

5-20.1. Regulations for Zoning District RC-1, Rural Countryside District.

(1) **Intent.** The Rural Countryside district is an agriculture district. The intent of the RC-1 district is to conserve farm and forest land and to encourage agricultural activities, thereby helping to ensure that commercial agriculture and silviculture will continue as long-term land uses and viable economic activities within the county. The RC-1 district is also established to preserve natural features and the rural landscape, while allowing low density residential development when it is located and designed to minimize its impact on agricultural land, farming and silviculture, and sensitive environmental features; to create attractive rural developments; and to respect existing features of the rural landscape. Cluster development is encouraged to better achieve these goals.

(2) **Permitted Uses** (also identified in Table of Uses Permitted by District, Sec. 5-70).

- a. The **use** table in e below lists Permitted uses (P) through administrative review, uses permitted by Special Exception (SE), and uses permitted by Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Refer to Article 14 – Administrative Procedures Sections 14-16 thru 14-23 for procedures related to Special Exceptions (SEs) and Conditional Use Permits (CUPs). **(Revise as needed once Art 14 is revised and reorganized.)**
- b. Certain uses have additional, modified or more stringent standards listed in Article 9B Supplemental Use Regulations. References to those regulations are identified in the use table in (e) below for each use in which they apply.
- c. No building or structure shall be erected, added to, structurally altered, or land use be established or changed in use without a permit issued by the administrator. In the RC-1 district, buildings or other structures associated with the production of agricultural or forestal products are exempt from obtaining a zoning permit.
- d. **In the RC-1 district more than one (1) permitted principal use and its associated structures may be established on a single lot, provided that yard and other requirements of this ordinance shall be met.**
- e. **Use Table for RC-1 Rural Countryside District.**

Permitted Uses: RC-1 Rural Countryside District	Supplemental Regulations	P	SE	CUP
Agricultural, Animal, and Outdoor				
Agriculture				
Agricultural operation		√		
Agriculture processing				√
Agritourism		√		
Application of Biosolids	9B-2.10	√		
Aquaculture facility	9B-2.20	√		
Concentrated animal feeding operation	9B-2.30	√		

Permitted Uses: RC-1 Rural Countryside District	Supplemental Regulations	P	SE	CUP
Farm brewery, limited	9B-2.40	√		
Farm distillery, limited	9B-2.40	√		
Farm livestock market				√
Farm produce stand	9B-2.50		√	
Farm wayside stand	9B-2.60	√		
Farm winery	9B-2.40	√		
Farmers' market	9B-2.50		√	
Forestry operation		√		
Animal				
Animal care and/or training facility (Kennel)	9B-3.10		√	
Animal shelter, private	9B-3.10		√	
Animal training services	9B-3.20		√	
Domestic pets		√		
Livestock, private use or enjoyment	9B-3.40	√		
Livestock, private use or enjoyment, requesting acreage reduction	9B-3.40		√	
Stable, commercial	9B-3.50	√		
Stable, private	9B-3.60	√		
Stable, private requesting acreage reduction	9B-3.60		√	
Outdoor				
Campground	9B-4.10			√
Camping, personal use or enjoyment	9D-30	√		
Firing range, outdoor	9B-4.20			√
Golf course			√	
Hunting and fishing clubs		√		
Marina				√
Nature based tourism			√	
Outdoor recreational club			√	
Wetland mitigation bank				√
Civic and Institutional Uses				
Cemetery	9B-5.10			√
Churches and other places of worship		√		
Day care center, adult			√	
Day care center, child			√	
Family day home, 5-12 children	9B-5.20	√		
Fire and/or EMS company stations		√		
Food pantry / soup kitchen			√	
Lodge halls and clubs			√	
Museum		√		
Park, natural area, or community facility	9B-5.30	√		
Public building / facility		√		

Permitted Uses: RC-1 Rural Countryside District	Supplemental Regulations	P	SE	CUP
Residential group homes, 1-8 individuals	9B-5.40	√		
Residential group homes, 9+ individuals	9B-5.40			√
Schools, post-secondary				√
Schools, private elementary/secondary				√
Schools, private, in-home		√		
Schools, public elementary/secondary		√		
Transitional Home, 1-8 individuals	9B-5.50			√
Consumer Products and Services (commercial)				
Commercial outdoor entertainment, amusement, or sports, major	9B-6.60			√
Commercial outdoor entertainment, amusement or sports, minor	9B-6.60		√	
Event facility	9B-6.80			√
Firing range, indoor	9B-6.90			√
Sales, general store, country	9B-6.100		√	
Sales, retail/wholesale, outdoor	9B-6.120			√
Taxidermy and /or pet crematorium			√	
Veterinary clinic	9B-6.140		√	
Consumer Products and Services (commercial) Lodging				
Bed and breakfast			√	
Inn				√
Industrial and Utilities				
Industrial				
Airport, commercial				√
Airstrip, private				√
Contractor storage yards			√	
Dredge spoil site				√
Freight containers as accessory structures	9D-10	√		
Landfill, construction debris				√
Manufacturing, craft			√	
Manufacturing, extractive	9B-7.30			√
Manufacturing, light				√
Manufacturing, medium				√
Manufacturing, food and beverage production and/or processing				√
Mine, surface mineral	9B-7.40			√
Organic waste recycling facility				√
Sawmills		√		
Seafood processing plant			√	
Utilities				

