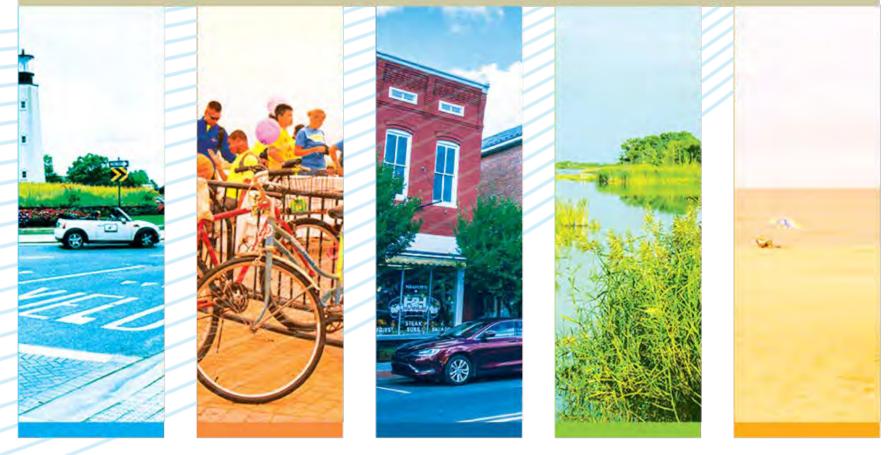


SUSSEX COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COUNTY COUNCIL WORKSHOP



May 1, 2018



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Updated, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

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Conservation Goals Updates:

 Goal 5.3: Ensure the protection of the natural functions and quality of the County's water resources surface waters, groundwater, wetlands, and floodplains.

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- Conservation Objectives & Strategies Updates:
 - Objective 5.1.1 Encourage development practices and regulations that support natural resource protection.
 - Strategy 5.1.1.1 Consider revisiting Revisit County Code to determine if modifications are needed to open space requirements or if incentives can be developed to promote less fragmentation of open space.
 - Strategy 5.1.1.2 Establish future public sewer service areas that will help preserve open space by promoting orderly growth rather than unplanned sprawl.

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- Conservation Objectives & Strategies Updates:
 - Objective 5.1.1 Continued
 - Strategy 5.1.1.5 Consider the expansion of the bonus density program into other zoning districts in order to obtain funds for open space and natural resource protection.
 - Strategy 5.1.1.6 Continue development of County Code revisions, such as the revisions that addressed drainage, through a County Working Group tasked with accommodating state regulatory changes when appropriate.

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- Conservation Objectives & Strategies Updates:
 - Objective 5.1.2 Protect natural and agricultural areas environmentally sensitive by directing development and growth away from these areas.
 - Strategy 5.1.3.1 Review the appropriate sections of Sussex County's zoning and subdivision codes to determine if amendments are needed that will better help protect critical wildlife habitat groundwater, waterways, sensitive habitat areas, and other natural lands in Sussex County.

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- Conservation Objectives & Strategies Updates:
 - Objective 5.1.4 Coordinate with government agencies and non-governmental organizations to identify and protect natural resources and habitat.
 - Strategy 5.1.4.4 Consider methods to formulate stronger, yet locally acceptable, strategies for better protecting groundwater, waterways, sensitive habitat areas, and other critical natural lands in Sussex County.

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- Conservation Objectives & Strategies Updates:
 - Objective 5.1.5 Explore new funding mechanisms for conservation in the County.
 - Strategy 5.1.5.1 Consider renewal of the County's contribution to the State Farmland Preservation Program and other federal or state programs that require a match.

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- Conservation Objectives & Strategies Updates:
 - Objective 5.1.6 Promote education of citizens and elected officials of the County regarding the need to protect and preserve natural resources.
 - Strategy 5.1.6.2. Raise land owners' awareness about the incentives the State offers to protect and better manage forest land, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and farmland.

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- Conservation Objectives & Strategies Updates:
 - Objective 5.2.1 Recognize and promote the conservation benefits of having land in agriculture and forestry.
 - Strategy 5.2.1.3 Work with the Delaware Department of Agriculture and the farming community to preserve more Sussex County farms through agricultural preservation easements and maximize the value of the compensation paid to the landowners.

