



Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Department

Baldwin County Commission Staff Report

Case No. Z25-55

Sweetwater Investments, LLC Property

Rezone from RSF-1, Residential Single Family District to RSF-2, Residential Single Family District

June 16, 2026

Subject Property Information

Planning District: 39
General Location: East of State Highway 181 and south of County Road 32 in the Fairhope community
Physical Address: 16528 State Highway 181, Fairhope, AL 36532
Parcel Number: 05-56-01-02-0-001-011.020
Existing Zoning: RSF-1, Residential Single Family District
Proposed Zoning: RSF-2, Residential Single Family District
Existing Land Use: Vacant
Proposed Land Use: Residential
Acreage: 29+/- acres
Applicant: Anchor Engineering Associates, LLC – Dwayne Smith
 50 North Florida Street
 Mobile, AL 36607
Owner: Sweetwater Investments, LLC
 20040 State Highway 181
 Fairhope, AL 36532
Lead Staff: Cory Rhodes, Planner
Attachments: *Within Report*

	Adjacent Land Use	Adjacent Zoning
North	Residential	RSF-2, Residential Single Family District
South	Residential	BCZ, Base Community Zoning District & RSF-E, Residential Single Family Estate District
East	Agricultural	RA, Rural Agricultural District
West	Residential	RSF-2, Residential Single Family District

Summary

The subject property encompasses approximately 29 acres and is currently zoned as RSF-1, Residential Single Family District. A request has been made to change the designation to RSF-2, Residential Single Family District for residential use.

Section 4.2 RSF-1, Single Family District

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

4.2.2 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) The following agricultural uses: Silviculture.
- (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.
- (g) Agricultural uses, on RSF-1 zoned parcels that otherwise meet the minimum area and dimension requirements for Rural Agricultural District under Section 3.2.6 herein, agricultural uses shall be permitted uses, except that the minimum front yard for barns and other agricultural structures shall be 100 feet when constructed on an RSF-1 zoned parcel where no primary dwelling currently exists.

4.2.3 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*).

4.2.4 *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

4.2.5 *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	30-Feet
Minimum Rear Yard	30-Feet
Minimum Side Yards	10-Feet
Minimum Lot Area	30,000 Square Feet
Minimum Lot Width at Building Line	100-Feet
Maximum Ground Coverage Ratio	.35

Proposed Zoning Requirements

Section 4.3 **RSF-2, Single Family District**

4.3.1 *Generally.* This zoning district is provided to afford the opportunity for the choice of a moderate density residential environment consisting of single family homes.

4.3.2 *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) The following agricultural uses: Silviculture.
- (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.
- (g) Agricultural uses, on RSF-2 zoned parcels that otherwise meet the minimum area and dimension requirements for Rural Agricultural District under Section 3.2.6 herein, agricultural uses shall be permitted uses, except that the minimum front yard for barns and other agricultural structures shall be 100 feet when constructed on an RSF-2 zoned parcel where no primary dwelling currently exists.

4.3.2 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*).

4.3.3 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

4.3.4 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	30-Feet
Minimum Rear Yard	30-Feet
Minimum Side Yards	10-Feet
Minimum Lot Area	15,000 Square Feet
Minimum Lot Width at Building Line	80-Feet
Maximum Ground Coverage Ratio	.35

Agency Comments

USACE, James Buckelew: Staff reached out 10/13/2025 but received no comments.

ADEM, Scott Brown: Staff reached out 10/13/2025 but received no comments.

ALDOT, Jason Shaw & Chase Chitwood: Staff reached out 10/13/2025 but received no comments.

Natural Resources, Ashley Campbell: The parcel is located down a dirt road in a very rural area. The parcel is west of the Green Branch which handles a lot of storm water. I have received storm water complaints from neighbors.

Subdivisions, Fabia Waters: Following rezoning approval, a preliminary plat would be required for review of the subdivision.

Civil Engineer, Tyler Austin: No current development proposed. Any future development will require construction and drainage review from Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Department. Any improvements to access along AL Highway 181 will require permit from ALDOT.

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 29 acres and is currently zoned as RSF-1 (Residential Single Family). A rezoning request has been submitted to change the designation to RSF-2 (Residential Single Family) to allow for residential use. The surrounding areas located south, east, and west of the property are primarily residential, with denser residential zoning to the west and less dense, residential to rural zoning east of the subject property.

