



Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Department

Baldwin County Planning Commission Staff Report

Case No. Z26-37

MLI-Coopers Lake Property

Rezone RA, Rural Agriculture District to RSF-E, Residential Single Family Estate District

October 20, 2026

Subject Property Information

Planning District: 12
General Location: North of County Road 64 and east of County Rd 71 N
Physical Address: NA
Parcel Numbers: 05-41-02-09-0-000-009.000, 05-41-03-08-0-000-024.000 & 024.007
Existing Zoning: RA, Rural Agriculture District
Proposed Zoning: RSF-E, Residential Single Family Estate District
Existing Land Use: Vacant
Proposed Land Use: Residential
Acreage: 111 ± acres
Applicant: MLI – Coopers Lake
20490 County Rd 62 N
Robertsdale, AL 36567
Owner: same
Lead Staff: Celena Boykin, Planning Manager
Attachments: *Within Report*

Adjacent Land Use		Adjacent Zoning
North	Residential	RA, Rural Agriculture District
South	Agriculture & Residential	RA, Rural Agriculture District
East	Residential	RA, Rural Agriculture District
West	Vacant	RA, Rural Agriculture District

Summary

The subject property encompasses approximately 111 acres (3 parcels) and is currently zoned as RA, Rural Agriculture District. A request has been made to change the designation to RSF-E, Residential Single Family Estate District, to facilitate future residential use.

Section 3.2 RA, Rural Agricultural District

3.2.1 Generally. This zoning district provides for large, open, unsubdivided land that is vacant or is being used for agricultural, forest or other rural purposes. Low-density residential development that maintains the rural character of the district is permitted in accordance with the permitted uses and area and dimensional requirements of this section.

3.2.2 Permitted uses. Except as provided by *Section 2.3: Establishment of Zoning in Planning Districts*, the following uses and structures designed for such uses shall be permitted:

- (a) The following general industrial uses: extraction or removal of natural resources on or under land.
- (b) The following transportation, communication, and utility uses: water well (public or private).
- (c) Outdoor recreation uses.
- (d) The following general commercial uses: animal clinic and/or kennel; farm implement sales; farmers market/truck crops; nursery; landscape sales; country club.
- (e) The following local commercial uses: fruit and produce store.
- (f) The following institutional uses: church or similar religious facility; school (public or private).
- (g) Agricultural uses.
- (h) Single family dwellings including manufactured housing and mobile homes.
- (i) Accessory structures and uses.

3.2.3 Permit Exemptions for Agricultural Uses and Agriculture Buildings. Agricultural uses and Agriculture Buildings, as defined in this ordinance, within the RA zoning district, shall be exempt from the Zoning Site Plan and Zoning Land Disturbance permitting requirements of this ordinance.

3.2.4 Special exceptions. Except as provided by *Section 2.3: Establishment of Zoning in Planning Districts*, the following uses and structures designed for such uses may be allowed as special exceptions: Not Applicable

3.2.5 Conditional Use Commission Site Plan Approval. Except as provided by *Section 2.3: Establishment of Zoning in Planning Districts*, the following uses and structures designed for such uses may be allowed by the site plan approval process:

- (a) Transportation, communication, and utility uses not permitted by right.
- (b) Institutional uses not permitted by right.

(c) The following general commercial uses: low density recreational vehicle park (see *Section 13.8: Recreational Vehicle Parks*).

(d) The following local commercial uses: bed and breakfast or tourist home (see *Section 13.10: Bed and Breakfast Establishments*).

3.2.6 Area and dimensional ordinances. Except as provided by *Section 2.3: Establishment of Zoning in Planning Districts*, *Section 12.4: Height Modifications*, *Section 12.5: Yard Requirements*, *Section 12.6: Coastal Areas*, *Section 12.8: Highway Construction Setbacks*, *Section 18.5: Variances*, and *Article 20: Nonconformities*, the area and dimensional ordinances set forth below shall be observed.

Minimum Front Yard	40-Feet
Minimum Rear Yard	40-Feet
Minimum Side Yards	15-Feet
Minimum Lot Area	3 Acres
Minimum Lot Width at Building Line	210-Feet

3.2.7 Area and dimensional modifications. Within the RA district, area and dimensional requirements may be reduced, as set forth below, where property is divided among the following legally related family members: spouse, children, siblings, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, or step-related individuals of the same status.