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- Conservation Objectives & Strategies Updates:
 - Objective 5.3.1 Protect surface water and drinking water quality.
 - Strategy 5.3.1.1 Consider working with stakeholders to develop buffer incentives or a program for tidal wetlands and waterways protection.

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Conservation Objectives & Strategies Updates:

- Objective 5.3.1 Continued
 - Strategy 5.3.1.6 Determine if a review of the existing County wellhead and water recharge protection ordinance is needed.
 - Strategy 5.3.1.7 Recognize the Inland Bays, their tributaries and other waterbodies as valuable open space areas of ecological and economic importance.

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- Conservation Objectives & Strategies Updates:
 - Objective 5.3.2 Maximize the performance of wastewater management to protect water quality.
 - Strategy 5.3.2.2 Provide more public education about how to properly operate and maintain on-site septic systems.
 - Strategy 5.3.2.3 Consider formation of a stakeholder action committee to coordinate treatment of wastewater and TMDLs.

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- Conservation Objectives & Strategies Updates:
 - Objective 5.3.4 Better manage stormwater runoff to preserve water quality.
 - Strategy 5.3.4.1 Review the appropriate sections of Sussex County's zoning and subdivision codes to determine if amendments are needed to encourage more "green' stormwater management techniques as an alternative to traditional detention basins.
 - Strategy 5.3.4.2 Evaluate the County's development regulations to ensure that regulations reflect appropriate concern for reducing stormwater and promoting on-site recharge.

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Conservation Objectives & Strategies Updates:

- Objective 5.3.4 Continued
 - Strategy 5.3.4.3 Promote Continue to support the Sussex Conservation District's Conservation Programs and its management and implementation of the Statewide stormwater regulations.

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Conservation Objectives & Strategies Updates:

- Objective 5.3.5 Reduce flooding and erosion.
 - Strategy 5.3.5.4 Consider development of a plan to evaluate the evaluation of the future impacts of flooding as part of Sussex County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - Strategy 5.3.5.5 Consider becoming a partner Support shoreline stabilization initiatives, such as in the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's Living Shoreline initiative and other similar programs.

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- Conservation Objectives & Strategies Updates:
 - Objective 5.4.1 Work with federal and state agencies and non-governmental agencies to identify opportunities to improve air quality in the County.
 - Strategy 5.4.1.2 Work to reduce auto emissions by supporting alternative travel modes and/or improved traffic flow.

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Strategies for Review

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Strategy 5.1.1.3 for Review:

Strategy 5.1.1.3 Reevaluate use of 20 foot landscaped buffers between new developments and adjacent uses to determine if buffer size is adequate/reasonable.

Suggestions:

 Identify an appropriate range of landscape buffer distances based on location and context. The County will consider establishing a minimum buffer distance for all new developments, which would be increased based on proximity of adjacent uses or intensity of use.

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Strategy 5.3.1.4 for Review:

- Strategy 5.3.1.4 Evaluate the effectiveness of the County's 50 foot buffer requirement for tidal wetlands.
- Center for Inland Bays adequate protection alternative:
 - 80' on non-tidal waterways
 - 80' on riparian wetlands
 - 80' on tidal areas by steep uplands
 - 300' on tidal areas by gradual uplands
 - 50' on freshwater flats and depressional wetlands
- Center for Inland Bays optimal protection alternative:
 - 150' on nontidal waterways
 - 150' on riparian wetlands
 - 150' on tidal areas by steep uplands
 - 500' on tidal areas by gradual uplands
 - 100' on freshwater flats and depressional wetlands

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Strategy 5.3.1.4 for Review:

 Strategy 5.3.1.4 Evaluate the effectiveness of the County's 50 foot buffer requirement for tidal wetlands.

Suggestions:

 Identify an appropriate range of wetlands buffer distances based on location and context. The County will consider establishing a minimum buffer distance of 50 feet to 300 feet for adequate protection efforts, and 100 feet to 500 feet for optimal protection efforts.

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- Strategy 5.1.4.6 for Review:
 - Strategy 5.1.4.6 Establish a County goal for open space and natural resource preservation acreage.
 - Alternate strategy:

Consider options to better track the amount of open space and natural resource areas preserved on an annual basis.