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

The Future Land Use Map (FLUM) represents a combination of development and environmental suitability factors, which direct growth and development patterns for the unincorporated areas of the County. The FLUM has identified the subject property and surrounding areas as having primarily Rural, Agricultural, and Low-Impact Development Potential, which supports single family detached homes. The subject property also appears to be in a "transition" area between high-density residential and commercially-zoned properties to the northwest and lower-density residential and rural-zoned properties to the southeast. Furthermore, much of the subject property is in a Neighborhood Center node, which allows for a mix of retail and service uses that meet the needs of the community, leading to a more walkable, compact design layout.

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

The property is located along State Highway 181, which is classified as a Major Collector. Collectors serve a critical role in the roadway network by gathering traffic from Local Roads and funneling them to the Arterial network.

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

As mentioned earlier, the subject property appears to be in a “transitional” area for development, with higher density residential and commercial zoned areas located north and west of the subject property and lower density residential and rural zoned areas to the southeast. As mentioned earlier, much of the property is situated in a Neighborhood Center node, which integrates retail and service uses to meet the needs of the community.

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

A small area of potential wetlands appear on subject property. A wetland delineation will be required to determine if wetlands are present on the property. No historic or cultural resources should be affected, as the property is not within a Historic district.

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

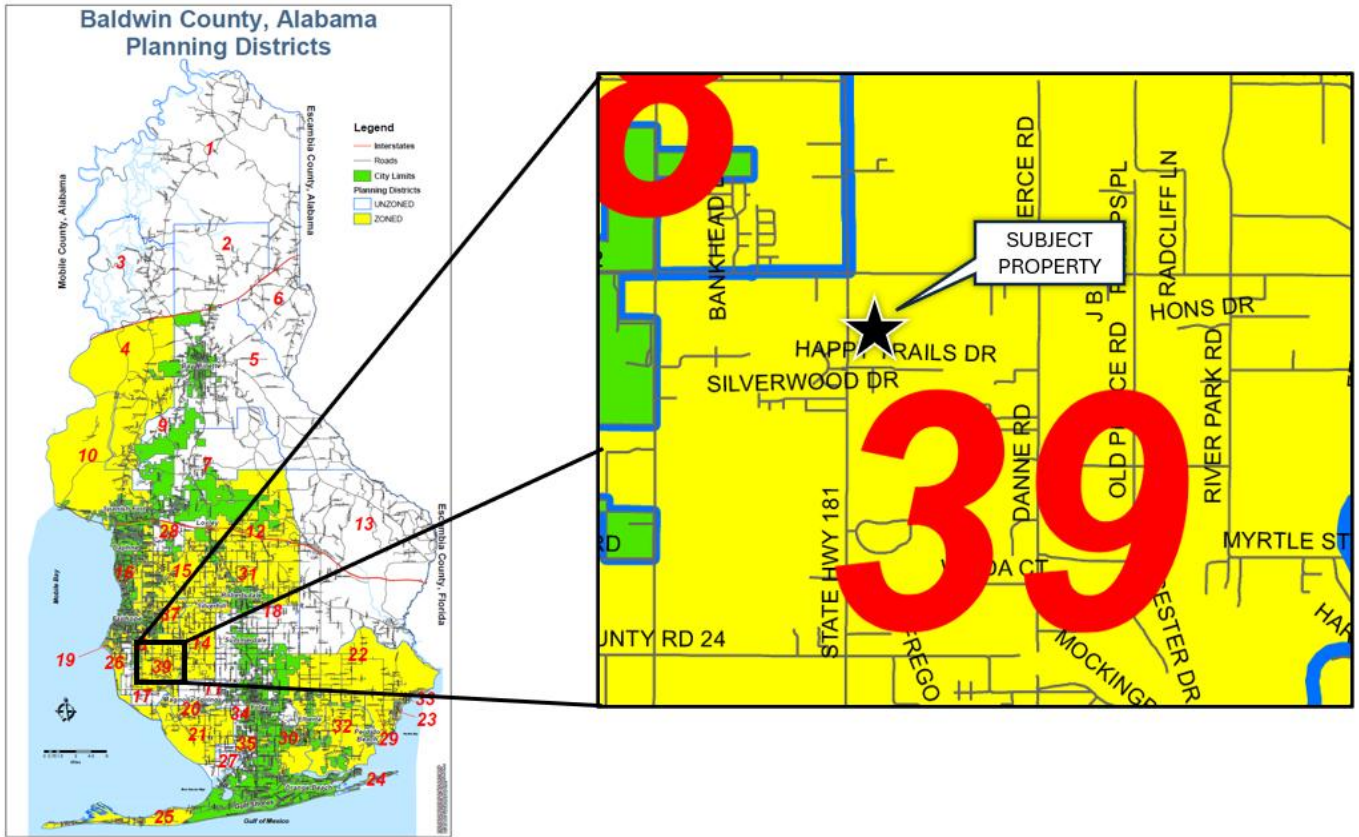
No impacts to the health, safety and welfare of the County or vicinity are anticipated.

