

Comprehensive Plan Issues

Character Area: Community Activity Center

Description: A focal point for several neighborhoods that has a concentration of activities such as general retail, service commercial, office professional, higher-density housing, and appropriate public and open space uses easily accessible by pedestrians..

Development Strategy: Each Community Activity Center should include a relatively high-density mix of retail, office, services, and employment to serve a regional market area. Residential development should reinforce the town center through locating higher density housing options adjacent to the town center, targeted to a broad range of income levels, including multi-family town homes, apartments and condominiums. Design for each Community Activity Center should be very pedestrian-oriented, with strong, walkable connections between different uses. Road edges should be clearly defined by locating buildings at roadside with parking in the rear. Direct connections to greenspace and trail networks should be provided. The pedestrian-friendly environment should be enhanced by adding sidewalks and other pedestrian-friendly trails/bike routes linked to other neighborhood amenities such as libraries, neighborhood centers, health facilities, parks, and schools.

Goals and Policies:

GOAL 7: LAND USE – To ensure the community’s anticipated growth occurs in a well-integrated yet organized fashion, which protects our community resources, promotes efficient use of infrastructure and transportation facilities, and supports quality economic development

POLICY 7.4 – Positive impacts on the built and natural environment shall be anticipated through only the highest standard of development throughout all parts of the community.

GOAL 3: HOUSING – To ensure access to adequate and affordable housing options for all residents in all income levels.

POLICY 3.3 – A mixture of housing types in varying income levels shall be encouraged and actively promoted.

Objective 3.3.1 – Promote use of innovative design concepts, including appropriate use of increased density, through educational outreach and greater collaboration with the development community.

Objective 3.3.2 – Evaluate the use of incentive programs and other innovative programs to promoted mixed housing options.

Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power *(Review Criteria)*

In reviewing and making a decision on a rezoning request, the City staff, Planning Commission and City Council shall consider the following standards. The proposed responses to these standards by the applicant and staff are listed below.

(1) Whether a proposed rezoning will permit a use that is suitable, in view of the use and development of adjacent and nearby property.	
<i>Applicant:</i>	The proposed zoning is consistent with the surrounding uses, and would allow a more flexible use of this property.
<i>Staff:</i>	Yes. The proposed zoning change is compatible with the uses of the adjacent properties and the land use patterns in this area of the City
(2) Whether a proposed rezoning will adversely affect the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby property.	
<i>Applicant:</i>	No.
<i>Staff:</i>	No adverse impacts.
(3) Whether the property to be affected by a proposed rezoning has a reasonable economic use as currently zoned.	
<i>Applicant:</i>	The property is currently vacant and has been for several years.