water that feeds stream base flows, wells, and springs.
- HDRB* – *see Historic or Design Review Board.*
- High/Low Water Subsystems* – Due to elevation, Blacksburg public water is provided through separate subsystems that serve different developments. Low subsystems serve developments at low elevations, and high subsystems serve developments at higher elevations.
- The Hill* – nickname of the Town of Blacksburg's municipal golf course.
- Historic District* – a collection of sites, structures, and landmarks that are of unique architectural, historic, and cultural significance to the Town, Commonwealth, or Nation.

- Historic or Design Review Board (HDRB)* – established by Ordinance 1206 of the Town Code to protect and preserve historic or archaeological sites in the town, enforce architectural proffers in Planned Residential and Industrial Zoning Districts, and provide recommendations to requests made by Town Council or the Planning Commission.
- Historic Overlay District* – a zoning classification applied to an existing Historic District where specific design guidelines are developed and a public review process is established to regulate alterations to the character of the Historic District.
- Hokie Stone* – nickname given to the limestone and dolomite mined locally and used on the facades of many of Virginia Tech’s buildings.
- Homeowners’ Association* – a nonprofit organization governed by its own bylaws, operating by land agreements generally through a specific subdivision. Each lot is subject to an automatic charge for a proportionate share of the expenses for the organization’s activities, which, if unpaid, become a lien against the property.
- Housing Stock* – conditional principles of housing in a community (i.e., cost, age, current condition, conformance to surrounding areas, etc.).
- Housing, High Density* – characterized by multiple dwelling units per acre, such as an apartment building.
- Housing, Low Density* – land use classification generally characterized by single-family detached style housing on lots of a quarter acre or larger.
- Housing, Transitional Density* – land use classification generally characterized by a mix of duplexes, townhouses, single family houses on small lots, and some multifamily dwellings.
- HUD* – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Impervious Surface* – surface that water is not able to pass through, such as asphalt in a parking lot and roofs.
- Infill Development* – the practice of building homes, businesses, and public facilities on unused and underutilized lands within existing developed areas; development or redevelopment of land that has been bypassed, remained vacant, and/or is underused as a result of the continuing urban development process.
- Infiltration* – pass through by a filtering process.
- Information superhighway* – coined in the early 1990s by the Clinton-Gore administration; used to describe ways of expanding the Internet beyond its current state.
- Infrastructure* – basic facilities such as roads, schools, power plants, transmission lines, and transportation and communications systems on which the continuance and growth of a community depends.
- Inclusionary Zoning* –see *Zoning*.
- ISTEA or Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991*– federal effort to address traditional policies held in transportation planning. For example, traditional models favored cars over all other modes of transportation. See also SAFETEA-LU and TEA-21.
- Internet* – the network of computer networks around the world, it is growing by leaps and bounds. There are many sources and providers of information on the “Net,” and almost as many ways to access them.
- Internet2* – Non-profit networking consortium that provides unique partnership opportunities with universities, industries, and government to develop advance network application and technologies. Also referred to asUCAID, University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development.

Itinerant Vendor – a person who is involved with a temporary or transient business, who occupies a location for less than 45 days.

Karst Terrain – areas that are underlain by soluble carbonate rock, such as limestone or dolomite. These areas are susceptible to dissolution that can result in sinkholes, caves, and underground streams.

Land Banking Funds – appropriations for the purchase of land by a local government for use or resale at a later date.

Land Use Intensity – how differing types of development impact a community.

LEED or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – a rating system that is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance environmentally-friendly buildings.

Levels of Service (LOS) – an accepted measured quality and quantity of public services. For example, there are nationally accepted levels of service grades, A, B, C, D & F for signalized intersections that engineers use to describe how well the intersection operates at given time by measuring the number of minutes and/or the number of light cycles it takes to drive through a particular intersection.

Light Pollution – unwanted light that occurs as a result of lighting parking lots, etc.

LMI – see *Low-Moderate Income*.

Local Streets – residential streets, not intended for heavy traffic flows.

Loop System – a utility term that refers to tying a utility line back into the main line in more than one location. This form of system can decrease inconveniences due to maintenance and increase the reliability of the utility.

LOS – see *Levels of Service*.

Lot – parcel of land owned separately, and independently.

Lot coverage – the portion of a lot that is covered by any building or structure, parking and loading areas, or any other impervious surface.

Lot, Depth of – average horizontal distance between front and rear lot lines.

