

Article 3.K:  
**I-1, Light Industrial District**

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**I-1 District**  
**(Light Intensity Industrial District)**

**A. Purpose and Intent:**

The I-1, Light Intensity Industrial District is established to provide locations within the Town of Smithfield for industries related to research technology, development and training, corporate employment offices and light manufacturing and warehousing operating under high environmental performance standards. The district is further established to encourage innovative design of office and employment related development.

From a design standpoint, this district is intended to promote the development of light intensity land uses in planned business park settings, with an emphasis on low density, well landscaped and screened development which would be compatible with all types of adjoining urban land uses, including residential, and afford maximum protection to surrounding properties. No use should be permitted which might be harmful to the adjoining land uses and the residential ambience of the adjacent neighborhoods. Outdoor storage and outdoor industrial uses are to be discouraged but may be permitted (by special permit and environmental performance review) under unique circumstances.

**B. Permitted Uses:**

1. Establishments for scientific research (except biological and chemical), development and training.
2. Corporate offices and other offices which support permitted and special permit uses.
3. Light manufacturing, fabrication, testing or repair establishments which are incidental to the primary use of research, development and training or corporate offices (with no outdoor storage, loading, or displays).
4. Banks and financial institutions without drive-thru facilities, excluding payday lending and check-cashing establishments.
5. Private training facilities and vocational schools.
6. Light warehousing establishments, without outdoor storage.
7. Light wholesale trade establishments, without outdoor storage.
8. Private post offices and delivery service establishments.
9. Veterinary hospitals with no outdoor kennel facilities.
10. Service stations with pump islands only and no outdoor storage or automobile repair facilities.

11. Public utilities and facilities (to be constructed by developer for public acceptance).  
(Ord. of 4-5-2011)

**C. Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit:**

1. Establishments for production, processing, assembly, manufacturing, compounding, cleaning, servicing, storage, testing and repair of materials, goods or products which conform to federal, state and local environmental performance standards as related to (a) air pollution, (b) fire and explosion hazards, (c) radiation hazards, (d) electromagnetic radiation and interference hazards, (e) liquid and solid wastes hazards, (f) noise standards and (g) vibration standards.
2. Light manufacturing, fabrication, testing or repair establishments (with screened outdoor storage limited to 50% of the area of building coverage).
3. Child day care centers.
4. Light warehousing establishments, with screened outdoor storage limited to 50% of the area of building coverage.
5. Light wholesale trade and sales establishments, with screened outdoor storage limited to 50% of the area of building coverage.
6. Heliports and helipads, ancillary to a district use.
7. Service stations.
8. Auto and light vehicle service establishments (with screening for servicing and storage areas).
9. Uses permitted by right and by special use permit in the HR-C District.
10. Eating establishments, ancillary to I-1 District uses.
11. Heavy equipment sales and servicing (with screening for servicing and storage areas).
12. Retail sales in a warehouse or wholesale establishment, wherein at least 60% of the gross floor area is devoted to warehouse use.
13. Establishments for biological and chemical scientific research, development and training.
14. Contractor's office, shops and storage yards.
15. Any use incorporating a drive-thru facility.
16. Any use requiring outdoor storage, loading, or display
17. Payday lending establishments, check-cashing establishments, pawn shops, and dealers.
18. Waiver of building height.
19. Waiver of lot size to a minimum 20,000 square feet per lot.
20. Waiver of district size when in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan.
21. Waiver of floor area ratio and building coverage.
22. Communication Towers.
23. Waiver of Parking and Loading Requirements.
24. Shipping Container (accessory use).

(Ord. of 9-5-2000, Ord. of 9-2-2008, 4-5-2011; Ord. of 2023-03-07; Ord. of 2023-12-05)

**D. Prohibited Uses:**

The specific uses which follow shall not be permitted in the I-1 District.

1. Animal slaughterhouse.
2. Ammonia and chlorine manufacturing.
3. Asphalt mixing plant.
4. Blast furnace.
5. Boiler works.
6. Bulk storage of flammable materials.
7. Concrete mixing and batching products.
8. Coal, wood or wood distillation.
9. Extraction and mining of rocks and minerals.
10. Fertilizer, lime or cement manufacturing.
11. Fireworks or explosives manufacturing.
12. Private garbage incineration.
13. Rendering plants.
14. Automated salvage and other salvage yards.
15. Metal foundries, smelting, processing, fabrication and storage.
16. Soap manufacture.
17. Stockyards.
18. Acid manufacture.
19. Tanning and curing of skins.
20. Petroleum, asphalt or related product refining.
21. Private landfills.
22. Pesticide manufacturing.
23. Herbicide manufacturing.
24. Insecticide manufacturing.
25. (Repealed by Ord. 9-5-2000)
26. Any other similar use which in the opinion of the Town Council might be injurious or noxious by reason of odor, fumes, dust, smoke, vibration, noise or other cause.
27. All residential uses.
28. All nonconforming uses shall not be allowed to expand facilities.

(Ord. of 9-5-2000)

**E. Maximum Density:**

Regulated by floor area ratio.

