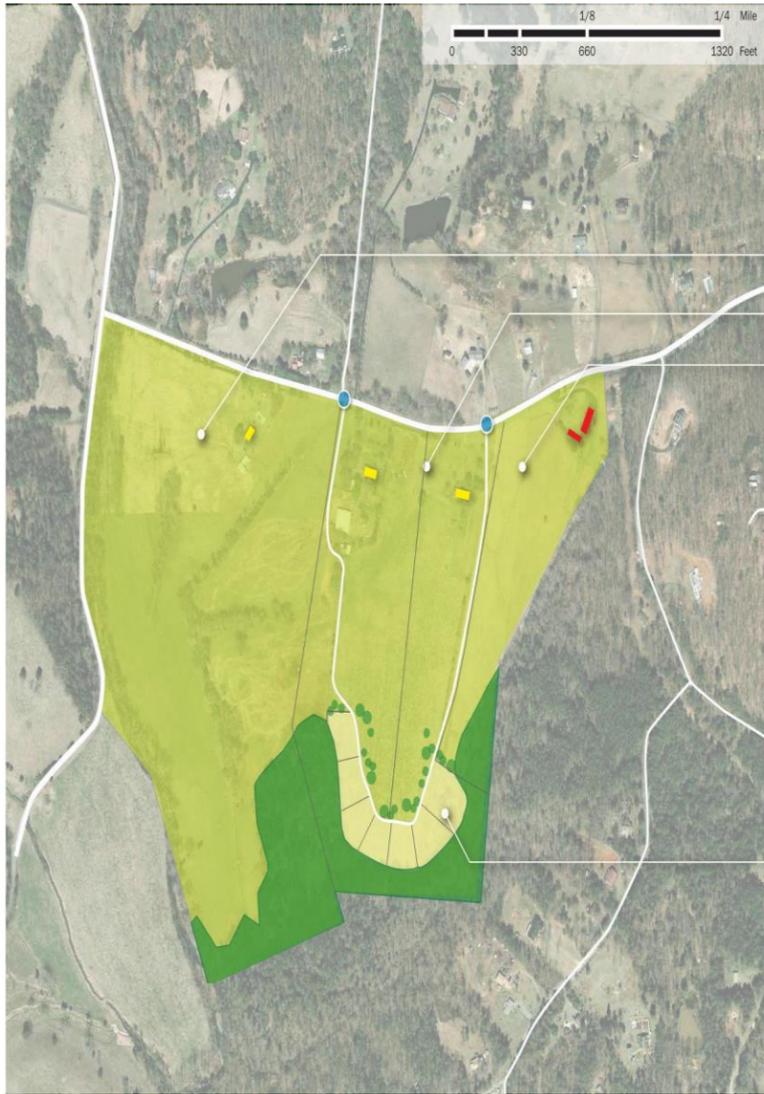


| Chart 1. Rural Lands Designation Description | |
|---|--|
| 1. Basic Description | Rural Lands are areas containing farms, forests and scattered houses, exclusively outside of the PSA, where a lower level of public service delivery exists or where utilities and urban services do not exist and are not planned for in the future. Rural Lands uses are intended to help protect and enhance the viability of agricultural and forestal resources and compatible rural economic development uses as important components of the local economy. |
| 2. Recommended Uses | <p>Appropriate primary uses include traditional agricultural and forestal activities, but also innovative agriculture, horticulture, silviculture, specialty or niche farming, commercial and non-commercial equine opportunities, agri-tourism, rural-based public or commercial recreation, rural-support businesses and certain public or semi- public and institutional uses that require a spacious site and are compatible with the natural and rural surroundings.</p> <p>Retail and other commercial uses serving Rural Lands are encouraged to be located at planned commercial locations on major thoroughfares inside the PSA. However, appropriately-scaled and located direct agricultural or forestal-support uses (including agri-business and eco-tourism), home-based occupations, or certain uses which require very low intensity settings relative to the site in which it will be located may be considered on the basis of a case-by-case review, provided such uses are compatible with the natural and rural character of the area and are in accordance with the Rural Lands Development Standards. These uses should be located in a manner that minimizes effects on agricultural and forestal activities, and where public services and facilities, especially roads, can adequately accommodate them.</p> |
| 3. Recommended Density | Residential development is not a recommended use and is discouraged outside the Primary Service Area in the Rural Lands. Residences associated with agricultural and forestal activities may be appropriate, but subdivision of lots should occur at a density of no greater than one residence per 20 acres. A very limited amount of residential development could be permitted in the form of rural clusters, provided significant preservation of the natural resources is achieved, such development does not interrupt rural qualities or character, and the development standards for rural clusters listed below are followed. |
| Rural Lands Development Standards | |
| 4. Use and Character Compatibility | <p>a) Uses in Rural Lands should reflect and enhance the rural character of the County. Particular attention should be given to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Locating structures and uses outside of sensitive areas; ii. Maintaining existing topography, vegetation, trees, and tree lines to the maximum extent possible, especially along roads and between uses; iii. Discouraging development on farmland, open fields, scenic roadside vistas, and other important agricultural/forestal soils and resources; iv. Encouraging enhanced landscaping to screen structures located in open fields using a natural appearance or one that resembles traditional hedgerows and windbreaks; v. Locating new driveways or service roads so that they follow existing contours and old roadway corridors whenever feasible; vi. Generally limiting the height of structures to an elevation below the height of surrounding mature trees and scaling buildings to be compatible with the character of the existing community; vii. Minimizing the number of street and driveway intersections along the main road by providing common driveways; and viii. Utilizing lighting only where necessary and in a manner that eliminates glare and brightness. <p>b) Encourage the preservation and reuse of existing agricultural structures such as barns, silos, and houses.