Staff Comments

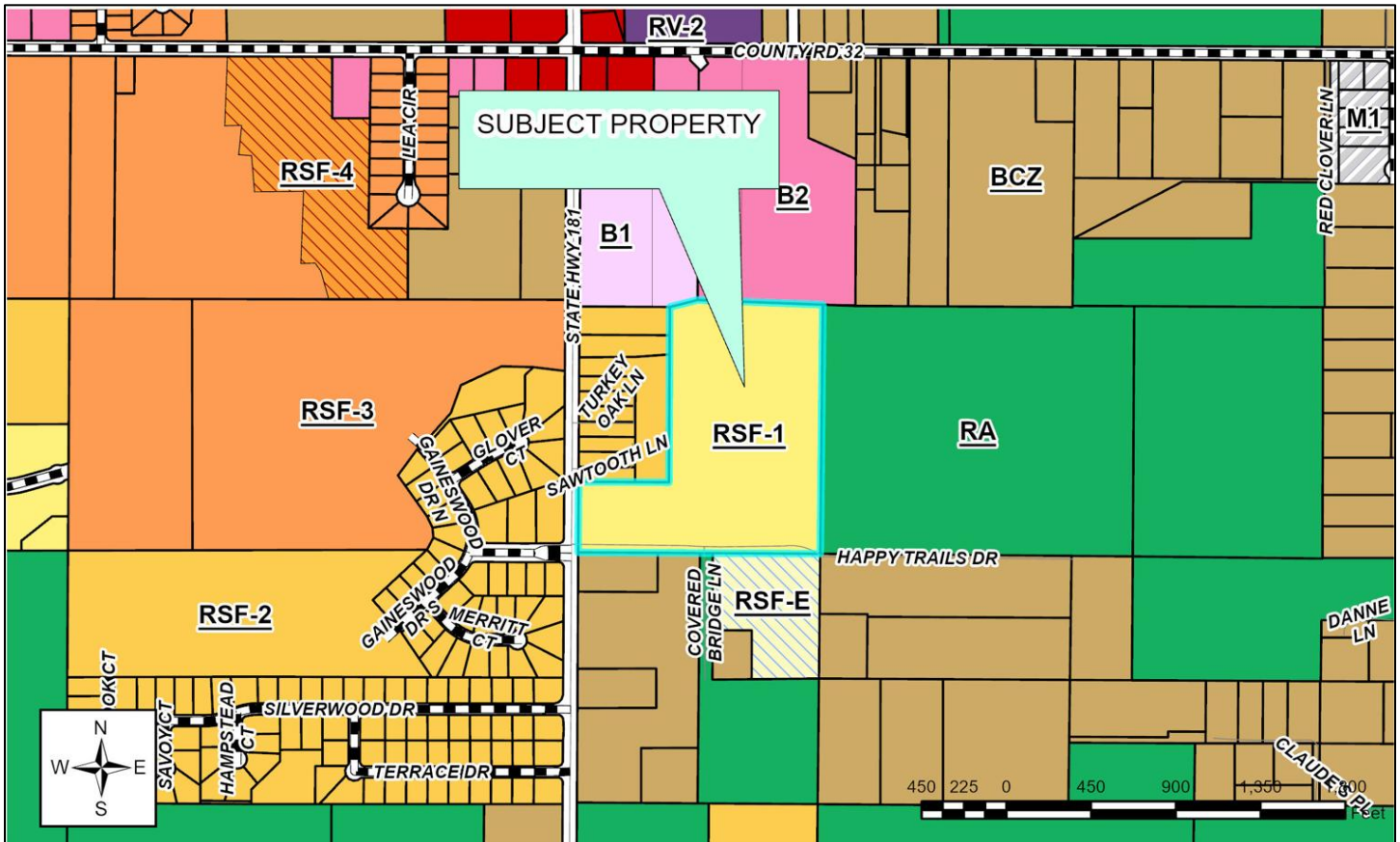
Upon review of the *Factors for Reviewing Proposed Zoning Map Amendments* specified within Section 19.6 of the Baldwin County Zoning Ordinance and themes of the Baldwin County Master Plan, staff has determined that the requested Zoning Map Amendment would be consistent with the factors specified within the Baldwin County Zoning Ordinance and 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.

