

# ARTICLE IX

## ZONING DISTRICTS AND ZONING MAP

### PART I. ZONING DISTRICTS

#### **Section 15-135 Residential Districts Established.**

(a) The following basic residential districts are hereby established: R-20, R-15, R-10, R-7.5, R-3, R-2, R-R, R-S.I.R., and R-S.I.R.-2. The purpose of each of the foregoing residential districts is to secure for the persons who reside there a comfortable, healthy, safe, and pleasant environment in which to live, sheltered from incompatible and disruptive activities that properly belong in non-residential districts. **(AMENDED 5/12/81; 12/7/83; 2/4/86)**

(b) The WR (watershed residential) district is also established. All land within this district is located within the University Lake Watershed, and while this district is designed to achieve the objectives identified in subsection (a), it is also intended to protect the community water supply by allowing residential development of the land within the University Lake Watershed only at reduced density levels. **(AMENDED 12/7/83; 05/15/90)**

(c) The R-R (rural residential) district is designed to accommodate the residential and related uses as well as several additional uses that would be appropriate in the more sparsely populated areas of the town's joint planning transition area or extraterritorial planning area, but that would be inappropriate within the more intensively developed residential zones. **(AMENDED 11/14/88)**

(d) The R-S.I.R. (suitable for intensive residential) zone is designed (i) to encourage high density residential development that is compatible with the housing element of the town's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and (ii) to locate this high density development in areas most suitable for it, thereby reducing pressure for growth in less desirable locations and reducing urban sprawl. Land in this zone is deemed especially suitable for intensive residential development because of (i) the availability of police, fire, and sanitation service at low marginal cost due to existing service patterns, (ii) the availability of public water and sewer service, (iii) the ample road system serving the area, (iv) the compatibility of existing development in the area with high density residential development, and (v) the compatibility of high density residential development with environmental concerns, especially water quality. Developers are encouraged to construct housing that is consistent with the town's housing objectives through density bonuses, as set forth in Section 15-182.1.

(e) The R-S.I.R.-2 zoning district is designed to serve essentially the same purposes as the R-S.I.R. zone, but the maximum density allowed in the R-S.I.R.-2 district is less than that permitted in the R-S.I.R. district (see Section 15-182.1). Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter, all regulations and standards applicable to the R-S.I.R. district are also applicable to the R-S.I.R.-2 district. **(AMENDED 11/10/81)**

(f) **REPEALED 12/7/83**

**Section 15-135.1 Conservation District (AMENDED 12/7/83).**

There is hereby established a conservation (C) district. The purpose of this district is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by severely restricting development within and adjacent to certain lakes, ponds, watercourses, streams, creeks, drainage areas, floodplains, wetlands, and other flood-prone areas within the University Lake Watershed. The limited development allowed within a conservation district not only minimizes the danger to the community water supply from the more intensive development of this land but also allows this land to act as a natural buffer between more intensively developed areas and the watercourses contained within a conservation district. (AMENDED 12/7/83)

**Section 15-136 Commercial Districts Established (AMENDED 02/4/86; 05/28/02).**

The districts described below are hereby created to accomplish the purposes and serve the objectives indicated:

- (1) **B-1(C) TOWN CENTER BUSINESS.** This district is designed to encourage and accommodate a unified, compact, contiguous shopping and entertainment area focused around restaurants, specialty shops, arts and crafts. This area is intended for development around a theme or themes consistent with the Carr Mill, The Station, and historic or old Carrboro. The area is intended to accommodate the pedestrian user. (AMENDED 06/09/98)
  
- (2) **B-1(G) GENERAL BUSINESS.** This district is designed to accommodate a broad range of business uses. This district, because of its close proximity to established residential single family neighborhoods, is limited in the types of night uses permitted. Uses may be restricted in the hours of operation where the permit-issuing authority finds that such restrictions are necessary to prevent unreasonable disruptions to the peace and quiet of a nearby residential area. (AMENDED 12/08/92; 06/09/98; 06/20/06)
  
- (2.1) **(EAT) RESTAURANT DISTRICT OVERLAY.** This overlay district is designed to accommodate on-premises (inside and outside) dining 8.100 and 8.200 restaurant uses in the B-1(g) General Business district. Because of the B-1(g) district's close proximity to established residential single-family neighborhoods, the EAT overlay is restricted to properties a minimum distance of one property width from abutting residential zones and is limited in the types of night uses permitted. In addition, emphasis is given to the existing restrictions in the B-1(g) district and the ability of the permit-issuing authority to limit hours of operation where such restrictions are necessary to prevent unreasonable disruptions to the peace and quiet of a nearby residential area. Use of property within the overlay district for 8.100 and 8.200 purposes shall require the issuance of a conditional use permit. (AMENDED 03/21/95)

- (3) **B-2 FRINGE COMMERCIAL.** This district is a transitional district which is designed to accommodate commercial uses in areas that formerly were residential but that now may be more desirable for commercial activities due to high traffic volumes and proximity to other nonresidential districts. At the same time, continued residential use of existing and nearby structures, and preservation of the existing character and appearance of this area is encouraged. Accordingly, however, whenever the use of the land in this district is changed to commercial, it is intended and desired that existing residential structures be converted and adapted to commercial use rather than new buildings constructed, and to encourage this, the regulations for this district allow development at a lower density than is permitted in the B-1 districts and permit uses that tend to generate minimal traffic. In this way, the B-2 district should provide a smoother transition from the more intensively developed B-1 areas to residential areas. Any development within the B-2 district shall comply with the following requirements: **(AMENDED 09/06/88; 06/20/06).**
- a. To the extent practicable, development shall otherwise retain, preserve and be compatible with the residential character of the older homes within and immediately adjacent to this district;
  - b. To the extent practicable, vehicle accommodation areas associated with uses on lots in this district shall be located in the rear of buildings so that parking areas are not readily visible from the streets; and
- (4) **B-3 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS.** This district is designed to accommodate commercial needs arising at the neighborhood level, such as grocery stores, branch banks, gas sales, and the like, as well as other commercial and office uses that are of such size and scale that they can compatibly coexist with adjoining residential neighborhoods. To insure compatibility between B-3 areas and the neighborhoods, no B-3 district shall be greater than five acres, and no areas shall be zoned B-3 if any portion of a pre-existing business district lies within one-half mile in any direction. **(AMENDED 3/7/2006)**
- (5) **B-4 OUTLYING CONCENTRATED BUSINESS.** This zone is designed to accommodate a variety of commercial enterprises that provide goods and services to a larger market area than those businesses permitted in the neighborhood business district. Development regulations also permit higher buildings and increased density over that allowed in the B-3 zone. This zone is intended to create an attractive, concentrated business district in areas that are outside the town's central business district but that are served by the town's major thoroughfares. Examples of permitted uses include shopping centers, professional offices and motels. Uses that are not permitted include outside storage and drive-in theaters.
- (6) **B-5 WATERSHED COMMERCIAL.** This district is designed to accommodate commercial uses within the University Lake Watershed area without adversely affecting the community water supply.