</p> <p>c) Site more intensive uses in areas where the existing road network can accommodate the additional vehicle trips without the need for significant upgrades or modifications that would impact the character of the rural road network.</p> |
| 5. Rural Clusters | <p>If built, rural clusters should develop with the following guidelines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Densities should be no higher than the maximum permitted density in the underlying zoning district. Lot sizes may be reduced as appropriate to maximize the preservation of rural view-sheds and resources as described in the standards below. b) Minimize the impact of residential development by retaining a substantial amount (at least two-thirds) of the site in large, undivided blocks of land for permanent open space, farming, timbering and/or rural economic uses. c) Appropriate goals for open space and lot layout include preservation of farmland, open fields, scenic vistas, woodland, meadows, wildlife habitats, and vegetation; protection of environmentally sensitive land including wetlands, stream corridors, and steep slopes; important historic and archaeological resources, and roadway buffers. d) The goals of the open space and lot layout should be shown on a conceptual plan, and the design should support these goals. For instance, if preservation of agriculture is one of the main goals of the open space, the open space should encompass that land which is most suitable for farming (topography, soils). Blocks of land large enough to support a farm should be set aside in the open space. In addition, potential conflicts between the uses should be minimized by designing buffers between the farmland and the residential development. Similar design considerations would be expected to support other open space goals as well. e) The open space should be placed in a conservation easement or the equivalent to ensure that the land will remain undeveloped. f) The visibility of the development from the main road should be minimized. It is recommended that lots be placed along an access road rather than along the main route so that the view from the main route still appears rural in nature. |



Rural Lands

SAMPLE DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

This illustration represents one potential way that the policies in the Land Use chapter for this land use could be interpreted. Alternate concepts that follow these policies may also be acceptable. This development concept is only for illustrative purposes and design guidelines, policies and ordinance requirements are a factor, particularly with respect to detailed requirements such as landscaping

Large farm remains in agricultural / forestal use

Medium sized parcel divided into two large lots managed as small farms

Small farm managed as rural economic enterprise with agritourism and winery use



Small rural cluster sited away from roads and screened by trees to preserve rural viewsheds

Legend

- Mixed use
- Commercial
- Civic
- Industrial
- Low Density Residential
- Moderate Density Residential - Level 1
- Moderate Density Residential - Level 2
- Parking
- Pedestrian/Bike Paths
- Common Open Space
- Wooded or Landscaped Buffer Areas
- Roadway Interconnectivity