

Comprehensive Growth Management Plan Policy excerpts.

October, 2023

Agricultural future land use designation.

Policy 4.13A.1. Intent of agricultural designation. The FLUM identifies those lands in Martin County that are allocated for agricultural development. This designation is intended to protect and preserve agricultural soils for agriculturally related uses, realizing that production of food and commodities is an essential industry and basic to the County's economic diversity. Most agricultural lands are far removed from urban service districts and cannot be converted to urban use without substantial increases in the cost of providing, maintaining and operating dispersed services. The allocation of agricultural land is furthered by Goal 4.12.

The further intent of the Agricultural designation is to protect agricultural land from encroachment by urban or even low-density residential development. Such development affects the natural environment and may cause adverse impacts such as erosion, run-off, sedimentation and flood damage, all of which reduce the land's agricultural productivity. Residential development in the Agricultural future land use designation is restricted to one single-family residence per gross 20-acre tract. To further avoid activities that adversely affect agricultural productivity on such lands on the FLUM, development shall not be permitted that divides landholdings into lots, parcels or other units of less than 20 gross acres. Acreage may be split for bona fide agricultural uses into parcels no smaller than 20 gross acres. Subdivisions containing residential dwellings must be platted, provide for all necessary services and maintain a minimum of 50 percent open space. Wetlands and landlocked water bodies may be used in calculating open space as long as at least 40 percent of the upland property consists of open space. Buildings in Agricultural developments shall be no more than 40 feet in height.

Subdivisions containing residential dwellings at a density greater than one single-family dwelling unit per 20 gross acre lot shall not be allowed.

In agriculturally designated lands, the Agriculture zoning districts shall provide definitive policy regarding development options. All such provisions in agricultural zoning districts shall be consistent with the CGMP. Limited residential and other uses are permitted where they are directly related to and supportive of agriculture or would not jeopardize the integrity of the agricultural purpose of the district.

- (1) *Congregate housing for farm workers.* Farm worker housing shall be considered an agricultural activity and shall only be permitted as part of bona fide agricultural activity, consistent with Policies 4.12A.4. through 7. Agricultural zoning shall include farmworker housing as a permitted use, implementing this provision.
- (2) *Conversion of land designated Agricultural on the FLUM.* Agriculturally designated land may be redesignated only by an amendment to the FLUM. The intent of this section aims to permit such an amendment upon a finding by the Board of County Commissioners that the applicant has demonstrated:
 - (a) The proposed development shall not adversely impact the hydrology of the area or the productive capacity of adjacent farmlands not included in the amendment application in any other manner;

- (b) The proposed land conversion is a logical and timely extension of a more intense land use designation in a nearby area, considering existing and anticipated land use development patterns; consistency with the goals and objectives of the CGMP; and availability of supportive services, including improved roads, recreation amenities, adequate school capacity, satisfactory allocations of water and wastewater facilities, and other needed supportive facilities. Such findings shall be based on soil potential analysis and agricultural site assessment.

Rural Lifestyle future land use designation. Ordinance, 1185, Effective September 18, 2023.

Policy 4.13A.18. Rural Lifestyle. The Rural Lifestyle future land use designation is intended to guide development of self-supporting, self-contained and rural communities including affiliated recreational amenities with an emphasis on maintaining and enhancing natural and manmade open space and promoting sustainability and stewardship of the land and water.

In order to be eligible for the Rural Lifestyle future land use designation, a minimum of 1,000 contiguous acres located within unincorporated Martin County and outside the Primary Urban Service District are required. To minimize the extension of utility service, a portion of the minimum 1,000 contiguous acres must be adjacent to the Primary Urban Service District, the Secondary Urban Service District or a Freestanding Urban Service District.

For purposes of this policy, adjacent property is the same as "abutting" or "adjoining" or "immediately adjacent" property and shall refer to property with a shared property line regardless of easements on the abutting properties. Properties separated by an existing road right of way shall be considered adjacent. Properties adjacent to the urban service districts within or adjacent to the Village of Indiantown municipal limits are not eligible for the Rural Lifestyle land use designation.