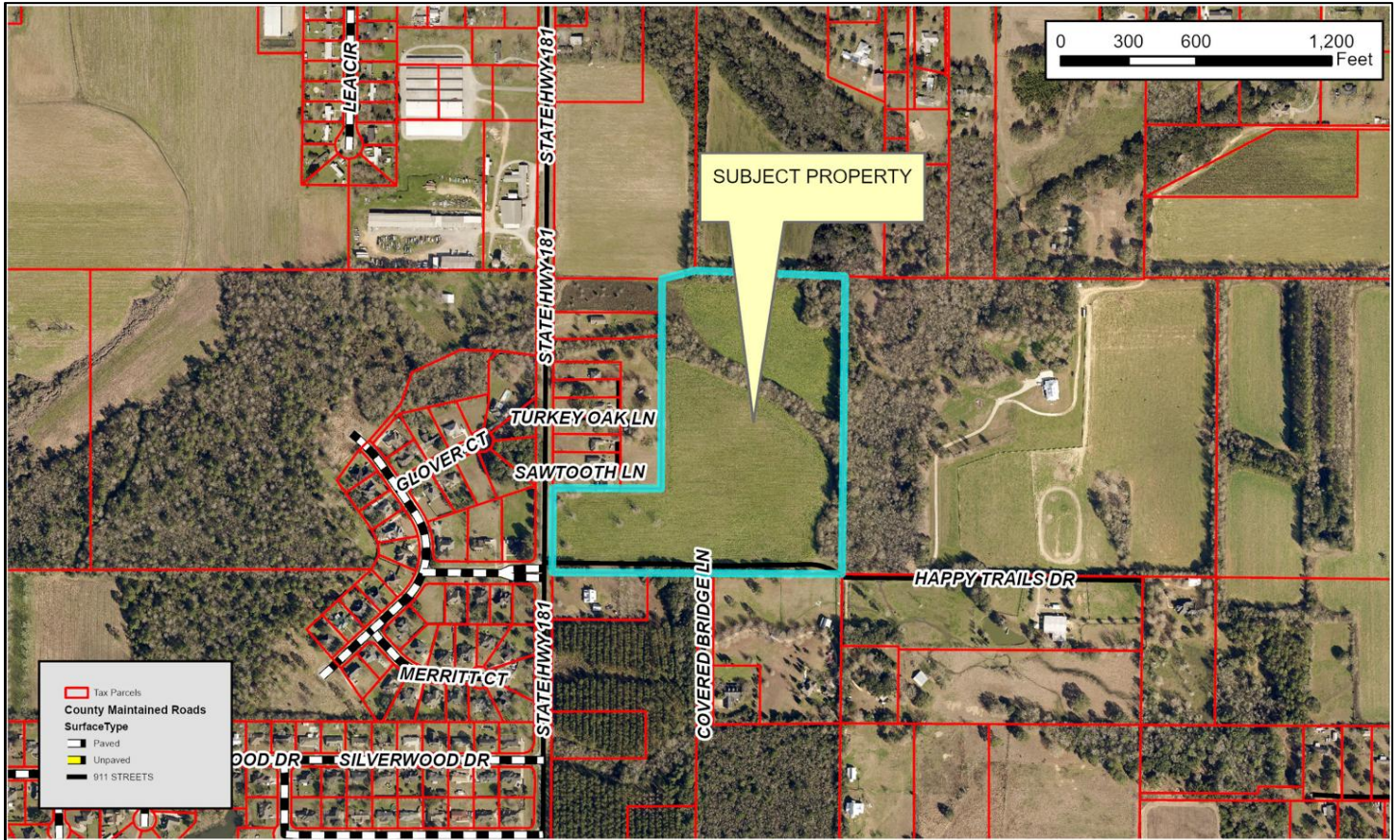
County Map



Locator Map



Site Map



Property Images







Adjoining Property
to The East
PIN: 77746



Oct 22, 2025 10:53:48 AM
30°27'54.76442"N 87°50'55.25398"W
30° NE
Baldwin County Code Enforcement