Permitted Uses: RC-1 Rural Countryside District	Supplemental Regulations	P	SE	CUP
Commercial communication facility, major	9B-8.10		√	
Commercial communication facility, minor	9B-8.10	√		
Power utility-electric	9B-8.20			√
Solar energy facility, commercial community-scale	9B-8.30			√
Solar energy facility, private large-scale, ground mounted	9B-8.30	√		
Solar energy facility, private large-scale, roof mounted/solar canopy	9B-8.30	√		
Solar energy facility, private small-scale	9B-8.30	√		
Solar energy facility, utility -scale	9B-8.30			√
Uses required for provision and maintenance of public utilities	9B-8.40	√		
Wind energy facility	9B-8.50	√		
Residential				
Ancillary residential structure or use	9B-9.10	√		
Dwelling, accessory	9B-9.20	√		
Dwelling, single-family detached, cluster	9B-9.50	√		
Dwelling, single-family detached, conventional	9B-9.60	√		
Home occupation, Type I	9B-9.70	√		
Home occupation, Type II	9B-9.70		√	
Manufactured Home		√		

(3) **Minimum Lot Area and Maximum Residential Density.**

- a. Lot size:
 - i. Minimum lot area: 5 acres (or as specified in Article 9B Supplementary Use Regulations for specific uses)
 - ii. Minimum frontage/average lot width: 250 feet (or as specified in Article 9B Supplementary Use Regulations for specific uses)
- b. Density: Maximum residential density: 0.2 dwelling units **or manufactured homes** per gross acre; see Section 9B-9.50 for clustered single family residential and Section 9B-9.20 for **accessory** dwellings.

(4) **Lot coverage.** As required by other local, state, or federal regulations including but not limited to Chesapeake Bay Preservation and Stormwater Management Ordinances.

(5) **Setback requirements.**

a. Setback table

	Front	Side	Rear
Principal Building / Structure	75 feet	50 feet	100 feet
Accessory Building / Structure	75 feet	5 feet	5 feet

b. Additional Setback Regulations:

- i. For nonconforming lots of record see Section 10-3 Nonconforming lots of record.
- ii. If lot is part of a cluster subdivision, the setbacks shall be the same as those required for the cluster subdivision. See Section 9B-9.50 for cluster developments.
- iii. There is no setback requirement for fences **or retaining walls**; however on corner lots **they** must comply with Article 9E Other Regulations “Visibility at Intersections” Section 9E-30 and fences within the Highway Corridor Overlay District must comply with Article 6A Highway Corridor Development District setbacks.
- iv. Architectural projections, as defined in Article 2, shall be considered parts of the building to which attached and shall not project into the required minimum front, side, or rear yard and shall comply with the requirements of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code.
- v. **There is no setback requirement for residential utilities and utility shelters such as well pump houses, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units, generators, and the like.**
- vi. **Where a development requiring a site plan is proposed to encompass and be situated on multiple existing lots, the lot lines separating said lots shall be vacated through the preparation and recordation of a plat in accordance with the subdivision ordinance. There shall be no fee for boundary line vacation plats necessitated by this requirement. The recordation of such plat shall be required prior to site plan approval. In the event the development proposed can stand alone on each of the lots and in compliance with all applicable setback, parking, and other zoning requirements, then vacation of the lot lines shall not be required. Buildings cannot straddle property lines unless they meet building code requirements and are located in a zoning district where setback requirements do not apply.**

(6) **Building / Structure Requirements.** Maximum footprint and height.

	Maximum Footprint	Maximum Height <i>See i & ii below.</i>
Principal Building / Structure	None	50 feet
Accessory Building / Structure	None	35 feet <i>See iii below.</i>

i – The height limitations do not apply to buildings/structures used for agricultural purposes or to spires, belfries, cupolas, antennas, water tanks, ventilators, chimneys, or other appurtenances usually required to be placed above the roof level and not intended for human occupancy except where the height of such structures will constitute a hazard to the safe landing and take-off of aircraft at an established airport. For uses such as commercial communication facilities, solar energy facilities, utilities, and wind energy facilities see associated Article 9B Supplemental Use Regulations.

*ii – The maximum permitted height of principal buildings located in designated special flood hazard areas inundated by the one hundred (100) year flood shall be **an additional five (5) feet above the** height limitation set forth **above.***

iii – If an accessory building meets principal building setback requirements, it may also utilize the same maximum height.

(7) **Other Requirements. (None)**

(8) **Other Regulations. The following regulations may be applicable to uses in this district.**

- a. See Article 6A Highway Corridor Development District. For lots located along Route 17 additional requirements apply.
- b. See Article 9A for Supplementary Regulations applicable to all Districts.
- c. See Article 9B for Supplementary Use Regulations
- d. See Article 9C for Screening and Buffering regulations
- e. See Article 9D for regulations related to Temporary and Accessory Uses/Structures.
- f. See Article 10 for regulations related to Nonconformities.
- g. See Article 11 for regulations related to Off-Street Parking and Loading Facilities.
- h. See Article 12 for regulations related to Signs.