Minimum Front Yard	30-Feet
Minimum Rear Yard	30-Feet
Minimum Side Yards	10-Feet
Minimum Lot Area	40,000 Square Feet
Minimum Lot Width at Building Line	120-Feet

Proposed Zoning Requirements

Section 4.1 RSF-E, Residential Single Family Estate District

4.1.1 Generally. This zoning district is provided to afford the opportunity for the choice of a very low density residential environment consisting of single family homes on estate size lots.

4.1.2 Permitted uses. Except as provided by *Section 2.3: Establishment of Zoning in Planning Districts*, the following uses and structures designed for such uses shall be permitted:

- (a) The following general industrial uses: extraction or removal of natural resources on or under land.
- (b) The following transportation, communication, and utility uses: water well (public or private).
- (c) Agricultural uses.
- (d) Single family dwellings including manufactured housing and mobile homes.
- (e) Accessory structures and uses.
- (f) The following institutional use: church or similar religious facility.

4.1.3 *Conditional Use Commission Site Plan Approval.* Except as provided by Section 2.3: *Establishment of Zoning in Planning Districts*, the following uses and structures designed for such uses may be allowed by the site plan approval process:

- (a) Outdoor recreation uses.
- (b) The following institutional uses: day care home; fire station; school (public or private).
- (c) The following general commercial uses: country club.
- (d) The following local commercial use: bed and breakfast or tourist home (see Section 13.10: *Bed and Breakfast Establishments*).

4.1.4 *Special exception.* Except as provided by Section 2.3: *Establishment of Zoning in Planning Districts*, the following use and structures designed for such use may be allowed as a special exception: Not Applicable

4.1.5 *Area and dimensional ordinances.* Except as provided by Section 2.3: *Establishment of Zoning in Planning Districts*, Section 12.4: *Height Modifications*,

Section 12.5: *Yard Requirements*, Section 12.6: *Coastal Areas*, Section 12.8: *Highway Construction Setbacks*, Section 18.5: *Variances*, and Article 20: *Nonconformities*, the area and dimensional ordinances set forth below shall be observed.

Maximum Height of Structure	35-Feet
Maximum Height in Habitable Stories	2 ½
Minimum Front Yard	40-Feet
Minimum Rear Yard	40-Feet
Minimum Side Yards	15-Feet
Minimum Lot Area	80,000 Square Feet
Minimum Lot Width at Building Line	165-Feet
Maximum Ground Coverage Ratio	.35

4.1.6 *Area and dimensional modifications.* Within the RSF-E district, area and dimensional requirements may be reduced, as set forth below, where property is divided among the following legally related family members: spouse, children, siblings, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, or step-related individuals of the same status.

Minimum Front Yard	30-Feet
Minimum Rear Yard	30-Feet
Minimum Side Yards	10-Feet
Minimum Lot Area	40,000 Square Feet
Minimum Lot Width at Building Line	120-Feet

Agency Comments

USACE, James Buckelew: Staff reached out but received no comments.

ADEM, J Scott Brown: Staff reached out but received no comments.

Subdivisions, Fabia Waters: Should the rezoning request be approved, the applicant shall submit a Subdivision Sketch Plan application to initiate the subdivision review process. The sketch plan meeting will allow staff to review the proposed sketch for compliance with Baldwin County Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Ordinance

City of Loxley, Greg Smith: Staff reached out but received no comments.

City of Loxley, Mayor Teal: Staff reached out but received no comments.

Staff Analysis and Findings

The criteria for reviewing zoning amendments are outlined in Section 19.6 of the Baldwin County Zoning Ordinance. Staff carefully considered all of these factors during the evaluation of the application.

a) Degree of compatibility of the proposed rezoning with existing and allowable land uses in the vicinity.

The subject property consists of approximately 111 acres encompassing three parcels and is currently zoned RA, Rural Agriculture District. The applicant has requested to rezone the property to RSF-E, Residential Single Family Estate District, to facilitate future residential development.

