

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING  
THE JOINT PLANNING LAND USE PLAN AND JOINT PLANNING AGREEMENT TO  
ALLOW FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF LOCATING APPROPRIATE  
AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT ENTERPRISES IN THE  
RURAL BUFFER LAND USE CLASSIFICATION**

WHEREAS, Orange County, the Town of Chapel Hill, and the Town of Carrboro entered into a Joint Planning Agreement originally dated September 22, 1987 and amended from time to time, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Joint Planning Agreement, a Joint Planning Land Use Plan was adopted on October 13, 1986 by all parties to the Joint Planning Agreement, and has since been amended on several occasions, and

WHEREAS, Orange County initiated amendments to the Orange County Comprehensive Plan and Unified Development Ordinance in order to adopt a regulatory program referred to as "Agricultural Support Enterprises Within the Rural Buffer Land Use Classification," a program the County has been working on since 2001, and

WHEREAS, amendments to the Joint Planning Land Use Plan and Agreement are necessary prior to Orange County adopting the aforementioned Comprehensive Plan and Unified Development Ordinance amendments, and

WHEREAS, a joint public hearing regarding the proposed Joint Planning Land Use Plan and Agreement amendments was held on March 27, 2014, in accordance with the requirements of the Joint Planning Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen hereby resolves that the Joint Planning Land Use Plan and Agreement be amended shown on the attached pages.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the amendments to the Joint Planning Land Use Plan and Agreement shall become effective upon adoption by the governing bodies of Orange County, Chapel Hill, and Carrboro.

**PAGE 60-a – JPA LAND USE PLAN**

The Rural Buffer is defined as being a low-density area consisting of single-family homes situated on large lots having a minimum size of two (2) acres. The Rural Buffer is further defined as land which, although adjacent to an Urban or Transition Area, is rural in character and which will remain rural, ~~contain low-density residential uses,~~ and not require urban services (public utilities and other Town services). ~~The Rural Buffer is expected to contain low density residential uses, as well as agricultural uses, and agricultural support uses<sup>1</sup>.~~ ~~The Rural Buffer and~~ consists of the following Joint Planning Area Land Use Plan categories: Rural Residential ~~and Agricultural;~~ ~~Agricultural;~~ Public-Private Open Space; Resource Conservation; New Hope Creek Corridor Open Space; Extractive Use; and the overlay category designated University Lake Watershed Area.

**Rural Residential and Agricultural Areas** are low-density areas consisting of single-family homes situated on large lots ~~two acres in size or greater with a minimum lot size of two acres, except when part of a cluster subdivision and then adhering to a density limit of 1 unit for every 2 acres of property. Cluster subdivisions, reducing parcels to at least 1 acre in area, are allowed so long as density limits for the entire subdivision are maintained.~~ In that respect, Rural Residential Areas are identical to the definition of the Rural Buffer. ~~The area includes property supporting farming operations, including forestry activities, established in accordance with the provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes.~~

~~**Agricultural Areas** include land areas currently in use for farming and forestry operations and which qualify for, or are listed for, use value taxation purposes.~~

**Public-Private Open Space Areas** include major land areas owned or controlled by public and private interests in the Rural Buffer. Such holdings as Duke Forest, Camp New Hope, U.S. Government lands associated with Jordan Lake, the 100-foot buffer along I-40, and Orange Water and Sewer Authority lands adjacent to University Lake and the quarry site on N.C. Highway 54 provide open space through research, educational, forest management, and recreational functions.

**Resource Conservation Areas** in the Rural Buffer are identical to those in the Transition Areas; i.e., floodplains, wetlands along drainage tributaries, and steep slope areas (15% or greater). The areas form the basis for a parks and open space system (see Strategy Map) which provided the framework within which other land uses are situated.

**New Hope Creek Corridor Open Space Areas** include some of the Resource Protection Areas and a portion of the Public/Private Open Space Areas which were designated as significant and worthy of protection according to the New Hope Corridor Open Space Master Plan completed in April of 1991. (See Master Plan Map following Strategy Maps). The areas are part of a system of open space in Durham and Orange Counties along New Hope Creek and its tributaries between Eno River State Park and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land north and south of Jordan Lake. This category is made up of critical environmental areas such as steam beds, floodplains, steep slopes, and larger tracts of historic, educational, or recreational value.

**Extractive Use Areas** encompass mining and quarry operations. Only one such site exists in the Rural Buffer, the American Stone Company quarry on N.C. Highway 54 west of Carrboro.