**F. Lot Size Requirements:**

1. Minimum district size: 5 acres
2. Minimum lot area: 40,000 square feet
3. Minimum lot width: 150 feet

**G. Bulk Regulations:**

1. Maximum building height: 50 feet,  
except where use abuts a residential district, the maximum  
building height shall be 35 feet.
2. Minimum yard requirements:
  - A. Front yard: 50 feet,  
provided that a 30 foot setback is required for the outdoor  
display of items within the front yard.
  - B. Side yard: 25 feet,  
except where side yard abuts a public right of way or a  
residential district, the side yard shall be 50 feet.
  - C. Rear yard: 50 feet
  - D. Side and rear yard requirements may be waived where a side or  
rear yard abuts a railroad right of way.
3. Maximum floor area ratio: 0.50
4. Maximum building area coverage: 0.30

**H. Open Space:**

1. An open space plan and landscape design program shall be submitted with applications

for any land use governed by this district.

2. Twenty (20) percent of the site shall be landscaped open space, provided that no more than fifty (50) percent of the dedicated open space shall consist of land classified as 100 year floodplain, stream valleys, wetlands, slopes greater than thirty (30) percent and/or drainage easements.

#### I. Net Developable Area Calculation for I-1 District:

1. Notwithstanding governing lot size and yard regulations, the density and building coverage for I-1 uses on any lot shall be calculated based on its net developable area, with adjustment factors for physical land units as specified in the chart in the following section.
2. The final plat and/or site plan for a project shall graphically depict the location and area for the physical land units as outlined herein below. A calculation of the net developable area shall be required for all subdivision and site plan submissions. *(Refer to illustrative example of net developable area calculation in the appendix of the Zoning Ordinance.)*

<b>Physical Land Unit</b>	<b>Percent Credited Toward Net Acreage</b>
<i>Slopes less than 10%:</i>	100%
<i>Slopes from 10% but less than 20%:</i>	75%
<i>Slopes from 20% but less than 30%:</i>	50%
<i>Slopes 30% or more:</i>	10%
<i>Soils with high shrink/swell characteristics, as defined:</i>	75%
<i>Wetlands, existing water features and streams:</i>	0%
<i>Stormwater management basins and structures:</i>	0%
<i>Above-ground 69 KV or greater transmission lines:</i>	0%
<i>Public right-of-way</i>	0%
<i>Private streets, travelways and combined travelways and parking bays</i>	0%

3. No credit towards net developable area shall be given for planned public rights-of-way, private streets, travelways and combined travelways and parking bays within a lot or property to be developed or subdivided. Twenty percent (20%) shall be subtracted from the calculated net developable acreage to allow for street rights of way, unless it can be demonstrated by survey calculations to the satisfaction of the Planning Commission that proposed street rights of way, private streets, travelways and combined travelways and parking bays in a subdivision will be less than 20% percent of the calculated net acreage.

4. No I-1 District lot shall be configured such that more than 10% of the prescribed minimum lot area is comprised of one or more of the following physical land units: (a) slopes 30% or more, (b) wetlands, (c) 100-year floodplains and (d) water features.  
(Ord. of 8-1-2001)

**J. Additional Regulations:**

1. An environmental impact statement may be required by the Planning Commission or Town Council for any permitted or special permit use.
2. Refer to Sign Regulations, Article 10 for signage provisions.
3. Refer to Landscaping and Screening, Article 9, for screening and buffer yard provisions.
4. All refuse shall be contained in completely enclosed facilities.
5. On a corner lot, no curb cut shall be located closer than 60 feet to the curb line extended from the intersecting public street.
6. No curb cut shall be located closer than 20 feet to a side or rear lot line, unless a common curb cut serves adjacent uses, and in no instance shall the distance between separate curb cuts serving adjacent uses be less than 60 feet.
7. A freestanding use shall have no more than two curb cuts on any single right-of-way, and such curb cuts shall have a minimum distance of 100 feet between them.
8. The outdoor area devoted to storage, loading and display of goods shall not exceed 25% of the total lot coverage, provided that the combined building and outdoor storage, loading and display areas shall not exceed 50% of the total lot coverage. Such outdoor areas shall not be counted in the calculation of required open space. The location and use of outdoor storage, loading and display areas shall be limited to the designated area(s) on the approved site plan.
9. Where a lot is contiguous to property located in a residential district, all buildings shall have a minimum setback of 50 feet from common property lines. A landscaped buffer yard shall be provided, with landscape materials and placement subject to final plan approval. Fencing may be required in such cases with fence material and heights subject to final plan approval.

10. All uses in the I-1 District shall be subject to site plan approval.
11. There shall be a minimum landscaped buffer strip of 20 feet in depth along all I-1 District property frontage. No parking is permitted within the buffer strip. The landscape green strip shall be exclusive of the area required for utility easements, sidewalks and other infrastructure which would interrupt the nature and intent of the buffer area.
12. Refer to the Floodplain Zoning Overlay District, where applicable.
13. Refer to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Overlay District.
14. Any subdivision or lot which is proposed to be developed on shrink/swell soils shall require a geotechnical report to be submitted with the preliminary plat and plans. Such report shall be prepared by a registered professional engineer and shall address the feasibility of development on the subject soils. No subdivision plat or site plan shall be approved for final recordation until a foundation engineering report has been reviewed by the Town. All recorded plats for lots containing shrink/swell soils shall bear the following note: *"This lot contains shrink/swell soils which require special engineering design for foundations and structural elements. No structure will be approved for issuance of a building permit until a foundation engineering design prepared by a certified professional engineer has been approved for the proposed structure."*
15. Subject to special use permit approval, the outdoor areas of an I-1 use devoted to storage, loading, and display of goods shall be limited to a maximum 50% of the lot area and as otherwise designated on an approved site plan. Outdoor storage, loading and display areas in excess of 50% of the area of building coverage may be approved under special circumstances when the applicant can provide expanded and enhanced screening, buffers and landscaping.