Approval of an amendment to the Future Land Use Map changing the future land use designation on a specific parcel to Rural Lifestyle shall be required. Development of a specific parcel with the Rural Lifestyle future land use designation shall be implemented through a Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning agreement and concurrent rezoning approved pursuant to the requirements of the Land Development Regulations and the standards established herein.

- (1) Within a specific parcel designated as Rural Lifestyle on the Future Land Use Map, development shall not exceed a maximum building height of four-stories or 40 feet and a minimum of 70 percent of the gross land area shall be established and maintained as open space. Wetlands, landlocked water bodies, upland habitat and land used for agricultural production may be used in calculating open space.
- (2) Blended densities, as described in Chapter 4, Future Land Use Element, shall be permitted.
- (3) Within the Rural Lifestyle future land use designation, gross residential density, including employee dormitory housing, shall not exceed a maximum of one unit per 5 acres.

Employee dormitory housing shall be allowed, otherwise only detached single-family dwellings are permitted. Duplex dwellings and multi-family dwellings are prohibited.

- (a) Development proposed at a density of one unit per 20 acres or less shall be required to comply with all minimum preserve area, habitat protection and open space requirements in the Comprehensive Plan. Development proposed at a density of more than one unit per 20 acres shall be required to exceed the minimum habitat protection and open space requirements and provide proportionally more of the type of public benefits listed in subsection (9) below.
- (b) Development proposed at a density of more than one unit per 20 acres, but not exceeding the allowed maximum of one unit per five acres, shall provide open space preservation outside of the specific parcel designated as Rural Lifestyle on the Future Land Use Map. A minimum of one acre of open space shall be provided off-site for every two acres assigned the Rural Lifestyle future land use designation. The open space provided off-site shall be located within unincorporated Martin County and maintained in perpetuity. The following forms of open space may be provided off-site:
 - Native upland habitat,
 - Wetland habitat,
 - Lands in agricultural production,
 - Areas of restored habitat
 - Water farming.
- (c) The off-site open space shall be encumbered by a perpetual conservation or agricultural easement conveyed to at least one governmental organization and a 501 (c)(3) conservation organization, to be specified within the PUD Zoning Agreement. The property shall not be designated as Rural Lifestyle on the Future Land Use Map and shall not be rezoned, but shall be governed by the PUD Zoning Agreement and identified therein by legal description. The perpetual easement shall restrict future use of the property in perpetuity to open space, prohibiting development of the property inconsistent with this policy and the terms and conditions established within the PUD Zoning Agreement.

Amendments to the Future Land Use Map should consider the potential for on-site open space and off-site open space to create contiguous open spaces and corridors with other adjacent open spaces and preserves.

- (d) Golf cottages are permitted as an accessory use to a golf course as long as the golf cottages remain owned, controlled and operated by the owner(s) of the golf course for the exclusive use of members and their guests. Golf cottages shall not be counted toward the maximum gross density. One golf cottage per hole of each regulation 18-hole golf course shall be allowed up to a maximum of 54 golf cottages. Each golf cottage shall be limited to 6 bedrooms.

- (e) Dormitories provided for permanent or temporary employee housing shall comply with all requirements of the Florida Building Code. A maximum of 6 employee dormitory beds shall be permitted per 100 acres of a specific parcel with a Rural Lifestyle future land use designation. The maximum number of single-family dwelling units permitted in the Rural Lifestyle future land use shall be reduced by one unit for every six employee dormitory beds.
 - (f) One accessory dwelling unit shall be allowed on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit. The accessory dwelling unit shall meet the following requirements:
 - An accessory dwelling unit shall not have more than one-half the square footage of the primary dwelling.
 - It shall not count as a separate unit for the purpose of density calculations.
 - Construction of an accessory unit shall require recordation of a unity of title prohibiting the conveyance of the accessory dwelling unit separate from the primary dwelling unit.
- (4) Notwithstanding the prioritization of public services and any prohibition to the extension of services outside the Primary Urban Service District, described in Chapters 4, 10 and 11, the Rural Lifestyle future land use designation may receive potable water and sanitary sewer service through facilities provided by a regional utility.

