Description of Future Land Uses

Ten future land use categories are depicted on the map. Each category is intended to indicate a predominant land use—or set of uses—as well as other features that define the character of the category. A brief description of each category is provided below. Each is consistent with the community's ideas and vision for the future development pattern. Furthermore, these descriptions do not propose a change to existing development within each category; instead, they suggest a direction for moving forward.

RESIDENTIAL LAND USES

Agricultural/Rural Residential (ARR)

Agricultural/Rural Residential areas are primarily located outside of existing and future sewer service areas. Most of these areas rely on septic systems for wastewater treatment, have a limited road network and, in some cases, lie within the watershed protection overlay of the Neuse River. The predominate existing land uses in these areas include low-density residential uses, as well as large tracts of agriculture land. The lack of utility and transportation infrastructure, the established low-density development pattern and ongoing agricultural activities in these areas contribute to their rural character. This character can be enhanced by encouraging only low-intensity uses and context-sensitive rural design. Single family residential at gross densities up to two units per acre are appropriate.

Typical Uses: Agriculture, Large Lot Single-family Residential, Clustered Single-family Residential (dependent on soils or utility availability), Parks and Conservation
Gross Residential Density: up to 2 dwelling units/acre

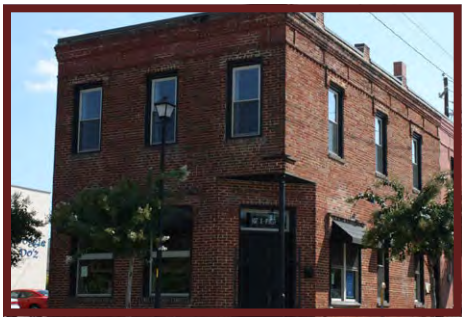
Low-Density Residential (LDR)

Areas designated as Low-Density Residential are intended to remain predominantly suburban in character and provide for low-density, single-family residential development on lots smaller than those in Rural Residential areas. Low Impact Development (LID) techniques such as clustering of dwellings to the degree that soils and/or available water and sewer infrastructure allows and flexibility to allow for innovative street cross sections that improve stormwater filtration via swales or other features are appropriate. However, mixed-residential uses may occur under a Planned Development - Residential District to support conservation of open space, so long as a density of 3 units per acre is not exceeded.

Typical Uses: Single-family Residential, Agriculture, Parks and Conservation
Gross Residential Density: up to 3 dwelling units/acre

Example: Agriculture/Rural Residential

Example: Low Density Residential



Top: Example: High Density Residential; Bottom Example: Downtown Core; Right Example: Neighborhood Commercial

Medium Density Residential (MDR)

The Medium Density Residential area is comprised predominantly of neighborhoods with housing units that are more urban in character and in closer proximity to commercial services and centers. This area provides a transition from the more suburban areas of the Town to more developed areas. The density of development in this area will vary based on the presence of utilities, topography and environmental features. This designation is applied to land which is developed, or is to be developed, at a density between three and five units per acre. Densities as high as seven units per acre may occur under a Planned Development - Residential District.

Typical Uses: Residential (all forms)
Gross Residential Density: up to 5 dwelling units/acre. Densities up to 7 dwelling units/acre may be approved as part of a Planned Development – Residential District.

High Density Residential (HDR)

The High Density Residential area provides for housing options located in close proximity to major transportation corridors, existing commercial areas and Downtown services. These areas have a connected street network, adequate pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and are served by public water and sewer. High Density Residential is designed to include all housing types. In some instances, this designation provides for a transition between lower-density residential use and commercial uses. In other instances, this designation allows the establishment of neighborhood commercial uses such as a grocery store or neighborhood services which are compatible with higher-density residential uses. When neighborhood-serving commercial uses are placed within or adjacent to a residential area, such uses shall be limited to a size which is sufficient to accommodate the needs of an immediate residential neighborhood. These transitional areas will have opportunities for slightly higher-density development than the other residential categories.

Typical Uses: Residential (all forms), Limited Neighborhood Commercial Services
Gross Residential Density: up to 12 dwelling units/acre. Densities greater than 10 dwelling units/acre may be approved as part of a Planned Development.

