

# Hillsborough, NC Future Land Use Plan

The Future Land Use Plan is composed of a map showing Future Land Use Designations and a brief text detailing those designations and how they align with zoning districts listed in the Hillsborough Unified Development Ordinance. Together, the map and text constitute the Future Land Use Plan for the Town of Hillsborough and lands within its jurisdiction. The Plan is adopted as a component of the Hillsborough Comprehensive Plan and is subject to amendments following the procedure established in the Unified Development Ordinance.

Nothing in this document limits the Hillsborough Town Board of Commissioners authority to regulate land use within its jurisdiction. Future Land Use Designations are not a guarantee that land will remain zoned in any particular use district, and are subject to the availability of infrastructure, including but not limited to water, sanitary sewer, and streets necessary to support designated or proposed uses.

## Future Land Use Classifications

**Natural Resource.** These areas are unique natural areas or environmental sensitive areas. The primary designation is for the 100-year flood zones along the Eno River and Cates Creek. The Eno River floodplain is a natural area of national significance. This designation does not follow parcel boundaries and overlays other designations listed here.

**Permanent Open Space.** These areas are intended for long-term use as open space, parks, or natural areas that protect scenic, historic, cultural, and environmentally valued lands. They include lands that are permanently protected, though not necessarily publicly owned or accessible, through private conservation easements or other private conservation measures, and publicly held park or conservation lands. **Zoning Districts: Agricultural-Residential; Protected Watershed & Protected Watershed Critical Area**

**Working Farm.** These areas reflect existing agricultural use in locations where continued agricultural use is desirable for the foreseeable future. **Zoning Districts: Agricultural-Residential; R-40**

**Rural Living.** These areas reflect existing very-low density residential uses with densities below 0.5 dwelling units per acre (at least a 2-acre minimum lot size) that occurs in areas without public water and sewer service, in locations where continued low-intensity use without public water and sewer is desirable for the foreseeable future. **Zoning Districts: Agricultural-Residential; Protected Watershed & Protected Watershed Critical Area; R-40**

**Small Lot Residential Neighborhood.** These areas provide opportunities for a lower density than pre-WWII or neo-traditional neighborhood living. These areas include detached single-family residential uses in post-WWII subdivision developments which range in density from 0.5 dwelling units per acre to 3 dwelling units per acre. **Zoning Districts: R-10; R-15; R-20; Entranceway Special Use; Mixed Residential Special Use; Residential Special Use**

**Medium-Density Residential.** These areas include existing and future areas for development of more dense residential neighborhoods that provide a diversity of housing types and housing options. Areas include single-family detached units, mobile homes, townhouses, duplexes, condominiums, apartments, senior housing, and other multi-family dwelling units. Housing densities should range from 3-8 dwelling units per acre. Other types of uses that may occur are schools, parks, and other public facilities. **Zoning Districts: R-10; R-15; R-20; Multi-Family; Mobile Home Park; Entranceway Special Use; Mixed Residential Special Use; Multi-Family Special Use; Residential Special Use**

**Attached Residential Neighborhoods.** These areas include existing and future areas for the development of dwelling units at more than 8 units per acre, which generally implies attached dwelling units. This designation may also be used for unique residential settings like retirement villages or nursing homes. **Zoning Districts: Multi-Family; Multi-family Special Use; Entranceway Special Use; Mixed Residential Special Use; Residential Special Use**

**Mixed Residential.** The dominant land use in any proposed development is expected to be residential based on square footage of proposed structures. Developments may contain a single or variety of dwelling types and densities or may integrate a variety of supportive commercial, public and semi-public uses and open or public space. Small developments that provide only supportive non-residential land uses in an infill arrangement serving more than 50 dwelling units in a walkable manner may also be considered. **Zoning Districts: R-10; R-15; R-20; Neighborhood Business; Multi-Family; Multi-family Special Use; Entranceway Special Use; Mixed Residential Special Use; Residential Special Use; Special Design Special Use**