- (7) **CT CORPORATE TOWN.** This district is designed to create a visually attractive, commercial use district with flexible space. The district is intended to provide space for assemblage and research and development type enterprises. Any structure in this district which is proposed for non-residential use shall be located a minimum distance of 50 feet from any residential dwelling unit in the district that was in existence on July 1, 1985. In order to encourage the creation of flexible space, an average minimum building height of 18 feet for any principal structure is required. The continued use of existing residential dwelling units along North Greensboro Street is encouraged. (AMENDED 06/20/06).
- (8) **B-3-T TRANSITION AREA BUSINESS.** This district is designed to accommodate commercial needs arising in the town's more rural neighborhoods, especially in the joint planning transition areas, and which are more appropriately dealt with at the neighborhood level than at a community or regional level. To insure compatibility between B-3-T areas and their associated rural neighborhoods, no B-3-T district shall be greater than five acres, and no areas shall be zoned B-3-T if any portion of a pre-existing business district lies within one-half mile in any direction. (AMENDED 11/14/88)
- (9) **O OFFICE.** This district is intended to provide locations for low intensity office and institutional uses. This district is designed for parcels three (3) acres or less in size. Rather than have new buildings constructed, it is intended and desired that any existing residential structures within the district be converted and adapted to office or institutional use. In order to assure compatibility of residential conversions or new office construction with existing and future residential development, specific performance measures to mitigate negative impacts of office development will be required. Any development within the Office (O) district shall comply with the following requirements:
- a. Type A screening will be required between any non- residential use and adjacent properties, except for openings necessary to allow pedestrian movement between the office or institutional use and adjacent properties;
  - b. To the extent practicable, vehicle accommodation areas associated with uses on lots in this district shall be located in the rear of buildings so that parking areas are not readily visible from the streets, unless doing so would adversely affect adjoining residential properties;
  - c. Whenever a new building is erected in this district, (i) the exterior walls shall be constructed of materials commonly used on the exterior walls of single-family residences (such as brick, stone, wood, or fabricated residential lap siding made of hardboard, vinyl, or aluminum); (ii) the pitch of the roof shall have a minimum vertical rise of one foot for every five feet of horizontal run; provided that this requirement shall not apply to lots that have frontage on any street where, within the same block as the property in

question, at least 75% of the buildings (in place on April 16, 1991) that front along the same side of the street do not have roofs that comply with this pitched roof standard; and (iii) windows shall be of a type commonly used in single-family residences;

- d. Manufacturer's specifications for proposed outdoor lighting fixtures (including candlepower distribution) must be included in the submitted plans and maximum illumination areas must be delineated on the site plan. Light sources (light bulbs or tubes) shall be shielded to reflect down onto the ground and not out onto neighboring properties. **(AMENDED 04/16/91)**

(10) **O/A OFFICE/ASSEMBLY.** This district is intended to provide for office, administrative, professional, research, and specialized manufacturing (such as light assembly and processing) activities in close proximity to an arterial street. This district is intended to provide employment near residential areas; therefore, the required development standards are intended to be compatible to adjacent residential uses and provide a park-like setting for employment. It is strongly encouraged that development in the Office/Assembly zoning district be designed so that employees may easily utilize alternative forms of transportation (such riding buses, cycling or walking) to commute to their place of employment. Any development within the Office/Assembly (O/A) district shall comply with the following requirements: **(AMENDED 05/25/99; 5/28/02)**

- a. No area less than five contiguous acres may be zoned as an Office/Assembly district;
- b. The performance standards (Article XI, Part I) applicable to 4.000 classification uses in business zones shall govern uses in an Office/Assembly zone;
- c. As shown in Section 15-308, Table of Screening Requirements, screening will be required between non-residential uses in the Office/Assembly district and adjacent residential properties;
- d. Manufacturer's specifications for proposed outdoor lighting fixtures (including candlepower distribution) must be included in the submitted plans and maximum illumination areas must be delineated on the site plan. Light sources (light bulbs or tubes) shall be shielded to reflect down onto the ground and not out onto neighboring properties. **(AMENDED 04/16/91)**
- e. Not more than 25 percent of the total building gross floor constructed within the proposed district may be used for uses permissible within this district that fall within the 2.000 classification.

- (11) **O/A CU OFFICE/ASSEMBLY CONDITIONAL USE.** This district is identical to the O/A district and shall be subject to all regulations applicable to the O/A district (including but not limited to the performance standards set forth in Part 1 of Article XI) except as follows: **(AMENDED 05/25/99; 5/28/02)**
- a. This district shall be a conditional use district authorized under N.C.G.S. 160A-382. As such, property may be placed within this district only in response to a petition by the owners of all the property to be included.
  - b. No area less than four contiguous acres and no more than a total of twenty-five (25) acres may be rezoned to the O/A CU.
  - c. As indicated in the Table of Permissible Uses, the only permissible use within an O/A CU district is an office/assembly planned development, and an office/assembly planned development is permissible only in an O/A CU district.
    1. The applicant for an office/assembly planned development conditional use permit shall specify which of the use classifications generally permissible with an O/A district the applicant wants to make permissible within the proposed O/A CU district.
    2. Once a conditional use permit authorizing an office/assembly planned development has been issued, then individual tenants or occupants of the spaces or properties covered by the permit may occupy or use such individual spaces or properties without need for additional zoning, special use, or conditional use permits, so long as such use or occupancy is consistent with the approved conditional use permit including limitations on permissible use classifications approved pursuant to subsection 1 above or other conditions or limitations imposed as conditions pursuant to Section 15-59.
    3. Uses within the O/A CU district shall be limited to those where loading and unloading occurs during daylight hours only.
  - c.1. Not more than 25 percent of the total building gross floor constructed within the proposed district may be used for uses permissible within this district that fall within the 2.000 classification.
  - d. When an O/A CU rezoning petition is submitted (in accordance with Article XX of this chapter), the applicant shall simultaneously submit a conditional use permit application for an office/assembly planned development.
    1. The rezoning and conditional use permit applications shall be processed and reviewed concurrently.

2. The Board of Aldermen shall simultaneously conduct a public hearing on the rezoning and conditional use permit applications, in accordance with the procedures applicable to other conditional use permit applications.
  3. If the Board concludes in the exercise of its legislative discretion that the proposed rezoning would not be consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare, it may deny the application in accordance with the same procedures applicable to any ordinance amendment request.
  4. The Board may not approve the rezoning application unless it simultaneously approves a conditional use permit for an office/assembly planned development, which permit may be issued subject to reasonable conditions and requirements a set forth in Section 15-59.
- e. Buildings within the O/A CU district shall comply with the following standards:
1. Exterior walls shall be constructed of materials commonly used on the exterior walls of single-family residences (such as brick, stone, wood or fabricated residential lap siding made of hardboard or vinyl).
  2. The pitch of the roof shall have a minimum vertical rise of one foot for every two feet of horizontal run.
  3. Windows shall be of a scale and proportion typical of single-family residences. **(AMENDED 05/25/99)**

**Section 15-137 Manufacturing Districts Established (AMENDED 6/22/82; 2/4/86).**

(a) The M-1 and M-2 districts are hereby created to accomplish the purposes and serve the objectives set forth in this subsection. Part of Article XI contains performance standards that place limitations on the characteristics of uses located in the districts created by this section.

- (1) **M-1 LIGHT MANUFACTURING.** This zone is designed to accommodate a limited range of industrial activities and a wide range of commercial uses including wholesaling, storage, mail-order, auto related, and office and retail in conjunction with industrial or wholesaling uses. Permitted industrial uses include enterprises engaged in manufacturing, processing, creating, repairing, renovating, painting, cleaning and assembly where all operations are contained inside a fully enclosed building. The performance standards

for the M-1 zone located in Part I of Article XI are more restrictive than those in the M-2 district.

- (2) **M-2 GENERAL MANUFACTURING.** This district is designed to accommodate the widest range of industrial uses. Business operations may be conducted within and outside a fully enclosed building. The performance standards for this zone are less restrictive than those in the M-1 district.