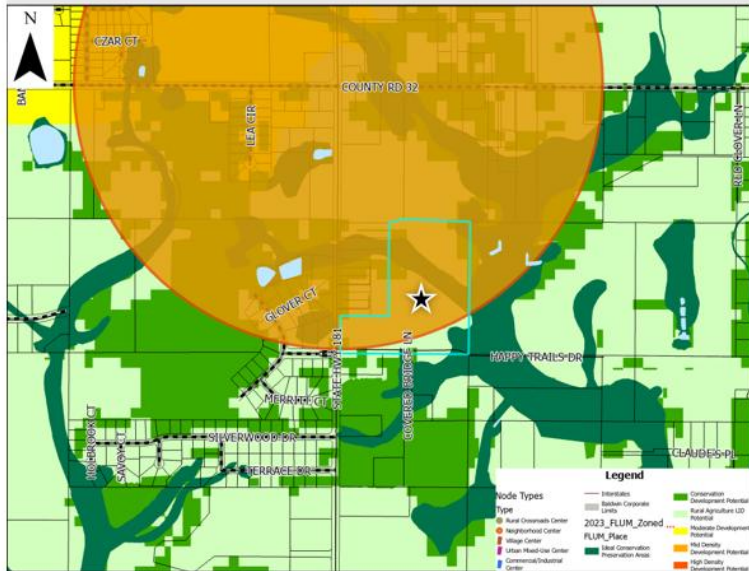


Property to The
West
PIN: 118102



Oct 22, 2025 10:56:00 AM
30°27'54.33073"N 87°51'9.8717"W
349° N
Baldwin County Code Enforcement

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

RURAL/AGRICULTURE/LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL AREAS

Rural Development Potential Areas include large lots, open space views, and a large buffer distance between buildings. Residential homes may be on large tracts and could include estate homes and working farmland. The development pattern may also include conservation-based subdivisions to allow for the clustering of residential dwellings to protect open space that is valued for natural resource protection—such as stream buffers, mature forest habitat, or wetlands—working farmland, or recreational amenities. Lands within these areas should be developed with additional Low Impact Development (LID) standards and buffers to limit the impact to adjacent critical environments. At key rural crossroads, rural centers or nodes could allow for a combination of retail and service uses to meet the needs of the community.

PRIMARY LAND USES

- Single-family detached homes
- Hobby farms
- Agri-hoods
- Cultivated farmland, timber/managed forest, pastureland
- Clustered manufactured housing communities
- Rural crossroads center/node

RELATED ZONING DISTRICTS

- RR Rural District
- RA Rural Agricultural District
- RSP-E Residential Single Family Estate

CONNECTIVITY NETWORK

- Rural streets with sidewalks, paved shoulders, bike lanes, and/or side paths based on local character and context
- Rural greenways and trails along environmental buffers

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

PRIMARY LAND USES

- Small-scale shops, restaurants and local-serving businesses—neighborhood-scaled retail, gas station, convenience grocery store, farm stand, hardware store.
- Agriculture-support businesses, services
- Public safety and services
- Small parks, playgrounds, and open spaces

RELATED ZONING DISTRICTS

- B-2 Neighborhood Business District

CONNECTIVITY NETWORK

- Gridded walkable streets
- Parking in rear of buildings
- Bus stop locations
- Greenway and trail access

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?		2			
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	2			
Does the proposed land use require building separation and buffers that fit the character of the surrounding area?		2			
Does the proposed land use promote development that fits the character of the surrounding area?			1		
Total Land Use Score (out of 10 points)		9			
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"		1		
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"		1		
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.	2			
Does the proposed use provide housing or commercial uses that are consistent with the growth and demand projections for the surrounding area?		2			
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.		1		
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.			-1	

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.				
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.				
Total Transportation & Utility Score (out of 10 points)		2			
Environmental Conditions & Historic Resources		2	1	-1	-2
Can the property be reasonably developed without impacting jurisdictional wetlands/streams or buffers?			1		
Can the property be reasonably developed without filling within the floodplain or contributing to a net loss of flood capacity?			1		

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?		2			
Would the proposed use have any impacts to historic or cultural resources in the area?		2			
Total Environmental Score (out of 10 points)			7		
TOTAL SMART GROWTH SCORE			25		
RECOMMENDATION			STRONGLY SUPPORTS		
			0		
			0		
			0		