

4.8 MIXED USE DISTRICTS

4.8.1 PD: Planned Development District

Intent - The intent of the Planned Development (PD) District is to provide an alternative to a conventional development. The PD zoning districts allow projects of innovative design and layout that would not otherwise be permitted under this Ordinance because of the strict application of zoning district or general development standards. The PD District encourages progressive land planning and design concepts. Some of these techniques and concepts include but are not limited to:

- 1) To preserve in perpetuity unique or sensitive natural resources such as groundwater, floodplains, wetlands, streams, steep slopes, woodlands and wildlife habitat.
- 2) To protect prime agricultural land and preserve farming as an economic activity.
- 3) To permit clustering of houses and structures in a manner that will reduce the amount of infrastructure, including paved surfaces and utility easements, necessary for residential development.
- 4) To reduce erosion and sedimentation by minimizing land disturbance and removal of vegetation in residential development.
- 5) To protect scenic views.
- 6) To promote interconnected greenways and corridors throughout the County.
- 7) To create contiguous green space within and adjoining the development site.
- 8) To preserve important historic and archaeological sites.

A. General Intent/Purposes of the PD District

- 1) Allowing greater freedom in providing a mix of land uses in the same development, including a mix of housing types, housing prices, lot sizes, densities, and non-residential uses in a planned development;
- 2) Promoting quality urban design and environmentally sensitive development by allowing development to take advantage of special site characteristics, locations, and land uses;
- 3) Encouraging quality urban design and environmentally sensitive development by allowing increases in base densities when such increases can be justified by superior design or the provision of additional amenities such as public and/or private open space.
- 4) In return for greater flexibility in site design requirements, planned developments are expected to deliver exceptional quality community designs that preserve critical environmental resources, provide above-average open space amenities, incorporate creative design in the layout of buildings, open space and circulation; assure compatibility with surrounding land uses and neighborhood character; and provide greater efficiency in the layout and provision of roads, utilities, and other infrastructure.
- 5) The PD District shall not be used as a means of circumventing the county's adopted land development regulations for routine developments.

B. General Use

- 1) Uses Allowed and Size - A planned development may contain any or all of the uses specified in the table of uses and in accordance with a master plan, provided such uses are consistent with the Table of Uses in Section 5.2 and the Comprehensive Plan. In order to develop under the PD District a minimum of two types of uses will be required. This must be a mix of

residential and non-residential uses. Mixed use development may occur by having two or more principal uses located in the same building (e.g., retail on ground floor, office space above) or by having two or more principal uses located in different buildings sited on the same lot or parcel (e.g., freestanding child day care center located on the same parcel as an office building).

- 2) Existing Planned Development District Properties – Existing properties currently zoned PD that are not part of a Master Development Plan approved under the provisions of this Ordinance shall submit for review based off of the following:
 - a) Vacant tracts recorded under previously adopted development regulations and are part of a platted subdivision or master planned development shall follow the prescribed standards at time of approval.
 - b) Vacant tracts not part of recorded subdivision or Master Development Plan – Submit Master Development Plan in accordance with provisions of Unified Development Ordinance and shall be reviewed by the Planning Board. All standards of the PD, Planned Development District shall be met except the requirement outlined in Section 4.8.1, specifically not requiring a mix of residential and non-residential uses. The Planning Board shall approve the proposed use(s) and overall design as applied to the current standards of the Ordinance as well as any other adopted plans.
 - c) Existing Developed Tracts – Expansion of existing use shall follow prescribed setbacks and dimensional requirements as prescribed in Section 4.8.1.B.1)a). Upon request, an applicant may request varying standards to be reviewed and approved by the Planning Board. The Planning Board shall review each application as applied to current ordinance standards and adopted plans.
 - i) Any change of use to existing developed tracts will require Planning Board review and approval meeting current ordinance standards and adopted plans but will not require a mix of uses as prescribed in section 4.8.1.B.1.

C. Number of Dwelling Units (Density)

- 1) Determination - The number of dwelling units in a project utilizing the PD development standards shall be a maximum of 5 units per net density. The density is calculated as total tract acreage subtracting the following:
 - a) Areas reserved as non-residential development
 - b) Total wetland calculations
 - c) Rights of way and parking areas
 - d) Active and Passive open space
 - i) Passive open space may be subtracted out of the total wetland delineation at time of Master Plan if calculated to be less than total wetland area.

D. Development Standards - Development in a PD District shall be subject to all applicable regulations unless otherwise waived or modified by the County in the terms of the approved master land use plan. In no case shall the decision-making body waive or modify the following standards for a proposed PD District:

- 1) Stream buffers required by the State of NC

- 2) Ownership requirements for any open space, buffers, or streetscapes unless otherwise permitted within this Ordinance;
- 3) Preservation of existing vegetation in streetscapes, floodplains, and/or buffers;
- 4) The minimum lot width and minimum yard requirements are established with the Master Plan may be modified by the Planning Board through the PD process however; the minimum distance between structures shall be as required by NC Building Code.
- 5) Street connectivity requirements;
- 6) Sidewalk and greenway requirements;
- 7) Stormwater control or LID requirements;
- 8) Transportation and Circulation System. The planned development's master plan shall demonstrate a safe and adequate on-site transportation system that addresses vehicular, bicycle, transit and pedestrian circulation. The on-site transportation system shall be integrated with the off-site transportation circulation system of the County.
 - a) Creative design of circulation routes and traffic ways is encouraged. A base characteristic of a PD is that the internal circulation routes or streets do not follow fixed linear geometric lines as do most streets. Instead, circulation routes are curvilinear and of meandering character, to preserve tree and landscape features. Slower-paced traffic movements and private restrictions for extremely low speed limits.
 - b) Pedestrian-oriented communities also are encouraged to enhance the quantity of pedestrian activity and to improve the quality of the pedestrian experience. Planned subdivisions must adhere to the design standards for drainage and paving in this Ordinance.
 - c) Where the development is bound by two (2) or more NC DOT on-system roads, at minimum access to each road shall be provided.
 - d) Adequately constructed and maintained bike and/or hiking trails shall be counted toward the open space requirement. Bicycle lanes and multi-use pathways that extend the minimum right-of-way width shall be designed in accordance with the North Carolina Bicycle Facilities Planning and Design Guidelines Manual.