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Suggested New Strategies

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New Strategy: Conservation Zone, Open Space, and Tree Preservation

- Objective 5.1.1 Encourage development practices and regulations that support natural resource protection.
 - County Code: "Conservation Zone: An area of land extending landward from the mean high-water line of tidal water bodies where it is necessary to establish increased lot size requirements for parcels proposing individual on-site sewage (septic) systems and individual on-site wells."

 New Strategy: Review County Code to determine improvements to the Conservation Zone.

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New Strategy: Conservation Zone, Open Space, and Tree Preservation

- Objective 5.1.1 Encourage development practices and regulations that support natural resource protection.
 - New Strategy: Revaluate County Code definition of Open Space to determine if modifications need to be made relating to the calculation of open space.

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New Strategy: Conservation Zone, Open Space, and Tree Preservation

- Objective 5.1.1 Encourage development practices and regulations that support natural resource protection.
 - New Strategy: Consider creating an ordinance designed to protect established, mature, healthy trees during the construction of new residential and mix-use developments to better preserve existing trees and green spaces.

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- New Strategy: County Fee Simple Acquisition
 - Objective 5.1.5 Explore new funding mechanisms for conservation in the County
 - New Strategy: Consider fee simple acquisition as an approach to permanently preserve the County's open space.

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Public Comment Suggestions for Review

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Chris Bason, Executive Director of Center for the Inland Bays:

- Consider adding a strategy in support of financing the waterway management of inland bays
 - Example: Waterway Management District, like a Tax District

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 Gail VanGilder, Chairperson of the Historic Lewes Byway Committee

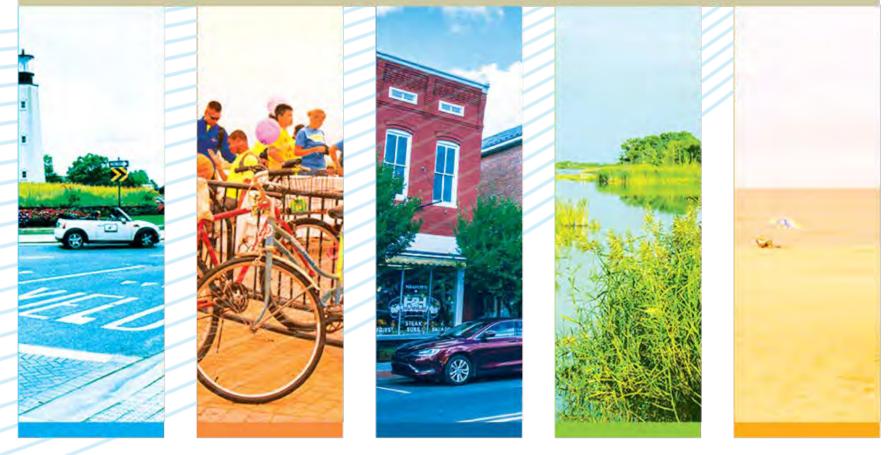
- Consider increasing bonus density on a sliding scale based on value of building lots
 - Strategy 4.1.1.1 Evaluate County density bonus program to determine ways to better encourage the use of the program
- Establish a County Parks and Recreation Department
- Suggest open space set aside requirements for developments not using the cluster design
- Include language about the preservation of Great Marsh

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SUSSEX COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COUNTY COUNCIL WORKSHOP



May 1, 2018



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- Summary of 2008 Community Design Element:
 - Promoted Traditional Patterns of Development
 - Encouraged Design Standards to be Considered in New Development
 - Development Standards (Zoning) Residential Planned Community
 - Preserved Open Space within New Developments
 - Water Features Minimal Detail
 - Green Architecture and Green Site Design
 - Signs Minimal Detail
 - No Goals, Objectives, or Strategies

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> 2018 Community Design Element:

 Promoting Better Community Design through Sussex County Code: Residential Planned Communities & Cluster Development

 Encourages Consideration of Design Standards in New Development

Community Design Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

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> 2018 Community Design Vision:

 To encourage the development of neighborhoods of innovative and superior design to preserve and enhance the character and community of Sussex County.