The RSF-E zoning district is provided to afford the opportunity for the choice of a very low density residential environment consisting of single family homes on estate size lots.

b) Degree of conformity of the proposed rezoning to the Master Plan.

The Future Land Use Map (FLUM) reflects a combination of development potential and environmental suitability factors that guide growth and development patterns within the County's unincorporated areas. The Future Land Use Map (FLUM) designates this area as having the majority of Moderate Development Potential, which corresponds with RSF-1 and RSF-2 zoning.

c) Proximity of the proposed rezoning to existing transportation network and utility infrastructure.

The subject property is located on the north side of County Road 64 which is a major collector and the east side of County Road 71N, which is a local road.

d) Timing of the request and development trends in the area.

The subject property is located within Planning District 12, which adopted a zoning map in November 2006. Since that time, there have been few changes in local conditions, with only select land use modifications in the surrounding area, including a few rezonings from agricultural to commercial along the Baldwin Beach Express. The area between State Highway 59 and the Baldwin Beach Express within Planning District 12 has experienced minimal or no development since the zoning map's adoption in 2006. The predominant development pattern in this vicinity is primarily agricultural and rural, complemented by estate-sized residential parcels. The nearest subdivision with established infrastructure is approximately one mile north of the subject property and is zoned RSF-3. This subdivision, Blackwater Lakes, was established prior to the designation of Planning District 12.

e) Impacts on environmental conditions of the vicinity or the historic resources of the County.

No impact on historic resources are proposed.

f) Impacts to the health, safety and welfare of the County and the vicinity.

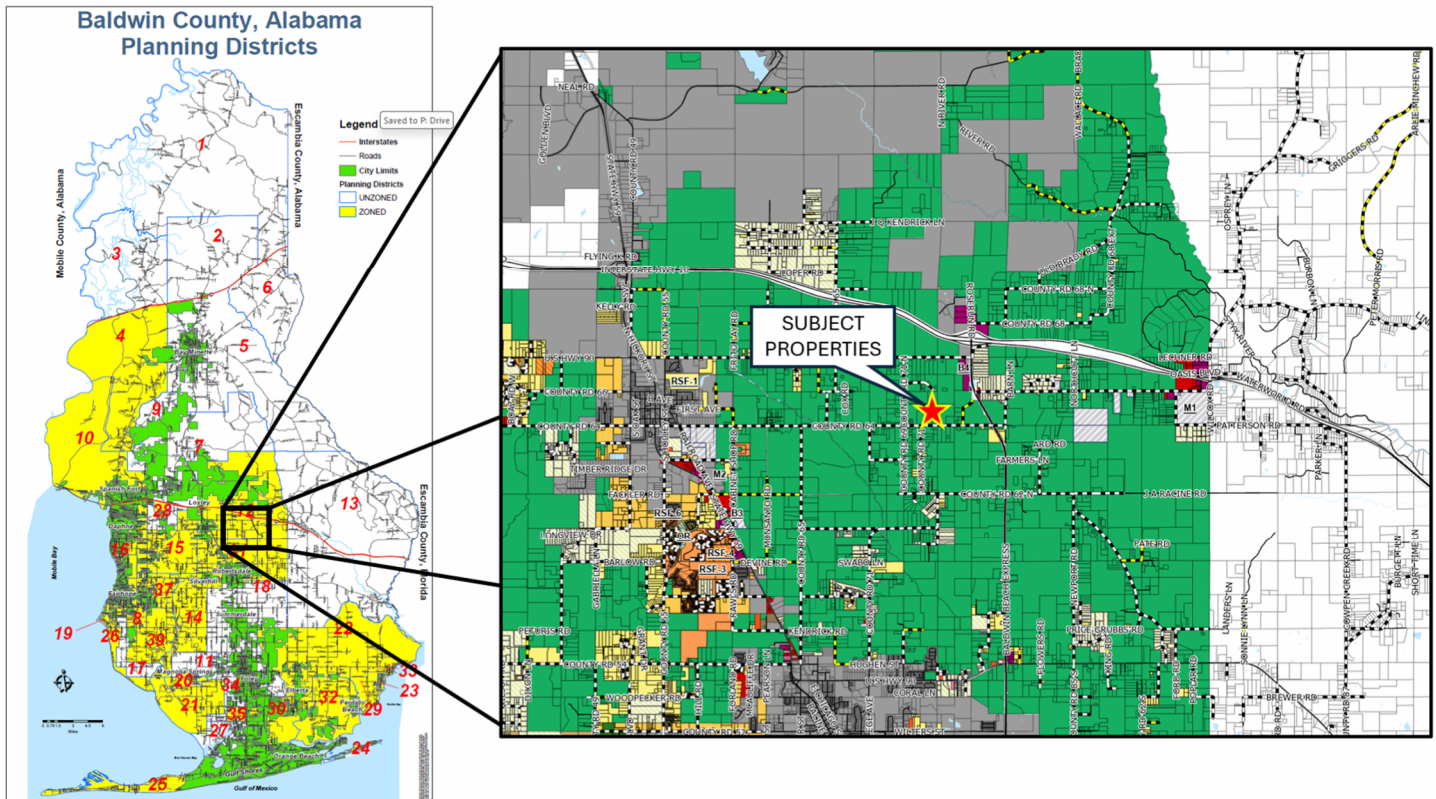
The proposed request should have no impact on the health, safety and welfare of the property or surrounding properties.