The extension of utility services from or through a Primary Urban Service District, Secondary Urban Service District or Freestanding Urban Service District to a specific parcel with a Rural Lifestyle future land use designation and a Planned Unit Development zoning classification shall not serve any other property outside the Planned Unit Development agreement.

All costs associated with the extension, ongoing service and maintenance of utility services serving a specific parcel with a Rural Lifestyle future land use designation and a Planned Unit Development zoning classification shall be paid by the Planned Unit Development. The following additional requirements shall also be applicable:

- (a) A utility plant for a regional sewage system shall not be constructed within the Rural Lifestyle future land use designation.
- (b) Package water and wastewater treatment plants, as defined in Chapter 2, shall not be permitted in the Rural Lifestyle future land use designation.
- (c) On-site sewage treatment and disposal systems (septic systems) shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 10, Sanitary Sewer Services Element.
- (d) A specific Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) may be established for all costs associated with the extension, ongoing service and maintenance of utility services within each Planned Unit Development within the Rural Lifestyle future land use designation.

- (5) The applicant for a PUD shall plan and appropriately fund public facilities consistent with Policy 14.1B.2. which requires that future development shall pay for the full cost of the capital improvements needed to address the impacts of such development. The PUD Agreement shall include conditions that address public facilities, infrastructure and the timing of development to be adopted prior to or concurrent with final site plan approval.
- (6) An economic analysis prepared by a qualified economic analyst shall evaluate the PUD's impact on the availability of public services and facilities, and the benefits provided by the PUD, to show a net positive fiscal impact to the County.
 - (a) Physical improvements made within the PUD shall have a taxable value that far exceeds the value of physical improvements typically found in the Agricultural future land use designation (1 unit per 20 acres). The gross density permitted within the Rural Lifestyle future land use shall not exceed one unit per five acres.
- (7) PUD Zoning Agreement. All development within a specific parcel designated as the Rural Lifestyle on the Future Land Use Map must be developed in accordance with a Planned Unit Development (PUD) Zoning Agreement.
- (8) Approval of a PUD agreement and master plan shall occur within five years of a Future Land Use Map amendment becoming effective. The PUD master plan must include the entire acreage receiving the Rural Lifestyle future land use designation. If approval of a PUD agreement and master plan does not occur within five years, the Board of County Commissioners may initiate an amendment to the Future Land Use Map to cause the property to revert to its prior future land use designation or the most appropriate designation and rezone the property to a consistent zoning district.
- (9) At a minimum, the PUD Zoning Agreement shall require the following public benefits:
 - (a) The offset of biological and ecological impacts of new development through low impact development and environmentally beneficial practices including community farming, water and energy conservation techniques and innovative stormwater management systems that restore and enhance native habitat.
 - (b) Enhanced water quality above the minimum requirements established in the Martin County Land Development Regulations through retention, detention and on-site irrigation prior to discharge into receiving waters and ultimately discharging into the St. Lucie River, the Loxahatchee River or the Indian River Lagoon.
 - (c) Protection and management of natural lands in perpetuity over and above minimum wetland and upland preserve area and open space requirements. The PUD Zoning Agreement shall require the perpetual management and/or maintenance of off-site lands encumbered by an agricultural or conservation easement and establish a funding mechanism for the required management and/or maintenance.
 - (d) Compatibility with adjacent agricultural uses and surrounding rural development through site design and location of open space.

- (e) Foster healthy lifestyles by creating an interconnected trail system providing access to managed natural areas, open space, parks and civic spaces.
- (f) Minimize greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled by providing a mix of transportation alternatives including multi-modal paths, alternative powertrain vehicles and equipment, on-site charging stations, etc.
- (g) Provide for self-supporting project elements such as first-aid, private security, recreation amenities, community store and/or land use restrictions to reduce traffic impact and dependence on the lands within the urban service districts. A community store shall be restricted to utilization by only the residents, guests and employees of the PUD and shall not exceed 6,000 square feet.
- (h) Provide private or public recreation uses and events that support or complement sustainable rural or agricultural lifestyles and local charities or that provide direct environmental benefit, employment or economic opportunities.