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> 2018 Promoting Better Community Design

 Through the Sussex County Code, Sussex County currently uses two primary methods to encourage better community design:

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- Residential Planned Community (RPC) District
- Cluster Development

> 2018 Promoting Better Community Design

Residential Planned Community District (RPC)

 Purpose: Encourage large-scale developments as a means of creating a superior living environment through unified developments, providing for the application of design ingenuity while protecting existing and future developments, and achieving the goals of the Comprehensive Plan

Encourages: off-street parking, ensures the appropriate relationship between uses, intensity, and height within and outside of the RPC, and allows the Planning and Zoning Commission to impose conditions regarding layout and design

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> 2018 Promoting Better Community Design

- Residential Planned Community District (RPC)
 - § 115-125 Review standards; conditions.
 - A. The Planning and Zoning Commission shall review the conformity of the proposed development with the standards of the Comprehensive Plan and <u>recognized</u> principles of civic design, land use planning and landscape <u>architecture</u>. The ... Commission shall ensure an <u>appropriate relationship</u> between uses of high intensity or height within the RPC District and uses of low intensity or height, existing or future, outside the proposed RPC District

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> 2018 Promoting Better Community Design

- Residential Planned Community District (RPC)
 - § 115–125 Review standards; conditions.
 - B. The Planning and Zoning Commission may <u>impose</u> <u>conditions regarding the layout and design of the proposed</u> <u>development</u> and, where applicable, shall require that appropriate deed restrictions be filed to assure compliance with the development plan.
 - C. The Planning and Zoning Commission shall review the location of proposed townhouses, multiple-family dwellings or commercial uses, where allowed, and shall <u>determine the</u> <u>appropriate character</u> of such uses.

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> 2018 Promoting Better Community Design

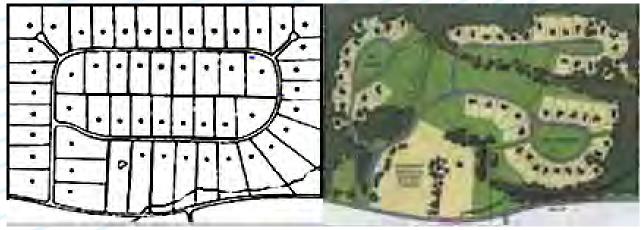
- Cluster Development
 - Cluster development or "open space development" involves providing incentives for the permanent preservation of a percentage of the land within a new development by allowing deviation in lot size, type of dwelling, lot coverage and open space from that which is normally required by a residential zoning district
 - Open space is permanently preserved by a conservation easement that prevents future subdivision or building on the open space
 - Available in the AR-1 Zoning District

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Conservation Subdivision – A Design Strategy

- A portion of the unconstrained (buildable) land is set aside as permanent conservation areas.
- Wisconsin and Michigan have statewide conservation subdivision ordinances.
- North Carolina County or municipality some allow it by right and others require rezoning or special permit.



55 homes on 2-acre lots

55 homes on ³/₄ acre lots with 62% of the site preserved

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> 2018 Promoting Better Community Design

- Other Design Standards
 - Recently, Sussex County Council determined that the County's Street Design Standards were outdated and needed updating
 - On March 28, 2017 a drainage and grading ordinance was passed by Sussex County Council. The ordinance includes new street design requirements related to driveways, onstreet parking, sidewalks, and cul-de-sacs, among others.

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"Sussex County Council has determined that the street design standards contained within the Sussex County Code should <u>contain flexibility to enable creativity in design</u> (taking into account existing topographical and environmental features) while providing safe communities for the residents of Sussex County." THE SUSSEX PLAN

> 2018 Promoting Better Community Design

- Through the Sussex County Code, Sussex County currently uses two primary methods to encourage better community design:
 - Residential Planned Community (RPC) District
 - Cluster Development

Should the recently-adopted drainage and grading ordinance be added to this list?

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> 2018 Encouraged Design Standard Elements

- Street Trees
- Lighting
- Sidewalks
- Parking Location
- Building Orientation
- Building Height
- Maximum Building Setbacks & Limits on Front Yard Parking
- Architectural Elements

- Open Space & Trail Connectivity
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Connectivity
- Landscaped Entrances
- **Curb Bumpouts**
- Commercial Development Location
- Commercial Development Design
- Preserved Open Space within New Developments

Buffering & Landscaping

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- Water Features
- Utilities
- Redevelopment
- Green Site Design
- Signs
- Home Construction & Design Trends
- Master Planning

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> 2018 Community Design Goals:

 Goal 12.1: Promote design that is compatible with its surroundings.