Staff Comments and Recommendation	

Upon review of the Factors for Reviewing Proposed Zoning Map Amendments specified within Section 19.6 of the Baldwin County Zoning Ordinance staff has determined that the requested Zoning Map Amendment is somewhat consistent with the factors specified within the Baldwin County Zoning Ordinance but is **consistent** with the Baldwin County Master Plan Future Land Use Map.

The requested Zoning Map Amendment was also evaluated using the Smart Growth Scorecard (attached) which **strongly supports** the request.

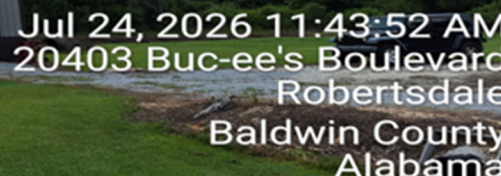
County Map



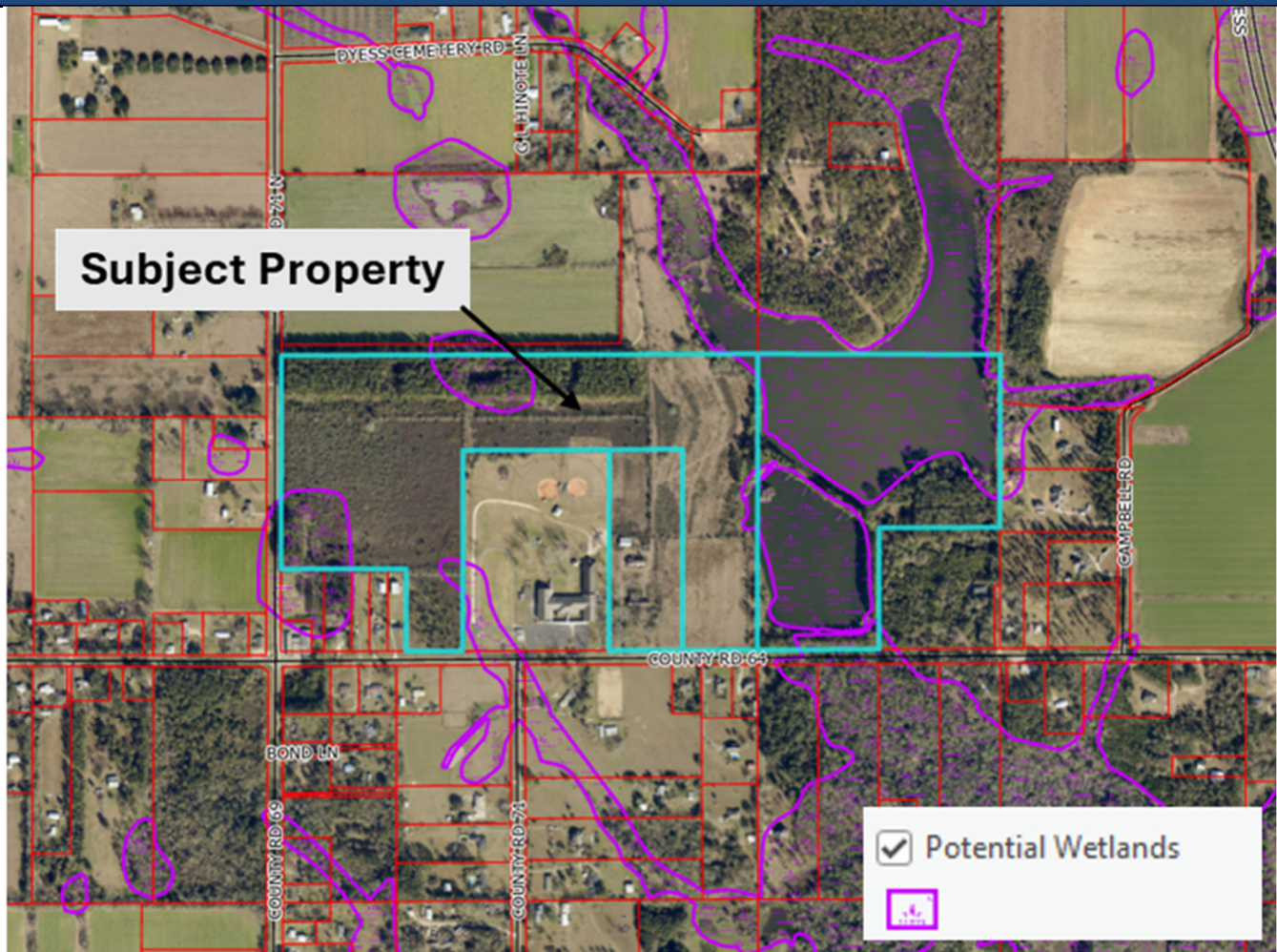
Property Images



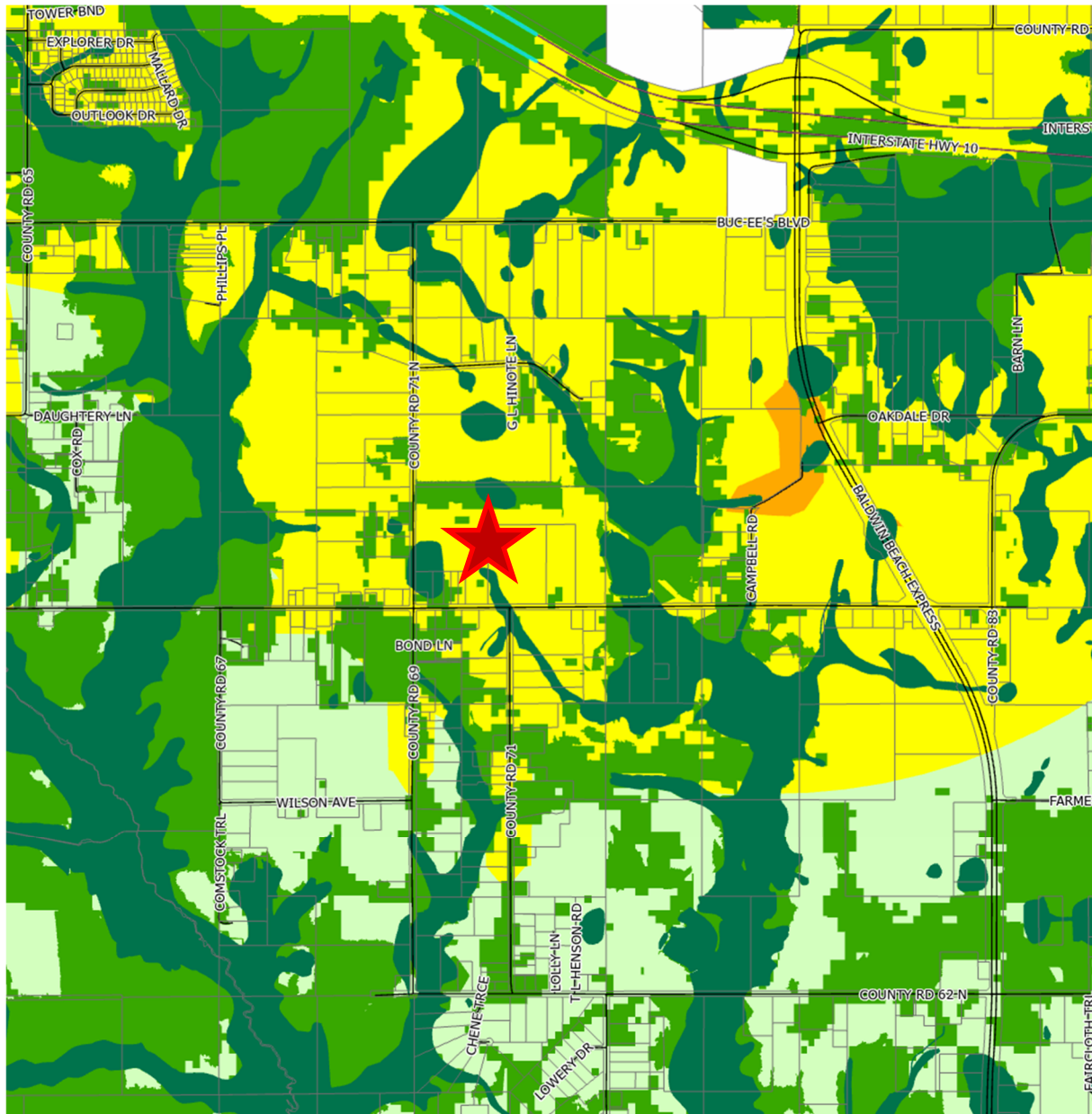




Site Map



FLUM



LEGEND

PLACE TYPES

- IDEAL CONSERVATION/PRESERVATION
- CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL
- RURAL/AGRICULTURE/LID POTENTIAL
- MODERATE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL
- MID-DENSITY DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL
- HIGH-DENSITY DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL
- MUNICIPAL JURISDICTIONS

NODE TYPES

- RURAL CROSSROADS CENTER
- NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
- VILLAGE CENTER