(b) There is also established a watershed light industrial (WM-3) zoning district. The purpose of this district is to allow areas within the University Lake Watershed that have been zoned M-1 prior to the effective date of this subdivision to continue to be used and developed for light industrial and related purposes, subject to certain restrictions designed to protect the watershed. Consistent with the purpose of this zone, this district shall be confined to that area zoned M-1 on the effective date of this subsection; this area shall not be expanded and no new WM-3 areas shall be designated. **(AMENDED 12/7/83)**

(c) There is also established a Planned Industrial Development (PID) zoning district. The purpose of this district is to provide for the possibility of well planned and tightly controlled industrial development in areas that are suitable for such development but that are not deemed appropriate for M-1 or M-2 zoning because of the less restricted types of development that may occur in such zones. **(AMENDED 6/22/82; 12/7/83)**

- (1) No area less than twenty contiguous acres may be zoned as a Planned Industrial Development district, and then only upon a request submitted by or on behalf of the owner or owners of all the property intended to be covered by such zone.
- (2) As indicated in the Table of Permissible Uses (Section 15-146) a planned industrial development (use classification 30.000) is the only permissible use in a PID zone.
- (3) Subject to subdivision (2) of this subsection, and consistent with the restrictions contained in the definition of a planned industrial development [see Subdivision 15-15(60)], land within a PID zone may be used in a manner that would be permissible if the land were zoned M-1, except that (i) the only permissible uses are those described in the 2.130 and 4.100 classifications and (ii) the performance standards (Article XI, Part I) applicable to 4.100 uses in business zones shall govern uses in a planned industrial development.

**Section 15-138 Public Facilities District Established.**

There is hereby created a Public Facilities (P-F) zoning district. Within this district, those uses indicated as permissible in the Table of Permissible Uses may be developed, but only if such developments are owned and operated by the United States, the State of North Carolina, Orange

County, the Town of Carrboro, or any agency, department, or subdivision of the foregoing governments.

**Section 15-139 Planned Unit Development District Established.**

(a) There are hereby established sixty different Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning districts as described in this section. Each PUD zoning district is designed to combine the characteristics of at least two and possibly three zoning districts. **(AMENDED 2/24/87)**

- (1) One element of each PUD district shall be the residential element. Here there are six possibilities, each one corresponding to one of the following residential districts identified in Section 15-135: R-20, R-15, R-10, R-7.5, R-3, or R- S.I.R. Within that portion of the PUD zone that is developed for purposes permissible in a residential district, all development must be in accordance with the regulations applicable to the residential zoning district to which the particular PUD zoning district corresponds.
- (2) A second element of each PUD district shall be the commercial element. Here there are five possibilities, each one corresponding to either the B-1(g), B-2, B-3, O, or O/A zoning districts established by Section 15-136. Within that portion of a PUD district that is developed for purposes permissible in a commercial district, all development must be in accordance with the regulations applicable to the commercial district to which the PUD district corresponds. **(AMENDED 02/04/97)**
- (3) A manufacturing/processing element may be a third element of any PUD district. Here there are two alternatives. The first is that uses permitted within the M-1 district would be permitted within the PUD district. The second alternative is that uses permitted only within the M-1 or M-2 zoning districts would not be permitted. If an M-1 element is included, then within that portion of the PUD district that is developed for purposes permissible in an M-1 district, all development must be in accordance with the regulations applicable to the M-1 district.

The sixty different PUD zoning districts are derived from the various combinations of possible alternatives within each of the three elements -- residential, commercial, manufacturing/processing. For example, there is an R-20/B-1(g)/M-1 district, an R-20/B-2/M-1 district, an R-20/B-2 district, an R-15/B-1(g)/M-1 district, etc. **(AMENDED 02/04/97)**

(b) No area of less than twenty-five contiguous acres may be zoned as a Planned Unit Development district, and then only upon the request of the owner or owners of all of the property intended to be covered by such zone.

(c) As indicated in the Table of Permissible Uses (Section 15-146), a planned unit development (use classification 28.000) is the only permissible use in a PUD zone, and planned unit developments are permissible only in such zones.

**Section 15-140 Residential High Density and Commercial Overlay District (AMENDED 2/4/86)**

There is hereby created a Residential High Density and Commercial Overlay (RHDC) zoning district. The purpose of this district is to provide for the redevelopment of deteriorating commercial and manufacturing areas in a manner that is consistent with commercial development goals of the town, namely, for compact, compressed town center growth, for a substantial increase in residential opportunities near the town center, and for mixed use development in the downtown. Property that lies within this overlay district may be developed in accordance with either the regulations applicable to the underlying district or the following regulations:

- (1) To take advantage of provisions applicable to the RHDC overlay district, lots must contain at least one and one half acres of contiguous land under single ownership.
- (2) Uses permissible shall be those permissible within either the R-2 district or the B-1(c) district, or both, except that subdivisions other than architecturally integrated subdivisions shall not be allowed.
- (3) Residential density shall be determined as if the property were zoned R-2.
- (4) Twenty percent of the lot area shall remain as usable open space (see Section 15-198), except that where the development seeks to provide interior open space or indoor hard court, pool, or other active recreation facilities in excess of the basic requirement set forth in Article XIII, the permit-issuing authority may reduce the open space requirement to reflect the quality and amount of such facilities. The developer may substitute grassed areas, lawn, gardens, and shrubbed space for wooded space in meeting the requirements of 15-198(b)(3).
- (5) Subject to subdivision (6), the amount of floor area set aside or used for purposes not permissible within the R-2 district (i.e., commercial uses) may not exceed ten percent of the floor area used for residential purposes.
- (6) Where at least one-third of the total number of parking spaces for the development are provided on a tier or level other than ground level (as with underground parking or a two tier parking garage) and where the open space is increased to 40% of the development tract, the development may either (i) increase the commercial floor area over that allowed in subdivision (5) to 25% of the floor area in residential use, or (ii) increase the density for residential use to 1,500 square feet per dwelling unit.

- (7) The maximum building height for the district shall be 50 feet. A building that is over 35 feet shall be set-in and setback 2 additional feet for every additional foot above 35 feet in height.
- (8) Commercial space shall be located at ground level or on the top level of a building.
- (9) Except as otherwise provided herein, the regulations applicable to land within an R-2 district shall apply to property within a RHDC district.

**Section 15-140.1 Office-Residential Mixed Use District (AMENDED 6/20/06)**

(a) There is hereby created an Office-Residential Mixed Use (OR-MU) zoning district. The purpose of this district is to provide for mixed use developments, i.e. developments that contain both residential and non-residential elements, within areas that are near the downtown commercial districts.

(b) Any lot within the OR-MU district that exists on the effective date of this section or that is hereafter created may be developed and used for those purposes within the 3.000 classification that are permissible within the B-2 zoning district, subject to the same permitting requirements and other applicable regulations of this chapter, just as if the property were zoned B-2.