Lot, Double frontage – a lot that borders one or more than one street (not including alleys).

Low-Moderate Income (LMI) – households earning at least the full-time minimum wage (nationally \$10,712) up to 120% of the local area median income

Master Plan – conceptual plan indicating interrelationships between uses and facilities on a site for those projects, phased developments, or developments occurring over a span of time, which may be adopted by an institution, business, or organization.

Manufactured Housing – a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which in the traveling mode is 8 body feet or more in width or 40 body feet or more in length, or, when erected on site, is 320 or more square feet, and which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent foundation. Manufactured homes are built in accordance with Federal standards known as the HUD Code, and include mobile homes, park trailers, travel trailers, and similar structures. Modular Homes are not a type of Manufactured Housing and are regulated differently.

MCPS – Montgomery County Public Schools

Median – strips of land between opposite directions of traffic, which can be used as a visual divider promoting aesthetic strengths of a locality.

Median family income – income level at which 50% of families earn more and 50% of families earn less.

Migratory Pollutants – mobile pollutants due to viscosity that can move through water, such as oil.

- Mixed Use* – practice of containing more than one type of use in a building or set of buildings; i.e., a combination of residential, commercial, industrial, office, institutional, or other uses being housed in one unit.
- Mobile Home* – see Manufactured Housing
- Modular Home* – a dwelling unit constructed on-site in accordance with the Virginia One and Two Family Dwelling Code and composed of components substantially assembled in a manufacturing plant and transported to the building site for final assembly on a permanent foundation.
- Multifamily development* – housing unit that provides accommodations for three or more (families) housing units.
- Multi-Modal* – more than one mode of transportation at a location. A bus stop and a train stop, for example could be located at the same city intersection.
- Neighborhood Park* – parkland located within walking distance of adjacent neighborhood(s) that serves the area’s specific recreational interests.
- National Lambda Rail (NLR)* – a major initiative of American research universities and private sector technology companies to provide a national-scale infrastructure for research and experimentation in networking technologies and applications.
- Neo-Traditional Development* – approach to land-use planning and urban design that promotes the building of neighborhoods with a mix of uses and housing types, architectural variety, a central public gathering place, interconnecting streets and alleys, and edges defined by greenbelts or boulevards. The basic goal is to integrate various activities to a particular location (i.e., shopping, housing, work, recreation, etc.).
- NLR*– see *National Lambda Rail*.
- Nonattainment* – the condition of not achieving a desired or required level of performance. Frequently used in reference to air quality.
- Nonconforming Building* – any building whose size, dimensions, or location was lawful when built, but fails to meet current standards and regulations according to amendments or revisions to the Town code.
- Nonconforming Use* – a use or activity that was lawful when originally created, but fails to meet current standards due to amendment or revision of ordinances.
- Non-contributing structure* – building, site or structure that does not add to the architectural qualities, or character of the area. This designation is primarily used when a site is not more than fifty years old or has lost its historic character through significant building alterations.
- Non-point source pollution* – pollution that cannot be attributed to a specific industry that can be constantly monitored and regulated. Chemical runoff from a parking lot would be an example. (Excessive sediment from erosion is the greatest pollutant in Virginia streams.)
- Occupancy* – the period during which one owns, rents, uses, or occupies a certain premises or land. Often refers to the number of persons allowed by law to live in a dwelling unit.
- Off-Road Trails* – generally multi-purpose trails designed to hold pedestrian and bike traffic, but independent from roads and automobile traffic.
- On-Road Trails* – bicycle lanes on existing roadways separated from vehicular traffic use.
- Open Landscapes* – landscapes exposed to continuous sunlight, unprotected by trees or shrubs. (Marshlands, grasslands, desert landscapes, and rocky terrain are examples.)
- Open Space* – land and water areas retained for use as active or passive recreation areas or for resource protection in an essentially undeveloped state. Refer to Blacksburg’s

Zoning Ordinance for specific requirements, but generally 50% of developed land must remain open space.

Overlay District – a district established by ordinance in order to prescribe special regulations to be applied to a site in combination with the underlying or base district.

Place of Worship – a permanent structure that serves as the primary location for regular, organized religious assembly such as churches, synagogues, mosques, etc.

Planned Unit Development (PUD) – planned development that allows more leeway in the application of the zoning ordinance to a tract of land (may allow mixed uses, flexibility of development standards, etc.).