**Retail Trade Areas** in the Rural Buffer include low intensity neighborhood centers which serve the immediate area and generate low traffic volumes. Only one such area is designated in the Rural Buffer – Blackwood station on N.C. Highway 86.

<sup>1</sup> Red text is related to a separate amendment that is proposing to amend the same paragraph. The amendment necessary for Agricultural Support uses is shown in blue text.

Text above the section proposed for amendment has been removed.

**\*Rural Residential and Agricultural<sup>1</sup>**

\*Amended  
4/2/90

The Rural Residential category is a low-density area consisting of single-family homes situated on large lots with a minimum lot size of two acres, except when part of a cluster subdivision and then adhering to a density limit of 1 unit for every 2 acres of property. ~~two acres in~~

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~~size or greater. Cluster subdivisions, reducing parcels to at least 1 acre in area, are allowed to as long as density limits for the entire subdivision are maintained.~~ The Rural Residential designation is identical to the Rural Buffer category contained in the current Orange County Land Use Plan. The Rural Buffer category is described in the Plan as land adjacent to an Urban or Transition area which is rural in character and which should remain rural; contain very low-density residential uses, and agricultural uses, and agricultural support uses; and not require urban services (water and sewer) during the Plan period.

Agricultural areas existing within Transition Areas are expected to change from rural to urban uses as Chapel Hill and Carrboro continue to grow and as public water and sewer services are expanded. Agricultural areas are located principally in University Lake Watershed but are also prominent along the northern perimeter of the Planning Area boundary. As development occurs in these areas, it will be of very low-density in nature and will generally consist of farm dwelling and outbuildings in support of agricultural operations.

To the north of Chapel Hill and Carrboro in the New Hope Creek drainage basin, low-density residential development has taken place along Whitfield Road, Sunrise Road and Erwin Road. Residential developments similar to Sedgfield, Stoneridge, Oak Hills, Birchwood Lake Estates and Falls of the New Hope are expected to continue, relying on wells and septic tanks for water supply and sewer disposal.

To the west of Carrboro, Rural Residential development is also expected in University Lake Watershed. However, only low-density residential and agricultural uses are anticipated. ~~For this reason, residential~~ Development will continue to rely on wells and septic tanks for water supply and sewage disposal.

The remaining area designated for Rural Residential and Agricultural development is the Southern Triangle area in the extreme southeastern portion of the County. The area drains to the southeast toward Jordan Lake and is beyond the ridge line of the Morgan Creek basin, an area which can be served by gravity sewer lines. The Southern Triangle is also characterized by environmental constraints such as steep slopes, flood plains and soils with poor stability, so low-density development is projected.

There are approximately 9,260 acres of land designated for Rural Residential and Agricultural purposes in the Land Use Plan. If developed at an average density of one dwelling unit per two acres with 15% of the area subtracted out for streets and roads, the holding capacity of the area in terms of dwellings is 3,935. If multiplied by the 1980 Census figure for population per household (2.6), the estimated population would be 10,231.

Text below the section proposed for amendment has been removed.

Page 3 of Joint Planning Agreement

agreement. However, it will only be changed as the Joint Planning Area Land Use Map is amended if the Map amendments change the location of either the CJDA or the CHJDA.

F. Joint Courtesy Review Area. A portion of the northern Rural Buffer Area bounded on the east by I-40 and shown as such on Exhibit A.

G. Rural Buffer. That portion of the Joint Planning Area designated on the Joint Planning Area Land Use Map as such and designated in the Joint Planning Area Land Use Plan as Rural Residential ~~and Agricultural~~, ~~Agricultural~~, Public/Private Open Space, Resource Conservation, Extractive/Disposal Use and the overlay district designated University Lake Watershed Area. This area is further defined as being a low-density area consisting of single-family homes situated on large lots having a minimum size of two (2) acres, unless the cluster subdivision option is used and density limits are maintained. The Rural Buffer is further defined as land which, although adjacent to an Urban or Transition area, is rural in character and which will remain rural, contain low-density residential uses, ~~and agricultural uses exempt from zoning regulations, and agricultural support uses~~ and not require urban services (public utilities and other town services). Agricultural support uses are those designated in the County's Unified Development ordinance as allowable in the RB (Rural Buffer) general use zoning district or those permitted through the ASE-CZ conditional zoning district.

H. Transition Area. That portion of the Joint Planning Area designated on the Joint Planning Area Land Use Map as such. This area is further defined as being in

Red text and green text is related to a separate amendment that is proposing to amend the same section. The amendment necessary for Agricultural Support uses is shown in blue text.