(c) Any lot or tract within the OR-MU district may be developed as a mixed use project in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

- (1) Development of property under this subsection requires the issuance of a conditional use permit by the Board of Aldermen in accordance with the applicable provisions of this chapter.
- (2) A mixed use project approved under this subsection must have both a residential and a nonresidential component.
- (3) At least one-half but not more than two-thirds of the gross floor area of the mixed use development shall consist of residential uses listed in use classifications 1.100, 1.200, 1.300, or 1.400, 1.510 (hotels and motels) and 1.520 (tourist homes and other temporary residences), provided that use classifications 1.510 and 1.520 shall not comprise more than one-third of the residential component. However, the residential component of the mixed use development may be increased to ninety percent of the floor area of the mixed use development if the developer donates to a non-profit agency engaged in providing affordable housing at least ten percent of the total acreage within the development and enters into an enforceable agreement with such agency to construct on such land and convey to the agency, at not more than the developer's cost, the number of housing units for which the agency obtains a permit. For purposes of this subsection, the phrase "within the development" means within the area covered by the conditional use permit issued for the mixed use development

as well as any adjacent property that is or was owned by the developer of the mixed use project and that is conveyed to a non-profit agency and developed for affordable housing as described herein, even if such other area is not located with the Town of Carrboro.

- (4) The permissible residential density within the mixed use development shall be calculated as if the development were zoned R-3, except that the density shall be calculated as if the property were zoned R-2 if the developer conveys at least ten percent of the land within the development to a non-profit agency and constructs on that land affordable housing as described in subsection (c)(3) above. For purposes of this subsection, if land that is not located within the Town of Carrboro is regarded as “within the development” as that phrase is defined in subsection (c)(3) above, then such area shall be considered part of the development for purposes of calculating the permissible residential density under this subsection.
- (5) Subject to the other provisions of this subsection, the dimensional and other requirements of this chapter applicable to the R-3 district shall apply to a mixed use development permitted under this section. However, the maximum height of buildings within the mixed use development, shall be four stories, except that a fifth story shall be permitted if the developer conveys at least ten percent of the land within the development to a non-profit agency and constructs on that land of affordable housing as described in subsection (c)(3) above. Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, any parking levels that are constructed underneath a building within a mixed use development and that are at least in substantial part constructed below the ground service levels shall not be regarded as “stories” for purposes of the height limitations established herein.
- (6) Permissible uses within the commercial component of the mixed use shall be those listed in the following use classifications within the Table of Permissible Uses: (i) use classification 3.100; (ii) use classifications 2.110, 2.112, 2.120, 2.130, 2.150, 2.210, 2.220, provided that such uses do not comprise more than fifty percent of the total commercial space within the mixed use development; and (iii) restaurant uses 8.100, 8.200, and 8.500, so long as any one restaurant business does not occupy more than 1,500 square feet of gross floor area and so long as such restaurant uses do not operate during the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- (7) A mixed use development may be constructed in phases as provided in Section 15-61. However, the phasing plan shall ensure that, as buildings are constructed and occupied, the relative mix of residential and commercial floor space remains substantially consistent with the percentages approved in the plans.
- (8) If portions of the mixed use development are subdivided, the final plat shall contain notations indicating any limitations on uses or the sequencing of development created as a result of approval of the development as a mixed use under this section.

**Section 15-141 Neighborhood Preservation District Established (AMENDED 09/26/89; 11/21/95; 5/27/08)**

(a) There are hereby established an Historic District (HD) and a Neighborhood Preservation District (NPD).

(1) **HD HISTORIC DISTRICT.** This district is designed to apply to areas which are deemed to be of special significance in terms of their history, architecture and/or culture, and to possess integrity of design, setting, materials, feeling and association. The historic district is one of Carrboro's most valued and important assets and is established for the following purposes: to protect and conserve the heritage of Carrboro, Orange County and the State of North Carolina; to preserve the social, economic, cultural, political, and architectural history of the district and its individual properties; to promote the education, pleasure and enrichment of residents in the district and Carrboro and Orange County and the State as a whole; to encourage tourism and increased commercial activity; to foster civic beauty; and to stabilize and enhance property values throughout the district as a whole, thus contributing to the improvement of the general health and welfare of Carrboro and any residents of the district.

(2) **NPD NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION DISTRICT.** This district is designed to apply to areas which are deemed to possess form, character, and visual qualities from arrangements or combinations of architectural or appurtenant features or places of historical or cultural significance that create an image of stability, local identity, and livable atmosphere. This district is established to achieve the same objectives and purposes as those set forth above with respect to the historic district.

(b) The HD and NPD districts are overlay districts, and properties within these districts are subject to the regulations applicable to the underlying district as well as the requirements set forth in Article XXI of this chapter.

**Section 15-141.1 Jordan Lake Watershed Districts Established (AMENDED 10/15/96)**

(a) There is hereby established an overlay district to be known as the Jordan Lake Watershed Protection District (JLWP). The purpose of this overlay district is to provide for the imposition of regulations applicable to areas within the town's planning jurisdiction that are part of the Jordan Lake WS-IV Watershed in order to comply with the provisions of Article 21, Chapter 143 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

(b) Because the JLWP district is an overlay district, properties within this district are subject to the regulations applicable to the underlying district as well as the requirements of the JLWP district.

**Section 15-141.2 Village Mixed Use District Established (AMENDED 05/25/99)**

(a) There is hereby established a Village Mixed Use (VMU) district. This district is established to provide for the development of rural new villages at a scale intended to continue Carrboro's small town character as described in its Year 2000 Task Force Report and to promote a traditional concept of villages. The applicant for rezoning to this district must demonstrate that its planning, design and development will achieve, but not necessarily be limited to, all of the following specific objectives:

1. The preservation of open space, scenic vistas, agricultural lands and natural resources within the Town of Carrboro and its planning jurisdiction and to minimize the potential for conflict between such areas and other land uses;
2. The creation of a distinct physical settlement surrounded by a protected landscape of generally open land used for agricultural, forest, recreational and environmental protection purposes.
3. Dwellings, shops, and workplaces generally located in close proximity to each other, the scale of which accommodates and promotes pedestrian travel for trips within the village.
4. Modestly sized buildings fronting on, and aligned with, streets in a disciplined manner.
5. A generally rectilinear pattern of streets, alleys and blocks reflecting the street network in existing small villages which provides for a balanced mix of pedestrians and automobiles.
6. Squares greens, landscaped streets and parks woven into street and block patterns to provide space for social activity, parks and visual enjoyment.
7. Provision of buildings for civic assembly or for other common purposes that act as visual landmarks and symbols of identity within the community.
8. A recognizable, functionally diverse, but visually unified village focused on a village green or square.
9. Development of a size and scale, which accommodates and promotes pedestrian travel rather than motor vehicle trips within the village.
10. Compliance with the policies embodied in this chapter for the development of a village mixed use.

*Art. IX ZONING DISTRICTS AND ZONING MAP*

(b) The VMU district shall be a conditional use district authorized under N.C.G.S. 160A-382. As such, property may be placed within this district only in response to a petition by the owners of all the property to be included.

(c) As indicated in the Table of Permissible Uses, the only permissible use within a VMU district is a village mixed use development, and a village mixed use development is only permissible within a VMU district.

(d) Property may be rezoned to the VMU district only when the property proposed for such rezoning:

1. Comprises at least fifty, but not more than two hundred, contiguous acres. For purposes of this subsection, acreage is not “contiguous” to other acreage if separated by a public street or connected only at a point less than one hundred feet in width; and
2. Is so located in relationship to existing or proposed public streets that traffic generated by the development of the tract proposed for rezoning can be accommodated without endangering the public health, safety, or welfare; and
3. Will be served by OWASA water and sewer lines when developed;

(e) No more than 350 gross acres may be rezoned to the VMU district and no more than three villages may be approved.

(f) Nothing in this section is intended to limit the discretion of the Board of Aldermen to deny an application to rezone property to a VMU district if it determines that the proposed rezoning is not in the public interest.

