



Definitions of Vested Property Rights

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained daily by MTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee municipal government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Reference Number: MTAS-1991

“*Applicant*” means a landowner or developer or any party, representative, agent, successor, or heirs of the landowner or developer.

“*Construction*” means the erection of construction materials in a permanent manner, and includes excavation, demolition, or removal of an existing building.

“*Development plan*” means both a preliminary development plan and a final development plan.

“*Development standards*” means all locally adopted or enforced standards applicable to the development of property including, but not limited to planning: storm water requirements; layout; design; local infrastructure construction standards, off-site improvements, lot size, configuration, and dimensions. NOT included are standards required by federal or state law, or building construction safety codes.

“*Final development plan*” means a plan approved by the local government describing with reasonable certainty the use of property. Such plan may be in the form of, but not limited to, a planned unit development plan; subdivision plat; general development plan; subdivision infrastructure construction plan; final engineered site plan; or any other land-use approval designation utilized. UNLESS otherwise expressly provided by the city, such a plan shall include the boundaries of the site; significant topographical features affecting the development of the site; locations of improvements; building dimensions; and the location of all existing and proposed infrastructure on the site. Neither a sketch plan or other document that fails to describe with reasonable certainty the use and development scheme may constitute a final development plan.

“*Preliminary development plan*” means a plan submitted to facilitate initial public feedback, and secure preliminary approvals from local government. It serves as a guide for all future improvements.

“*Site preparation*” means excavation, grading, demolition, drainage, and physical improvements such as water and sewer lines, footings, and foundations.

DISCLAIMER: The letters and publications written by the MTAS consultants were written based upon the law at the time and/or a specific sets of facts. The laws referenced in the letters and publications may have changed and/or the technical advice provided may not be applicable to your city or circumstances. Always consult with your city attorney or an MTAS consultant before taking any action based on information contained in this website.

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