Population Density – the number of persons living in a given geographic area such as a town, neighborhood, or locality. This statistic is usually given in terms of persons per square mile.

Porous – full of pores through which liquids, light, or air can pass. Sandstone is a porous rock and can therefore absorb water well.

Proffer – a developer provides public services in exchange for right to develop land, for example developing parks and greenways.

PUD – see *Planned Unit Development*.

Radon – a colorless, odorless gas that occurs naturally and can be deadly. Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water.

Reforestation – replanting or planting of forest plant materials. Also includes planting in areas not originally forested for mitigation purposes.

Regionalism – dealing with issues and problems that cross multiple legal jurisdictions or localities.

Regional Park- multi-jurisdictional parkland used to provide a wide variety of activities, including non-traditional recreation, for the greater community.

Religious Assembly – a use located in a permanent building and providing regular organized religious worship and related incidental activities, except primary or secondary schools and day-care facilities.

Rental Inspection Program – a Town program to maintain safe, decent, and sanitary living conditions for tenants typically living in neighborhoods located close to campus on a routine inspection schedule. Any rental property within the Town can be inspected upon request/complaint.

Renter vs. Owner-Occupied Housing – the ratio between rented housing units versus units where the property owner lives on-site.

Retention Ponds – a form of storm water management used for holding a specified amount of water runoff for a period of time.

Ridgeline – a line connecting the highest points along a ridge and separating drainage basins, or small-scale drainage basins, or small-scale drainage systems from one another.

Right of Way – legally established area or strip of land, publicly or privately-owned, intended to be occupied by a street, utility service, water main, sanitary or storm sewer main, or similar use.

Riparian- relating to or living or located on the bank of a natural watercourse (as a river or stream).

Riparian Forest – highly productive streamside vegetative communities, offering important benefits to a stream ecosystem, including vegetation that can remove nitrogen before it reaches a water body.

Runoff – precipitation leaving a site due to the force of gravity.

Sanitary Sewer – wastewater collection system that relies on gravity or pumps for the movement of the waste from its source to a treatment facility.

SAFETEA_LU or Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users – This new law establishes extensive new resources and opportunities to advance highway safety throughout the country in a comprehensive, strategic manner. Reauthorization of ISTEA and TEA-21 programs.

Sedimentation – deposits of soil, sand, pebbles, and stone fragments by water, which can create a flooding hazard when it fills rivers or streams, reducing the capability of a river channel to carry water.

Septic Tank Effluent Gravity (STEG) and Septic Tank Effluent Pumping (STEP) – a system where sewerage from a residence enters an onsite underground tank where effluent is primarily treated, filtered, and drained through small-diameter public lines to a treatment location.

Service Level Demand – the amount of community services that are demanded from a certain service radius.

Service Radius – an area for which community services, such as fire and police, are designated and allocated.

Setback – a legally enforceable buffer zone between properties that requires that a minimum space remain between the property line and any building construction.

Sewershed – an area in which sewer flows by gravity.

Shared Pathway – surface area designed for multi-purpose uses, for example, bikes and pedestrians.

Signage – the placement of informational or directional signs, indicating traffic patterns for drivers, for example.

Single Family Occupancy – a dwelling unit designed and intended for one family.

Site Plan Review – review of the site plan of any public or private project by the department of planning or the planning commission.

Sixteen Squares—The original sixteen blocks that comprised Blacksburg when the Town was incorporated by the Virginia General Assembly in 1798.

Smart Road – transportation research project developed by Virginia Tech, implementing technological features to improve the operation of vehicles, roads, and human interaction with the transportation system.

Special Exception – some designated local body must review any application to establish a use on a particular site. This is also called a “Use by Review.”

Special Use Permit – utilization of a property authorized by a zoning ordinance, but not permissible unless certain stated criteria have been met.

Sprawl – low-density land-use patterns that are automobile dependent, requiring high ratios of road surface to the development served.

Stealth Technology – generally referring to telecommunication or broadcasting facilities; the “invisible,” camouflaged, or integrated siting of towers, antenna, or other equipment into an area (e.g., antennas on or within existing structures, “tree, flagpole, light post, or other common fixture” towers, etc.).

STEG/STEP – see *Septic Tank Effluent Gravity (STEG) and Septic Tank Effluent Pumping (STEP)*.

Steep-Slope Provisions – topographic areas that are generally unsuitable for development due to the steep grades. These areas are conversely the most valuable to maintain as open space due to their visibility, impact on viewsheds, and effect on water run off.

