

General Zoning Districts

Rural Agricultural, RA. This district is developed to provide for a minimum level of land use regulations appropriate for outlying areas of the county. These outlying areas typically consist of rural single-family housing, larger tracts of land used for agriculture or in fields and forest land, with some nonresidential uses intermingled. Multifamily uses are discouraged in this district. This district would provide for protection from the most intensive land uses while containing provisions for a variety of less intensive land uses. It is the intent of this district to rely upon development standards to protect residences from potential adverse impacts of allowed nonresidential uses. The most intensive land uses would not be allowed in this district.

Rural Residential, RR. This zoning district is comprised of areas of the county in which moderate levels of single-family housing has occurred or is occurring. In this district, agricultural uses have been replaced to a significant degree with single-family housing. The regulations in this district are intended to provide a land owner with an opportunity to engage in limited business or commercial activities. Multifamily uses are not allowed.

Residential Suburban, RS. The purpose of this zoning district is to protect existing residential neighborhoods and promote the creation of more residential neighborhoods. These areas are typically near major thoroughfares and have or could be provided significant infrastructure. Commercial uses, business uses and multifamily uses are generally not allowed.

Multifamily Residential, MFR. This district is intended to allow for a wide range of residential uses and will be the primary location for multifamily development. This district will typically be located near arterials or collectors. The development of multifamily developments within this district cannot be predetermined and cannot be adequately controlled by general district standards. Therefore specific development proposals for multifamily developments in this district shall be reviewed and approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Manufactured Home Park, MHP. This district is established in order to provide for the proper location and planning of manufactured home parks, excluding family manufactured home parks. Special requirements shall be applied to these parks which shall specify improvements to the park to ensure the public health, safety and welfare of the park inhabitants as well as the surrounding area. Designation of an area as being in the MHP district provides design and appearance criteria which are more appropriate for rental manufactured housing and/or spaces, including vinyl or similar skirting, clustering of units and reduced road construction standards.

Commercial, Business, Industrial, CBI. This zone allows for a wide range of commercial, business and light industrial activities which provide goods and services. This district is typically for more densely developed suburban areas, major transportation corridors, and major cross-roads communities. However this district may also exist or be created in an area other than listed in this subsection if the existing or proposed development is compatible with the surrounding area and the overall public good is served.

Industrial, IND. This district is intended to provide for industrial activities involving extraction, manufacturing, processing, assembling, storage, and distribution of products. The district is also designed to accommodate other, more intense nonresidential uses which generate adverse side effects such as noise, odor or dust. The district is typically applied in areas with maximum

accessibility to major highways, rail lines, and other significant transportation systems. However this district may also exist or be created in an area other than listed in this subsection if the existing or proposed development is compatible with the surrounding area and the overall public good is served.

Neighborhood Business, NB. This district is designed for retail, limited small manufacturing facilities and service oriented business centers which serve small trading areas. As a result the list of allowed uses is more limited than those in the CBI district. The development standards for these business areas are designed to promote sound, permanent business development and to protect abutting and surrounding residential areas from undesirable aspects of nearby commercial development. This district is also designed to provide opportunities for potential development within the NB district.

Areas zoned NB shall be so located as to conveniently serve the community population. The establishment and subsequent development of this district shall not create or expand problems associated with traffic volumes or circulation. As the district is established to provide for small neighborhood oriented business areas limitations on gross floor area is established.

Institutional, INST. The purpose of the Institutional district is to recognize and permit the creation of defined areas for the unified and orderly development of major cultural, educational, medical, governmental, religious and other institutions in order to support and enhance their benefits to the community in a manner which protects adjacent residential uses. Trade school facilities teaching a trade, for example truck driving or welding, which have that activity on site, shall meet zoning requirements for that use.

I-85 Economic Development Districts

The following district are hereby established to preserve, encourage and enhance the economic development opportunities in areas adjacent and near I-85 in accordance to plans adopted by the Board of Commissioners. It is recognized that I-85 is uniquely important the future of the county because of the great potential for development of all types that exist along this corridor. Development within these districts shall be of types which maximize the economic benefits to the county while minimizing the potential impacts.

The district are designed to accommodate, as appropriate, uses such as manufacturing, distribution, retail, service industries, corporate parks. Certain individual uses may be allowed as uses by right in some districts, while other more intensive uses may require a higher level of review and approval by the county. The districts encourage and allow more creative design of land development than may be provided on other general zoning districts. This flexibility is provided for planned unit developments.

85-ED-1. The purpose of the 85-ED-1 district is to encourage the location of "high capital investment/high wage/low employment/clean" industries. Certain industries shall be allowed as permitted uses standards provided to protect adjacent neighborhoods. Other heavy industries may be allowed as conditional uses. If part of a larger master plan limited accessory and ancillary retail and service uses may be allowed.

85-ED-2. In areas where existing conditions such as surrounding development, access etc. may make the area less marketable for uses listed exclusively in the 85-ED-1 district then the 85-ED-2 district may be appropriate. The primary additions to this district are distribution and wholesaling operations.

85-ED-3 - Corporate Park District. Some areas with good interstate visibility, good access and good surrounding environment may be suitable for high-end corporate headquarters. This may or may not include manufacturing. The purpose of the district is to provide for a high-quality mixture of employment uses of varying types in a single coordinated development.

85-ED-4 - Retail Center. Many areas near the interstate will draw interest from retailers. It is often appropriate or desirable to have a portion of an area zoned for larger retail development. This helps ensure availability of most retail and service needs in a location nearby and accessible to major employment and residential areas.

Overlay districts

Overlay districts are zoning districts, which are applied only in conjunction with other zoning districts, and may grant additional use of development requirements upon the underlying zoning districts. The effect is to have both the overlay district and the underlying zoning controlling the use and development of the lot. Overlay districts are applicable on an area wide basis to support specific public policy objectives and as such should be consistent with adopted land use plans. Overlay districts may be applied to conventional and conditional districts. An overlay district may be initiated as an amendment by the Board of Commissioners, Planning Board or property owner.

Airport Zone Overlay, AZO. The zones and restrictions established in this subsection are designed to limit the height of structures surrounding the county airport's established elevation of seven hundred seventy-one (771) feet above mean sea level (msl) in order to prevent hazards to the lives and property of the users of the airport and the occupants of land in the vicinity

Water Supply Watershed Overlays, WSO. The purpose of the watershed overlay is to provide for the protection of public water supplies as required by the Water Supply Watershed Classification and Protection Act (G.S. 143-214.5) and regulations promulgated therein. The watershed overlays may be an overlay in any conventional or conditional district established in this chapter. The overlay districts supplement the uses or development requirements of the underlying zoning districts.

Agricultural Overlay, AO. The purpose of the Agricultural Overlay District is to provide additional requirements to encourage the maintenance of viable agricultural areas. This district should be comprised primarily of open farm land used for extensive agricultural and livestock production. The district will provide guidelines to promote the maintenance of the general rural character of openness.

Manufactured Home Overlay, MHO. The purpose of the Manufactured Home Overlay is to provide for the development of Type II and Type III manufactured homes in established residential zoning districts while maintaining the overall residential, rural or agricultural character of those districts. Because of the potential impacts of the establishment of this district, it is a conditional district. The intent of the prescribed conditions contained in this subsection is to ensure compatibility with the surrounding area.