Downtown Residential (DR)

The Downtown area provides for housing options and office-residential uses located in close proximity to the Downtown Core. The Downtown category is designed to retain established neighborhoods and maintain the historic character while allowing a variety of higher-density housing types that support and foster growth of the Downtown Core. Higher-density development should be directly bordering the Downtown Core or along US 70 Business Highway West. The Downtown area should have a connected street network with short block lengths, a grid-style street system, and adequate pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Typical Uses: Residential (single-family, with higher density residential uses limited to areas as described above); Neighborhood Commercial in appropriate locations
Gross Residential Density: up to 12 units/acre, up to 20 units/acre with PD

NON-RESIDENTIAL LAND USES

Downtown Core (DC)

This designation is applied to the Town's Downtown Core area where the highest-density commercial, employment, residential and other uses are located. It is intended to foster an urban environment characterized by a sensitive blending of carefully preserved older structures, high-quality and context-sensitive new construction, and public spaces all working together and integrated with surrounding neighborhoods. The Downtown Core is the most flexible category and accommodates a variety of uses including commercial services (restaurants, retail, professional services, and entertainment), office, high-density residential, upper-story apartments, and older homes renovated to accommodate commercial uses. A mix of uses that creates a regional draw as well as serving the immediate community is desired. The Downtown Core provides a convenient road network with future transit opportunities and a pedestrian friendly system of sidewalks or greenways for non-motorized accessibility.

Gross Residential Density: up to 30 units/acre

Neighborhood Center (NC)

A Neighborhood Center is generally located near concentrations of existing or planned residences, and areas with access to major thoroughfares and utilities. These areas incorporate neighborhood-serving commercial uses including grocery stores, retail establishments, restaurants and services. A limited amount of office, civic and institutional uses are also appropriate. Higher-density residential including small-lot, single-family, townhouses and apartments should be located in close proximity to shopping and service destinations to provide more walking opportunities to internal and external pedestrian facilities and destinations. The scale of the Neighborhood Center varies depending on the market and competition. Typical Neighborhood Centers have a service area of one to two miles.

Community Center (CC)

Compared to the Neighborhood Center category, a Community Center typically serves a larger population and includes a typical trade area of three-to-six miles, and is located adjacent to major thoroughfares or situated at a major intersection. A Community Center includes at least one major anchor such as a grocery store or retailer and incorporates community-serving commercial uses and opportunities for office, civic, and institutional uses. Where the market permits, multi-family housing opportunities may be integrated as part of a mix of uses. As with Neighborhood Centers, apartments and townhouses should be located in close proximity to shopping and services. All portions of the development should be accessible by both a convenient road network and a system of sidewalks or greenways.

Employment Center (EC)

Clayton's Employment Center is designated on the Future Land Use Map to provide locations for primary employment and economic development opportunities. The Employment Center is located along a major transportation corridor, and has adequate levels of infrastructure along access to rail and parcels large enough to accommodate future employment growth. Uses encouraged in the Employment Center include but are not limited to, industrial, warehouse, office, research and development, tech-flex, hospital, renewable energy, recycling, fabrication, assembly, and technology. Employment Center use may also include a limited amount of supporting commercial uses, such as restaurants and convenience retailers to serve employees. However, these uses should only be situated where not in conflict with existing employment land uses and should not be built in such a way as to jeopardize the use of those lands most suitable for office or industrial development.

Recreation and Open Space (ROS)

The Recreation and Open Space designation applies to public recreational areas and open-space areas. Uses include wildlife management, active and passive recreation, environmental restoration/mitigation/preservation, open space, and educational uses. Structures that support or are associated with the intended uses shall be permitted. Land shown under this designation shall not be used for any purpose other than recreation, open space, or conservation.

The following table identifies which zoning districts are consistent with the Future Land Use Map categories (designations).

Future Land Use Designation	COMPATIBLE ZONING DISTRICTS												
	R-E	R-10	R-8	R-6	O-R	O-I	B-1	B-2	B-3	I-1	I-2	PF	PDD
ARR	X											X	
LDR	X	X										X	
MDR		X	X	X								X	
HDR			X	X								X	
DR			X	X	X	X	X					X	X
NC						X	X	X				X	X
CC								X	X			X	X
DC							X					X	X
EC									X	X	X	X	X
ROS												X	