Stormwater Management – physical improvements and other techniques that control the rate of release of water runoff from a site into the surrounding areas or downstream.

Stormwater Mitigation – physical improvements and other techniques that reduce the impact of water runoff from a site into the surrounding areas or downstream.

Strip Development – commercial, retail, or industrial development, usually one lot deep that fronts on a major street.

Sub-sewershed – a specific portion of a designated sewershed.

Subdivision Regulations – land use controls that govern the divisions of land into two or more lots.

Surface Water – water on the earth’s surface exposed to the atmosphere such as rivers, lakes, and creeks.

Sustainable Blacksburg – a collaborative community partnership formed as part of a \$95,000 U.S. EPA Resource Conservation Challenge grant received by the Town of Blacksburg to address toxic chemical risks facing the community.

TDR – *see Transfer of Development Rights.*

TEA-21 – *Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century*; the reauthorization of the ISTEA program to promote and fund alternative, multi-modal forms of transportation. See also SAFETEA_LU.

TMDL – *see Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan.*

Technology Park – Commercial real estate development with emphasis on Research and Development and technology tenants instead of traditional industrial plants.

Telecommuting – employees who are able to work out of their homes rather than physically commuting to a job everyday.

Telemetry – equipment used to transmit data via communication lines or radio signals to enable automated operation of a mechanical system; in this context, the electronics that operate the Town’s water and sewerage systems.

Tier III – An information technology classification referencing Blacksburg’s past rural and small market size.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan (2006) – a framework for reducing fecal coliform (FC) levels to achieve water quality goals for impaired stream segments, for example in Stroubles Creek watersheds.

Town-Gown Government Relations Committee – a forum for interested stakeholders, including Virginia Tech and Town of Blacksburg affiliates.

Townscape’s “Civic Beautification” Award Program – a program that fosters community pride and promotes initiatives to enhance community maintenance and appearance.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) – to move development rights and densities to another parcel of land and the recordation of that conveyance among the land records of the locality.

Unbuilt Right-of-Way – an area where construction of a road, utility, or other public venture is planned or authorized, but not yet built.

Urban Forestry – trees located in an urban environment that are placed to improve the area’s character and aesthetics, or to reduce noise and pollutants.

Urban Landscaping – integration of vegetation (shrubs, flowers, etc.) into an urban environment.

Urban Services – defined geographic areas where new or improved infrastructure is planned.

Viewshed – area within view from a defined observable point.

Virginia Conservation Easement Act – Virginia Code Section 10.1-1009, authorizes the creation of conservation easements whereby the easement is held by a charitable organization.

- Virginia Natural Heritage Program* – a program dedicated to the identification, protection, and stewardship of Virginia's biodiversity.
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)* – Virginia's largest university enrolling more than 26,000 students, located in the Town of Blacksburg.
- Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center (CRC)* – a growing research park located adjacent to Virginia Tech for high-technology companies.
- Wastewater System* – any system that involves the movement and treatment of effluent from its source to where it is discharged.
- Watershed* – an area in which water flows by gravity downstream to a specific location.
- Wetlands* – lands submerged underwater frequently, or long enough to support habitats suitable for saturated conditions.
- WTOB* – Town of Blacksburg Public Access Television station tasked with providing notices, bulletins, educational material, and other information pertinent to the function of the Town government and residents.
- Zero-lot Line* – allows houses to border property boundaries in order to promote diverse development.
- Zoning* – parcels of land set aside for certain types and intensities of development in a way that is compatible with surrounding real estate and in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan.
- Zoning, Inclusionary* – encourages construction of affordable housing. (May require that a certain percentage of housing units in a development are affordable. See affordability.)
- Zoning Density* – the amount of dwelling units per acre permitted by the zoning ordinance.
- Zoning Ordinance* – outlines what type of development allowed in a certain location.

Sources: Davidson M., and Fay Dolnick. A Glossary of Zoning, Development, and Planning Terms. American Planning Association. 1999.

Neufeldt, Victoria. Webster's New World College Dictionary. Third Edition. Simon & Schuster, Inc. New York, NY. 1997.

www.wikipedia.org

www.nhc.org

www.usgbc.org/LEED

www.greenbelt.org

www.blacksburg.gov

www.vt.edu

www.state.va.us

www.planning.org

www.greeninfrastructure.net