(g) When a VMU rezoning application is submitted (in accordance with Article XX of this ordinance), the applicant shall simultaneously submit an application for approval of a master plan for the proposed village mixed use development, in accordance with the following provisions.

1. The master plan shall show, through a combination of graphic means and text (including without limitation proposed conditions to be included in the conditional use permit for the proposed development):
  - a. The location, types, and densities of residential uses;
  - b. The location, types, and maximum floor areas and impervious surface areas for non-residential uses;
  - c. The location and orientation of buildings, parking areas, recreational facilities, and open spaces;

- d. Access and circulation systems for vehicles and pedestrians;
  - e. How the development proposes to satisfy the objectives of and comply with the regulations applicable to a village mixed use development as set forth in Section 15-176.2 of this chapter;
  - f. How the development proposes to minimize or mitigate any adverse impacts on neighboring properties and the environment, including without limitation impacts from traffic and stormwater runoff; and
  - g. How the development proposes to substantially comply with the town's recommended "Village Mixed Use Vernacular Architectural Standards." (**AMENDED 8/22/06**).
2. The planning board, Northern Transition Advisory Committee, Appearance Commission, Environmental Advisory Board, Transportation Advisory Board (and other advisory boards to which the Board of Aldermen may refer the application) shall review the proposed master plan at the same time it considers the applicant's rezoning request. In response to suggestions made by the planning board (or other advisory boards), the applicant may revise the master plan before it is submitted to the Board of Aldermen.
3. If the applicant submits a proposed master plan with a VMU rezoning application, then:
- a. Applicants for VMU districts that are located within the Transition Area portion of the Carrboro Joint Development Area as defined within the Joint Planning Agreement should meet with Carrboro Town and Orange County Planning staff prior to the formal submittal of an application to informally discuss the preliminary rezoning development plan.
  - b. The rezoning application and master plan proposal shall be reviewed concurrently by the Board of Aldermen according to the same procedures and in accordance with the same standards applicable to other zoning amendments; and
  - c. The Board may not approve the VMU rezoning application unless it simultaneously approves the master plan for the development of the property, subject to such reasonable modifications and conditions as the Board may impose in the exercise of its legislative discretion.
4. Approval of a VMU rezoning application with a master plan under this section does not obviate the need to obtain a conditional use permit for the

village mixed use development in accordance with the provisions of Section 15-176.2 of this chapter.

- a. With respect to VMU applications involving property that is totally or partly within the Transition Area portion of the Carrboro Joint Development Area as defined within the Joint Planning Agreement, in addition to other grounds for denial of a conditional use permit application under this chapter, a conditional use permit for a village mixed use development shall be denied if the application is inconsistent with the approved master plan in any substantial way. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, an application for a conditional use permit is inconsistent in a substantial way with a previously approved master plan if the plan of development proposed under the conditional use permit application increases the residential density or commercial floor area permissible on the property or decreases or alters the location of open space areas.
  - b. With respect to property that is located totally outside the Transition Area portion of the Carrboro Joint Development Area as defined within the Joint Planning Agreement, in addition to other grounds for denial of a conditional use permit application under this chapter, no conditional use permit for a village mixed use development may be denied on the basis that the application is inconsistent with the approved master plan. However, if the conditional use permit is approved, the Board of Aldermen shall be deemed to have amended the master plan to bring it into conformity with the conditional use permit.
  - c. No conditional use permit for a village neighborhood mixed use development may be denied for reasons set forth in Subsection 15-54(c)(4) if the basis for such denial involves an element or effect of the development that has previously been specifically addressed and approved in the master plan approval process, unless (i) it can be demonstrated that the information presented to the Board of Aldermen at the master plan approval stage was materially false or misleading, (ii) conditions have changed substantially in a manner that could not reasonably have been anticipated, or (iii) a basis for denial for reasons set forth in Subsection 15-54(c)(4) is demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence.
5. Subject to Subsection 15-141.2(g)(4)b, a master plan approved under this section may only be amended in accordance with the provisions applicable to a rezoning of the property in question.

**Section 15-141.3 Conditional Use Zoning Districts (AMENDED 5/25/04; 4/28/15)**

(a) The following conditional use zoning districts are hereby established: RR-CU, R-20-CU, R-15-CU, R-10-CU, R-7.5-CU, R-3-CU, R-2-CU, R-S.I.R-CU, R-S.I.R.-2-CU, B-1(c)-CU, B-1(g)-CU, B-2-CU, B-3-CU, B-4-CU, CT-CU, B-3-T-CU, O-CU, M-1-CU, and M-2-CU. A Special Manufacturing Conditional Use (M-3-CU) zoning district is also established. The provisions of this section applicable to these conditional use-zoning districts do not affect or apply to the Office/Assembly Conditional Use District, or the Village Mixed Use Conditional Use District.

(b) The conditional use zoning districts established in this section may be applied to property only in response to a petition signed by all the owners of the property to be included within such district.

(c) Subject to subsection (c1) and other provisions of this section, the uses permissible within a conditional use zoning district established herein, and the regulations applicable to property within such a district, shall be those uses that are permissible within and those regulations that are applicable to the general use zoning district to which the conditional use district corresponds. For example, property that is rezoned to a B-2-CU district may be developed in the same manner as property that is zoned B-2, except as provided in this section.

(c1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the uses that are permissible within an M-3-CU district, and the regulations applicable to property within such a district shall be those uses and those regulations that would be applicable to any property zoned M-1-CU (i.e. excluding specific conditions made applicable to specific property zoned M-1-CU) with the addition of use 3.250.

1. If the Board concludes that a proposed development of property zoned M-3- CU will contain site and building elements that will create a more vibrant and successful community and provide essential public infrastructure, the Board may approve a conditional use permit that allows up to a specified maximum percentage of the gross floor area of the development to be devoted to any combination of uses 8.100, 8.200, 8.500, 8.600, and 8.700. The specified maximum percentage of the gross floor area of the development that may be devoted to such uses shall be proportional to the extent to which the development provides site and building elements that exceed the basic requirements of this ordinance. Such site and building elements are intended to be selected from the following five areas: stormwater management and water conservation; substantial transportation improvement and alternative transportation enhancement; on-site energy production and energy conservation; creation of new and innovative light manufacturing operations; and the provision of public art and/or provision of outdoor amenities for public use.

2. The following relationships between site and building elements and uses are hereby deemed to satisfy the standard set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection: (i) up to fifteen percent of the gross floor area of a development approved pursuant to this section may be devoted to any combination of uses 8.100, 8.200, 8.500, 8.600, and 8.700 if the development includes at least fifteen percent of the examples of performance measures from the five areas of site and building element categories set forth below; (ii) up to thirty percent of the gross floor area of a development approved pursuant to this section may be devoted to any combination of the foregoing uses if the development includes at least thirty percent of the examples of performance measures from the five areas of site and building element categories set forth below; and (iii) up to forty percent of the gross floor area of a development approved pursuant to this section may be devoted to any combination of the foregoing uses if the development includes at least forty percent of the examples of performance measures from the five areas of site and building element categories set forth below. In addition, the Board may allow up to forty percent of a development approved pursuant to this section to be devoted to any combination of the foregoing uses if it concludes that the development will be making a substantial enough investment in one or more of the performance measures listed below to satisfy the standard set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