**Urban Neighborhood** Established residential neighborhoods that pre-date traditional zoning and land use regulation. Lot sizes and building types are varied and generally developed on a grid street pattern. The predominant type is generally low density single family housing with occasional business, government, park, church or school uses. Infill and redevelopment projects should enhance the unique character of the surrounding neighborhood and be of consistent scale and appearance. The opportunity to increase the residential density in a compatible manner is encouraged. **Zoning Districts: R-10; R-15; R-20; Neighborhood Business Special Use; Residential Special Use**

**Education.** These areas are currently developed as public schools and their use is not anticipated to change. **Zoning Districts: Office Institutional**

**Employment areas.** These areas include a wide range of business, light industrial, office, research and development, along with related/support services uses including restaurants, small scale retail and convenience shopping/services. Buildings and uses will be sited to limit the visual impact of service and warehousing operations, while still providing convenience for business functionality. These areas are in prime locations with good access to major road networks (where capacity exists or is planned) and rail if needed and should be reserved for high return employment generating uses. **Zoning Districts: High Intensity Commercial; Business Park; Economic Development District; Light Industrial, General Industrial; Entranceway Special Use; Special Design Special Use**

**Light Industrial.** The Industrial classification is applied to areas that currently support industrial uses or lands that could accommodate a variety of industrial establishments which employ high environmental quality standards and have minimal impacts on adjacent uses. These areas incorporate larger tracts of land because of their nature and function. Industrial developments should provide shared access, and have a coordinated design and a planned layout. **Zoning Districts: High Intensity Commercial; Business Park; Economic Development District; Light Industrial, General Industrial**

**Mixed Use.** These areas a full range of uses well mixed, both vertically and horizontally, much like a downtown or village center. Multi-story buildings are the norm and will generally contain a vertical mix of uses. Uses are expected to be roughly balanced between residential, retail, office, service, public and semi-public uses. Public open space of both urban and green space is also expected to off-set the intensity of development. **Zoning Districts: R-10; Multi-family; Office Institutional; High Intensity Commercial; Multi-family Special Use; Residential Special Use; Special Design Special Use**

**Neighborhood Mixed Use.** These areas provide opportunities for goods and services that residents of the district and surrounding neighborhoods need on a daily basis. Lots with this designation will front on an

arterial or collector street and back up to single family neighborhoods. Buildings and uses will generally be in scale with the surrounding neighborhoods and be walkable as well as providing vehicular access. Sites may be single use or, mixed use, may incorporate residential uses or may be solely residential at a higher density than the adjacent neighborhood. **Zoning Districts: R-10; Multi-family; Neighborhood Business; Neighborhood Business Special Use; Central Commercial; Central Commercial Special Use; Multi-Family Special Use; Residential Special Use**

**Retail Services.** These areas focus on retail and commercial uses. They should be located near residential and employment areas to provide good access to commerce and personal services. Retail areas can have a range of characteristics depending on their primary markets. The larger scale regional draws are more automobile-oriented and draw people from throughout the region. These areas should be located near interstate access, and they may include larger scale stores like “big boxes”, warehouse clubs, and large specialty retailers. Smaller, accessory uses can also locate in these areas to provide convenience shopping and include restaurants and smaller specialty retailers; often located on out-parcels or in smaller shopping centers. **Zoning Districts: Neighborhood Business; Neighborhood Business Special Use; Central Commercial; Central Commercial Special Use; General Commercial; High Intensity Commercial; Entranceway Special Use; Special Design Special Use**

**Suburban Office Complex.** These areas provide opportunities to for office and employment enterprises which do not rely on walk-in customers or have a manufacturing component. Businesses may be large or small but will generally arrange themselves in a campus setting with limited walkability and supporting services. Developments of this type should be kept small in nature to limit the peak transportation impact and limited vitality. **Zoning Districts: Limited Office; Office Institutional; Business Park; Economic Development District; Entranceway Special Use; Special Design Special Use**

**Town Center.** This area incorporates the historic structures, civic uses, commercial opportunities, and the active pedestrian environment that is the downtown core of Hillsborough. The core commercial areas are to be preserved and enhanced over the long-term and should provide mixed-use opportunities that combine second-floor residential units with ground floor commercial, office, or institutional uses. **Zoning Districts: R-20; Office Institutional; Central Commercial; Central Commercial Special Use**