- URBAN MIXED-USE CENTER
- COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL CENTER

IDEAL CONSERVATION/ PRESERVATION AREAS

Ideal Conservation or Preservation Areas would include land that is undeveloped, or minimally developed, and protected by local, state, and federal agencies or by public, private, and nonprofit organizations. This could include areas conserved for the protection of critical habitat, clean water, open space, or cultural heritage.

PRIMARY LAND USES

- Natural areas that are publicly and privately owned and managed
- Permanently protected lands such as conservation easements, parks, cemeteries
- Parks and open spaces devoted primarily to passive recreation and trails
- Lands with important cultural landmarks or assets
- Scenic view corridors

RELATED ZONING DISTRICTS

- Environmental Conservation

CONNECTIVITY NETWORK

- Greenways and trails



MODERATE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL AREAS

Moderate Development Potential Areas are suitable for all of the land uses described in the previous place types but may also include a variety of home types from large and medium-lot single-family detached homes to single-family attached homes such as duplexes and townhomes. Subdivision patterns may be amenity-based communities with small gardens, parks and playgrounds within private lots or part of a community space. Neighborhood centers or nodes at key intersections would allow for a combination of retail, office, and service uses to meet the needs of the community.

PRIMARY LAND USES

- Single-family neighborhoods (suburban)
- Amenity-based communities
- Neighborhood center/node

RELATED ZONING DISTRICTS

- RSF-1 Single Family District
- RSF-2 Single Family District

CONNECTIVITY NETWORK

- Suburban street networks/limited use cul-de-sacs
- Open space, parks and amenities provided within neighborhoods
- Streets with sidewalks, bike lanes, and/or side paths based on local character and context
- Suburban greenways and trails



Scorecard

SMART GROWTH SCORECARD TOOL

Score each element based on the following: +2 (Strongly Supports), +1 (Somewhat Supports), -1 (Somewhat Does Not Support), and -2 (Strongly Does Not Support). Each category will be totaled and then combined for a final score to evaluate whether the development aligns with the vision and themes of the Master Plan. The following final score ranges will be used in this evaluation.