**Performance Measures**

<b>Site and Building Element Categories</b>	<b>Examples of Performance Measures</b>
Stormwater management and Water conservation	1) Substantial stormwater retrofits 2) Reduction in nitrogen loading from the site by at least 8 percent from the existing condition, as determined by the Jordan Lake Accounting Tool
Substantial transportation improvement and Alternative transportation enhancement	3) Provision of a safe, convenient, and connected internal street system or vehicle accommodation area designed to meet the needs of the expected number of motor vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit trips 4) Substantial improvement to public infrastructure, such as enhanced bicycle and pedestrian paths, or access to transit 5) Construction of substantially improved site entrance, intersection
On-site energy production and energy	6) Meets or exceeds standards for LEED Gold certification 7) Installation of active and passive solar features such as sufficient solar arrays to account for 50 percent or more of the electrical

conservation	<p>usage for the property</p> <p>8) Use of harvested rainwater for toilet flushing</p> <p>9) Use of devices that shade at least 30 percent of south-facing and west-facing building elevations</p> <p>10) Use of low emissivity (low-e<sup>2</sup>) windows along south-facing and west-facing building elevations</p> <p>11) Installation of attic insulation that exceeds the current building code R-value rating by 35 percent or greater</p> <p>12) Use of geothermal heat system to serve the entire complex</p> <p>13) Use of LED fixtures for parking and street lights</p> <p>14) Meets the Architecture 2030 goal of a 50 percent fossil fuel and greenhouse gas emission reduction standard, measured from the regional (or country) average for that building type or the US Conference of Mayors fossil fuel reduction standard for all new buildings to carbon neutral by 2030</p>
Creation of new and innovative light manufacturing operations	<p>15) The development of clean, innovative light manufacturing operation(s) that creates employment for a more than ten workers</p> <p>16) Incorporates technologies to reduce production waste by 50 percent or more</p>
The provision of public art and/or provision of outdoor amenities for public use	<p>17) Outdoor amenities such as major public art</p> <p>18) Amphitheatre or outdoor theater, outdoor congregating/gathering area</p> <p>19) Outdoor eating facilities</p> <p>20) Outdoor tables with game surfaces, etc.</p>

3. In approving a conditional use permit for a development of infill property zoned M-3- CU, the Board may allow deviations from the otherwise applicable standards relating to public streets as follows:

- a. The Board may approve a curb and gutter street having a right-of way of not less than 50 feet, travel lanes of not less than 11 feet, divided by a raised concrete median, with a two foot planting strip and a five foot sidewalk if the development provides a separate ten-foot wide paved bike path or shared-use path that constitutes a satisfactory alternative to a bike lane with the street right-of-way if the applicant can demonstrate that the proposed road will provide the functional equivalent to the required street classification standard

for all modes of travel from the point of origin to the terminus at the property boundaries.

- b. The Board may approve a street lighting system consisting of LED lights on 15 foot poles if satisfactory arrangements are made to ensure that all costs associated with the installation, operation, and maintenance of such poles and lights are borne by the developer or the developer's successor, and not the Town.
- c. The Board may approve a street tree planting plan that provides for the installation of fewer 6" caliper trees rather than the planting of more numerous 2" caliper trees required by Section 15-316.

(d) Subject to subsection (f), all uses that are permissible in the conditional use zoning district shall require the issuance of a conditional use permit, regardless of whether a use in the corresponding general use district would ordinarily require (according to the Table of Permissible Uses) a zoning permit, special use permit, or conditional use permit.

(e) When a rezoning petition for a conditional use zoning district is submitted (in accordance with Article XX of this chapter), the applicant shall simultaneously submit a conditional use permit application showing how the applicant proposes to develop the entirety of the property covered in the rezoning petition.

1. The rezoning and conditional use permit applications shall be processed and reviewed concurrently.
2. The Board of Aldermen shall simultaneously conduct a public hearing on the rezoning and conditional use permit applications, in accordance with the procedures applicable to other conditional use permit applications.
3. If the Board concludes in the exercise of its legislative discretion that the proposed rezoning would not be consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare, it may deny the application in accordance with the same procedures applicable to any ordinance amendment request.
4. When a rezoning petition for a conditional use zoning district is submitted (in accordance with Article XX of this chapter), the application shall include a list of proposed conditions (which may be in the form of written statements, graphic illustrations, or any combination thereof) to be incorporated into the conditional use permit issued in conjunction with the rezoning to the requested conditional use zoning district. The list of proposed conditions may be modified by the planning staff, advisory boards, or Board of Aldermen as the rezoning application works its way through the process described in Article XX, but only those conditions mutually approved by the applicant and the Board may be incorporated into the conditional use permit. Conditions and site-specific standards imposed in this process shall be limited to (i) those that address the conformance of the development and use of the site to the provisions of this chapter or to applicable plans adopted by the Board, and (ii)

those that address the impacts reasonably expected to be generated by the development and use of the site.

5. If the conditional use permit is allowed to expire (under Section 15-62), the Board may initiate action to rezone the property to any appropriate general use district classification. In addition, notwithstanding any other provision of this ordinance, the Board shall be under no obligation to consider any major modification of a conditional use permit issued in connection with a conditional use rezoning or any new conditional use permit for property that has been the subject of a conditional use rezoning.

(f) If a conditional use permit issued in connection with a conditional use rezoning authorizes the creation of a residential subdivision containing lots intended for development with not more than four dwelling units each, and the conditional use permit application does not provide sufficient information to authorize a development permit for such lots, then such lots may be developed pursuant to the issuance of a zoning permit (i.e. each lot will not require an amendment to the conditional use permit issued for the overall development).

**Section 15-141.4 Conditional Zoning Districts (AMENDED 5/27/08)**

(a) Conditional zoning districts are zoning districts in which the development and use of the property so zoned are governed by the regulations applicable to one of the general use zoning districts listed in the Table of Permissible Uses, as modified by the conditions and restrictions imposed as part of the legislative decision creating the district and applying it to the particular property. Accordingly, the following conditional zoning districts may be established:

R-20-CZ, R-15-CZ, R-10-CZ, R-7.5-CZ, R-3-CZ, R-2-CZ, R-R-CZ, R-S.I.R.-CZ , and R-S.I.R.-2-CZ

B-1(C)-CZ, B-1(G)-CZ, B-2-CZ, B-3-CZ, B-3-T-CZ, B-4-CZ, CT-CZ, O-CZ, OACZ, M-1-CZ, M-2-CZ (AMENDED 4/27/10; 06/23/15)

(b) The conditional zoning districts authorized by this section may be applied to property only in response to a petition signed by all the owners of the property to be included within such district.