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 Goal 12.2: Maintain the quality and character of new development.

 Goal 12.3: Improve the character of existing older communities.

- 2018 Community Design Goals and Objectives
- Goal 12.1: Promote design that is compatible with its surroundings.
 - Objective 12.1.1 Consider whether the design of new development fits the character of existing neighborhoods.
 - Objective 12.1.2 Promote site design that minimizes adverse impacts.
 - Objective 12.1.3 Incorporate usable open space in new developments. Objectives FLU 4.3.2 & Recreation and Open Space 6.2.2
 - Objective 12.1.4 Encourage development design that promotes increased access between developments and community facilities including parks, schools, and libraries.

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2018 Community Design Goals and Objectives

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- Goal 12.2: Maintain the quality and character of new development.
 - Objective 12.2.1 Promote more flexibility in design and character of Residential Planned Communities.
 - Objective 12.2.2 Continue to offer flexibility in standards for large developments in exchange for a higher design quality.
 - Objective 12.2.3 Encourage mixed uses where appropriate.
 - Objective 12.2.4 Remain open to the use of unique architectural elements in design.
 - Objective 12.2.5 Create more opportunities for new types of housing when compatible with surrounding land use and development. Housing Objective 8.2.6
 - Objective 12.2.6 Consider agrihood-style development in Sussex County in order to foster local food production and connections to the traditional agricultural economy and lifestyle of the County.
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- 2018 Community Design Goals and Objectives
- Goal 12.3: Improve the character of existing older communities.
 - Objective 12.3.1 Encourage the revitalization of traditional areas of the County to create walkable and sustainable communities.

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> 2018 Community Design Strategies:

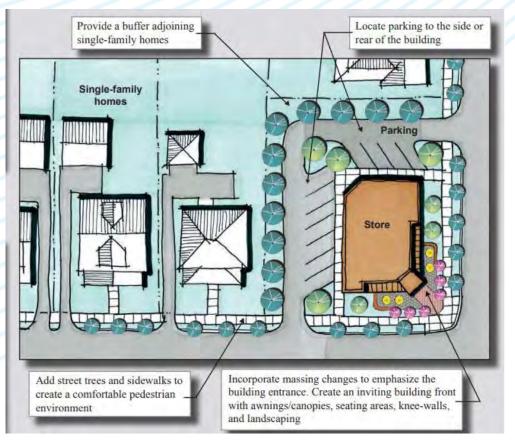
- Objective 12.1.1 Consider whether the design of new development fits the character of existing neighborhoods.
 - Strategy 12.1.1.1 Consider design standards for lighting such as downward screening for commercial and residential properties.
 - Strategy 12.1.1.2 Consider revisiting Revisit height limits in the code for residential and commercial districts to determine if heights are accurate for such districts and uses, as well as determining if the method for measuring height should be revised. FLU Strategy 4.4.1.2

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Neighborhood
 Scale
 Commercial
 Development

 Thoughtful site design can affect circulation and walkability.



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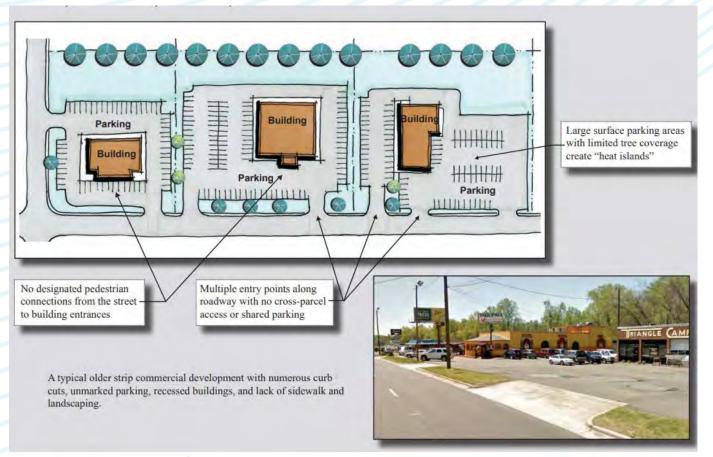
City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina

- > 2018 Community Design Strategies:
 - Objective 12.1.2 Promote site design that minimizes adverse impacts.
 - Strategy 12.1.2.1 Encourage the locating of overhead power and communications utilities underground.
 - Strategy 12.1.2.2 Lead by example by exceeding standards in the construction of County public facilities, including parking lots, public buildings, landscaped areas, and related projects.