STRONGLY SUPPORTS	SOMEWHAT SUPPORTS	SOMEWHAT DOES NOT SUPPORT	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE
Score of 20 to 40	Score of 0 to 19	Score of 0 to -19	Score of -20 to -40

SMART GROWTH SCORECARD		SCORE			
Conformity with Surrounding Land Use		2	1	-1	-2
Is the property contiguous to a complementary use or zoning district to what is being proposed?					-2
Does the density/intensity of the proposed use conform to the surrounding area or provide a use that would support the surrounding existing or permitted land uses?			1		
Does the proposed land use provide a mix of uses or diversity of housing types in the area?	For single use projects evaluate the diversity of uses within 1/2 mile		1		
Does the proposed land use require building separation and buffers that fit the character of the surrounding area?			1		
Does the proposed land use promote development that fits the character of the surrounding area?			1		
Total Land Use Score (out of 10 points)		2			
Conformity with Master Plan		2	1	-1	-2
Does the location and proposed land use support the need identified in the Master Plan for the surrounding community?			1		
Is the request located in an area identified for development in the Master Plan?	Evaluate the uses identified for the area in the Master Plan not the "equivalent zoning"	2			
Does the size & scale of the proposal fit the recommendations in the Master Plan and the character of the surrounding community?	Evaluate the uses identified for the area in the Master Plan not the "equivalent zoning"	2			

Is the property located within 1/2 mile of a municipal boundary or node identified in the Master Plan?	Rate +2 if property is within 1/2 mile, +1 for 1/2 to 1 mile, -1 for 1 to 1.5 mile, & +2 for outside of 1.5 mile. For "downzoning" requests outside of 1 mile from municipal boundary or node, score +1.		1		
Does the proposed use provide housing or commercial uses that are consistent with the growth and demand projections for the surrounding area?			1		
Total Master Plan Score (out of 10 points)		7			
Proximity to Transportation & Utility Infrastructure		2	1	-1	-2
Is the property located within 1/2 mile of an existing roadway that is classified appropriately to support the proposed use?	Major projects should be located near collector road or greater. Minor projects should be located near local street or greater.	2			
Does the property allow access from at least two existing or planned streets?	Existing or planned streets located outside of the applicant property.	2			
Are frequently visited uses within 1 mile of the proposed use?	For residential uses, schools/daycares, employment centers, grocery/convenience shopping. For commercial, housing & similar intensity commercial uses. Rate +2 for within 1/2 mile, +1 for 1/2 to 1 mile, -1 for 1 to 1.5 mile, & -2 for greater than 1.5 mile.	2			
Is the proposed use within the service boundary of existing water service?	Rate +2 if within service boundary and adjacent to water main sufficient to serve development, +1 if within service boundary but requires water main upgrade or extension to serve development, -1 for outside of service area but within 1/2 mile of service area, -2 for outside of service area and greater than 1/2 mile.		1		

Is the proposed use within the service boundary of existing sewer service?	Rate +2 if within service boundary and adjacent to sewer main sufficient to serve development, +1 if within service boundary but requires sewer main upgrade or extension to serve development, -1 for outside of service area but within 1/2 mile of service area, -2 for outside of service area and greater than 1/2 mile.			-1	
Total Transportation & Utility Score (out of 10 points)		6			
Environmental Conditions & Historic Resources		2	1	-1	-2
Can the property be reasonably developed without impacting jurisdictional wetlands/streams or buffers?		2			
Can the property be reasonably developed without filling within the floodplain or contributing to a net loss of flood capacity?		2			
Does the proposed use limit growth in environmentally sensitive or flood prone areas?	The more environmentally sensitive the area, the lower the overall density should be. Rate +2 for non-sensitive area, +1 for somewhat sensitive area but density can be clustered to avoid impacts, -1 for moderate sensitive area that would be challenging to avoid impacts, -2 for significantly sensitive area that would be unable to avoid impacts.		1		
Can the proposed use implement a stormwater facility that would aide regional stormwater management?				-1	
Would the proposed use have any impacts to historic or cultural resources in the area?		2			
Total Environmental Score (out of 10 points)		6			
TOTAL SMART GROWTH SCORE		21			