(c) Subject to the provisions of subsections (f) and (g), the uses permissible within a conditional zoning district authorized by this section, and the regulations applicable to property within such a district, shall be those uses that are permissible within and those regulations that are applicable to the general use zoning district to which the conditional district corresponds, except as those uses and regulations are limited by conditions imposed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. For example, property that is rezoned to a B-2-CZ district may be developed in the same manner as property that is zoned B-2, subject to any conditions imposed pursuant to subsection (d). (AMENDED 11/9/11)

(d) When a rezoning petition for a conditional zoning district is submitted (in accordance with Article XX of this chapter), the application shall include a list of proposed conditions (which may be in the form of written statements, graphic illustrations, or any combination thereof) to be incorporated into the ordinance that rezones the property to the requested conditional zoning district. **(AMENDED 10/25/16)**

(d1) A rezoning petition may be submitted to allow use classification 3.260 Social Service Provider with Dining within a building of more than two stories or 35 feet in height. **(AMENDED 10/25/16)**

(1) The petition shall include information that demonstrates that, if the project is completed as proposed, it:

- a. Will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property; and
- b. Will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located. The manner in which a project is designed to accommodate additional building height including, but not limited to, scale, architectural detailing, compatibility with the existing built environment and with adopted policy statements in support of vibrant and economically successful and sustainable, mixed-use, core commercial districts shall be among the issues that may be considered to make a finding that a project is or is not in harmony with the area in which it is to be located. The applicant may use a variety of graphic and descriptive means to illustrate these findings; and
- c. Will be in general conformity with the Land Use Plan, Thoroughfare Plan, and other plans officially adopted by the Board. **(AMENDED 03/22/16, 10/25/16)**

(2) All relative provisions of the Land Use Ordinance shall apply except to the extent that such provisions are superseded by the provisions of this section or any conditions incorporated into the conditional zoning district described in subsection (d1) above. **(AMENDED 10/25/16)**

(e) The list of proposed conditions may be modified by the planning staff, advisory boards, or Board of Aldermen as the rezoning application works its way through the process described in Article XX, but only those conditions mutually approved by the applicant and the Board may be incorporated into the conditional zoning district shall be limited to (i) those that address the conformance of the development and use of the site to the provisions of this chapter or to applicable plans adopted by the Board, and (ii) those that address the impacts reasonably expected to be generated by the development or use of the site. **(AMENDED 03/22/16, 10/25/16)**

(f) All uses that are permissible in the conditional zoning district shall require the issuance of the same type of permit that such use in the corresponding general use district would ordinarily require (according to the Table of Permissible Uses), i.e. a zoning permit, special use permit, or conditional use permit.

(g) Notwithstanding the foregoing, in approving a rezoning to a B-1(g) – CZ zoning district, the Board of Aldermen may authorize the property so zoned to be developed at a higher level of residential density than that otherwise permissible in B-1(g) zoning districts under Section 15-182 if the rezoning includes conditions that provide for site and building elements that will create a more vibrant and successful community. Site and building elements are intended to be selected from at least three of the following seven areas: stormwater management, water conservation, energy conservation, on-site energy production, alternative transportation, provision of affordable housing, and the provision of public art and/or provision of outdoor amenities for public use. Conditions that may be included to meet the above stated objective include but shall not be limited to the following: **(AMENDED 11/9/11)**

- (1) Reduction in nitrogen loading from the site by at least 8% from the existing condition, as determined by the Jordan Lake Accounting Tool
- (2) Energy performance in building requirements to meet one or more of the following
  - a. Achieve 40% better than required in the Model Energy Code, which for NC, Commercial is ASHRAE 90.1-2004-2006 IECC equivalent or better, and Residential is IECC 2006, equivalent or better).
  - b. “Designed to Earn the Energy Star” rating.
  - c. Architecture 2030 goal of a 50 percent fossil fuel and greenhouse gas emission reduction standard, measured from the regional (or country) average for that building type.
  - d. AIA goals of integrated, energy performance design, including resource conservation resulting in a minimum 50 percent or greater reduction in the consumption of fossil fuels used to construct and operate buildings.
  - e. LEED certification to achieve 50% CO2 emission reduction, or LEED silver certification
  - f. US Conference of Mayors fossil fuel reduction standard for all new buildings to carbon neutral by 2030.
  - g. Specific energy saving features, including but not limited to the following, are encouraged..
    - i. Use of shading devices and high performance glass for minimizing heating and cooling loads
    - ii. Insulation beyond minimum standards;
    - iii. Use of energy efficient motors/HVAC;
    - iv. Use of energy efficient lighting;
    - v. Use of energy efficient appliances
    - vi. LED or LED/Solar parking lot lighting (50-100% more efficient).
    - vii. Active and passive solar features.

- (3) Provision of onsite facilities (e.g. solar, wind, geothermal) that will provide 5% of electricity demand associated with the project.
- (4) Use of harvested rainwater for toilet flushing.
- (5) Parking lot meets the standard for a “green” parking lot, per the EPA document Green “Parking Lot Resource Guide.”
- (6) Inclusion of Low Impact Development features.
- (7) Provision of covered bike parking sufficient to provide space for one space per every two residential units.
- (8) Provision of a safe, convenient, and connected internal street system or vehicle accommodation area designed to meet the needs of the expected number of motor vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit trips
- (9) Inclusion of at least one (1) parking space for car sharing vehicles
- (10) Provision of public art and/or outdoor amenities for public use.
- (11) Use of surface materials that reflect heat rather than absorb it.
- (12) Use of devices that shade at least 30% of south-facing and west-facing building facades.
- (13) Provision of affordable housing in accordance with Town policy.

(h) If a B-1(g) – CZ zoning district is created and, pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, a higher level of residential density than that otherwise permissible in B-1(g) zoning districts is approved for that district, then it shall be a requirement of such district that at least twenty percent (20%) of the total leasable or saleable floor area within all buildings located within such zoning district shall be designed for non-residential use. Occupancy permits may not be given for residential floor area if doing so would cause the ratio of residential floor area for which an occupancy permit has been issued to non-residential floor area for which an occupancy permit has been issued to exceed four to one (4:1). **(AMENDED 11/9/11)**

**Section 15-141.5 Site Specific, Flexible Zoning District (AMENDED 06/21/16)**

- (a) A site specific, flexible zoning district (FLX) may be established in accordance with the provisions of this section. The purpose of such a district is to establish detailed standards for alternative possibilities for the development of a specific tract of land, thereby facilitating the development of that property according to the demands of the market, but in a way that is consistent with sound planning and the promotion of the public health, safety, and welfare.
- (b) To be considered for FLX zoning, a tract must (i) be at least twenty-five acres in size, (ii) be, as a whole, owned by or under control or option to be purchased by one or more individuals or entities, (iii) be located adjacent to a major arterial such that, when developed, the principal entrance to such development will be from that arterial, (iv) have been the subject of a site specific planning study by the Town to determine the most appropriate potential development options for such tract. As used herein, the term “site specific planning study” shall mean a collaborative programmatic and design study for the site performed either by, or with the participation of the Town and input from one or more workshops, which

shall result in a narrative report and conceptual master plan describing in general terms how the site might be developed and how the conceptual master plan corresponds to and addresses applicable components of all town plans for the area, and applicable conditions, and (v) be located in an area that is subject to an adopted small area plan.

- (1) If the Town receives a request for FLX zoning for a tract that has not been the subject of a site specific planning study as described in Subsection (b)(iv) above, the Planning Director shall present to the Board of Aldermen a proposal for undertaking such a study before accepting a formal application for the rezoning. If the Board of Aldermen accepts the proposal, the site specific planning study shall proceed as described in the following subsections, or as otherwise directed by the Board.
  - a. The site specific planning study shall be structured as a charrette of a minimum of one day in duration, or more as determined by the Board.
  - b. The Town shall contract a design professional, with no ties to the applicant, to conduct the charrette. The Town may also contract with a qualified facilitator to oversee the charrette process and final reports prepared from the charrette process.
  - c. Participation shall include representatives from advisory boards, neighbors, and members of the public.
  - d. Notice of the date of the charrette will be mailed to residents and property owners within 1000 feet of the subject property, published in the newspaper as well and any other means the Town deems suitable.
- (2) Findings from the site specific planning study report, or narrative, and site plan(s) shall be presented to the Board of Aldermen. Subsequent requests for FLX zoning shall demonstrate compliance with the findings from the site specific planning study.
- (3) If more than five years have elapsed since the findings from the site specific planning study were presented to the Board and the circumstances relating to the study have substantially changed, the Board may request an update to the study before accepting a request for FLX zoning. Examples of substantial changes in circumstances include but are not limited to: annexation, some or all of the tract has been subject to a rezoning, unrelated to the FLX district, that increases residential density or changes the types of uses, (i.e. residential to commercial), development on surrounding properties has changed the character or capacity of existing infrastructure.