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Traditional Strip Commercial



City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina THE SUSSEX PLAN

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Alternative Strip Commercial Development

Design strip commercial to accommodate multiple modes of travel.
 Orientation of buildings, parking and sidewalks can allow easy access by vehicles and pedestrians in adjacent residential.

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> 2018 Community Design Strategies:

- Objective 12.1.3 Incorporate usable open space in new developments. Objectives FLU 4.3.2 & Recreation and Open Space 6.2.2
 - Strategy 12.1.3.1 Consider revisiting code to determine if modifications are needed to open space requirements or if incentives can be developed to promote better access and less fragmentation of open space. FLU Strategy 4.3.2.4

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> 2018 Community Design Strategies:

- Objective 12.1.4 Encourage development design that promotes increased access between developments and community facilities including parks, schools, and libraries.
 - Strategy 12.1.4.1 Encourage pedestrian connectivity between developments with sidewalks, paths, trails, and easements.
 - Strategy 12.1.4.2 Consider revisiting County code to determine if modifications are needed to encourage interconnectivity between residential developments for emergency access.

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Importance of Connectivity

Good street network design that includes pedestrian infrastructure ...

- Can reduce land consumption and congestion
- Increases network efficiency and reliability through redundancy
- Encourages more people to walk or bike because distances are typically less and there are more route options

Other jurisdictions are limiting the number of cul-de-sacs allowed.

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-The Sussex Plan

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Importance of Connectivity

- When designing and building new developments, there is an opportunity to create connections with adjacent new and existing developments.
- The network should provide opportunities for commercial activities, as well as opportunities for quiet living, and should also have a range of variations in the middle. The streets in the network should be designed to accommodate this range of desired outcomes.

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> 2018 Community Design Strategies:

- Objective 12.2.1 Promote more flexibility in design and character of Residential Planned Communities (RPC).
 - Strategy 12.2.1.1 Revisit code to determine if modifications can be made to the RPC district that in turn promote better design and character of RPCs.

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> 2018 Community Design Strategies:

- Objective 12.2.2 Continue to offer flexibility in standards for large developments in exchange for a higher design quality.
 - Strategy 12.2.2.1 Continue to promote Residential Planned Communities and cluster development options.
 - Strategy 12.2.2.2 Consider ways to incentivize master planning of large-scale developments that allow flexibility in the design of a site's buildings, trails and pedestrian paths, roads, and open space and encourage interconnectivity between parcels of land.

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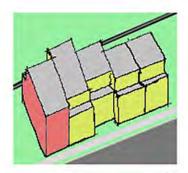
- > 2018 Community Design Strategies:
 - Objective 12.2.3 Encourage mixed uses where appropriate.
 - Strategy 12.2.3.1 Revisit code to consider a mixed use zoning district.

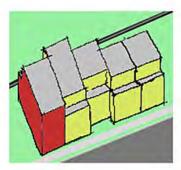
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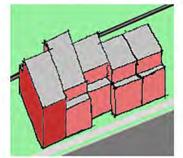
Mixed-Use

- Mixed-use development can be categorized three ways: vertical mixed-use, horizontal mixed-use, mixed-use walkable.
- Ensure convenient and attractive connections to residential.

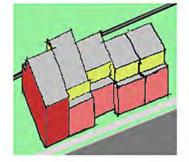


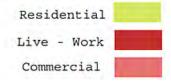


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Place Makers



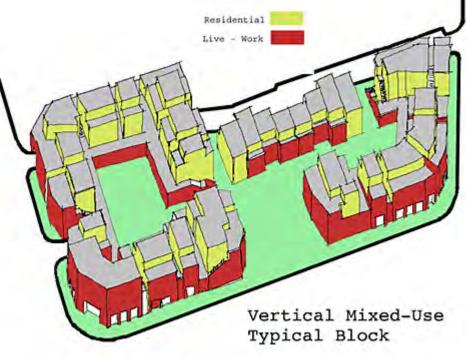


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Villages at Five Points, Lewes DE

Vertical Mixed-Use Development

- Combines different uses within the same building.
- Provides for more public uses on the lower floor such as retail shops, restaurants, of commercial businesses.
- Provides for more private uses on the upper floors such as residential units, hotel rooms, or office space.