(c) A FLX zoning district shall address the following:

- (1) The types of uses that are permissible within the FLX district, along with a maximum (and if applicable, a minimum) percentage of the gross land area that will be devoted to each such use. The description of uses may be in reference to the use

classification numbers set forth in the Table of Permissible Uses, or the uses may otherwise be described. The district regulations may also establish density or intensity limitations (expressed in terms of a maximum and/or, if applicable, a minimum number of dwelling units or square feet of building floor area, and applicable ratios, if any if different types of uses within the district).

(2) The dimensional restrictions (building height, minimum lot size, setbacks) that shall apply throughout the district. Different restrictions may apply to different portions of the district, depending on the uses located therein. The dimensional restrictions may be described by reference to those applicable within particular zoning districts, or otherwise.

(3) Any limitations on the areas within the district where particular types of uses may be allowed.

(4) Any architectural standards that will apply to all or designated portions of the district.

(5) Any limitations on the timing or sequence of development of various portions of the district.

(6) The location of entrances to and exits from the tract zoned FLX.

(7) The manner in which the development of the property will comply with the stormwater requirements set forth in Article XVI, Part II. All developed lots within the district shall be subject to these standards, regardless of the amount of land disturbance, but the FLX district may allow the necessary stormwater treatment facilities to be constructed to meet these standards on a lot by lot basis, or some other basis that provides effective and efficient treatment for all new construction.

(8) Any limitations on the location or design of parking lots and facilities.

(9) Specifications and standards for the internal circulation system serving vehicular and pedestrian traffic, including a statement as to whether such facilities will be dedicated to the Town.

(10) All infrastructure improvements proposed to be constructed in conjunction with the development of the property zoned FLX (including but not limited to improvements to adjoining streets) together with a schedule that links construction of such improvements to the development of the property.

(10A) A traffic impact analysis of the FLX zone, including a phase plan or schedule of improvements along with a description of thresholds to require improvements.

(11) The extent to which, and the manner in which, development within the tract

zoned FLX will be required to meet the goals of Low Impact Design and or exceed the standards for LEED gold certification.

- (d) Development of any lot within a FLX zoning district shall require a zoning permit (and a sign permit if applicable), but not a special or conditional use permit.
- (e) All relevant provisions of the Land Use Ordinance shall apply except to the extent that such provisions are superseded by the provisions of this section or any FLX district established pursuant to this section. In the case of conflict, the provisions of this ordinance or of the specific FLX district ordinance for the tract shall apply.
- (f) A text amendment establishing a FLX district as well as a map amendment applying such district to a particular tract shall be initiated and processed in accordance with the following provisions:
  - (1) The owner of property who wishes to have such property zoned FLX shall submit a written request to the Board of Aldermen, identifying the subject property and explaining why the property is a good candidate for FLX zoning. This written request shall include or attach (i) relevant documents (i.e. narrative, and site plan(s) and a list of proposed conditions which may be in the form of written statements, graphic illustrations, or any combination thereof) that describe the results of the site specific planning process referred to in subsection (b)(iv) above, and (ii) an explanation as to why and how the proposed district is consistent with the Northern Study Area Plan, or if the property is not located within the Northern Study Area, such other plans or policies as may be applicable. The Board may, in its discretion, summarily deny the request or direct the town attorney and planning staff to work with the property owner to develop an ordinance pursuant to this section that establishes an appropriate FLX district and that applies this district to such property.
  - (2) Once an ordinance has been drafted as provided in subdivision (f)(1), such ordinance shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of Article XX of this chapter applicable to ordinance amendments initiated by the town administration, except that (i) a preliminary draft of the ordinance, including a concept plan shall be presented to the planning board, Transportation Advisory Board, Environmental Advisory Board, Appearance Commission, Economic Sustainability Commission, and Northern Transition Area Advisory Committee (and other advisory boards to which the Board of Aldermen may refer the draft) prior to the ordinance being referred to the Board of Aldermen to establish a date for the legally required public hearing on the ordinance; (ii) at the time the Board of Aldermen directs that an ordinance be drafted in accordance with subsection (f)(1) above, the Board may establish such additional processes as deemed necessary to ensure that the public has an adequate opportunity

for input into the proposed FLX district, and (iii) no property shall be rezoned FLX without the consent of the property owner (which consent may be withdrawn at any time before the adoption of the ordinance establishing the FLX district). The text and the map amendment may be processed simultaneously.

- (3) Amendments to a FLX district shall be initiated and processed in the same manner as the initial ordinance, except that, if the planning staff determines that a proposed amendment has no substantial impact on neighboring properties, the general public, or those intended to occupy the site zoned FLX, the staff may forward the requested amendment to the Board as provided in subsection 15-321(c)(2). In such case, the Board may (i) decline to call for a public hearing on the proposed amendment, thereby rejecting it; (ii) establish a date for a public hearing on the proposed amendment in accordance with the procedures applicable to any other zoning amendment; or (iii) direct that additional processes be followed to obtain additional public input on the proposal before setting a date for the legally required public hearing.
- (g) Property within a FLX district may be subdivided according to the provisions of this chapter applicable to minor subdivisions, even if such subdivision involves the creation of more than a total of four lots or the creation of a new public street.

**PART II. ZONING MAP**

**Section 15-142 Official Zoning Map.**

(a) There shall be a map known and designated as the Official Zoning Map, which shall show the boundaries of all zoning districts within the town's planning jurisdiction. This map shall be drawn on acetate or other durable material from which prints can be made, shall be dated, and shall be kept in the planning department.

(b) The Official Zoning Map dated April, 1973 is adopted and incorporated herein by reference. Amendments to this map shall be made and posted in accordance with Section 15-143.

(c) Should the Official Zoning Map be lost, destroyed, or damaged, the administrator may have a new map drawn on acetate or other durable material from which prints can be made. No further board authorization or action is required so long as no district boundaries are changed in this process.

**Section 15-143 Amendments to Official Zoning Map (AMENDED 4/27/10; 10/26/10); 09/24/13**

(a) Amendments to the Official Zoning Map are accomplished using the same procedures that apply to other amendments to this chapter, as set forth in Article XX.

(b) The administrator shall update the Official Zoning Map as soon as possible after amendments to it are adopted by the Board. Upon entering any such amendments to the map, the administrator shall change the date of the map to indicate its latest revision. New prints of the updated map may then be issued.

(c) No unauthorized person may alter or modify the Official Zoning Map.

(d) The planning department shall keep copies of superseded prints of the zoning map for historical reference.

**Section 15-143.4 Downtown Neighborhood Protection Overlay District (AMENDED 8/23/05)**

(a) There is hereby created a Downtown Neighborhood Protection (DNP) Overlay District. The purpose of this district is to establish special height, setback, and design requirements applicable to lots in certain commercially zoned downtown areas where such lots abut or are directly across the street from residentially zoned properties.

(b) Because the DNP district is an overlay district, properties within this district are subject to the regulations applicable to the underlying district except as those regulations are modified or superseded by the requirements of the DNP district. The requirements of the DNP district are set forth in Section 15-185.1 of this chapter.

**Section 15-144 through 15-145 Reserved.**