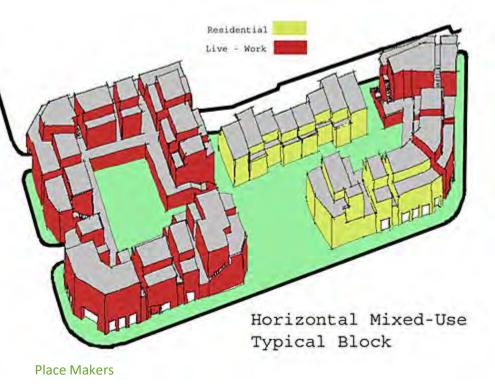
Place Makers

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Horizontal Mixed-Use Development

- Consists of single-use buildings within a mixeduse zoning district parcel, which allows for a range of land uses in a single development project.
- Provides for a variety of complementary and integrated uses that are walkable and within a given neighborhood, tract or land, or development project.

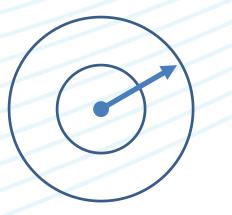


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Mixed-Use Walkable Areas

 Combines both vertical and horizontal mix of uses in an area, within an approximately 10-minute walking distance to core activities.





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Schematic rendering of Governor's Square, Dover Dover Transit Center Neighborhood Plan, Renaissance Planning Group

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- > 2018 Community Design Strategies:
 - Objective 12.2.4 Remain open to the use of unique architectural elements in design.
 - Strategy 12.2.4.1 Work with the Home Builders Association or other stakeholders on an awards program for architectural and site design excellence to encourage and recognize outstanding design.

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> 2018 Community Design Strategies:

- Objective 12.2.5 Create more opportunities for new types of housing when compatible with surrounding land use and development. Housing Objective 8.2.6
 - Strategy 12.2.5.1 Review zoning code to determine if modifications are needed to permit new styles of housing such as tiny house construction and agrihood developments to be developed in the code as they appear. FLU Strategy 4.4.1.3

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> 2018 Community Design Strategies:

- Objective 12.2.6 Consider agrihood-style development in Sussex County in order to foster local food production and connections to the traditional agricultural economy and lifestyle of the County.
 - Strategy 12.2.6.1 Review zoning code to determine if modifications are needed to permit agrihood-style development where appropriate in the County.

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Agrihoods

- Loosely defined by the Urban Land Institute as masterplanned housing communities with working farms as their focus.
- An opportunity to preserve farms and build houses.
- Instead of a neighborhood centered around a golf course it is centered around a farm
 - About 200 projects in the U.S.
 - Delaware builder, Montchanin is building an agrihood in Chester County, PA
 - People are more interested in local food and eating fresh foods

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- Cannery
 Agrihood in
 Davis, California
- 7.5 acre farm, 100 acres total
- Farm
 independently
 operated





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> 2018 Community Design Strategies:

- Objective 12.2.6 Consider agrihood-style development in Sussex County in order to foster local food production and connections to the traditional agricultural economy and lifestyle of the County.
 - Strategy 12.2.6.1 Review zoning code to determine if modifications are needed to permit agrihood-style development where appropriate in the County.

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- > 2018 Community Design Strategies:
 - Goal 12.3 Improve the character of existing older communities.
 - Objective 12.3.1 Encourage the revitalization of traditional areas of the County to create walkable and sustainable communities.
 - Strategy 12.3.1.1 Determine if there are incentives that can be established for developers that propose redevelopment

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NEXT STEPS



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FUTURE WORKSHOP SCHEDULING

- Future Workshops:
 - Wednesday, May 9
 - Wednesday, May 23
- All meetings are anticipated to be held on Wednesdays between 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

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